

ANN HANSEN...received a "life sentence" for the Brinks', Hydro, Litton, & RHV charges, which translates into a 25 year sentence with the added parole-for-life dividend! She is also at P4W, & since their arrival at this ancient hole, dangerous changes have been implemented. Five of the women there, including Ann & Julie, have been arbitrarily classified for "security visits", a new concept at P4W which is the reason for a screened visiting area being built now. And an "Admin. Segregation Unit", to house any "security risk" prisoners, is in the plans for construction there in 1985. Both these projects are completely new & unwarranted strategies in the history of this women's maximum joint & will be protested against by the women, both personally & in court.
ANN HANSEN, PRISON FOR WOMEN, P.O. BOX 515, KINGSTON, ONTARIO K7L 4W7

GERRY HANNAH...was given a 10 year sentence, the major charge being the Brinks' conspiracy, & is currently at a medium-maximum pen near Abbotsford, B.C. Since being there, Gerry has been a positive force, forming a new prison band & helping to co-ordinate an ongoing series of workshops on social & political issues. There has been talk of organizing a Musicians' Union there through which the prison bands could perform at in-house socials & raise money to buy equipment & begin recording their material. No court appearances are likely for Gerry so he continues to do his time living, learning & creating while caged in the ironhouse, remaining strong in his beliefs.
GERRY HANNAH, MATSQUI PRISON, P.O. BOX 4000, ABBOTSFORD, B.C. V2S 4P3

LYON'S DECISION...we have all been long awaiting this Supreme Court of Canada decision on the admissibility of wiretap evidence gained through illegal entry. A positive ruling would have had great impact on the Van. 5 trials, giving ground to a possible dismissal of all wiretap evidence against them as inadmissible. Basically, the Supreme Court decision was that a wiretap authorization automatically includes authorization to enter the premises...of course!!

to contribute support



APRIL 19 BENEFIT DANCE Victoria Dr. Hall, 2026 E. 43 Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
ANIMAL SLAVES / CRACKED MARIA / videos etc. 9:00 p.m.....
benefit to raise funds for Brent Taylor's appeal; org.- Cmt. to Support the 5

FUND-FUND-FUNDRAISING...We are in dire need of more funds for the defense account. Julie's appeal is the most pressing right now with roughly \$4000. to be paid out in legal costs. The court costs of Brent's Litton trial are being paid by Legal Aid but there will be support expenses. And then there will be at least one or two more sentence appeals...and then there will be fees for legal defense at their eventual parole hearings...and prison litigations etc. It is true, we are looking at some quite major expenses over the next year in particular. The defense fund is close to being depleted at this point & we are urgently asking people to contribute anything possible! The 5 certainly appreciate all the support that has come in since the arrests. We thank you deeply!!

for DONATIONS...to order "WRITINGS OF THE VANCOUVER 5"...
FREE THE VANCOUVER FIVE DEFENSE GROUP
P.O. Box 48296, Bentall Station, Vancouver, B.C. V7X1A1

FREE THE FIVE NEWSLETTER MAR. 1st/85



"WE ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS..."

Although we feel isolated & fragmented at times in Canada, we are actually a part of a huge global resistance movement made up of many different groups with unique philosophies but who are united in their opposition to imperialism. We must not become despondent with feelings of hopelessness but gain strength by opening our minds beyond our immediate environment to identify with the struggles & victories that are going on all around us. When we can see, hear & feel for thousands of miles then the limitations & hardships of our immediate environment will become nothing. Just as we must learn to see the pattern & unity of the global resistance movement, there is also a pattern & practise that is commonly used by the oppressors against us, all over the earth. We can't be fooled by the illusion that the Cdn. government, & the RCMP, & the Corrections Service of Canada all act independently toward the resistance movement in Canada.

In today's world, where U.S. imperialism dominates all aspects of the industrial world, governments work together to destroy resistance movements by sharing police technology, methods of repression, & sponsor conferences to determine counter-insurgency policies. In 1978, a secret international counter-insurgency conference was held in Puerto Rico where plans were clearly outlined, aimed at destroying the identity of political prisoners & their communication with the community. Basically, the idea was to develop practices that would separate political prisoners physically from one another, as well as isolate them from their community - breaking down their strength & influence. When they separate political prisoners from one another, they prevent the emotional & political support that politically-identified prisoners provide for each other & try to break down the identity & will of the person to make them

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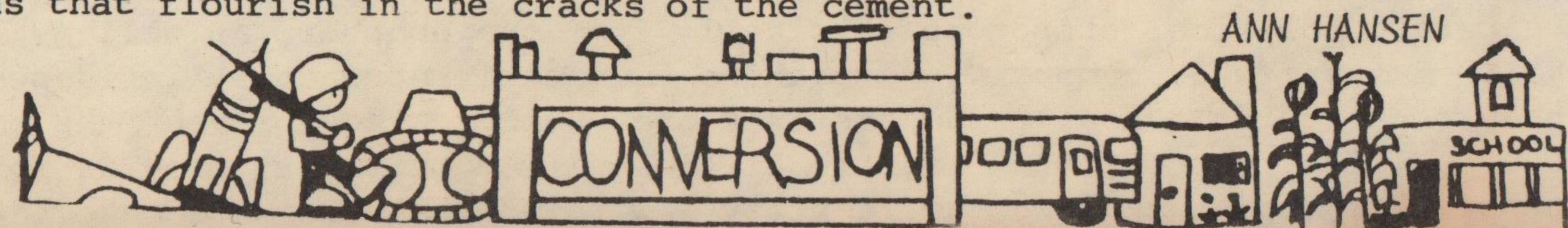
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conform to society's values & institutions. The State also tries to isolate political prisoners from the community. The State wants to deprive the prisoners & the community of the spiritual, mental & emotional nourishment that contact with one another provides. This contact with the community is a necessary safeguard for us against the kind of isolation where the administration feels free to do whatever it wants to the prisoner without accountability. If there is no contact, the community would not know if a prisoner is thrown into segregation, transferred to another part of the country, harassed by guards etc. The lines of communication with the outside are life-lines for prisoners.

