

MIM Notes



March 15, 2004, N° 298

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Bush overthrows elected Haiti government

A VOTE FOR THE DONKEY IS A VOTE FOR AN ASS



Ralph Nader runs for president again

On February 22, Ralph Nader announced that he would run for U.S. president via an independent bid requiring 1.5 million petition signatures to get on the November 2004 ballot. Immediately the ayatollahs of the two-party system slammed Nader with slogans about how a "vote for Nader is a vote for Bush."

In 2000, Nader ran as a Green Party candidate and won 2.7% of the vote. Many of those would not have voted at all if not for Nader, but polling data suggests that Nader cost Democratic Party nominee Al Gore the electoral votes of Florida and New Hampshire, and thus the presidency. MIM accepts that as fact, but we oppose the ayatollahs defending the indefensible two-party system anyway. We're sure the ayatollahs will name us "communists for Bush."

For his part, Nader says that the same polls show that his candidacy helps Democrats running for Congress. If he were not running and offering an

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Lessons from the Democratic Party primaries *The choice is yours, Deaniacs: The issues or the bullshit*

So, you and some of his 700,000 website followers gave Howard Dean \$50 million (1) and he lost New Hampshire's 2004 primary for the Democratic nomination for president after spending most of it. Judging by people who forked over money, Dean had the support of a broader mass of people than Kerry. Out of candidates Bush, Edwards, Kerry, Lieberman, Dean, Clark, Kucinich and Sharpton, only Dean and Kucinich received most of their money from people giving less than \$200 a piece.(2) Kerry,

Edwards, Lieberman and Sharpton all received less than 20% of their campaign money that way. In fact, Bush and Kerry both received exactly 12% of their money that way. That's another way of saying big money was on the side of Kerry and Bush, but money from middle-class people was on Dean's side.

Adding insult to injury, and as suggested by the breadth of your monetary support, you Deaniacs outnumbered Kerry's volunteers in Iowa and New Hampshire

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It's about time: Murder charges against fascist prison officials

According to bourgeois newswire service Associated Press, Miami, Florida nurses Gaile Loperfido and Dianne Demeritte face third-degree murder and manslaughter charges for failing to treat

their jobs later.(2) If Associated Press has reported the details correctly, MIM salutes the actions taken in Miami and hopes Miami remains consistent and thorough.

The persyn firing the pigs said: "The fact is: an adult human being, a caring human being, a responsible human being would not sit there while a child was vomiting, had diarrhea, was sweating and was in and out of consciousness, and not take some action."(2)

Over a period of days, Omar Paisley complained and complained of stomach pain and requested medical assistance

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WHAT KIND OF DEMOCRACY IS THIS?

Haiti is a perfect case of the lie in all Amerikan "foreign policy" which is really a system, not a policy. In April 2001, President Bush spoke of all of the Western Hemisphere except for Cuba as "free" and "democratic." Proving that "freedom" and "democracy" are just covers that he uses, Bush overthrew the democratically-elected Haitian government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide on February 29th.

The key facts are not in dispute by the U.S. Government. As late as January 6th, 2004, the U.S. Government said that Haiti had a democratically-elected government. A press release harking back to a pivotal FTAA (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas) meeting read as follows: "In April of 2001, the ITAL democratically elected END leaders of the Hemisphere gathered in Quebec City for the Third Summit of the Americas [emphasis added]." (1) Bush said the only exception in the Western Hemisphere was Cuba. Hence, Bush himself counted Haiti as having a democratically elected government and his February smokescreen for overthrowing Aristide was that Aristide resigned. The State Department put it this way: "At President Aristide's request, the United States facilitated his safe departure from Haiti." (2) Yet, Aristide called it kidnapping: "Maxine Waters, a Democratic congresswoman from Los Angeles, said Mr. Aristide 'told me he had been kidnapped in a coup d'état.'" (3) The clue is the State Department's opinion that Aristide's departure: "resolves the political impasse that is the root of the violent unrest in Haiti in recent weeks." (2) That's just the U.S. agenda speaking loud and clear.

While Bush claims not to have had a part in the 2004 violence that overthrew Aristide and that is a deception, the remaining facts are proof enough that "democracy" is not the guiding light of U.S. "foreign policy." It's quite in the open that the United States had a role in picking the next prime minister and the new president. The fact that the United States chose also to back replacing the prime minister of Haiti Yvon Neptune proves Aristide's contention that he did not resign but the United States forced him out.(4)

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a 17 year-old prisoner at a juvenile jail who died after complaining of stomach pain. Three top officials also lost their jobs.(1) Another 11 lost

Letters

Has MIM gone off the deep end?

Dear MIM,

I met a couple of your comrades at the demo in Washington yesterday and pick up a copy of MIM Notes. First off let me say that I haven't read much of it yet, but just looking at the small bit on page 2 where you call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors, I have say that it seems as though you have gone off the deep end.

I always thought that the whole point of the "labor aristocracy" theory was that it doesn't really matter whether or not an Amerikan was a liberal or conservative or even in some cases a socialist or communist, they all ultimately support imperialism because they benefit from this system. You intimate it this segment that only "knee-jerk patriots who believe everything Bush says" support imperialism. The fact is that the vast majority of Amerikans support imperialism (including the vast majority who were in D.C yesterday).

Look I'm a simple person who is not extraordinarily intelligent in anyway. I am not a great scholar of Marxist-Leninist theory or any economic theory for that matter. But [...] it seems to me that this whole thing is incredibly simple. The capitalists need consumers to buy all of their products. If everyone was poor, no

one could afford to buy anything to make the capitalist's profits. Therefore, it is imperative in order for capitalism to work to have a vast consumer class who live very well under capitalism/imperialism and therefore support it. It is equally important for the capitalists to have vast regions of the world where they may find cheap labor and resources. So you see the vast majority of people in the "Third World" suffering miserably and the vast majority in the "First World" enjoying themselves. As William Blake wrote: "Some are born to sweet delight, some are born to endless night."

So just who are the "patriots and internationalists" who are going to support MIM so as to "undo the spectacle that Uncle Sam is creating for its own benefit"? I really thought that we agreed that when the imperialists fight wars it benefits the majority of Amerikans not just "Uncle Sam". The majority of people here who oppose the current imperialists' war(s), do so because they are 1 concerned about "our troops" and/or 2 they don't want to kill third world people outright. As long as the U.N sanctions all of the pro-imperialist rulers of "under developed" countries who starve their own people, most everyone here is happy.

If I am missing something here PLEASE educate me. [...]

**In Struggle,
Confused and upset**

mim@mim.org responds: We have not changed our line on the white working class. Taken as a whole, our articles on the war on Iraq lampoon both the Bush-is-right authority lovers and point out that

the majority showing up to rallies in the heyday of the anti-war movement were Jenny-come-latelies, there more to oppose Bush (in support of the Dems) than oppose imperialism. Check this out, from our review of an April 12, 2003 rally:

We do not want to give people the impression that all is good at anti-war rallies in the united States. Of course, we appreciate each and every non-cop persyn at the rally, but there were a number of indications of complacency at the rally. As usual, there were people at the rally completely empty-handed, by which we mean that they did not accept any literature from anyone. Among the most common excuses were "I don't have any hands." The best excuse for the day why the demonstrator did not want a copy of MIM Notes was: "too big, too much to read. If it was smaller, I'd take it."

"There are two reasons that people might not engage in struggle and read other people's literature at rallies. One is that s/he thinks s/he knows everything and need not go further. Another is that s/he is only at the rally to salve a conscience momentarily before returning to apolitical life. We have heard many say that the war was evil, so "I had to do something."

Iraqis defending themselves waited for months for the Amerikkans to come. When the Amerikkans arrived in Iraq, many Iraqis waited yet another week or two for the Amerikkans to come to their locale for a chance to fight. Unfortunately, the way that Amerikkans "fight," thousands of Iraqis died from bombing without ever seeing any Amerikkans. Our point in this is that

Amerikans still have comfort to retreat to: that's why we insist that the peace movement not just relieve its conscience but fight to win. To fight to win involves training the mind and body and delivering a long-term and time-consuming commitment.

Or this, from an article in MIM Notes 281:

There is an urgent problem and question facing the global anti-war movement. Although the world is more than 80% opposed to the U.S. war on Iraq, that is not the case in a handful of countries.

The question arises, which countries are they and why. From the beginning, the United States had the support of the majority of only one country—Israel.(1) Unfortunately, there are others as well who are phony in their opposition. England was never very strong in its opposition, never reaching the levels of opposition in say Hungary, where more than 80% oppose the war even if the UN would have endorsed it. As we go into war, Tony Blair's government did not fall despite the Labor Party's hold on power, and not the Conservative Party's. In fact, the English labor aristocracy swung into action for war, and the English public favored war by a 54 to 30% margin once the war started.(2) The rapid shift in opinion is a clue to all scientific Marxists that we are talking about a petty-bourgeois population in its entirety. Such a quick shift is not possible any other way.

We've been careful to stress to our readers—especially those jazzed by the numbers at these rallies (which have

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MIM Notes

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

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What is MIM?

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

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."
- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

U.\$. population still richer than ever

Imperialism threatens everyone—but not by making U.\$. population poorer

by MC12

There are good reasons for everyone in the USA to oppose imperialism. As we report in every issue of MIM Notes, we are all threatened by the militarism and war-mongering of the Amerikan imperialists and their government—and by the degradation of the environment. And of course, for people with a conscience, imperialism is a scourge because the exploitation it wreaks across the globe causes murder, mayhem and malnutrition (among other crimes), affecting billions of people.

Despite all this, some would-be revolutionaries are always trying to convince Amerikans to go along with their so-called progressive agenda by telling them that imperialism is making us all poorer and poorer, except for a tiny group of rich white men. This message is so obviously factually untrue that few people go along with it—except others who join in the fallacy, thinking it might be useful for mobilizing the broad public.

In contrast, MIM doesn't think it's worthwhile to try to recruit people by lying to them about the facts. As we show below, we are not afraid to admit that, even for Blacks and Latinos, incomes are higher now than they were 30 years ago—and that even holds for the poorest fifth of each population.

Table 1 shows the average income for the White, Black and Latino households for 1973, 2000 and 2001, breaking each group into income quintiles, or fifths of the population (then further showing the incomes for the top 5% of households). We start in 1973 because that was the peak economic year before stagnation hit the U\$ economy and wages stopped growing after the post-WWII boom (more on wages below). We show 2000 because that was the peak at the end of the 1990s growth cycle. And we finish with 2001 to show the effects of the most recent recession.

