Ward Churchill speaks in San Francisco

San Francisco, March 25 — Ward Churchill spoke at a fundraiser for AK Press, which published his controversial book *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*. It was a sold-out event attended by several hundred people, and a lot of media. Before the talk MIM and RAIL activists gathered 119 petition signatures supporting Churchill and calling for the investigation of the University of Colorado Chancellor for violating Churchill’s civil rights. Almost everyone in attendance was willing to sign the petition, and we were limited only by the speed with which we could approach people, and the fact that some people were already inside when we arrived a half hour before the event.

Before Churchill spoke, Natsu Saito gave some context to the current struggles. An activist and co-author with Churchill, Saito pointed out that the firestorm over all the academic charges against Churchill is politically fueled, as these are normal disputes in academia, “not the kind of things academics get fired over.” Saito, who is also Churchill’s wife, testified to the blatantly racist harassment and threats they have received. These include statements like “Shivington should have finished the job,” a reference to one of the men who led massacres of indigenous people in North America.

Saito said “of all the charges brought against him, the one that sticks is the ethnicity one,” noting that this underscores the racism in this country. She went on “we are being distracted collectively from the real issue, and not looking at the coordinated attacks on academic freedom.” At base, all these attacks on Churchill are distracting us from the real substance of his message, and this, Saito argues, is the goal of the reactionaries.

Both Saito and Churchill commented Go to 4...

Los Angeles rally makes a noise against Iraq war

Amerikan rally participants complacent

Hollywood, March 19

MIM distributed an update on the USA Patriot Act and Patriot Act II’s assault on civil liberties and immigrant rights at a demonstration marking the second anniversary of the war in Iraq. A lively and overwhelmingly friendly crowd came out on this rainy Saturday, and our flyer drew responses like “oh good, we hate the Patriot Act!” from people as young as high-school age and up into their 70s.

Now, knowing the Patriot Act is a bad thing and agreeing with MIM that it is principally an attack on non-citizens and activists are two different things. After all, the Patriot Act carries plenty of obviously heinous provisions like allowing the FBI to snoop on what books you borrow from the public library, and there are plenty of anti-Patriot Act resolutions that support the law’s call to increase funding for assorted policing activities. Those people who express spontaneous sympathy with radical politics are a good reminder that our responsibility for carrying the revolutionary line increases with every day imperialism lives on. If a segment of the most bourgeois people on earth is attracted to any aspect of the communist line, we had best apply ourselves to the task of showing those people how to get from where their politics are to where the international

You are not on a mailing list. You will not receive this paper again unless you take action.
Defend Ward Churchill!
Prosecute the civil rights violators!

At the request of the Colorado governor, the University of Colorado is considering firing tenured professor Ward Churchill for a speech he made about 9/11 in which he called out civilian Americans for their complicity in this country’s imperialist attacks on the world. Churchill compared at least some World Trade Center victims to a Nazi named Eichmann who was a bureaucratic cog in the fascist machine.

The firestorm set off by the Lynch mob has resulted in over 100 death threats to Ward Churchill and a generally violent climate resulting in the cancellation of speeches. This is intolerable. The federal government should prosecute the leading activists involved and people on Colorado payroll running this witch-hunt for conspiring to deprive Churchill of his civil rights.

The bureaucratic witch-hunt against Churchill should come as no surprise. Ward Churchill had badly hurt the U.S. imperialists with his past books on government documents related to FBI repression of the American Indian Movement and the Black Panther Party. Churchill’s speech titled “Some People Push Back” came from the quote: “You’ve got to learn, that when you push people around, some people push back.” Amerika pushes around most of the world, invading countries, aiding brutal military regimes, murdering key politicians, and destroying economies, all in the interests of making a profit. Some of those people being pushed around by American imperialism are going to push back. The real issue above all others is that Ward Churchill told Americans they have to take responsibility for their own actions. What he said about World Trade Center victims being little Eichmanns was in fact less extreme than what Americans told German civilians after World War II in 1945 and 1946, when there was a collective responsibility movement, the likes of which still present themselves in the commemorations of the Allied bombings of German civilians in Dresden in World War II.

Colorado should impeach its governor for organizing for Ward Churchill’s firing. It’s a violation of civil rights. The governor of Colorado is not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is part of the government and the First Amendment contrasts between the “government” and the “people.” The governor along with his collaborators on government payroll are organizing this civil rights violation. The Governor proclaims that taxpayer money is funding Churchill, but the legislature only provides 7% of the University of Colorado’s money. What a bunch of cheapskates, please send them trying to create the impression that they actually do anything for education by lynching Ward Churchill.

MIM calls on all who want to defend civil rights to defend Ward Churchill. Instead of attacking the messenger (who tells it like it is about American imperialism) we call for impeachment or prosecution of the civil rights violators, starting with the Colorado governor and the leadership of the University of Colorado.

We call for prosecution of the U.S. government for violating the civil rights of unknown numbers of Arab and Muslim prisoners held in secret without evidence. Prosecute the U.S. government for violating the civil rights of the more than one million oppressed nationality prisoners held in America who never got a trial of their peers and who face discrimination and disproportionate sentencing simply because they are not white nation-ality. Prosecute the U.S. government for slowly eroding even the facade of protection of civil rights by passing the Patriot Act and related bills. The failure of the government thus far shows it is a participant in civil rights violations.

Three rallies
Saturday, April 16, Noon
San Francisco
16th Street Bart (16th and Mission)
Cambridge
In front of Harvard Science Center
Huntington, Indiana
Hyres Park

Check for the latest news and events information! Get involved! http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/whatsnew.html

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 Aztlán, 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 human 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 reverse the historical advance of 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.
2,000 rally against war on Iraq

Second anniversary of land invasion of Iraq

Boston, March 20

MIM attended a rally on the Boston Commons of about 2000 people against the u.s. war on Iraq. Among the speakers was historian Howard Zinn. According to him, 600 towns and cities inside u.s. borders held rallies against the war the weekend of March 19-20.

A number of political tendencies in the anti-war movement were present at the Boston rally. We had the “peace is patriotic” crowd. For the patriots, the focus was on the u.s. troops dead, not the countless Iraqis. There was an exhibit with the face of every dead soldier near coffins with u.s. flags. An activist working on international issues confided in MIM that he wished we would jointly approach the coffins and rip off the u.s. flags to raise the profile of the Iraqi dead.

One of the main organizers of the event was a young woman. She took pains to say was a “lie” that today’s youth are politically inert in the united States, because the rally had youth leaders joined by the older generations. At the same time, she made it a point that there were a number of parties scheduled for anti-war benefits in the coming months. The rally also featured several excellent musical performances.

A 73-year-old Black Korean War veteran voiced his disgustment to MIM as he was leaving the rally. He kept saying that thousands of Iraqis were dying and it’s a “very serious matter.” He contrasted that with what he called the “entertainment” approach he saw at the rally.

There were also flyers for “Hip Hop Anonymous” in which an upcoming musical presentation had advertisements featuring people confessing that they cannot go anywhere or do anything without seeing hip hop music.

MIM’s position is that the leisure-time dynamic does work against us in the majority-exploiter countries. However, it’s not exactly the same problem as profits, oil and contract salaries arising from war.

At the end, we had discussions with some people about whether it is appropriate for people living within the borders of the united States to take responsibility for their government’s actions; even though we oppose them.

We pointed out that spiritual or political purity of the individual is not the objective: being done with imperialism is the goal.