In Europe, the French political prisoners went on a collective hunger-strike in Sept. 84 to have their political identity recognized, the right to have open visits with friends & relatives, an end to the separation of revolutionary prisoners by sex or group, the right of political prisoners to conduct meetings & jointly prepare for trials. As well, the German political prisoners went on collective hungerstrike Dec. 4/84 to demand the regroupement of political prisoners. In the U.S., political prisoners from the Puerto Rican independence movement & the American Indian Movement are systematically shipped to prisons far away from their relations & friends, & are separated from each other into maximum-security penitentiaries all across the country.

Canada has not been immune to using these isolation tactics. By 1983, the Native Brotherhood at Kent Prison, B.C. had developed a spiritually strong group that was trying to get the administration to allow them to practise the traditional spiritual ways of the sweatlodge & pipe ceremonies. The C.S.C. felt threatened & decided to dismantle the Brotherhood, transferring the members to all different regions in Canada. Brent, Gerry, Julie, Doug & myself were all dispersed to prisons in separate regions of Canada to split us up individually & to separate us from our support base of friends & family. Julie & I are in the same prison solely because it is the only federal women's prison. Doug was isolated culturally, socially & politically in the worst prison in Canada because the C.S.C. could only physically hold him for 4 years until his mandatory release date so they figured they could make up for the lack of sentence time by trying to break him spiritually & mentally. Certainly, Archambault was not a "mistake" in transfer.

At P4W, where I am locked down, a small group of women are subject to "security visits" which translates into severe limitations upon our visits. A screened visiting room will be built for us within the next few months & we can only have immediate family in for socials unlike the rest of the prison population at P4W & across Canada. These are practises which never existed before in the 50 year history of P4W. No matter how hard they try, they can't isolate us with their bars & cement walls from the broader liberation struggle because our wills & spirits soar with every victory in El Salvador, and live in the wilderness with the wind, trees, & wild creatures feeling the power of the Earth that can never be destroyed. As long as we survive, we must continue to struggle because that is our only hope. We can learn a lot from the dandelions that flourish in the cracks of the cement.



UPDATE : ~~WIMMIN'S~~ DIRECT ACTION

~~WIMMIN'S~~ FIRE BRIGADE

It has been quite a lengthy period since the last newsletter - at the end of all the court trials & tribulations & the beginning of the long stretches of time for the P.O.W.'s. In that space of time, a major battle was fought by DOUG STEWART against the Corrections Service of Canada. Doug had been sentenced to 6 years for, primarily, the B.C. Hydro action & by last August, had arrived at the notoriously brutal Archambault Prison in Quebec, the third federal joint he had been shunted to since being sentenced. In a short 2 months there, he was subjected to the institution's persuasive brand of mind tampering...isolated within the all-French population, denied access to educational programs, forced to work in the lowest position, & eventually thrown into solitary confinement with no explanation, no hearing & no release date. Doug recognized this as a specific attack upon him as a political prisoner. They were attempting to break his strength & gain some revenge for the relatively short sentence he received. So he responded in the most direct way - he began an unlimited hungerstrike to protest the solitary confinement & unwanted transfer. Within a few days he was moved to the prison infirmary where medical staff monitored his condition. His family & supporters moved into action amassing petitions & letters; demonstrating in Montreal, Toronto & Vancouver; occupying the Solicitor-General's office in Montreal where 7 were arrested; & occupying the S-G's headquarters in Ottawa until a definite return date back to B.C. was announced. Doug had maintained his fast for 26 days &, although his health dropped alarmingly in that time, he saw a VICTORY! On Nov. 29, he was returned to B.C. where he has been working to slowly regain full health.

DOUG STEWART, KENT PRISON, P.O. BOX 2000, AGASSIZ, B.C. V0M 1A0

JULIE BELMAS...sentenced to 20 years, primarily for the Brinks' conspiracy & the Litton & Red Hot Video actions, is locked down in the only women's federal joint, Prison for Women, in Kingston, Ontario. She has been fighting for the right to serve her sentence here in B.C., close to family & friends. An appeal of her lengthy sentence is being launched at this moment & should be before the B.C. Court of Appeal in a couple of months. Clayton Ruby, the Toronto lawyer notorious for his work on highly public & political cases, will be acting as her counsel. Because of the glaring severity of the sentence, it is hoped that this appeal will stand a good chance of success at reducing her time. JULIE BELMAS, PRISON FOR WOMEN, P.O. BOX 515, KINGSTON, ONTARIO K7L 4W7

BRENT TAYLOR...is already serving a 22 year sentence, extremely harsh since the only major conviction was the Brinks' conspiracy & the rest were minor charges but assigned consecutively, rather than concurrently, bringing the total time received to the highest possible. He will probably be appealing that sentence here within 4 months. He is now at a maximum-security pen near Kingston. Brent is the only one left to face charges still. The Toronto Crown still intends to proceed against him on the Litton bombing charges & although no court date has been set, there have been initial meetings between his lawyer, Clayton Ruby, & the Crown. A court date is expected within the next month or so. BRENT TAYLOR, MILLHAVEN PRISON, BOX 280, BATH, ONTARIO K0H 1G0