The table helps correct three common

myths. The first and most preposterous is that everyone but the smallest minority has been getting poorer. *Every* segment of each group had greater household incomes 30 years after the end of the post-WWII boom. The second is closer to the truth but still inaccurate—that the poorest fifth of the population is poorer than they used to be. Even among the poorest fifth, incomes have grown. The last one is a recurring myth—that the most recent recession has wiped out the previous gains. Although the last recession did hurt incomes for almost everyone, no group was bumped down more than they gained in the previous 27 years.

Of course, the table does show increasing income inequality, which is a clear trend for the whole period: the incomes of the rich have increased much faster than those of the relatively poor, and the most recent recession hurt the bottom much more than the top. But the absolute level of income is still higher than in 1973. It also shows very large income gaps between whites, Blacks and Latinos, the result of national oppression and colonialism, ongoing racism, and some exploitation.

We should head off a few counter-arguments and clear up a few problems with the data. First, this being U\$. Census data, we don't get to choose the categories. So, "Whites" here includes some people classified as "Hispanic" (which we call "Latino" on the table). In practice that just means the results for Whites are really a little better than we see here. And, "Black" households include a small number of immigrants who are "black" by "race" but not necessarily yet members of the Black nation in the USA. Finally, the group we call "Latino" here includes people from many nationalities, from more poor populations like Mexicans to richer groups like Cubans, and we can't differentiate them here.



Tough times for Amerika.

Table 1. Average household income by income quintile and top 5%, 1973-2001, in 2001 dollars.(1)

	1973	2000	73-00 Percent Change	2001	00-01 Percent Change
White					
Bottom	9,567	11,394	19.1	11,118	-2.4
Second	23,571	27,492	16.6	26,985	-1.8
Middle	37,617	45,487	20.9	44,628	-1.9
Fourth	53,306	69,924	31.2	69,254	-1.0
Top	93,919	150,374	60.1	150,576	.1
Top 5%	143,364	267,458	86.6	269,162	.6
Black					
Bottom	5,681	6,558	15.4	5,951	-9.3
Second	13,056	17,624	35.0	16,820	-4.6
Middle	22,187	31,218	40.7	29,477	-5.6
Fourth	34,839	49,023	40.7	47,424	-3.3
Top	63,201	101,502	60.6	96,569	-4.9
Top 5%	92,259	167,397	81.4	155,104	-7.3
Latino					
Bottom	8,435	9,251	9.7	8,822	-4.6
Second	18,377	21,322	16.0	20,854	-2.2
Middle	28,189	34,318	21.7	33,624	-2.0
Fourth	40,765	51,859	27.2	51,459	-.8
Top	69,202	101,220	46.3	107,158	5.9
Top 5%	99,010	164,990	66.6	182,145	10.4

More substantively, many people will argue that this masks an important change: the increasing employment of women. These critics will argue that if household incomes are rising, it's just because more and more women are being "forced" into the workplace just to keep their households afloat.

MIM counters this in three ways. First, if more women are employed now than before, that's good news for them. If they are making money and buying goods and services they used to make at home, that's empowering for them. So if their incomes are rising as a result, that's not a distortion of the truth—that's just the truth.

Second, even if you just look at individual wages (as if families don't share their incomes), they also rose from 1973 to 2000. The median income of all workers—white, Black, male, female, full-time year-round workers and those who worked less—are all higher in 2000 than they were in 1973.(2) True, incomes were stagnant for individual men from 1973 to 1993, but they rose sharply in the 1990s, and didn't lose all their gains in the most recent recession.

Finally, note that the table here is household income, not per capita income. In fact, the number of people in the average household has dropped during this time—because people are getting married later, are more likely to divorce, and are having fewer children. We don't know the exact change for each of the groups in the table, but the average number of people in households overall dropped from 3.01 to 2.58 during this period.(3) So if you converted the table to per capita income, the gains would be even greater.

There is one other set of arguments that is harder to test, but is not so off-base. That is: because some things are much more expensive than they used to be—

especially housing and health care—those at the bottom are having a harder time surviving even if they have more cash. The numbers we show here are adjusted for inflation, which takes into account the growing cost of these necessities, but the adjustments might be skewed for people at the top and bottom of the income distribution. We doubt that these distortions are enough to eliminate the gains shown here (and in some cases those greater costs are associated with higher quality, as in the case of some health care improvements), but we would welcome arguments on this question by people who have relevant data.

In any event, we're confident that for the top 80% of the population, and probably even for the poorest fifth, they are better off now than they were at the economic peak of the Amerikan empire in 1973. This does *not* mean that imperialism is good, of course, because this continued enrichment has come at the expense of the suffering of billions of people in the international proletariat. This is the bottom line politically, and it's what everyone trying to organize against Amerikan imperialism needs to understand if they are going to make any real progress.

Notes:

1. Calculated from historical income tables from the U.S. Census Bureau, at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/ineqtoc.html>.
2. Calculated from historical income tables from the U.S. Census Bureau, at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/incperdet.html>.
3. Historical household composition tables from the U.S. Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabHH-4.xls>.

A VOTE FOR THE DONKEY IS A VOTE FOR AN ASS

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alternative, some voters would stay home, but once they show up and vote for Nader they also vote for Democrats in the Congress. That is also factually true, given the nature of the mushy liberals and liberal-radicals.

Finally, no one has pointed out that it is possible to consider Nader as specifically opposing Bush among the bourgeois candidates available by serving as an insurance policy. In this day of Anita Hill and Monica Lewinsky or worse, no one can guarantee that John Kerry or John Edwards would not implode between the time of winning the Democratic nomination and the election in November. The two-party system is just one scandal away from giving Bush a lock on the presidency.

Ross Perot showed that it is not impossible for an independent to win when polls showed the public disgusted with both Bush and Clinton before Perot himself imploded in the 1992 campaign. Of course, Perot had a billion dollars that Nader does not, so Nader's chances rest on dual candidate implosions.

Neither party tolerable

In announcing his run, Nader said, "Washington is corporate-occupied territory, and the two parties are ferociously competing to see who's going to go to the White House and take orders from their corporate paymasters."⁽¹⁾ Truer words have not been spoken, but MIM still disagrees with Nader, for among other reasons his protectionist economic views about keeping jobs in Amerika, which he recently aired on a television talk show with Bill Maher.⁽²⁾ The international proletariat as a global class has no interest in whether jobs are in Amerika or elsewhere. We should not promote people like Ralph Nader, Patrick Buchanan, Ross Perot, John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich who whip up public opinion and call for government action against the non-American proletariat. World War I and World War II happened because such views became popular in Europe.

The one with the catchy Amerika-first slogan lately is Kucinich campaigning in the Democratic primaries with "Buy American or bye-bye America!" He came in second in Hawaii after John Kerry. Kucinich's slogan shows that he has bought into capitalist competition and sees nothing wrong with stoking up nationalism as part of that system. That's why we at MIM insist we are for a global minimum wage, global child labor regulations and global environmental protection. The alternative is the kind of hostility toward other countries we see with Kucinich.

In any case, the Nader campaign this year raises the whole question of the two-party system. If there were two parties both opposed to exploitation, then a two-party system would be no threat to the dictatorship of the proletariat—though campaigns where there are too many

candidates for too few jobs inevitably promote opportunist grand-standing, an evil in its own right from the standpoint of publicizing truth. In fact, neither party in the United States is tolerable and hence the two-party system is not sacred.

Voters should decide whether they can really tolerate the Democratic Party after its leaders showed so freshly what warmongers they are. Kerry, Edwards, Lieberman and Gephardt all voted for the Iraq war. They also issued ridiculous statements on Al-Qaeda and weapons of mass destruction since proven false. These men with official titles of power proved unable to do anything constructive with the truth if they perceived it at all—and this is no small lesson on why politicians are not a substitute for movements. For us at MIM, the war and colonialism questions are not just small issues about equivalent with whether the government should intervene in steroid use in professional sports—though it remains to be seen which "issue" will drive more petty-bourgeois voters in 2004.

The two-party system encourages people to think that nothing is intolerable. War itself is seen as secondary to the sanctity of the two-party system and that is wrong.

Then there are those who say that the Democrats know better than how they vote in Congress—for the Patriot Act and for the war's intensification in Iraq. These Pollyannas consider it wisdom to mince words for political purposes and support politicians who also waffle at best. Not surprisingly, such "moderates" foregoing the work of movements to indulge lazy self-satisfaction with professional politicians pave the way for a race to the bottom—a vicious cycle of reaction.

Yet, even this whole issue raised by self-flattering lazy "moderates" is a big diversion. No Democrat can really claim to oppose any Republican for the simple reason that the two-party system is dedicated to alternating power. If not George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Perle today, then the two-party system guarantees them or their like later. That's just what happened: Rumsfeld served under President Ford. Then came Carter. Eventually it was Bush Jr. and Rumsfeld was back in charge again.

It's not enough to say that the Confederate flag fans and anti-Darwin activists of the Republican Party are not Democrats. The question is whether it is OK to alternate power with such people. If you think so, welcome to the Republicrat Party. If not, then identify yourself as a revolutionary leader, because politicians have no power to change the reality of the Republicrat Party.

Democrats not serious

The Boston Globe is screaming at Ralph Nader and typifies the whole problem of the two-party system's ayatollahs. Opposing Nader just before and after he announced his intentions, the Globe ran editorials and letters opposing Nader's

campaign and one letter supporting it with a line intimating that the writer is Republican.⁽³⁾ Yet, Massachusetts and Boston in particular are proof that Democrats are not really opposed to Bush or Republicans generally.

Ever since Massachusetts voted for Democrat George McGovern in 1972, Massachusetts has stood out as Democratic Party territory. Every single member of the Massachusetts delegation to the U.S. Congress is a Democrat. That means Democrats are majority voters of every district of Massachusetts. The Democrats run the legislature and override the governor if the petty-bourgeoisie elects a Republican—and the only reason the petty-bourgeoisie elects a Republican in Massachusetts is to attack inevitable corruption, sometimes out of reflexive fear of the one-party state.

The simple truth is that if Massachusetts Democrats would split in half, with one half forming what used to be Nader's Green Party and the other half staying Democrats, the two halves of the Democratic Party would each have more votes than the Republican Party, which might fade into oblivion. That is how to hate Republicans in practice. Instead of alternating power in the governor's mansion with a Mormon opposed to gay marriage such as Mitt Romney, the Democrats could alternate power with Greens.

Instead of contending with a Republican for mayor or Congress races, Democrats in Massachusetts could contend with Greens and alternate power with them. In no small part thanks to two-party system dogma, the Democrats choose not to alternate power with Greens and so places like Democrat-dominated Massachusetts and San Francisco prove that no Democrat is really opposed to Bush. The reason for that is that Massachusetts Democrats like Democrats elsewhere prefer Republicans to Greens. They prefer Bush to Nader or Romney to Jill Stein [Green Party candidate for governor]. That's the bottom line and until the Democrats in the one-party states and cities split in two, they have no business claiming they have removed people like Bush from power. That's why a vote for Gore is a vote for Bush—as inevitably as scandal and corruption. That's to leave aside the whole issue of the substance of what the Greens are saying and look only at an analysis of power and who is sharing it and treating it as legitimate.