The problem with the prevalent American “left” view is that it substitutes any standard of ineffective spiritual purity for actually getting the job done of ending the imperialist wars. That’s another reason it’s a good idea in the majority-exploiter countries (and not in the majority of the world) to encourage people to say “we” when we take responsibility for living in an oppressor nation. Listening to death metal or hip hop and thinking well of the Iraqi people is not enough. Until we get the job done, we have to say “we” and take the blame and when u.s. imperialism does fall, we will still have an obligation to speak straightforwardly about the history preceding that collapse.

Los Angeles rally makes a noise against Iraq war

From 1...
proletariat is.

The Most Entertaining Demonstrators award goes to the Billionaires for Bush(1)— who came dressed in top hats and tails, carrying a banner and wearing pins that read “Four More Wars.” Theirs was the only street theater MIM saw at the demo—they gave a little speech thanking the audience for supporting the billionaires with their taxes and children’s lives, and ended with a chant of “Where’s our oil? In Iraq! We gotta bring that oil back, bring it back!”

While watching these guys was a good time and they clearly have some correct things to say, their politics are just another entry in the Bush-is-the-problem catalog. More importantly, “the billionaires” thing, though catchy, ignores the fact that most everyone in this country but prisoners and undocumented laborers is living off the labor of the international proletariat. The idea of a handful of billionaires supported by the majorities of countless majority-exploiter countries is a lie. The labor is attractive to the broad and varied u.s. labor aristocracy and petty-bourgeoisie, who would rather not be confronted with the ugly truth of their own interest in their government’s crimes. But it is MIM’s responsibility to organize from the base of our material inspirations, not to try wishing imperialism out of existence.

Most Americans profit from u.s. militarism,(2) of which the Iraq war is only one instance. The buck-passing “he’s not my president” and “I didn’t vote for his daddy, either” lines are good examples of why MIM needs to be out there insisting that American anti-war protesters take responsibility for our failure to stop the Iraq war. Take the Carmela Sosa case for instance. Why is it one bringing in cash by demanding bribes or killing people, doesn’t mean you get to spend it with a clear conscience. Those activists who say the American people can separate themselves from their government’s actions are lying to either themselves or the masses.

Notes:

Uncle Sam Regularly Tortures and Kills Prisoners

by mousnonya

At least 26 prisoners in u.s. custody have been tortured to death during the war of terror.(1) This is by u.s. military and civilian agencies’ admission.(2) At least 26 dead are only the ones in u.s. custody. The united States is upholding one thing— corporate profits, patriotism” crowd. For the patriots, the imperialists regularly ship prisoners to Guantanamo(6), at Abu Ghraib(7), in Bagram(5) regularly tortures and civilian agencies’ admission.(2)

MIM mourns the death and torture of the “entertainment” approach he saw at the rally. He contrasted that with what he called the “entertainment” approach he saw at the rally.

There were also flyers for “Hip Hop Anonymous” in which an upcoming musical presentation had advertisements featuring people confessing that they cannot go anywhere or do anything without seeing hip hop music. The problem with the prevalent American “left” view is that it substitutes any standard of ineffective spiritual purity for actually getting the job done of ending the imperialist wars. That’s another reason it’s a good idea in the majority-exploiter countries (and not in the majority of the world) to encourage people to say “we” when we take responsibility for living in an oppressor nation. Listening to death metal or hip hop and thinking well of the Iraqi people is not enough. Until we get the job done, we have to say “we” and take the blame and when u.s. imperialism does fall, we will still have an obligation to speak straightforwardly about the history preceding that collapse.

Notes:
(6) MIM’s position is that the leisure-time dynamic does work against us in the majority-exploiter countries.
(7) Abuse of Iraqi prisoners: the u.s. prison connection by MC17 & MC5 http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/iraqprisonconnections.html
(9) A HISTORY OF AMERIKKKA’S OPPRESSIVE CONTROL UNITS by an Iowa Prisoner, Oct. 18, 1995 (reprinted from MIM Notes) http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits/ctlrunhistory.html
Ward Churchill speaks in San Francisco

From 1...

on the distressing number of progressive people who say they agree with Churchill's message but disagree with the words he used. As Saoito noted, “People who speak less effectively than Ward Churchill don’t get attacked, we just get ignored.” This is a good way of describing what we Leninists call the “opportunism” problem. The dying of 500,000 Iraqi children and even some American soldiers is not a time to be polite and thus ignored as the oppression machine grinds on.

Churchill, greeted by a standing ovation from most of the audience, opened his talk by noting that he has been trying for 20 years to get the attention of the media on actual content issues, and now the media latches onto “little Eichmanns.” We would point out that anyone who tries to get the bourgeois media’s attention is going to fail and no strategy should base itself on any notion of influencing the media without having an independent basis of power. Churchill does write for many independent presses and he should stick with that and the rest of us who do not write should support the independent media and organizations of the oppressed.

Rightly angered by the many reporters and bloggers who have made their careers over the past few months spreading lies and rumors about him, Churchill pointed out to the media that the majority of the attacks on himself including: “Are you not innocent, you are responsible. You are guilty if you are not guilty” and “You cannot disengage from the environment while fighting a war.”

Churchill was asked how far the little Eichmann analogy extends by someone who seemed to think driving cars and participating in the system was the problem. He responded “You can’t disengage from the environment while fighting a war.”

Churchill noted that in many ways this attack on him was unprecedented in American history. Even looking at the McCarthy years, they didn’t have the resources or communication methods to launch such a quick and coordinated attack. In some ways it is a testimony to his life’s work: “If they generate this much against you, they consider you effective.” But it is also something that both he and other activists need to learn from. And while the regents committee at the University of Colorado had, the day before, conceded that Churchill would not be fired for his statements about 9/11, he was clear: “Yesterday they conceded on academic freedom. Don’t let this fool you. This battle will go on.

ISSUES
ATTACKS ON
CHURCHILL

From 1...

is demonstrated by the letter writing campaigns that claim Ward Churchill “made up” the “story” about smallpox infected blankets given to indigenous people by whites. That agenda is holocaust denial, the denial of the holocaust of native peoples in North America. This kooky agenda is in the open at the Denver radio station KHOW featuring reactionary Craig Silverman. The web page there denies there was a genocide against indigenous peoples.(2) 5. They say Ward Churchill is not a “real Indian,” but not one of these desperate critics has offered a family tree for Ward Churchill disproving his claims. Again, it’s all the realm of speculative slander by people who cannot win an argument. At the same time, bureaucrats in the specific Cherokee band in question and across the country are applying for money in new federal programs. It is their strategy to be questioned, not Churchill’s, especially since the original subject was 9/11.

The real issue above all others is that Ward Churchill told Amerikans they have to take responsibility for their own actions. What he said about World Trade Center victims being little Eichmanns was in fact less extreme than what Americans told German civilians after World War II in 1945 and 1946, when there was a collective responsibility movement, the likes of which still present themselves in the commemorations of the Allied bombings of German civilians in Dresden in World War II. We did not see any of these Republican windbags get up and call the mayor of Dresden a “terrorist” or “terrorist-sympathizer,” for saying something more extreme about a larger massacre of civilians than what Ward Churchill said. These Republicans are too busy covering their asses for sympathizing with Hitler in the first place and dragging out opposition to U.S. entry into World War II.