The Democrats are busy "building bridges" to the Howard Dean faction and Greens to keep them in the fold for November 2004. If they were serious, the Massachusetts Democrats would have deliberately split themselves in half and made a deal with the Greens to alternate power with them instead of Republicans—and they would have done it a long time ago.

At MIM, we realize that the imperialist country petty-bourgeoisie is going to try Ralph Naders and Greens before it tries

Maoism. We hope to contribute to the public's understanding of political power as it exists and cut through the Democratic rhetoric about opposing Bush. Power for change does not come by taking a few seconds to vote and months of time adjusting to the ideology of "moderation." Power for change comes from obtaining the truth and spreading it.

Notes:

1. Boston Globe 23Feb2004, p. 1.
2. Bill Maher claims to have voted for Nader in 2000 and now repents. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4356213/>
3. See anti-Nader letters Boston Globe 26Feb2004, p. a14. There were two column inches defending Nader by a Dean supporter on the Boston Globe letters page as opposed to 20 column inches opposing Nader, 25Feb2004, pp. a18-9.

Letters

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already drastically levelled off)—that the mood at few protests in big coastal cities is not indicative of the mood of the majority of Americans. Yet at the same time, the fact that many attendees are newbies creates an opportunity for us to make our case for revolutionary anti-imperialism vs. reformism or electoralism to fresh faces. Our hope is that some (not all, of course, nor even a majority—our line on the WWC makes that clear) will be moved towards the revolutionary camp.

Reader questions dead prez review

In your CD review of [hip-hop group Dead Prez'] "Get Free or Die Tryin" [the last CD on <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/music/hiphop/deadprez.html>], you mention all the good tracks. What about the "Animal in Man" (Animal Farm) track? Isn't this a rap version of MI6 agent Orwell's anti-'Stalinist' fairy tale? Does DP hate any political system where whites hold power so much that they don't uphold Stalin but do uphold Mao (who is practically the same in the eyes of counter-revolutionaries) and the BPP? What's up with that? Have they gone with Orwell, skirted the issue, or changed it to their perspective? Given that you criticized DP hypocrisy on gender in your review, I would appreciate some commentary of MIM's opinion of the content and inclusion of that track.

mim@mim.org responds: Here is what the persyn who wrote that DPz review had to say:

"I believe the content of this track is appropriating the Animal Farm story from the perspective of the oppressed. To my knowledge DPz has no line on Stalin, and I have no reason to believe they wrote

Continued on next page...

Liberalism runs out of steam: Tyranny of the majority runs amok

In the U.S. political system, if judges do not stand up for minority rights, democracy will kill those rights. When four brave Massachusetts judges did the right thing and said gays/lesbians could marry, because it was an example of a constitutional right guaranteed to all individuals, the response of religion-encrusted feeble minds everywhere was to call for a statewide referendum, because a majority of Massachusetts voters oppose gay marriage.

Legislators also called a constitutional convention for Massachusetts to amend the constitution to prohibit gay/lesbian marriage. The convention recessed at the end of February and will resume on March 11. Even if the legislators vote to pass an amendment, it will not get to the voters until 2006 at the earliest.

So let's see, here in Amerikkka, we can sell tobacco without majority support; we can set up pornographic websites without

majority support; we can instigate other countries to buy weapons from companies we set up without majority support. We can even buy and sell the right to pollute air as certified by U.S. government regulations; yet, we need permission from the majority to get married.

When are those same four judges going to declare a right to eat, have clothing, have a job and live without war risks concocted by politicians serving corporate paymasters, we wonder. In many ways, communism is just a very tough and thorough conception of minority rights. No one has the right to live a life that endangers other people's lives more than the minimum. Profit from drugs, arms and pornography should not be an individual right. Individual profit from owning farmland and the means of food or clothing production is obscene.

Gay/lesbian sex is not obscene. The

individual right to marry should be upheld while other individual rights should go by the wayside. When two gay/lesbian people marry right now, they raise the quality of life of everyone; yet it is the individual right to marry in question, not the individual right to profit from others' death. It's an example of Amerikkka's screwed up priorities.

In response to this political calculus, there are gay/lesbian activists buying into the Amerikkkan view of itself. When San Francisco's mayor Gavin Newsom said the existing state laws were basically baloney and started issuing same-sex marriage licenses in February, one lobbyist type from the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus said, "'And it arguably made things worse here.'" MIM would like to say that this sort of calculation that San Francisco's ignoring California state law would set off a

backlash is wrong in principle. Politicians make that sort of calculation, but in Amerikkka, the only language for this is one of minority rights, and that cannot be voided by a California state law.

It's up to judges to decide, not the majority expressing its will through referenda or politicians, and if judges decide the wrong way, the minority should keep on fighting, outside the law if need be. The minority is its own best guarantee for rights. That may sound like a truism, but something we heard repeatedly during the struggle in Massachusetts is that the proposed constitutional amendment would shame Lincoln and write discrimination into the Constitution "for the first time." It shows what weak readers Amerikkans are. Section IX of Article I protected slave importation until at least the year 1808. A piece of paper can never guarantee anyone's rights.

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that song with the USSR in mind.

"The 'Animal in Man' referred to by the song is the willingness of the oppressed to stand up violently to the oppressor. The plot of the song definitely describes a mass uprising that is turned on by the leadership. But in the song the masses immediately recognize this and cut off the new oppressors just as quickly. My interpretation is that the masses will rise up against all oppressors, both the blatant and those posing as leaders of the oppressed.

"The lesson of the story? violence is necessary/inevitable/justified. I see no evidence that DPz was making any of the points that Orwell was. The only general parallel to Animal Farm is that the pigs turn on the other animals."

I will add that *in general* (with no specific reference to DPz—I haven't heard "the animal in man" in several years), when "Animal Farm" ends up in contemporary pop culture it usually refers to the idea that "absolute power corrupts absolutely." This is a naive idea, dangerous in its own right (see our comments on "Sleep Now in the Fire" in <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/music/alternative/ratm.html>)—but does not imply a worked-out line against Stalin.

Reader gives MIM grief for stance on patriarchy, imperialism

I am questioning your page with the title, "All Sex is Rape". If heterosexuality is an institution of oppression why have you not taken the perspective that European culture is a racist institution?

mim@mim.org replies: When we say

"all sex is rape" we do not exclude homosexual sex. Homosexual relationships are also influenced by the patriarchal milieu, which sexualizes power inequalities. Problems of domestic violence plague lesbian and gay relationships as well as heterosexual. In fact, the FAQ page you quote says it is a *misunderstanding* of both MIM and bourgeois legal theory to say that same-sex rape is not rape.

That said, heterosexism is an institution of oppression (and gets in the way of overturning rape culture) when it pretends that homosexual relationships are qualitatively different ("evil" or "sick") than heterosexual and discriminates against homosexuals—while ignoring all the problems in heterosexual relationships. The opponents of gay marriage who say gays threatens the institution of marriage are ridiculous: breeders are doing that very well on their own thank you very much, what with the cheating and domestic violence and divorce and bitter, often violent child-custody battles.

As for European culture: have you read other pages on our site, or our newspaper? Imperialist-nation culture, including European and Kanadian and Amerikan culture, is indeed chauvinist ("racist"), in that it values imperialist-nation (generally but not always "white") lives above oppressed-nation lives.

Check out:

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/threepoints.html>

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

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections/kerry2004.html>

Or any issue of MIM Notes: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn>

Immigrants demand equal rights

Los Angeles, 28 Feb 2004
by mim108@mim.org

Several hundred immigrants and their supporters held a march and rally in downtown Los Angeles today, demanding equal rights, an amnesty and drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants.

MIM and RAIL joined the rally, distributing many copies of MIM Notes and Notas Rojas, and collecting signatures for our petitions against Control Units in California prisons and the new Patriot Act. (For more information on these campaigns, visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation>.)

Most of the signs and banners at the rally demanded rights for immigrants based on their contributions to the economy as taxpayers and workers. Others reminded the public that "the Pilgrims were immigrants, too" and that "immigrants made America." Still others demanded access to "our American dream." It is typical of some immigrants' rights activists to play this patriotic card to gain public support. And these demands—drivers' licenses and an amnesty—are certainly justified. However, it is ultimately backward to demand the extension of Amerikan privilege to greater populations, since this privilege comes at the expense of the exploited workers of the Third World.

At the same time, we were glad to note that many participants were receptive to anti-Amerikan, communist literature, taking many copies of our newspapers

and flyers, and signing petitions criticizing the government on broad issues of state repression. We believe there is substantial anti-Amerikan potential among immigrants who have been exposed to such extreme state repression and racism in the US.

A substantial Trotskyist contingent was on hand, distributing the "Socialist Worker" newspaper, which tries to paper over the conflicting interests of Amerika's labor aristocracy and the international proletariat.

One organizer, giving his troops a pep-talk, used the phrase "borders are for bosses." MIM agrees that imperialist borders are good for the ruling class, and throwing open the borders is a crucial demand for communists. But let's not pretend that the border with Mexico doesn't also protect the privileged position of Amerika's workers by keeping down the number of workers eligible to compete with them. Plus, the undocumented status of many migrants relegates them to low-paid jobs at the bottom of the labor market, further insulating the rich workers of Amerika. That is why undocumented workers are among the only truly exploited workers in the USA—meaning, they are paid less than the value of their labor, unlike the parasitic "workers" who reap some of the benefits of the imperialist system, assuring their allegiance to the oppressor nation and its rulers.

Lessons from the Democratic Party primaries

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more than 100 to 1, but Kerry still won. The Boston Globe even insulted your taste in television ads, as if you should have known that network TV still rules—not Internet bloggers and snot-nosed kids campaigning on snowy streets. Perhaps most sleazy of all was the Boston Globe poll just before New Hampshire. The Boston Globe has much readership in New Hampshire. The poll showed Dean going down steadily: “There was no evidence that Dean’s debate performance Thursday or his interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC’s ‘Prime Time Thursday’ had slowed his slide. ‘He’s still going down,’ Chervinsky said.”(3) It turns out just as Dean had said, that his poll numbers were going up and that he had already bottomed out, which is why he ended up with about double the votes the Boston Globe predicted when New Hampshire actually voted.

You should have given us at MIM \$5 million instead of giving Dean \$50 million. You would have accomplished much more, if opposing the war and corresponding repression like the Patriot Act were your aim. Now the only chance for Dean is if Kerry implodes and resigns in scandal before the Democratic Party convention.