It does not surprise us that the hard-core Republicans and unreconstructed McCarthyites oppose Ward Churchill along these lines, because they’re still resentful for being exposed that...
Once again on Ward Churchill’s indigenous identity

By a contributor March 25, 2005

A seven-week long “investigation,” that did not involve any interview with Churchill, The University of Colorado Board of Regents has adopted the strategy of saying that Ward Churchill’s speech in his essay “Some People Push Back” is no longer the issue, but only his disputed indigenous ancestry and alleged plagiarism. That way, the Board may think if it fires Churchill, it will be more difficult for Churchill to sue for violating his civil rights. Trickster Phil DiStefano and others must be prosecuted for conspiring to violate Churchill’s civil rights.

As Ward Churchill’s attorney David Lane recently said and MIM Notes pointed out before that, “[e]ven if the university could prove that Churchill isn’t an Indian, it would not have to prove ‘that he knew he’s not an Indian,' Lane said. ‘So I wish them the best of luck.’

(1) Ward Churchill’s detractors on the identity “question” need to put out or shut the hell up. If they cannot actually prove that Churchill lied about his indigenous ancestry, which is not always decisive in indigenous identity anyway, then they should butt out. The media has completely contradicted itself on such presumably basic questions as what was Churchill’s status in the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee. Some say that the “tribe’s principal chief” told CU that Churchill is [currently] an honorary associate member, not an enrolled member.”(1) David Yeagle claims that “in 1996, all such memberships were revoked, and the records were destroyed. This, according to Keetoowah tribal employee Marilyn Craig, is the state of affairs.”(2) But according to another news story, former UKC enrollment committee member Ernestine Berry said “the tribe no longer offers associate memberships, although it didn’t revoke any existing memberships, Berry said.”(3) Another news article confirms that Berry “said Churchill is no longer listed on any tribal rolls, even though his associate membership has never been revoked.”(4) Patti Jo King completely fumbles and suggests that the issue is whether Churchill is enrolled in the Cherokee Nation, but Churchill has never claimed to be fully enrolled in any blood-based indigenous nation bureaucracy, and even his 1980 resume distributed by his enemies shows that, that he said he was “unenrolled.” (His enemies are far from being able to understand potential reasons for that.) Also, the Cherokee Nation (as an organization which must be distinguished from the ethnicity) is not the same thing as the UKC. (5) From the article by Patti Jo King, we’re not even certain a regular writer for “Indian Country” knows the difference between an organization and a nationality. In fact, as is typical of Churchill’s indigenous criticisms generally, Patti Jo takes a “K’ani” name for her-associate membership in Ward Churchill and says nothing about the “crafty American government” herself. It goes to show that these issues are delicate even for indigenous people themselves, and not appropriate for lynche mob review.

David Yeagle claims that Marilyn Craig said the associate UKC memberships were revoked in 1996. But Jefferson Dodge, reporting on Craig’s statements, only paraphrased Craig as saying that “the group stopped offering associate memberships in 1996.”(6) This writer could not find independent confirmation of David Yeagle’s purported private conversation with Marilyn Craig.(7) We suspect the media goes easy on Yeagley and similar detractors, unlike how the media treats Churchill, because Yeagley is a Republican as are most media customers in the Rockies, so the media’s motivations have to be questioned too. If the media want to make an entertainment affair of personal attacks to make a buck, the media should spread the attacks evenly! It is not clear from the lynche mob’s media what is going on with the associate membership status issue: maybe someone removed records of Ward Churchill’s associate membership after the original lynching Ward Churchill, or Churchill just didn’t know that the records were destroyed. The fact that Churchill could not even know about the records demonstrates the artificial nature of the identity attack on him. The whole controversy demonstrates the lack of understanding of national indigenous membership. If they have proved with their hack jobs is that it is possible to manipulate enrollment bureaucratic. In the end, Uncle Sam does not decide who is indigenous and who is not anyway: no nation in the world operates that way. More importantly, considering that the University of Colorado hired Churchill in 1978 and offered him tenure in 1991—long before the bureaucratic and after-the-fact political process in 1996 concerning his identity described by Yeagley—the whole discussion is irrelevant. It only tends to prove that Ward Churchill has been attacked for his views and then smeared personally through his whole long career. The real story is why anyone on the enrollment committee would change his/ her minds about his associate membership—and the motivations for that, again if a sport of personal attacks is the bourgeois media’s business.

It is clear that the detractors’ accusations, insinuations, innuendo and outright lies about Ward Churchill’s indigenous identity are baseless. Churchill has never claimed to be fully enrolled in any federally recognized or State-reognized “tribe” though he probably could have enrolled in the organization called “Cherokee Nation” for instance. For certain reasons he applied for membership in the UKC instead even though the UKC has a relatively restrictive blood quantum requirement. Again, Churchill has a long history of opposing the blood quantum practices and the whole bloodline theory, as well as accusing reactionaries back with their own Ayn Rand garbage in the major speech in World War II and its embarrassments to Amerikan imperialism not to speak out people of the world being murdered by the relatives of those killed in the 9-11 attacks. Churchill said but still signed the petition to speak freely. A Jamaican man, who also signed the petition, argued that Churchill said but still signed the petition with the complicity of the American people with American imperialism’s brutal attacks on the world’s people. MIM agrees with Churchill’s statements on this topic, but we call on all people who value freedom of speech and academic freedom to join us in defeating this attack by University Chancellors Phil DiStefano and the Governor of Colorado, Bill Owens.

The petitioning, at an anti-war rally commemorating the beginning of American attacks on Iraq, was popular with most of the 50,000 in attendance. Many people recognized Churchill’s name and stopped to sign the petition without asking questions, and others only needed a little information to remember that they heard about this ridiculous witch hunt of an anti-imperialist activist. At times people lined up around the petition eager to put their name down in support of this battle. We only remind all petition gatherers to tell people that we are going on the offensive by asking for criminal prosecution of the conspirers against Ward Churchill’s civil rights. Only a few people had any disagreement with the petition. One woman said she disagreed with what Churchill said but still signed the petition because she thinks he should be allowed to speak freely. A Jamaican man, who also signed the petition, argued that Churchill’s statements were “insensitive” to the relatives of those killed in the 9-11 attacks. The petitioner argued that if the statements were correct, we can not afford to be worrying about sensitivity when it is a question of life and death. It would be even more “insensitive” to the people of the world being murdered by American imperialism not to speak out loudly and clearly as Churchill did.

ISSUES AND ATTACKS

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Republicans did not support going into World War II. Not only that, but Ward Churchill hit these same types of reactionaries back with their own Ayn Rand garbage in the major speech in question.

Now had Ward Churchill forgotten World War II and its embarrassments to the Republican Party and had he not used Ayn Rand to apply to Americans, we can be sure the furor would be less than half if existing at all. The nerve that Ward Churchill has to take the reactionaries’ own words about Germany and throw them back as applying to Americans, as if Americans were not the greatest thing since sliced bread. The governor of Colorado should have been impeached by now for organizing for Ward Churchill’s firing. It’s a violation of civil rights and no, the governor of Colorado is not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. He is part of the government and the First Amendment contrasts between the “government” and the “people.” That’s real issue number one, the governor along with his collaborators on government payroll organizing this civil rights violation. One does not get to use government office to organize action and then claim it was just speech. Along these unconstitutional lines, of using government office to violate the First Amendment, the legislature attempted to cut the University of Colorado’s budget. That is the second real issue—the funding of universities and who is paying for professors. Distorted as it is in the question of a vendetta against one man, even this vendetta turned out to be hot air when the public learned that the legislature only provides 7% of the University of Colorado’s money. What a bunch of cheapskates, posing windbags trying to create the impression that they actually do anything for education by lynching Ward Churchill.