The Democrats including Dean are trying to tell you not to bolt for a third party.(1) They call it realism to support John Kerry, who voted for the intensification of the Iraq war and authored part of the Patriot Act. That may be realism—realism for the enemy. The enemy gets everything and you get nothing.

Kerry said what people wanted to hear, even when it went against basic principles. When Dean said Osama bin Laden should get a fair trial if captured, Kerry said, “What in the world were you thinking?”(4) That’s the sort of thing Kerry did to gain ground on Dean. People who want to oppose war and the Patriot Act but still buy the donkey’s crap do so from a lack of understanding power and how it works. Kerry understands the job of politician. The question is now whether Deaniacs understand the job of creating change.

Lesson #1: Bourgeois politicians do not create change: at best they reflect it and usually they deflect it. The real task is to change public opinion first.

Howard Dean did not lead any anti-war movement before running for president. He saw that his main competitors Gephardt, Kerry, Edwards and Lieberman had all voted for the war in Congress and so he jumped on the anti-war bandwagon—no anti-war bandwagon, no Dean anti-war “movement.”

Dean and Trippi did not create anything: they leached off an anti-war movement that was not strong enough to force the rulers to offer to let Dean win as an anti-war candidate. Since all the major

Democrats running for president and the Democratic Party leaders had supported escalating the war on Iraq as Bush asked, U.S. imperialist politicians proved their bias toward war. The task is not to support Dean, but to build a political space that he and other politicians will find attractive to jump into, as all bourgeois politicians are opportunists. Then to win, the movement must be strong enough to force through change, not just put up politicians taken down by professional handlers.

Lesson #2: If the truth is unpopular, a bourgeois politician will not say it, even if s/he knows it very well.

That goes for telling Amerikkans that they imprison more people percentage-wise than any other people or that the Clinton administration used the UN to infiltrate CIA spies into Iraq, for example. Very often the problem is that what needs to be said would offend Amerikkkan nationalists.

Conversely the more unpopular one is willing to be, the more truth one may utter. The result is that political truth is in short supply in our electoral politics and media, because by definition successful politicians that receive media coverage are popular.

Anyone who violates this lesson will fail as a bourgeois politician, because there will always be those willing to abide by it. However, this truth is also the reason that an independent activist can be more powerful than a senator. In fact, Kerry has the trappings of power but no power himself. He is only a cog in a machine—someone who has to play within set parameters or be ousted. For those opposing the war and the Patriot Act, Kerry has no power to offer, only the trappings.

As a result, leaders and politicians are usually not the same thing. People join Leninist vanguard parties in order to abandon the logic of saying what people want to hear instead of what they need to hear. Movement leaders create change, not politicians. It is not possible to support a bourgeois politician for change. Those politicians support you only after you have made the truth popular. Sometimes they even bring a Trojan horse when a movement gets too popular.

If for some reason a potentially unpopular subject can no longer be avoided, the job of the professional bourgeois politician is to water down the truth till it is unrecognizable. As a result, getting politicians to handle issues is not an advance, but a setback.

In rare instances, a politician may succeed with backward people by posing one unpopular idea as better than something even more unpopular. For example, a politician may tell southern voters that the state should certify Black nurses, because otherwise white wimmin will be tending to Black men in hospitals. Allowing Blacks to be nurses is an advance, but it comes at the expense of

legitimizing racism. That’s typical of politicians and an example of the best one can hope for from them.

Lesson #3: Except for 10% of the population, the U.S. public is not issues-driven in political decisions.

Persynality and reasoning concerning psychological motivations preoccupy the public, if politics is of any account at all. Monica Lewinsky is important, but the war in Iraq is not according to most voters in practice, whether they admit it or not.

For example, Sharpton, Kucinich and Dean claimed to oppose the Iraq war. Polls show that 60%, 70% or even more Democrats claimed to agree on that issue, but the combined Sharpton, Kucinich and Dean vote was less than Kerry’s in Iowa and New Hampshire. War-voting senators Kerry and Edwards took 69% of the vote and the supposedly anti-war candidates took 19% in Iowa. It was only a few percentage points better in New Hampshire.

Although we did not support any of the candidates, it’s important to understand why Democratic Party voters did or did not vote for Dean/Kucinich/Sharpton by their own reasoning. We at MIM look at practice, not what people say. Those people participating in electoral politics become corrupted by the process even if they do not intend it. They say one thing and do another shortly thereafter.

The reason for that: even the issue of war and peace is still not central in Amerikkkan voters’ minds. In Iowa, “Just 14 percent said the war in Iraq had shaped their final decision, even though 75 percent said they opposed the war.”(5) The same New York Times poll showed that 50% of voters claimed to “strongly” disapprove of the war. This is not an example of politicians or pollsters lying. It’s the bourgeoisified public lying to itself—vacillating and calling that a “strong” stand. In truth, the opposition to the war is watery, not strong, not informed by Marxist analysis and experience, and there are very few foreign policy issues that will show up much more strongly than the Iraq War. Almost all the other issues are the same way or even less important to 90% of the population.

A proof of this general fact is in the open in professional Republican strategy this year regarding John Kerry: “He is a liberal Democrat who has voted in such a way that kept liberal people from Massachusetts happy with him,” said Grover Norquist, president for Americans for Tax Reform, a conservative group that advocates tax cuts. “What else, in a busy world, do you have to know about somebody?”(6) The U.S. population is not going to go deeply into issues and the professional operatives know it. The two-party system has the purpose of creating an impression of consent, not regular political participation.

The CIA can carry out coups and the military can distribute pornography in Iraq and no decisive portion of the

bourgeoisified population will notice. This fact causes terrorists to carry out spectacular acts, because they notice Amerikkans are not paying attention any other way.

The problem is that the Amerikkans do not care to think about issues in general and when they do, they believe they have to compromise with the existing powers to such an extent that they vote for people with exactly opposite stands even on war questions. The rationalizations for why they abandoned Howard Dean, Sharpton and Kucinich even by their own reasoning are an expression of the voters’ adjustment to the power of the rulers, and their own short-run petty-bourgeois class interests, rather than a statement of shrewdness.

Lesson #4: The U.S. public opposes negative issue advertising because of lesson #3, not from some hidden nobility of purpose.

Kerry and Edwards won in Iowa, because negative advertising by Dean and Gephardt left themselves tarnished. In a multi-persyn campaign field, the Amerikkkan voter often rewards the one being least attacked and least attacking. The New York Times found a typical example: “‘He’s [Edwards—ed.] the only one I heard so far who hasn’t blasted the other candidates,’ Mr. Buttrey said. ‘I don’t want to hear what the other guy’s doing. I want to hear what you’re going to do.’”(7) The true reason for this is that Amerikkkan voters—petty-bourgeoisie that they are—try to evaluate individual candidates, not issues, not questions of class, nation and gender. The petty-bourgeoisie tends to believe that classes and the existence of group oppression are a fiction anyway. For them, there really are no “issues,” only individuals struggling to do this or that and make their own individual meanings. That’s why voters fixate on candidate biography much more than issues.

Lesson #5: If you want a salary from the government for brokering between rulers and already existing public opinion, become a politician. If you want change, you should seek to become a revolutionary with professional methods or give your resources to revolutionaries with professional methods.

What matters is what the public demands and how intensely with what willingness to take action. Creating the demand is the job of the professional revolutionary.

Lesson #6: You can spend your whole life as a professional politician, reach the height of power and not accomplish anything that came specifically from your own will.

As a senator, Kerry had to argue that Bush fooled him and that is why he voted for the escalation of the Iraq War—one of the most powerful men in the country

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Shrub is right:

Clinton paved the way for Baghdad occupation

In this political campaign season, we are already hearing how Dean and Nader supporters should moderate themselves into oblivious disregard for any principles they might have regarding the Iraq war. The calls from the Boston Globe type of elite are timely especially because John Kerry supported Bush Jr.'s Baghdad adventure. Yet there is a price to such political moderation as opposed to political leadership. The Iraq war itself is a case in point of how backsliding moderation led to public perception that led to war.

Rather than go to the public and say that the war on Iraq and the sanctions are genocidal, President Bill Clinton kept the sanctions in place and gave his UN Security Council partners France, China and Russia a hard time. While the U.S. Government vetoed medical equipment for Iraq, no one at home could say that Clinton was soft on Iraq. This was putting the politician principle above the needs of world peace and prevention of genocide. The U.S. public either did not care or did not mind genocide against Iraqis and so Clinton did nothing to show he disagreed with majority opinion. That's what a bourgeois politician has to do to stay in power. Whatever his or her own opinion, any politician like Clinton knows that perception rules, not truth.

Finally, the key was that Clinton initiated the "regime change" policy just as George Bush Jr. is now saying in order to distract from the problems in Iraq. Bush is not lying about this: the Clinton administration came up with the very phrase "regime change."

Iraq caught Clinton sending the CIA to infiltrate the weapons inspections teams in Iraq, and since then some of the officials

involved have admitted they went to Iraq, not to inspect for weapons but to arrange Saddam Hussein's removal. It should have been a huge scandal, but only 10% of the U.S. public pays any attention to foreign affairs while another 70% trusts whatever the imperialist government would do on questions of war and peace abroad, as long as no U.S. troops die. As a result, the U.S. public never learned that Saddam Hussein did cooperate with UN inspections and that it was Amerikkka that wanted them to fail so that sanctions would not be lifted. Clinton wanted the sanctions in order to weaken Iraq through genocide and exert pressure on all the oil-producing Arab states. Instead of the truth, we in Amerika had the lie that Saddam Hussein was not complying with UN principles when in fact it was Uncle Sam not complying with the UN resolution that specified when sanctions had to be lifted. Now there is a big gap in understanding of the period leading up to the war.

There was no politician able to go before the public and say so—just people like MIM. This again reflects the prime directive for bourgeois politicians: "say what people want to hear." Such a politician trying to straighten out the situation would have had to say: "we do not want the weapons inspections to succeed, so we sent the CIA to provoke Saddam Hussein into cancelling the weapons inspections." As one might imagine, the complexity of the statement would have doomed it, not to mention its clear evil. Even so, Saddam Hussein complained, but then allowed inspections to continue anyway!

Now the Amerikan population is

catching up and learning that their politicians lied on everything from uraniumgate to weapons of mass destruction. It will even matter for a handful of percentage points (less than 10) in the 2004 elections. With race and class the same between Bush and Kerry and regions supporting the candidates approximately equally, and with the last election decided by less than 600 "votes" in Florida, the small percentage of Americans paying attention to the Iraq related stories may even decide the election in 2004.