The Ward Churchill case is indicative of America as a whole. There is no denying that there is something very much like American office politics going on here. Attack and fail and then slime. It goes to show that people sitting around in offices across America have nothing better to do but speculate how Churchill might have plagiarized a dead man or that he made up being of indigenous heritage.

Notes:

Iraq War rally participants sign Churchill petition

Bay Area, California  March 19

MIM collected more than 100 signatures on the petition demanding an end to prosecution of Professor Ward Churchill for his speech about 9-11.

Churchill is a tenured professor at the University of Colorado, who is in danger of losing his job because he made a speech (three years ago) that the University administration does not agree with. Churchill’s speech exposed the complicity of the American people with American imperialism’s brutal attacks on the world’s people. MIM agrees with Churchill’s statements on this topic, but we call on all people who value freedom of speech and academic freedom to join us in defeating this attack by University Chancellors Phil DiStefano and the Governor of Colorado, Bill Owens.

The petitioning, at an anti-war rally commemorating the beginning of American attacks on Iraq, was popular with most of the 50,000 in attendance. Many people recognized Churchill’s name and stopped to sign the petition without asking questions, and others only needed a little information to remember that they had...
White nationalists pretend to support indigenous North Americans

By a contributor, March 19, 2005

[The following article concerns the case of Ward Churchill, a professor at the University of Colorado that the governor of Colorado is attempting to get fired for a speech he made on 9/11.]

Many high school and college students today cheat, and that many college instructors who are aware of cheating among their students are unwilling to deal with the problem. (1) Critics are not mentioning anywhere, bureaucratically to change a lineage report on someone—something these bureaucrats do not have to prove anything to crypto-Nazis (http://www.ece.uiuc.edu/ingenuity/1103/top-scouts.html).

Once again on Ward Churchill’s indigenous identity

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Thanks to colonialism- and imperialism-caused displacement, assimilation and genocide (and other reasons that even David Yeagley mentions but which Yeagley does not even think about), it is difficult for many First Nations people to obtain official recognition for their blood quantum even if they wanted to cooperate with the Uncle Sam-controlled bureaucracy and go that route. This partly why blood quantum for example continues to be controversial among many First Nations people. The other issue is that definite indigenous ancestry is not necessarily decisive in indigenous identity. This is not the same thing as saying that a Euro-American should be allowed to declare him or herself indigenous (or vice versa) just because the person is black. As Yeagley unintentionally shows with his after-the-fact manipulation of one Cherokee bureaucracy, it is probably much easier to fake blood than it is to fake culture. All it would take is getting a bureaucrat to change a lineage report on a case by case basis. The critics are not mentioning anywhere, because of their crypto-Nazi agenda.

Whether someone is really part of any First Nation depends on multiple criteria, and not just blood quantum— unless the First Nation in question decides it should be. In that case, the association of blood quantum to a person’s membership question concerns only one bureaucracy for one part of the Cherokee nation as an ethnicity.

Only racists believe that indigenous people should be denied the right to call themselves indigenous if they are indigenous in every other way but unable to conclusively prove their definite indigenous ancestry. The American Indian Movement of Colorado, Russell Means and Ward Churchill have, before January 2005, said it is possible to prove Churchill’s ancestry and even blood quantum in the official senses of the term, but Churchill is understandably unwilling to indulge the various white nationalists who insist on harassing him about disclosing his ancestry and ridiculing him as a “little Injun that could” for not proving his First Nations blood in the eyes of the white man. It is just disgusting racist ignorance saying that the only thing that matters is blood in indigenous identity. It paves the way for people to make comments such as it is okay for Kyle Cline to portray Churchill’s ancestry as a masoch because Cline has Illini ancestry (http://www.cec.uiuc.edu/ingenuity/1103/top-scouts.html). Ward Churchill does not have to prove anything to crypto-Nazis in the white nation and they certainly have not proved a thing against him.

It is time the media end its collective unconsciousness and start covering the lack of proof of the attackers and started questioning their motivations instead of spending time solely attacking Ward Churchill personally. The Republican Party activists are seeking to stir up white votes with their (white) holocaust denial and attacks on indigenous people as “fakes.” Simultaneously this is how Republicans exact revenge and make excuses for why the academic world provides so little support for Republican Party ideology. (8)

This article provides this link only as a point of fact, not to involve itself in UKC leadership questions. Jefferson Dodge, “Churchill wants statement from regents more than cash,” March 10, 2005, http://newmedia.colorado.edu/silverangold/messages/4254.html.


8. No less than arch-conservative William F. Buckley Jr. admitted that accomplished intellectual people are the most “left-wing,” but he does not have a good answer to what that should mean to him and his ideology. The faculty of the land has succeeded in moving people politically he says and calls it “indoctrination”: “Let the person who wants to wrestle with these statistics blurt forth his secret belief that there is a correlation between ‘level of education’ and ‘political liberalism.’” (William F. Buckley, Jr., Up From Liberalism NY: Bantam Books, 1968, pp. 58-9). The bottom-line problem with these know-nothings is that they want to substitute church and advertising for public education.

Patriarchal society tired of paying Terri Schiavo’s medical bills

By a contributor, March 18, 2005

The Associated Press is reporting that Woodside Hospice doctors removed Terri Schiavo’s feeding tube today even though the u.S. Congress tried to stop it through legal strong-arming. Schiavo’s feeding tube has been removed twice before, only to be re-inserted. The last time it was removed was on October 15, 2003.(2) Last month, MIM Notes implicated the patriarchiary in Schiavo’s psychology-defined bulimia.(3) If it were not for patriarchy-imposed obsessions with body appearance, Schiavo could be having intelligible conversations with other people today. The MIM Notes article also pointed out that force-feeding people would be a manifestation of patriarchy in the long run in the sense that it involves power relations which would not exist in society without group oppression.

Those who support Terri Schiavo’s alleged “right to die” are in a bind. MIM does not pretend to understand completely what it means to be “conscious” in a cognitive, neuroscience or psychological sense (whether consciousness is located or not). Notwithstanding the fact that Terri Schiavo and indeed Schiavo is suffering from being alive in her present condition, it is only because she is conscious in some sense, which calls into the question the whole notion of Schiavo being in a vegetative state. But if Schiavo is not suffering, then it does not matter from her viewpoint whether her body stays alive or not—precisely because she has no point of view. For materialists, there is no such thing as carrying out the wishes of a person who no longer exists. Moreover, there is no right to die from patriarchy, just like there is no right to die from imperialism.

The question arises is there any use in keeping Terri Schiavo alive regardless of whether she is conscious. Arguably, more people are learning about eating disorders since reading or watching mainstream news about this. The number of TV news programs are about entertaining people, and in this entertainment context, people may draw some connections between bulimia and celebrity worship for instance. On the other hand, Paris Hilton, not Terri Schiavo, was the #1 search on the Internet search engine Lycos in the week ending March 12, 2005 (http://50.lycos.com/), and has been on that list for seventy weeks. This fact does not say much in itself, but it does allude to the reality that Americans can pretend to be concerned with bulimic patients, but still engage in the romance culture. For example, why NBC can air The Biggest Loser (http://www.nbccom/The_Biggest_Loser/), and MTV can broadcast morbid entertainment shows like I Want a Famous Face (http://www.mtv.com/ona1r/I_Want_a_Famous_Face), but at the same time occasionally talk about anorexia, bulimia, and body dysmorphic disorder (as MTV’s SuChin Pak has done). And there is then the whole Michael Jackson thing with the media and others ridiculing his nose—even though some psychologists have argued that he might have had body dysmorphic disorder. So, we have people who pretend to be disturbed by certain people’s obsessions with body appearance, but who support these obsessions themselves by watching various plastic-surgery make-over shows—and in various ways helping to spread the oppressor-nation romance culture to the internal semi-colonies of the united States and the Third World.

This is something that Terri Schiavo commentators have not touched on at all: how the romance culture, and particularly the obsession with body aspect, impacts gender-oppressed people in oppressed nations. Individuals like Terri Schiavo may be a kind of local fallout from the romance culture in the united States (if dying from the romance culture is not a manifestation of oppression, then nothing is), but the obsession with body aspect has a broader impact than just white women suffering brain damage from psychology-defined disorders such as bulimia nervosa. For example, English-speaking, imperialist-country women are frequently portrayed as a standard of beauty in Asian-country advertising, particularly in a “sensual/sexy” way.(4) In certain ways, this is connected with imperialist-country female-biology adults’ power as majority gender oppressors. Individuals such as Terri Schiavo are just evidence that the benefits of the romance culture for men in the forma cerebri, is now spreading into Asia unevendy. The situation may be even more extreme in oppressed southern Korea, where more than half of women in southern Korea in their 20’s have undergone cosmetic surgery reportedly, many suffering injuries as a result(5) (the precise figure is not acceptable at face value in psychological definitions of bulimia as an individual “mental disorder” or “illness.” Nonetheless, it is interesting that stereotypes about oppressed nationalities and obesity have led to an “underdiagnosis” of bulimia in Black women and Latina women in the united States.(6) As far as what causes bulimia in oppressed-nation women, oppressed-nation women’s having to work in underappreciated jobs may contribute to the development of behavior that appears as “bulimia.”(6) It is also interesting to note that the gender that does abuse, and child sexual abuse in particular, appears to play in role in the development of some women’s eating disorders.(6)

While Black women for example may develop eating disorders less frequently than Euro-American women reportedly, Black women are for economic reasons probably more likely to go to unlicensed cosmetic surgeons and die as a result. The point is that Terri Schiavo is only the tip of the iceberg as far as the lethal consequences of the romance culture in capitalist countries and occupied countries, such as Korea. MIM does not agree with evangelical, Vatican or other biblical reasons for keeping Schiavo’s body alive, but patriarchal society must pay a price for causing these deaths and shorter lifespans among gender-oppressed people and among the “collateral damage” of the romance culture in the united States. As long as shows like Blind Date , The Bachelor , Extreme Makeover and A Wedding Story continue to be broadcast, decadent gender oppressors and gender aristocrats in the united States deserve to be inundated with.

White nationalists pretend to support indigenous North Americans

From 6

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Go to 8...

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Go to 8...
Schiavo’s medical bills

**By a contributor, March 21, 2005**

The Chicago Tribune reports that President Bush signed a bill this morning permitting a federal judge to remove the feeding tube of Terri Schiavo. (The Florida judge George Greer’s order to remove the feeding tube of Terri Schiavo was overturned.)

**For instance.** However, since the media is paying so much attention to Schiavo, there is a need to increase the truth content in public opinion regarding Schiavo’s situation. It is through the mainstream media only portrays religious zealots as supporting keeping Schiavo alive does not mean that the religious orientation characterizes every argument in defense of Schiavo’s staying alive.

**The fact that many of those supporting “right to die” doctors should be able to understand: even in the liberal ideology, there is a difference between consent and informed consent.** Others have made a distinction between consent and informed consent in the context of the removal of Schiavo’s feeding tube, but not addressed issues relating to gender oppression.

**Arguably, Schiavo never consented to her own body-sculpting surgery even though she is supposedly not consciously suffering now.** If Schiavo truly is in a vegetative state, then “allowing” her to die is not really about comforting her, but about comforting those around her.

**In an oppressive society, there is really no such thing as letting something happen.** Nothing just happens on its own when it comes to people dying from “mental illness” due to the romance culture. To say that Schiavo should be “allowed” to die is to say that something should be allowed to overtake her and destroy her. What this “something” is, is patriarchy, and this needs to be acknowledged.

**It is necessary to bring attention to the patriarchal ideology of Terri Schiavo’s “right to die” “supporters.”** The better part of the “right to die” crowd argues only that Schiavo said she would not want to be kept on life support in such a condition, that her expressed wishes should be honored. However, she actually indicated any such wish is questionable, there is something to be said for this argument. MIM is not libertarians, but overall MIM would not support the imperialist-patriarchal state’s attempts to control people’s bodies. However, the “right to die” speakers are emphasizing that Schiavo’s situation is a “private family matter.” Some even go as far as to say that it is only her husband who should decide her fate, that Schiavo’s other family should be excluded from the decision making.

The various conservative and liberal Liberals opposing the family to the state, and insisting that Schiavo’s situation is a “private family matter” in various ways, are obscuring the power relations within the family. Not everyone in the family grouping has “privacy” of the same order. Depending on their position in the age and gender hierarchies, people within the family are able to intrude on each other on a daily basis. For example, parents often view children as property, and parents’ consideration of their children’s opinions rarely rises above tokenism even in matters relating to taking the children off life support. (3) In this sense, children do not have privacy even in their own bodies, or in relation to the control of their own bodies.

**Ignoring children’s intelligent opinions about their own medical prospects is not the only issue.** People still debate whether likely child abusers should have a say in whether their own infant children should be taken off life support. (4) This is how powerful the notion of the “private family” is: even abusive parents might be able to “allow” their children to die. So in that sense, the only issue is: even abusive parents might be able to say that their child should not be allowed to live, or die. In a society without group oppression, individual adults would not have exclusive say in whether the children they are “caring” for live or die. And males, less likely to die or become ill from eating disorders in patriarchial society today, would not have exclusive say in whether their female partners should be taken off life support.

The majority of wimin in the Euro-American nation are net gender oppressors, but this privilege is not spread evenly throughout the white nation, which is why Terri Schiavo is disabled due to patriarchy. Even wimin in the white oppressor nation are subject to power relations relative to the men. As gender oppressors, female-biology adults in the white oppressor nation are in a better position to control their situation, but even they do not consent to being subordinate within the patriarchal family in the short term. They live in circumstances not of their own making. Nobody can truly consent to dying from patriarchy. Patriarchy creates what looks like consent, but it is not really consent.

**Notes**

3. There is some dispute over whether bulimia actually caused Schiavo’s injury; some are alleging that Schiavo’s injury and injured her herself. Either way, we can attribute the cause of Schiavo’s brain injury to patriarchy and probably not be wrong.
5. “Perhaps most frightening in its absence is evidence raising the specter of past domestic violence. I learned this information from disability rights’ media sources. During a week of e-mails from otherwise progressive women’s rights organizations about the assault on abortion rights, I heard nothing about this ongoing assault on the life of a woman who is severely disabled. Not terminal, dying, or on her deathbed. Disabled. I understand the critical difference between dying and disability. Many others do not.”
6. “The ‘abuse’ in question is most likely child abusers should have a say in whether their own infant children should be taken off life support.”
Three Years On: ‘Patriot Acts’ still mysterious, terrifying and indefensible

18 March, 2005

Two years since the frightening “Patriot Act II” was leaked to the public, and more than three years since passage of the original and horror-misnamed USA Patriot Act (USAPA) as well as U.S. government’s post-9/11 domestic agenda has done more to abuse the rights and violate the privacy of its citizens than to protect them from “terrorism.” The FBI has summoned the reading lists and personal data of library users and bookstore customers, as well as airline passenger lists, both without the knowledge of the people whose information was gathered. The head of NORTHCOM (the largest centralized military authority within U.S. borders since the Civil War) told PBS: “we are not going to be out there spying on people, [but] we get information from people who do.”