Although it is true that Clinton paved the way for the intensification of the Iraq war and bombed Iraq himself, the Bush administration continues to lie about the past. Shrub had the chance when he came to power in 2000 to say, "look, Clinton was a wuss and did not want to tell people that weapons inspections in Iraq did succeed and Saddam Hussein did cooperate. He sent the CIA with the mission of deposing Saddam Hussein, so that's why we had to make it look like Saddam Hussein was opposing weapons inspections. The obvious inexcusable truth is that Clinton jeopardized weapons inspections globally by establishing a reputation that those who cooperate will have CIA agents on their soil only to face a war when those CIA agents fail to subvert the government. Cooperation with UN weapons inspectors leads to CIA infiltration which leads to better planning for war. Now imagine how many countries will cooperate with that. Even I the Shrub would not cooperate with that." Shrub had his chance to lay it all out, but instead he took the Clinton line to its logical conclusion. It was not that the

united States cared about weapons of mass destruction. The failure was in regime change and that is why there was a war.

We believe Clinton himself speculated that the House would not impeach him if he took an even tougher stance on Iraq. That's why he bombed Iraq during Lewinskygate.

"Defense Secretary" Donald Rumsfeld continues the Bush administration misleadership to this day: "It was his [Saddam Hussein's—MIM] choice. And if he had chosen differently—if the Iraqi regime had taken the [disarmament—Boston Globe] steps Libya is now taking—there would have been no war." Saddam Hussein did take the steps—sooner than Libya did—and he tolerated CIA spies on his soil to prove it to the world.

Thanks to the capitalist system and its weapons contractors (with Uncle Sam protecting most of the world's weapons business), Saddam Hussein and anyone else can stop a weapons program and do it in public view and then six months later, they or the new puppets in power can get on the black market, pay the bucks and get back to business. Weapons proliferation is inevitable under capitalism. When we hear politicians take U.S. weapons of mass destruction seriously and admit that capitalism motivates arms dealers indiscriminately, we will know that our movement succeeded.

Note: Boston Globe 8Feb2004, p. a6. For more book reviews and articles on the subject of the CIA & Clinton in Iraq, see the Iraq section of our agitation web page. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/index.html>

Lessons from the Democratic Party primaries

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simply fooled and powerless. Kerry has the nerve to tell the public that he thought Bush would negotiate through the UN; thus, being a senator is no better than being a voter.

The reason for that is politicians must follow the rules of the system or lose. Even a president can be weakened politically into almost uselessness. Clinton faced a Republican Congress after his second year in office and then came the Monica Lewinsky debacle.

Those who have spent their lives conforming to the public, campaign donors and media expectations do not know how to lead toward solutions to social problems. When they become political leaders, they go on doing what they were doing before.

Deaniacs, there is a bitter truth to learn. Kerry's professionals outclassed you though you outnumbered them. Part of the reason is that contrary to two-party dogma, political effectiveness is not about spending a year figuring out how to swallow war and repression and a few

seconds voting in a voting booth. With that focus, the anti-war and anti-Patriot Act activists will never learn the skills necessary to overcome the Establishment. That's exactly what the Democratic Party wants.

Deaniacs, the Boston Globe is offering you Kerry and his leadership "in advancing AmeriCorps and other service programs" as a way to "reach out" to you.(8) We suspect some Deaniacs will fall for that. We are hoping that at least some Deaniacs do not seek government jobs and really do see a difference between supporting the war and the Patriot Act and not supporting them—based on the issues and not the candidate, because Dean himself says they are not important enough to break from the Democratic Party. The choice is yours Deaniacs, the issues or the bullshit. We hope you make a commitment to regular political action on behalf of the issues independent of the Democratic Party.

Notes:

1. See for example, "A bridge to Dean Nation," Boston Globe 24Feb2004, p. a19. On February

24th, the Boston Globe sent a lynch mob against Nader on its editorial pages. The only pro-Nader piece sounded "Republican" in saying Democrats don't have an agenda other than hating Bush.
2. New York Times 31Jan2004, p. a14.

3. "As Kerry extends lead, plans shift," Boston Globe 24Jan2004, p. a6.
4. "Shift in strategy fueled Kerry turnaround," Boston Globe 8Feb2004, p. a24.
5. New York Times 20Jan2004, p. 1.
6. The Sun (Baltimore) 27Jan2004, p. 9a.
7. New York Times 20Jan2004, p. 15.
8. Boston Globe 19Feb2004, p. a14.

Kerry opposes gay marriage

He's already said that despite his vote for the Iraq war, "If you don't think I would have handled this differently than George W. Bush, don't vote for me."(1) Now Democratic Party candidate for president John Kerry has entered the Massachusetts battle on gay rights by saying he favors separate but equal treatment for gays and lesbians through civil union, not marriage.(2) It's just another proof that politicians reflect public sentiment and they cannot be expected to lead change. Career politicians are not movement leaders, so substituting one for the other will lead to apolitical frustration:

just ask thousands of Howard Dean volunteers.

Politicians have to say what people want to hear or they do not get elected. Once we learn this lesson, we stop "trusting" politicians to have the inside information on weapons of mass destruction as in Iraq and we stop expecting any truth or wisdom to emerge from their mouths. The key is to start a movement for the truth and then the by-definition-opportunist-politicians will adjust.

Note:

1. <http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/02/04/president-elect-kerry-asks-victims-and-moment/>
2. "Kerry backs state ban on gay marriage," Boston Globe 26Feb2004, p. 1.

Bush overthrows elected Haiti government

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The CIA said Neptune was still in power as March 4th but sought to cast doubt on all his departments while supporting the new interim president.(5)

A few days later, Gerard Latortue from Boca Raton, Florida arrived to take power as prime minister.(6) He had left Haiti in 1988, thanks to pressure from another U.S.-backed regime. U.S. Government documents and interviews with the BBC show that Latortue was the choice of the United States, not elections in Haiti. In case the Haitian people do not get the message, the United States landed 1600 troops. Official government documents read as follows: "A U-S backed advisory panel has chosen a new prime minister for Haiti. V-O-A's [Voice of America's—mim ed.] Jim Teeple reports the move comes as multi-national troops in Haiti say they will soon begin disarmament operations in Haiti.

"Gerard Latortue, a former political refugee and foreign minister in Haiti is his country's new prime minister. Mr. Latortue, was chosen after five days of deliberations by the so called council of wise individuals, a panel selected to choose a new prime minister after the departure of President Jean Bertrand Aristide."(7)

The only indications from the U.S. officials of their true motivations mention some sense of entitlement because of U.S. aid to Haiti including the aid of U.S. troops. These criticisms of Haiti only show what a low priority Uncle Sam places on elections. Pretty much anything justifies overturning them in their minds despite rhetoric to the contrary.

In another manifestation of deeper fissures in the ruling class breaking up their usual bipartisan unity, Senator Kerry, the presumed Democratic Party nominee for president in November 2004 elections, said that the United States should have sent troops to back Aristide. Of course, at meetings of leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean in particular, the imperialists and Caribbean leaders agreed to support each other's "democracies" in the event of instability. In response Secretary of State Colin Powell said: "We found that his performance was so bad and so wanting that it was going to be impossible to find a political solution between the two parties under the circumstances that existed," Powell added.

"And so we were not prepared, nor was Canada, France or anyone else prepared to send in a military force, as (Democratic presidential hopeful and) Senator (John) Kerry suggests, to prop up a leader who was seriously failing."(8)

So let's see: Powell is saying elections are valid, unless of course the elected leader faces problems. By the way, it was France that arranged the country for Aristide to go to in his kidnapping. France also sent troops. Haiti is a former colony of France, and Haitians are familiar with

French language.

MIM is not a fan of Aristide's. Nonetheless, we fully appreciate the thousands of demonstrators who want their president back. These protestors are protesting in the face of U.S. troops and getting killed for it. "Aristide has to come back; we don't want Bush as president" read some protest signs.(9) That's learning the hard way that imperialist-style democracy is phony. Already two people are dead directly thanks to "peacekeepers" from France and the United States.(10)

We also laugh at Kanada for arresting Aristide's security chief, Oriel Jean. The Kanadians are investigating him for "war crimes,"(11) while letting Amerikkans off the hook in Iraq etc. It's a bad joke. Kanada is also sending 450 troops to Haiti.(12) We support Aristide's lawyer who says the U.S. Government officials involved should be arrested. That would be Bush and Powell. The Kanadians and French should also be arrested.

Of other notable hypocrisy—the Bush administration opposes gun control; yet the first thing they are doing in Haiti is carrying out a policy to disarm everyone. The National Rifle Association (NRA) should be screaming about this. If the United States is backing "democracy" in Haiti, then there is no need to be carrying out radical "gun control" in Haiti.

MIM is not in favor of "democracy" in the sense of majority rule at this time. There are much better ways to channel popular input than pulling a lever in a voting booth every couple years and we do not believe majorities of the United States should have the "right" to tell gays if they can marry or if Iraqis can import medical devices from abroad. However, even though we do not support "democracy" in the sense used by the United States, we point out the facts about Haiti to uncover the hypocrisy of U.S. leaders claiming to uphold elections. There are some advantages to the political system of voting that Bush is constantly touting and claiming. Yet those advantages are on paper only, because in practice the imperialists do not respect their own bourgeois-style elections, as in Haiti's case.

There is an important lesson in political realism to learn in all this and once we learn it, we move a major step closer to the communist road: democracy is not possible under capitalism. Capitalism develops to a stage of monopoly capitalism where business interests direct political leaders to take a global view of control.

When there was a Soviet Union, the U.S. Government used to justify its actions overthrowing democratically elected governments by pointing to competition with the Soviet Union. That did not address why the United States did the same thing before there was a Soviet Union in 1917. Now that there is no Soviet Union, we can see that the motivations

for the United States to overthrow elected governments are not what the imperialists say.

Even being a democratically elected lackey of the United States does not create stability and protect the people. Our disagreement with Aristide is that he thought it would be possible to co-exist with U.S. imperialism. Now even the Kanadians admit that in Haiti "with morgues full and government offices closed, bodies were piling up, littering streets," as late as 11 March.(12) U.S. imperialism does not respect anything but its own selfish and militarist interests. If Haitians want control of their own destiny, they have no choice but to join with the international proletariat in conquering U.S. imperialism.

Notes:

1. <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/rm/27975.htm>
2. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2004/>

29990.htm

3. <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040302.wxhaitibush0302/BNStory/Front/>
4. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/3545229.stm>
5. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/3545229.stm>
6. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/haiti/8156653.htm>
7. <http://ibb7.ibb.gov/newswire/27e8094d.html>
8. http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_1495741,00.html
9. <http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/TorontoSun/News/2004/03/12/379177.html>
10. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/americas/8148729.htm>
11. <http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/CalgarySun/News/2004/03/12/379266.html>
12. "US in Haiti gun hunt," <http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/TorontoSun/News/2004/03/12/379179.html>

Fascist prison officials: From page 1...

only to be left dying. He had been accused of cutting a neighbor with a soda can and ended up getting a de facto death sentence for it.