International students have been targeted for surveillance of their course schedules, and immigrants are being disappeared for months at a time in Amerikan jails. The FBI just reported that an unnamed Federal prison’s administration and staff has been “discriminating and retaliating” against Muslim prisoners, while an FBI agent sent out a message to field agents “identifying and discriminating and retaliating” against people recognized on the list. Some of these actions are now legal under the USA Patriot Act, some illegal; all are excused by the authorities under the guise of national security.

The current political climate prompted one activist to write: “There is no war on terrorism. There is only the ongoing effort by the federal government to collect as much information as possible.” (4) Both Patriot Acts can unite a broad spectrum of progressive politics in opposition: open border advocates, civil libertarians, anarchists, communists, and any activists who care about their ability to gather in public and speak up without being targeted by FBI surveillance or worse.

The government is desperate to defend the USA Patriot Act (USAPA). Its major civil-liberties slashing provisions will either be renewed or expire at the end of this year. Yet the best example Attorney General Gonzalez can offer of the USAPA “necessity” is that of a solved murder case that was unconnected to terrorism. (5) Choosing to focus on the campaign to keep the USAPA in business, the Bush administration has backed down from the rightful protests of activists all across the land against Patriot Act II. Instead, the administration and Congress are breaking PAIL into bite-sized chunks. Just this year, Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 — not much more than a raft of regulations designed to make it harder for non-citizens to come to and stay in this country.

Among other things, this law:
* authorizes hiring up to 10,000 border patrol agents and adding 40,000 beds for immigration detention and deportation facilities between 2006 and 2010;
* tasks Homeland Security (DHS) with implementation of an automated biometric (fingerprints, photographs) entry-exit program;
* makes receiving "military-type" transmissions from a listed terrorist organization a deportable offense for an immigrant, and blocks admission to the United States for anyone who has participated in extrajudicial “genocide, torture or killing” (both deeply interpretable offenses: obviously the Border Patrol is not now pursuing the School of the Americas graduates.)
* tasks the Department of Transportation with developing a national standard for state-issued drivers’ licenses and ID cards;
* provides for testing advanced technology to secure the sparsely-populated border with Kanada and for remote-controlled aircraft surveillance of the southwest border;
* makes visa application requirements more stringent and orders a GAO study on potential weaknesses in the U.S. visa process.

Like the USAPE, this law works on people’s fear and the assumption that if we can only control people’s movements tightly enough, all will be copacetic. But honest political analysis will say that free cross-border movement did not cause the 9/11 attacks (which is while, and possible given that U.S. borders are not open), but by a steadily mounting pattern of U.S. aggression internationally. This country’s government cannot protect its own people because it survives only by terrorizing the international populace. The world’s people respond with violence — the only response this country understands. Getting the Bill of Rights will not make America safe from those who have suffered its neglect and mistreatment. It is getting right with the world’s people through international peace achieved under communism.

The sooner the American people can join the international community and put an end to U.S. militarism, the healthier their prospects for a just society. Americans have lived for hundreds of years as if their fate is not bound up with that of the world’s people. The people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Korea and Iran do not have the luxury of such blind ignorance. 9/11 only proved that given time, the community of oppressed nations will demonstrate to the U.S. people how right we are.

Notes:
7. See MIM’s website for background on both Patriot Acts and future updates.

You Can’t Understand Patriotism without Understanding Nationalism

SuperPatriotism, by Michael Parenti; City Lights Books, 2004
Reviewed by HC09

SuperPatriotism is a response to the extremes of American nationalism since 9/11. With some good information and a lot of good criticisms, Parenti himself succumbs to a pro-americani rallying cry, ending with an attempt to define a “real patriot.” His mistakes stem from a lack of discussion of the national question despite its obvious relevance and his correct idea that patriotic feeling is a result of years of government propaganda.

Parenti attacks MIM and others for speaking “amerikka” with a “k” or three, saying that we play “directly into the hands of leaders who opportunistically sought to treat their own nationalist policies as a part of ‘Americanism.’” (p. 14) He later claims that the lack of pro-war rallies compared to anti-war rallies indicate that the American people are behind these policies, and his point is that being a parasite doesn’t require a lot of effort: that’s what makes it so appealing. In fact, not having to engage seriously in politics has been an American tradition for some time now.

Parenti does not believe that americans are bought off all of imperialism, but rather “the vast majority of us are not rich.” (p. 25) On the contrary, even a minimum wage earner working full time in the United States is in the top 12% of the richest people in the world. Parenti goes on to talk about “some 80 percent of our population, who live with chronic money concerns and little or no net asset income.” (p.25) While the proletariat is worrying about food, water and basic medical care, Parenti wants us to feel sorry for those who lack stock options while having access to resources that far surpass anything the majority of the world has experienced. Yes, most americans have bills to pay each month; it may be a pain, but it is the pain of privilege.

Continuing the theme of the exploited american, “As with oil, so with our wealth in general: a select coterie at the very top of the economic ladder control more of it than all the rest of us combined. We just produce it with our hard work. They pocket it.” He is correct to assert that a minority controls most of the wealth, but he is incorrect about where that wealth came from. In fact, americans are able to earn extravagant wages at non-productive jobs. Meanwhile, the majority who remain in productive industry, excluding non-citizen labor and prisoners, earn many times as much money as their counterparts in the Third World. (p. 3) This is all possible because of the vast amounts of surplus labor being extracted from the oppressed nations.

In discussing the redneck cracker factor, Parenti writes, “In fact, working Americans are less the promoters of superpatriotism and anti-illegal immigration than victims.” (p. 87) There is truth in this statement in that the imperialists are the biggest promoters of national chauvinism for their own interests. And they certainly will turn on their fellow americans as needed. But there is a reason why white trash is “white.” It is the justified and identified identification with an oppressor nation that leads many of the poorest sectors of white America to support the “right for their survival in the Third World.” (p. 88) It is justified because from america’s earliest days of genocide, white people helped out white people in this country, even as the definition of “white” continued to change.

In the same chapter, Parenti is correct to point out that americans did not develop a fear of communism on their own, but as a result of years of government propaganda. Yet, we still must wonder if the red scare did catch on in the United States, while it wouldn’t work in a place like Nepal where the majority of the country support some form of communism. This difference is tied up with the national question, which he amazingly leaves out of this discussion. In the conclusion, Parenti states that “real patriots are internationalists.” (p. 158) It’s a good idea, but in practice this is not the case. Despite efforts to market and legitimate it, Parenti still calls for a gentler, kinder patriotism from the Bush regime, imperialist country nationalism is inherently parasitic and chauvinistic.

On the other hand, oppressed nation nationalism is legitimate in that their struggle for self-determination is part of the global struggle against imperialism. SuperPatriotism has a select of good facts for such a short book. And many of his criticisms are useful in encouraging a split between the imperialists and the American petty bourgeoisie. But the one that we cannot take on is the economic argument. Arguing that americans are somehow exploited leads down the road of American chauvinism that Parenti appears to be attempting to oppose. Unfortunately, after many years and many books about imperialism, he fails to see the main contradictions that can lead us to a solution.

Notes:
1. (see http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/iraqsanctions022002005.html for recent research on what americans should have known about Iraq if they cared.
2. (http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/iraqsanctions022002005.html) for recent research on what americans should have known about Iraq if they cared.
5. “Right to die: Who should decide?” http://www.mim.org/MIMNotes/317/050115/Notes.html
When the lunatics have taken over the asylum

With racial and ethnic tensions firmly entrenched in the California Department of Corrections (CDC), I can’t imagine segregation in prison coming to an end. Even though a treatise for the older inmate in his role as a California prisoner to accept institutional racial separation as reasonable. We all have.

While the California Supreme Court is in favor of the California Department’s policy of segregating inmates upon arrival to San Quentin, my initial reaction was shock and disbelief. In an environment distinguished by a myriad of factions who reluctantly tolerate one another at best, and explode into all-out war at worst, any judicial decision to force integration sounded like a cruel joke.

But it didn’t take long for me to realize a continued investment in a quagmire of perpetual dysfunction can’t be in the best interest of anyone. Moreover, for anyone to suggest the lunatics (prisoners) have taken over the asylum are sadly misinformed. As inmates, we don’t run anything in this state. We have no power, no voice and no representation.

Corrections is a mammoth agency well-represented by the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and legislators absolutely beholden to them. While the last time corrections approached the subject of prison gang and ethnic issues, they hypothesized bitter rivals could be forced to get-along. This resulted in seven years of staged-gladiator fights in the Corcoran SHU and a statewide shooting policy that amounted to sanctioned murder. No one got along, too many to count were shot, and seven SHU inmates were killed — gunned down by correctional officers for fist fighting under a forced integration policy.

Prison Reform

With all eyes on prison officials to restore the public’s confidence, the Little Hoover Commission — now Schwarzenegger’s plan to overhaul the CDC. This plan emphasizes rehabilitation, education and accountability. While that might sound good to some, I’ll believe it when I see it.

The same corrupt officials who have built the most out-of-control correctional agency in the country are still in charge. The few managerial changes to take place have barely made a difference.

In all fairness, prison reform is by no means an easy subject to broach. Revitalizing a huge agency rooted in a system of silence and systemic cost overruns depends on total illumination and dedication to social responsibility. From where I sit, based on how they’ve performed and who’s still in charge, the CDC in its present form is an abomination.

To achieve real reform, a plethora of changes must occur to end decades of huge rates of recidivism, institutionalized violence and absolute hopelessness:

- Confront every aspect of corrections; lift the restrictions placed on the media; restore due process to the inmate grievance system; free release- worthy inmates once they’ve served their sentences; bring mental health and medical services to First World standards; provide marketable education and vocation programs; reestablish visiting; quit

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

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

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

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

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Phony charges of gang affiliation in CA SHU

IGI, the prison gang intelligence unit has just returned all my property. I was told I had a 115 hearing when they pulled me out of my cell. I was handcuffed and placed in a holding cell. In comes IGI to take photos of all my tattoos and take my property so they can go through it. I was told something happened in another prison and that I was being investigated in regards to that.

I have been in the SHU for 4 years now on one trumped up charge after another. They are trying to validate me now as an associate of a prison gang which I will not name. Every time I turn around it’s something new. I’m teaching martial arts, I’m inquiring, I’m this, I’m that and I am guilty of many things but with good reason. If the prison would stop trying to break inmates like slaves, respect prisoners rights to due process (they do not believe you have the right to contest the charges they bring against you or to appeal policies that deprive prisoners of legislated rights). If they would just do right follow their own regulations, I would be a model inmate.

I do well, they let me up, me play with my food, strip me of my property, mess with my mail, handcuff me and beat me and all the other repressive tactics they use. I have four words: can’t stop won’t stop. Until what is wrong is has been set right.

I received the MIM Notes. From participating in the study group and reading MIM Theory I am really starting to grasp the science of revolutionary communism, it is a pretty straight forward process. Or should I say Marxism, Leninism, Maoism.

I know dialectical materialist theory of knowledge can be used to effectively change society or to address and resolve society’s contradictions. I would like to learn more about this process. More than learn, I am trying to master this process.

You’re in struggle. — A prisoner in California (Tehachapi SHU), March 2005

To Be, Not To Be

We are dead to the light of conscience
Because we fear the consequences that truth
Will have upon our actions and circumstances,
We choose the blindness of pretenses and the weakness of conformity,
As our comfort and security.
We will stand for nothing of substance and merit.
Because we prefer the shallow grace of arrogance and stupidity.

Far beneath the surface of our life’s masquerade,
We are emotional sea of contradictions and biases
Always pretending our innocence and wholeness.
We cherish the delusions that nurture our insecurities.
Because the face of reality will usurp From us our crutches and excuses—Forcing us to be, than not to be—
— A New York prisoner, August 2004

MIM comments: This poem deals with the struggle within people between playing the role that the system has prescribed for them and recognizing that system for what it is and working to change it. However, this not the battle that idealists make it out to be. We can say with certainty which side will win out in different populations of people, even though we may never predict the outcome for an individual. That is why the ending of this poem strengthens its message; it stresses the role of material reality in bringing the world’s majority into revolutionary consciousness. Only the privileged have hope to their “crutches and excuses,” but even theirs will eventually be lost in the overthrow of the very system that provides them.

Escape attempt leads to repression

There was an attempted escape of two inmates at CSP-Calipatria. Two white inmates were caught attempting to escape after being given keys or sold them by staff on December 18th. This has prompted the administration of this prison to conduct an institutional wide retaliatory style type of cell searches or unprovoking house personal property (i.e. canteen, legal work, radios, TVs, etc.) as a form of punishment for this incident.

I urgently implore you and all supporters of the struggle to file complaints against the Warden, Chief Deputy Warden, Tim Ochoa, and the Associate Warden J.J. Janda, with the Director of Corrections: Joanne Woodford, PO Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 942883 and with the state personnel board: 801 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 94244.

— A California prisoner, December 2004

Institutional corruption

I am writing this letter in hopes of bringing attention to the continuous abuse of authority, the falsification of documents, and the overwhelming corruption of IGI (Institution Gang Investigators), here at High Desert State Prison, In Susanville, California. I have been housed here at HDSP for nearly eighteen years. And over these years I have heard on numerous occasions about inmates being validated, “prison gang members,” then placed in administrative segregation awaiting an indeterminate sentence and transfer to a security housing unit (SHU), such as Pelican Bay. This is a facility that has been proven to cause psychological and social deterioration
due to its isolated and desolate conditions. Myself, not being a member of a “prison gang”, or involved in “gang activities” never paid it much attention, nor was I ever aware to the extent of the organized corruption that truly infects this institution and it’s “gang investigators” until, I myself was falsely labeled and validated as a “gang member”. I had been positively programming for the past seven years with no disciplinary write-ups (115s). Yet, I was labeled, then classified as a member of a “disruptive group,” and deemed “a threat to the safety and security of the institution.” This, I do not understand. While I sit inside the privacy that accompany general population such as jobs, contact visits, phone access, open yard, social interaction, and all the other minor comforts have been taken away. Now, I also wait transfer to a torturous and degrading SHU facility, to serve an unjustified, indeterminate term.