No sooner did Miami start the firing procedure than a new revelation came out. A 16-year-old committed suicide in the same Miami-Dade lockup that let Omar Paisley die. Then the guards invented documents to show that they had been monitoring the boy as they should have been.(3) It's another proof why MIM says there should be video cameras in prisons and cop-cars—focused on the law enforcement officials.

MIM assures the public that the only difference Miami-Dade and the rest of the country is that Miami-Dade has some top-level fighting going on about how to treat prisoners. For some reason, one particular official, Interim Secretary C. George Denman, has the backing of the state legislature to roll heads to clean up problems. Apparently the exposure has been too much.

One serious problem in this country is that it is too liberal with anyone in the law enforcement profession. This case where law enforcement officials face punishment is the very rare exception. No matter what crimes people in the law enforcement profession commit, some Liberal (whether conservative or liberal Liberal) will make excuses.

This country would see a lot fewer people released from death row on DNA evidence if the law enforcement profession did not get such Liberal treatment.

If more prosecutors, judges and lying cops faced murder and attempted murder charges when they falsely convict people, we would not see things like half of Illinois convictions for murder turning out to be false after review of DNA and other objective evidence. Many people would leave the law enforcement profession and we would see its quality rise.

MIM considers the law enforcement profession as central to the future dictatorship of the proletariat. It is essential that its leaders be altruists willing to give up their lives for failure that causes mass deaths. We believe the people will give up their old system of voting for candidates who kiss babies and make empty promises in exchange for another system in which only a relative minority of people is willing to serve in key public offices because of the self-sacrifice involved. Instead of serving in the Army in Iraq, well-intentioned people should serve in the law enforcement of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Instead of having too many candidates for plum government jobs, we should have a situation of too few people to fill roles of power. Let the capable altruists have more power and they will set up a better system than we have now.

That's why MIM calls for the death penalty for lying cops and prosecutors involved in cases that could produce life sentences or death penalties for innocent people. These professional liars in law enforcement are enemies of the people. Before anyone else receives the death penalty, the law enforcement profession itself has to be weeded out with the death penalty. Otherwise it deserves no credibility in administering a death penalty. Short of that, MIM has said the United States should have a moratorium on the death penalty until the day when the dictatorship of the proletariat straightens out the motivations of law enforcement.

These lying cops, prosecutors, hangin' judges and prison officials make their fame at the expense of innocent people. Clinton was a prosecutor before he became governor of Arkansas and president. John Kerry was also a prosecutor. Prosecutors, legislators hoping to be governors some day and governors have everything to gain from abusive treatment of innocent people and nothing to lose. That equation has to change.

Notes:

1. Associated Press in Boston Globe 28 Feb2004, p. a5.
2. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/8152551.htm>
3. <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/8156655.htm>

Foreign news reporting in Amerika a bad joke

The stories get published in papers across the country with audiences in tens of millions, but professional journalism is not what it appears to be. A front page story in the U.S.A.'s largest national circulation newspaper linking "then-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milovic to 'ethnic cleansing'" was a complete fabrication that came to light when the New York Times caught its own fabricator Jason Blair.

Pulitzer Prize finalist Jack Kelley made up the story for the USA Today and then came up with an elaborate ruse to cover it up. USA Today had to hire detectives to figure out what happened, because the infrastructure for foreign reporters is so weak it was impossible to confirm or deny what Kelley was doing any other way.

Foreign news reporting is especially vulnerable to fraud and suggestion from the CIA, because very few Amerikan reporters are in place in most countries. For example, a major news agency may count itself lucky to have a total of three reporters in a whole country such as China.

Reporters also have their own reasons for wanting to please various government connections including the CIA. Kelley's stories fit in with a State Department agenda and no doubt gave him access to

government sources who otherwise might pay less attention to him. In addition, playing along with the State Department guarantees that at least some people will be interested in his stories and understand them—no small advantage when the public may be tempted to say "so what?" about any foreign news story. By staying within the parameters set by the State Department, the USA Today and other papers know that at least the State Department will be attempting to explain what it was USA Today was talking about. That way the USA Today won't have to explain something exotic to its readers from scratch. Likewise, there is a guarantee that other news outlets will do the same thing. Hence, news tends to revolve around U.S. Government criticism of other countries, and the more sensational the criticisms, the better for newspaper profits.

The bottom line problem is not integrity of individual reporters as the USA Today and New York Times now suggest. The bottom line problem is profit corrupting news systematically, so corruption is guaranteed. All news is subject to corruption under capitalism, but foreign reporting by U.S. reporters is the worst. The U.S. public does not pay much for

news from foreign countries. That's why papers like the International Herald Tribune had to be cut back in column inches and pages and are pretty much a failure. The U.S. public would rather be watching "Sex in the City" or reading "Cosmopolitan" magazine. Hence, even the biggest news corporations have to make a mountain out of a molehill or go out of business.

The foreign reporting of the largest services like USA Today, New York Times and Associated Press is in fact pathetic, guided by a handful of often terribly ignorant people in each case, but the impact of the stories of these news services is enormous. What little foreign news these corporations do put in the paper faces the pressure of competing for readership the way "Average Joe" competes for television advertising. And just as "Average Joe" and "Bachelor" make up scripts to attract viewers despite being called "reality TV," so do the newspapers come under pressure to have sensational stories about things they do not have many people working on and frankly do not know that much about. There is no better way to have a sensational story within a range of views accepted by the State Department than

to make the story up. That's not to mention that the standard story on foreign affairs simply reports whatever the U.S. Government says as gospel.

Although the USA Today has admitted to the fraud we also cannot assure the public that the ultimate source of how USA Today figured out the fraud is pure either. There may also be another corrupt agenda behind the exposure of Kelley, but that won't make Kelley right or the news that USA Today reports any better.

We consider it no accident that Kelley is married to the USA Today Senior Vice President of Advertising. We at MIM predict that even corrupt Amerikkans may someday prefer that their newspapers and TV news report the truth instead of whatever entertains the public and brings in the dinero. It's just that right now Amerikkans are not prepared to hear the inevitable: truth suffers under financial pressure and the only solution is socialism.

Notes:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/2004-01-13-usatoday-statement_x.htm

http://www.usatoday.com/news/2004-01-13-reporter_x.htm

Central task report: January and February 2004

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

by PIRAO Chief
March 5, 2004

January and early February established new records for MIM Notes distribution. Those records go beyond what we previously published in these reports, so we have invented a new figure to keep track of how quickly we actually distribute the newspapers. This new figure is a cut-off figure for which the point is how long does it take to distribute 80% of the newspapers printed.

Another bright spot was for *Notas Rojas*, which saw a record distribution. New York City distribution of the new issue alone surpassed previous total *Notas Rojas* distribution for any one issue. January set records in many regards, some of which we do not see even in the above report and we can say right now that we will not always maintain that pace without a step up in support. That's not to say that our gains since the World Trade Center bombing have been mostly by a rise in financial support. Actually, gains are mostly in efficiency.

In December 2003, we saw roughly the same growth in users, just slightly less. Any idea that bumping up the MIM Notes distribution speed as we did this winter would produce huge growth in our website users is wrong; although we do see signs in the details that MIM Notes distribution does help of course. Likewise, by now I

should also point out that anyone who thinks that replacing the home page as we did is going to help our traffic should also look at the growth figures and conclude otherwise. In February, the art page alone had more users than our home page.

After setting a record for distribution in January and continuing the pace into early February, of course dialectics set in and some mini-disasters actually ended in a big setback. The February 15th MIM Notes was going to come out late or not at all and we chose not at all. We have

not missed a planned MIM Notes like that in several years. Hence, combined, the January and February distribution ended up being like that of late 2003, because January was good, but February was bad.

In February, the art page set a great new record. It's nice to know that we can have as many problems as we did and the web page work continues to go forward.

	January, 2003	January, 2004	% change
Number of different computers MIM served	23536	42764*	+82%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2271	3521	+55%
MIM data transferred	7.148 gigs	3.02 gigs	-58%
MIM Notes (English) printed copies compared with pre-911=100		222	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100		333	
Number of top 53 cites of U.S./Kanada receiving at least 1000 MIM Notes**	Unknown	10	
Average days after print date by which 80% of papers have been distributed	Unknown	+6	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100		0	
Number of Art page users		7711	
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	4496	4601	+2.3%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	281	830	+195%
Number of different computers MIM served	25869	47311	+83%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2370	3933	+66%
MIM data transferred	4.36 gigs	3.12 gigs	-28%
MIM Notes (English) printed copies compared with pre-911=100		111	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100		111	
Number of top 53 cites of U.S./Kanada receiving at least 1000 MIM Notes**	Unknown	8	
Average days after print date by which 80% of papers have been distributed	Unknown	+9	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100		0	
Number of Art page users	7117	20023	+181%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	4133	4538	+10%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	305	900	+195%

* This report excludes all art, and most robots and developer hits for 2004 but not 2003.

** Top 50 U.S. cities plus Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto

Join the fight against the injustice system

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Texas prisoner abuse

I would like to start off by saying that I really appreciate the newspaper that I've been receiving from y'all over the last couple of years. They have really been an inspiration to me.

As far as conditions here on this unit, I would put it at zero on a scale of 1 to 10. This unit is the most racial and brutal in the system, and it's not from prisoners but from guards abusing their authority and nobody seems to do nothing about it.

Just recently there was a use of force and the prisoner had his thumb broken. I myself have had bruised ribs, hand-cuff marks on my wrists and shackles left on my ankles. Going through the grievance procedure doesn't resolve anything - it only escalates into bigger problems.

This unit is racial and prejudiced towards prisoners, mostly if you're Spanish and Black — especially if you contribute to any litigation in court. I'm literate in court and I assist other prisoners. I get retaliated against by being denied access to court, denied legal material and indigent supplies most of the time, denied legal visits to prisoners that seek legal help. They also refuse to feed me for no justification and use excessive force, (for example) kicking my ribs with heavy shoes on and twisting my leg trying to get it to snap. And the lieutenant and sergeant stood around and allowed the guards to proceed with the excessive force and all the time they claim that I'm resisting.

These people only use the rules to benefit themselves. If we have a right to something then they claim there is no such rule, and if we harp on it or file a grievance about it then later on we receive a disciplinary infraction for something else. Even with a lawsuit pressed against it and court orders, this unit still doesn't even acknowledge anything.

—A Texas Prisoner, November 2003

SHUs in Virginia too

Yesterday a brother happened to send me one of your MIM Notes and I was astounded. Under the current levels of repression that we are held under, I couldn't believe that something this powerful was being let into this institution. I've been up all night reading your newsletter and wondering, "How do I get involved?"

A lot of things you spoke of pertaining to the Security Housing Unit (SHU) [in California - ed] are happening here in Virginia. ... It was like a breath of fresh air to hear someone is fighting against the SHU. It just hurts to know no one in Virginia seems to care.

As if that isn't enough, Virginia has opened these level 5 and 6 institutions, Red Onion, Wallens Ridge and Sussex State Prisons. Each institution is armed with shotguns inside the pods, cafeteria, rec yards and gym. These shotguns have rubber pellets but at any time officers in the gun posts have access to live rounds. We are supposed to be on 20 hours lock and 4 hours rec, but they always find a way to take rec. The conditions are close to, if not the same as the SHU.

What is more troubling is the criteria it takes

to get on these institutions. They're supposed to be for the worst of the worse prisoners, but over 90% of the population came up straight from receiving with no institutional records. I was sent here to Wallens Ridge with no institutional record, and when I wrote to the Central Classification Board their justification was that I had over 25 years [sentence] so I met the criteria. I thought I was sentenced by the judge to come to prison to do my time, not sentenced by the judge to come to prison and get sentenced again.

It's like there's no set criteria to get sent to these level 5 and 6 institutions and damn near impossible to get off. You can stay charge free, get our points down, and still be overrode to stay here.

It is ridiculous and I am fed up. I want to fight against what they are doing to me and prisoners like myself. All I want to know is, how do I fight against this? Can you please help me get involved in the fight and inform me the best route to take in fighting this type of injustice?

—A Virginia prisoner, January 2004

MIM responds: We are glad to hear from a Virginia prisoner as we build the campaign against control units. It is important to recognize that aspects of the SHU may be present in many units even if they are not designated as SHUs. We urge opponents of prison abuse and torture to become signatories of our statement "Shut Down All Control Units!" — and help spread the word to get others involved in the campaign. For more information see www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/ or write to MIM at the address on page 2.

Conditions at Washington C.C.

I'm housed in a control unit at Washington Corrections Center. It's a Level 5/Max Custody Intensive Management Unit. I've never been in "population" at this facility although I have, as well as every inmate in this state, come through the R-Units/Receiving.

In the R-Units, 3 men are kept in 1 cell which is only suitable for 1 man. There are only 2 beds so 1 man is on the floor. Stays can range from a period of 1 1/2 months to 10 months. There is intentional racial mixing (i.e., Mexican, Native, white, Black, and so on living together), it is "not by choice." White power and black militants are put in one cell together which is highly dangerous and inexcusable.

Only 1 exercise period is permitted per day and it ranges from 45 minutes to 1 hour long. Showers are permitted every other day. There are no available reading materials aside from access to the law library 1 hour per week. There are limited visiting hours. Cleaning materials are distributed once a week.

In the MU/Control Unit, the cell size is moderate. You are only allowed to keep 5 photos in your cell, any excess gets destroyed. There is 23-hour lockdown 5-days a week and 24-hour lockdown on Mondays and Wednesdays. All movement is done under handcuffs with hands-on escorts and there is a modified strip search before leaving

the cell at all times. When you are told to be ready, you must be standing directly on the yellow line with nothing but briefs on or you will lose your yard and shower. For mainline (chowtime), you must also be standing on the yellow line with your hands face up (palms) or you won't get to eat and will be placed on a 72-hour controlled feeding plan. That's only 72 hours if they feel like it. Food is distributed in very small portions.

10-minute showers (includes shaving, etc.) are permitted 3 days a week and haircuts are given every 30 days. No hair grease or oil is given to African-American inmates with long hair or dry scalps. Yard is 5 days a week. Cleaning materials are distributed once a week. Immediate family are allowed only on visiting days, the length of time varies. Level 1 and 2 is allowed a 1 hour visit per week. Level 3 is allowed a 2 hour visit per week. Level 4 is allowed a 3 hour visit per week.

Sick calls could take up to a whole week or more before being addressed. Medical emergencies may not be responded to at all or at the very least there is a significant delay in response time. Interview slips on important topics may not be responded to anywhere

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.

from 1 week to 2 months, if at all.

Regarding the staff, there are no African-Americans working in the unit at all, or at least none are visible. It's difficult for African-American inmates to get responses or service from an all-white staff.

- A Washington Prisoner, January 2004

MIM responds: These conditions are similar in prisons across the country. We need to educate people about this and expose the abuse and torture in the criminal injustice system. But we also need to take a step further and take action to fight the system. See the box on the side of these ULK pages for some ways that you can get involved.

CRIPS Under Attack

Corcoran State Prison pigs claim to have found a kite (note/letter) on the floor outside of a holding cage in Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg). This kite is alleged to have been intended for specific members of this Raymond Street and Blue Note Crips, with assault on pigs throughout California Department of Corrections (CDC) in general and Corcoran State Prison in particular.

Consequently, all Black prisoners in Corcoran State Prison were immediately placed on lock down; the LA Times was notified; and an investigation ensued with investigative security unit (ISU) Sgt. Montgomery concluding that I authored this kite under the authorization of Stanley Williams (i.e. Big Tookie, Original founder of the Crip Organization) who is on Death Row in San Quentin writing/publishing children's books and advocating the collective uplifting of the New African here on these Northern shores of Amerikkka.

ISU also concludes that the alleged kite was preposterously authored and authorized due to "Tookie's" appeals are now running out and in retaliation of the states anticipated scheduling of his execution. [Stanley Williams (a.k.a. Tookie) is widely known for his work as a positive and passive force particularly working on the education of Black children - MIM].

Subsequently, four suspected members of the Raymond Street Crips, including myself, were charged with the specific act of "Conspiring to Assault Correctional Staff" and we were given extensive SHU sentences without being afforded the opportunity to question key witnesses or present exculpatory evidence in our defense.

Though all of us, including "Tookie," were either in another section or facility from this kite; no movement to take off on these pigs have jumped off in any concerted effort in the last six months we have been in segregation; there was nothing found in "Tookie's" cell by the San Quentin ISU to link any of us to this kite. Nor does any of our handwritings match this kite, CDC has not made a single attempt to match the handwriting of the pigs who claim to have "found" this kite carelessly laying on the floor outside of

an unoccupied holding cage. This is outrageous!

Moreover, CDC is now attributing all of the isolated, alleged and/or unrelated crip/pig assaults that have occurred throughout CDC to this mysterious kite and has referred our cases to the LA Times for further persecution and to the States District Attorney for imminent prosecution.

Many of us, such as myself, already have two prior convictions, are close to parole and are now facing 25 years to life under California's 3-strike lynch clause behind these allegations.

These fabricated allegations CDC has launched against Crips in general and Raymond/Blue Note Crips in particular are but a first string elaborate attack and ploy to camouflage its strategic persecution of the Black Prison diaspora, desensitize the public of the states anticipated execution of a condemned comrade, and to manufacture an artificial justification for extended sentences, convictions and the existence of security housing units.

Therefore, this writer appeals from this critical state of emergency to MIM and ULK readers to call, write, fax and/or e-mail A.K. Schribner, Warden of Corcoran State Prison in open protest of this CDC/Media persecution and District Attorney referral.

Make all references to log number CSP COR 3C-03-08-011.

— a California prisoner, Feb 2004

California to take away TV and radio

A notice regarding a proposed change to the Director's Rules was issued on January 30 but the issue date on the notice itself is December 30, 2003 - a month later we receive it. Anyway, the notice is regarding Title 15 California Code of Regulations, to incorporate new provisions apropos of inmate state wide vendor package program. But wait a minute. CDC also very slyly inserted a proposed amendment to subsection 3044(g)(4)(G) which states that this section "is amended to delete text that previously stated that privilege group D inmates one special canteen purchase of one television or one radio, or one radio/TV combo unit. This is necessary due to the fact that privilege group D inmates are those who are removed from general population for disciplinary or administrative reasons while incarcerated; therefore, for the safety and security of the institution/facility, electronic appliances are no longer allowed for privilege group D - pg#2 of notice of change to Director's Rules."

So CDC is trying to take away TVs and radios from privilege group D prisoners which are SHU and Ad-seg prisoners! Page #1 of the Notice of Rule change states: "The Department weighted institutional concerns against the concerns of inmates in order to determine reasonable personal property

standards. Reasons supporting the personal property standards are: (1) reduction of inmate property (personal) claims; (2) reduction of bartering or trading between inmates; (3) reduction of inmates ability to intimidate other inmates into providing personal property; (4) increase in staff ability to detect contraband, drugs, and weapons; (5) reduction of the possibility of fire in the quarters/living area; and (6) in the interest of security and safety." (page 1 of Notice of Change to Director's Rules (#03/06).)

And according to CDC, these new provisions are supposed to save \$1,744,000 - cost and savings to the state agency. All this is a load of manure. CDC is gradually trying to take away all of our privileges, what little they are! CDC wants to increase the torture up a notch.

There is going to be a public hearing regarding these proposed regulations that will be held on March 5, 2004, from 9am to 12pm in the Resources Agency Auditorium 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA. The purpose of the hearing is to receive oral comments about the proposed regulations. Maybe a few comrades can attend and voice comments against this bullchit proposal. Or you can submit comments via e-mail to RPMB@executive.corr.ca.gov or may submit written comments: CDC Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RPMB) PO Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001, by fax: 916-322-3842. Inquiries go to Rick Grenz, Chief, RPMB, or to Ann Cunningham, RPMB. All comments must be received by March 5, 2004 at 5pm. They don't want us to have any stimulation at all.

Maybe sending some protest letters to Senator G. Romero would be good. I wonder what's next: books? Perhaps cruel and unusual punishment should be raised at the hearing. As it is, the control unit conditions constitute cruel and unusual punishment as this place is nothing but torture - stark sterility. What's going to be next to be taken away? Books, educational material? Publications? Mail? They have already attempted to limit our mail. Another thing that should be addressed is how about the educational videos that they do show on the "institutional channels" up here on TV? How are prisoners enrolled in the GED program supposed to participate when audiovisuals are used?

— California prisoner, Feb 2004

From the looks of it, the mail situation here seems to be improving somewhat. But the struggle and oppression continues for us. They recently introduced a proposal to take away SHU inmates' TVs and Radios. The vast majority of us here have submitted letters to Senator Romero, Chief Director Grenz, and the warden. The removal of these items will only compound the mental and physical torture we have to endure here in this hell hole. Sad to say these items are our only windows to the outside world.

As you guys can see, our mail is being

withheld for months at a time and our mail is being thrown away by COs, so it's hard for one to keep in touch with anyone. It's funny how this government cries and complains about human rights and yet it's torturing and starving it's own people in these hell holes. Yeah, I said starving because that's what they're doing to us here. Individuals including myself are losing weight at an alarming rate. We've had to go in front of a doctor to see if he could give us extra food or vitamins. Things are getting drastic back here but we're too strong to ever break! They'll never get us true warriors to lay down and give up.

Here are these addresses, anyone who is willing or wanting to write a letter in protest can do so but they must be sent by March 5, 2004, because that's when they are going to make a final decision on the matter of TVs and Radios.