It has been over 2-months since I was validated, placed in Ad-Seg., attended committee, and put up for transfer. And I have yet to receive any complete and proper documentation which demonstrates my
validation. All that has been provided is 11 confidential disclosures which are inadequate to file with my appeal. It took over a month to receive this, when such documents are supposed to be disclosed upon validation. When I then appealed this to IGI via the appeals coordinator and accused them of withholding this documentation in attempt to thwart my appeal process, they refused to even acknowledge it, claiming to be beyond the 15-day filing limitation. I then provided proof that I did in fact meet the 15-day limitation after receiving the 11-disclosure forms. (I had the delivering officer sign and date when I received this and IGT and IGI are both aware of this dated evidence.) IGI and IGT are both aware of this evidence, and I see why; all these forms contain coerced and fabricated claims. Some of which simply state “inmate was identified as a gang member.” There is no articulated links to me and any “gang activity.” These are all fabricated in a joint effort by HDSP Gang Investigators and inmates desperate to secure their own objective. Such as protective custody or escaping their own validation. When investigating an inmate for validation IGI explains to the inmate during an interview that they are in the process of preparing their packet for validation and that this is their chance to “debrief” (disclose any and all gang related information if any.) If they debrief they will be housed on a protective custody facility for their cooperation. If they choose not to debrief they will be validated and have to go through the entire process and wait at least a year until they will have another opportunity to debrief. Often, the inmate chooses to fabricating evidence. When I examined my disclosure forms, I discovered that c/o D.D. Shaver’s signature is on each one of them. Many other inmates here in HDSP Ad-Seg are in the same predicament. Out of the limited amount that I have been able to speak with, a majority of them have also been disciplinary free, have falsified documentation used against them, and have also had interference in their appeal process by IGI and the appeals coordinator.

This seems to be the case with all inmates of all races. However, it is unmistakable that the majority of inmates being validated are those of Mexican race, regardless of geographical origin. Is all this racially motivated? It is very likely. There are numerous positive programming inmates here in HDSP being falsely identified and labeled as “prison gang members” when the evidence doesn’t even exist. Some are even threatened by a rogue and corrupt organization called IGI, stripped of our jobs, privileges, and all other incentives to continue our positive programming. Institution Gang Investigators are supposed to be well trained and capable of determining whether evidence is substantial or if it’s simply being fabricated. Then they are to document it truthfully. Instead, they promote the fabrication of information and resort to coercion to strengthen their claims. Ultimately, leaving a trail of innocent inmates validated and sentenced to a consololate existence in a SHU facility.

It’s not clear if this is done out of will to demonstrate that (IGI) are an effective branch, to ensure job security, to keep their multi million dollar a year SHU facilities operating or is it a combination of both with their own personal vindictiveness and gratification? Whatever the case, not only is it immoral, it is illegal. This criminal activity needs to be rectified, and those guilty, punished. Not only do these crimes victimize us as inmates, they victimize our families as well who also cherish our visits, phone calls, and happiness that has been taken by placing us as a “prison within a prison,” an isolated, solitary or small group confinement for prisoners.

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world’s leading penal 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 “freed” Russia, the imprisonment rate is actually less than half that of the United States. (2)

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 redlines tell MIM that we live in a “free country.” They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes:
2. Ibid., 1992 report.
4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.
Irak: La cifra de bajas de EEUU se acerca a los 1,500 soldados

La GUERRA EN IRAK Y EL SINDROME VIETNAM

Según el sitio CSATWeb, 500 muertos del total del total que lleva EEUU desde que se inició la invasión en Irak son consecuencia de los ataques de la guerrilla a los vehículos de combate Humvees con bombas que estaban a su paso y disparos de cohetes y lanzagranadas contra los mismos.

El mando militar estadounidense reconoció que la cuarta parte de los muertos de EEUU se produjo por ataques a los vehículos de combate Humvees, informó la cadena Al Jazeera.

Casi 500 muertos del total que lleva EEUU desde que se inició la invasión en Irak son consecuencia de los ataques de los rebeldes a los Humvees, con bombas que estaban a su paso y disparos de cohetes y lanzagranadas.

Por otra parte el Pentágono oculta la cifra real de sus bajas debido a que sus datos no contabiliza a los que mueren en hospitales (EEUU) y de civil en Irak (EEUU) y bombardeos de las heridas ocasionadas por las acciones de la guerrilla.

El número oficial de muertes de EEUU es más de 1,460, y otras fuentes la elevan a 1,532, no contabilizándose entre los heridos (oficialmente 10,900) a los afectados por depresión y enfermedades mentales.

El Pentágono había anunciado que se estaba formando una situación de guerra para transportar en la retaguardia. Hasta el momento sólo 2,000 de los 19.000 vehículos Humvee que EEUU ha desplegado en Irak han sido blindados, lo que causa mayor mortalidad de los soldados de EEUU en comparación con los soldados de EEUU.

La semana pasada el diario The Washington Post informó que la ofensiva rebelde contra los vehículos de EEUU ha dejado 60 muertos diarios desde los comicios, el 3 de enero.

Analistas de inteligencia de EEUU citados por el Post señalan que la guerrilla actúa en celdas pequeñas, y que sus combatientes han estado en las grandes concentraciones de combatientes como en Faluya, lo que facilita su accionar efectivo y rápido reemplazo.

Por otra parte, el diario británico The Independent informó que sólo 5.000 soldados colaboracionistas están entrenados para el combate contra la resistencia. El Pentágono está estudiando cómo concretar el plan de formación de 270.000 soldados y policías colaboracionistas se retrasa.

El fracaso de las fuerzas colaboracionistas se produce principalmente por el incremento de los ataques y atentados rebeldes que provocan deserciones constantes entre los reclutas y los efectivos iraquíes.

El Pentágono admite que unos 5.500 soldados han desertado, aunque las organizaciones de familares creen que la cifra real es probablemente mucho mayor.

En Fort Bragg, la mayor instalación militar del mundo se dice que el 82 Día División Aerotransportada del ejército que ha conocido como la "Guardia de Honor de Estados Unidos", por lo menos 50 de sus soldados en Irak murieron en acción.

El mando militar estadounidense reconoció que la cuarta parte de los muertos de EEUU son por ataques a los vehículos de combate Humvees, informó hace una semana la cadena Al Jazeera.

Aerotransportada, quien hace un año declaró que había perdido en 18 meses de ocupación militar. Esto revela la magnitud de lo que había perdido al cumplirse 18 meses de la Guerra en Irak. Soldados de EEUU que perdieron la vida en el mes de enero -según el portavoz oficial de la 82 División Aerotransportada, Swannack Jr., comandante de la 82 División Aerotransportada, quien hace un año declaró que había perdido en 18 meses de ocupación militar. Esto revela la magnitud de lo que había perdido al cumplirse 18 meses de la Guerra en Irak.

De acuerdo a datos realizados por la agencia Associated Press y otros medios de comunicación, la Guía de la Resistencia en Irak, en 18 meses de la ocupación militar de ese país en marzo de 2003. Se ha informado que más de 1,500 soldados han sido asesinados, y más de 5,000 soldados han sido heridos, muchos de ellos con heridas ocasionadas por las acciones de la guerrilla.

Por otro lado, el Pentágono oculta la cifra real de sus bajas debido a que sus datos no contabiliza a los que mueren en hospitales (EEUU) y de civil en Irak (EEUU) y bombardeos de las heridas ocasionadas por las acciones de la guerrilla.

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