Senator Gloria Romero; State Capitol; Room #501; Sacramento, CA 95814

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

—A California Prisoner, February 2004

MIM Notes keeps prisoners going

Let me express my gratitude for the literature you sent. Not only will it aid me in my growth but will also help others as it makes its way into the hands of other young carnales. MIM Notes helps keep my organization (The Almighty Latin Kings and Queens Nation) abreast of the happenings in the world and in our homelands. After all, a lot of carnales aren't conscious of the struggle, the revolution or the war that is being waged against us on a daily basis. We had our own forum, Royal Rage, but I am unsure if it is still being published. With MIM Notes we're able to maintain a solid political line with up to date and factual information.

As for the petition, it was an experience to say the least. I'm in a cell house that limits my movement but I did manage to rally a few signatures (this comrade collected 15 signatures against the Patriot Act and Patriot Act II).

You would think that after I exposed this critical information about the Patriot Acts people would be practically fall over one another to sign the petition. NOT THE CASE.

The majority of the people are not conscious and have no desire to become awake. Almost like zombies, complacent as hell no fight in 'em. There was a handful that signed and offered decent dialogue on the topic. I approached some Europeans (white amerikkans) and we ended up in a heated debate. Needless to say, none of them signed. As it is said in MIM Notes: they truly aren't the vehicle (for revolution) at this point in time. Eight of the 15 signatures are Latino or Chicano, the rest are Black Nationalists.

Before I close this letter I would like to share something with you. The other night the pigs locked up a true soldier of the Revolution and a close friend of mine. He's the man who woke me up by introducing me to revolutionary thought. Now they've put him somewhere in the SHU. I'm explaining this to you because I'm hoping you'll be able to reach out to him and send him some literature to keep his mind and thoughts focused. I will offer you his information. Please help me support this fallen comrade.

With all this said I want to thank you for providing a forum for us to dialogue, learn and grow. Stay strong in this Revolution. We are making an impact.

In solidarity,

—A prisoner in Indiana, January 2005

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Las prisiones de Tejas retienen comida, ayuda médica

No nos sorprende que los presos paguen desproporcionadamente cuando los presupuestos estatales de muchos estados en el país sufren grandísimas insuficiencias.

El MIM ha recibido muchas cartas de presos en el estado de Tejas indicando que este estado se ha empeñado viciosamente en eliminar los servicios básicos de comida y ayuda médica para poder ahorrar dinero. Un activista que lucha contra el sistema carcelario de Tejas nos informa que “muchas prisiones sólo ofrecen dos comidas diarias mientras que en otras cárceles se reduce el tamaño y el contenido calórico de lo que consumen los presos diariamente.”

Un preso nos escribe: “Las cosas han empeorado desde la última vez que les escribí. Aquí en el TDCJ (Departamento de Justicia Criminal de Tejas) se ha retenido la comida. Al principio hemos oído varios rumores al respecto, pero ahora los rumores se han hecho realidad. El postre se ha retenido tres veces por semana y ahora la cárcel produce su propio almíbar. ¡Guácala! Además, ahora nos dan el desayuno en una bolsita de papel. Pero lo más diabólico que se ha ingeniado el TDCJ es la violación de nuestros derechos religiosos. Ahora por razones presupuestarias no nos permiten mantener una dieta sin carne de puerco. Los musulmanes y otros que no comen carne de puerco no tienen la opción de sustituir la carne de puerco por otro tipo de comida (como frijoles, queso o pan). El menú general se aplica a todos los presos. El lema del TDCJ es: “Si no te gusta, no te lo comas.”

Un camarada de otra unidad nos cuenta que “el comedor está muy sucio. Yo no trabajo para el Departamento de Sanidad pero si ese fuera el caso, calificaría muy bajo al comedor. En la entrada del comedor hay charcos de

agua estancada. Las paredes están cubiertas de insectos muertos. El agua gotea entre las grietas de las paredes quebradas. No nos dan los 20 minutos que tenemos garantizados para comer y las bandejas y los tenedores de plástico están bien sucios, con restos de comida pegados desde hace dos o tres días. Además, siempre se les acaba comida y no hay hielo en el comedor...”

Mientras los presos pasan hambre y siguen trabajando gratis por largas horas, los guardianes siguen viviendo una buena vida. Según el informe del activista, “el hambre nunca llega al comedor de los guardianes. Ahí nunca faltan sopas, ensaladas, huevos, carne, condimentos, helado, tortas, pasteles y una gran variedad de otros postres que provienen gratis en cantidades ilimitadas para ser distribuidos entre los 40 mil empleados del TDCJ.” Y como el comedor de guardianes queda abierto las 24 horas todos los días del año, “algunos de los guardianes van a comer ahí en sus días libres para no tener que pagar por su comida en algún restaurante o para no tener que cocinar en casa.”

Resulta que la dieta especial de los guardianes es una violación de la ley estatal. El activista nos cuenta que la “sección 13 dice que el TDCJ puede proveer comida a los guardianes sólo después de que se hayan satisfecho las necesidades de los presos.” Pero las necesidades de los presos nunca se satisfacen porque a ellos nunca les toca la variedad de comida que se les da a los guardianes. Los guardias reciben lo mejor de todo y a los presos les tocan restos y migajas. La sección 13 también estipula que la comida que reciben los presos debe ser la misma comida que reciben todos los empleados. Los directores de las prisiones siempre creen que la ley no se les aplica a ellos y, por lo tanto,

pasan por alto dicha parte de la sección 13.”

Nuestros camaradas de Tejas también nos han dicho los servicios médicos han sido retenidos a causa de los problemas presupuestarios. “Han eliminado a los trabajadores médicos y han despedido al técnico del laboratorio. Pasará mucho tiempo antes de que los presos tengan acceso a pruebas de SIDA, hepatitis y otros análisis de sangre. Yo sigo esperando una prueba de sangre para saber si sufro de una úlcera o no. Ya llevo tres semanas esperando y aún no me han hecho la prueba. Hombre, en este lugar

se aplica la Ley de Herodes: o te chingas o te jodes.

A los activistas que luchan contra el sistema carcelario no les sorprende el hecho de que los recortes presupuestarios sean dirigidos contra la población más pobre del estado, pero este hecho debería darnos rabia a todos. Les pedimos a todos nuestros lectores que se involucren en nuestras campañas en contra de las injusticias del sistema carcelario estadounidense.

La Liga Revolucionaria Antiimperialista (LRAI) participa en la semana de la “Educación no Encarcelación”.

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

Las unidades de máxima seguridad son cárceles especiales dentro de una cárcel diseñadas para impedir la organización de los presos.

En California, el MIM y la LRAI están llevando a cabo una lucha prolongada para cerrar las unidades de máxima seguridad. Éstas representan un ejemplo de las condiciones más bárbaras que existen en el sistema carcelario de EE.UU.

En nuestras presentaciones abordamos el tema de dichas cárceles rindiéndoles a los estudiantes testimonios de abusos y privación sensorial que sufren los presos. Muchos de los estudiantes reconocieron que estas condiciones no tendrían ningún beneficio social cuando los presos salieran libres.

Muchos estudiantes también reconocieron paralelos entre sus vidas y las acusaciones en contra de “pandilleros” que se usan para meter a gente en las unidades de máxima seguridad. Un estudiante dijo que sólo bastaba que tres personas vestidas del mismo color se juntaran en una esquina para que la policía los molestara. Muchos otros contaron que la policía de la ciudad de Oakland siempre usa violencia excesiva como, por ejemplo, el apuntar el barril de una pistola contra la cabeza de un detenido.

Durante la manifestación subsiguiente, un invitado retomó este tema mencionando las leyes contra la vagancia y la holgazanería que existen en la ciudad de Oakland. Dijo que estas leyes equivalen a la reacción del estado frente a la liberación de esclavos africanos que dio como resultado una creación de una ola superflua de fuerza laboral desperdiciada en EE.UU. Una estudiante de la preparatoria contó que en su escuela ella había sido castigada de una manera injusta por discutir temas políticos. Además mencionó el hecho de que el año pasado el distrito escolar pidió ayuda al servicio secreto para investigar el caso de dos estudiantes que habían dicho que George Bush estaba loco.

Tomando en cuenta las pláticas y las manifestaciones en las que participamos, podemos concluir con confianza que esta semana valió la pena. Apoyamos a los jóvenes de las naciones oprimidas en California y respaldamos su demanda de que el dinero que hoy se usa para mandarlos a la cárcel se use para educarlos. Como dijimos en julio en nuestro informe sobre el foro

educativo en Oakland: “El contenido revolucionario de esta campaña proviene del carácter de clase de los involucrados. Pedimos que el dinero no se use para la represión y que se invierta en las necesidades básicas”(1).

En nuestro último informe también dijimos que “el impacto principal de tal campaña sólo será fuerte en conjunto con nuestros esfuerzos para que el dinero no sólo se use de otra forma sino para que también podamos decidir cómo utilizarlo.”

De las más de 200 personas que participaron en la manifestación en el palacio municipal de Oakland el día 19 de noviembre, casi todos venían de dos pequeños colegios independientes: La Academia de las Calles y la Escuela para la Justicia Social. Estos colegios existen dentro del sistema escolar público pero su organización y currículos son independientes, como si fueran colegios “Charter” (colegios que reciben fondos especiales (estatales) y operan bajo reglas diferentes a las de los demás colegios del distrito escolar). Aunque son parte del sistema estos colegios, sin embargo, parecen ser una fuente progresista y productiva entre los estudiantes de Oakland. No sabemos mucho sobre sus programas, pero los estudiantes que asistieron a la conferencia y en particular los que expresaron sus opiniones desde el escenario, pasaron todo el día hablando en contra de la violencia policial, el sistema carcelario y hasta en contra de los demás colegios del distrito de Oakland.

Los líderes estudiantiles de este movimiento saben reconocer las relaciones entre el sistema carcelario, el capitalismo y cientos de años de opresión. Y casi todos los estudiantes con los que hablamos sostienen una opinión negativa sobre el sistema carcelario. Pero cuando les preguntamos cuál sería la solución al problema de crímenes violentos, no supieron responder. La mayoría opina que los seres humanos seguirán violando y asesinando y que así son las cosas. Esto parece ser el obstáculo mas grande para desencadenar un poderoso movimiento de jóvenes para transformar la sociedad. Cuando las Panteras Negras demostraron que el pueblo podía llevar a cabo el cambio, el apoyo que recibieron de su comunidad aumentó muchísimo. Debemos seguir el ejemplo de las Panteras Negras para organizar al pueblo sirviéndole bajo una estrategia que haga posible un cambio general del sistema.

Fuentes consultadas: 1. MIM Notes 286, Septiembre 1, 2003.

¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

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

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

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