

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

As regular readers of Taking Liberties will know (?), the Anarchist Black Cross network holds demos and pickets on August 10th every year to commemorate Prisoners Justice Day. On August 10th we remember all those who have died untimely deaths in prisons, through suicide, murder, brutality and neglect at the hands of authorities and screws. Prisoners Justice Day is also about us fighting back - cons resisting the prison system and those of us on the outside supporting and encouraging them.

This year, London ABC and London Class War organised a march from Holloway to Pentonville jails in North London, attended by about 80 people. 80 people can look daft on a march, but we made a bit of noise, (much of it from the contingent from the Irish prisoners support group Fuascailt!), handed out leaflets about prisoners resistance. We also used a megaphone to let people know why we were there and to shout support to prisoners, and read out messages of support from prisoners such as John Bowden, Darren Murray, a group of Class War supporters in Glenochil Jail in Scotland...We also shouted out to mate of ours

who had just gone inside for six months, hope he heard us. A good day was had by all. Cheers to everyone who came.

In Norwich around 30 people from Cambridge Anarchists and Norwich Solidarity Centre and others, handed out 1000 leaflets about deaths in prison in the town centre, to a good response.

They fixed up nine placards bearing the name of someone who has died in Norwich Prison, all in the last four and a half years! One of the organisers says: "Seeing the names up on the wall seemed to have a very moving impact on some people. One woman recognised the name of one, who she had looked after as a boy. We were joined by an ex-prisoners who had not heard of the ABC and was very excited to learn that prisoners are being

supported, since he had felt very isolated and been subjected to beatings while inside."

At 2pm the demonstrators went up to Norwich Prison, tying the placards to the prison fence, and using a megaphone to give out brutal facts about the prison. They had lots of positive contact with visitors, and witnessed the petty bureaucracy of prison life, with the gate screws refusing to let in visitors who are as little as two minutes late - people who have been travelling for hours to get there. All in days work! At least on prisoner received a leaflet from a visitor and has got in touch with the organisers. Nice one.

In Manchester 30-odd people from ABC groups in Yorkshire picketed the rebuilt Strangeways Jail, scene of a spot of trouble a few years back! Strangeways has by a recent account sent to us been cleaned up a lot since the riot there in 1990, which demolished most of the shitty old place. The regime is said by a prisoner who has seen it in the old and new form as having changed alot. Well knock the walls down anyway we say.

Brighton ABC also commemorated Prisoners Justice Day, doing a stall and handing out leaflets at the Brighton Freedom Festival,

to a good response.

There may have been other events, but if so we ain't been told. It isn't much to report. We would like to see this event becoming huge and powerful, but more important we would like to see a movement of working class people supporting prisoners &

attacking the justice system all the year round. This happens in isolated ways everywhere you look - lets make it strong and collective and work for the day when we don't have to stand outside mouldy old buildings, remembering the dead and being sneered at by uniformed killers.

We'll be back.



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a.b.c leaflets etc

Supporting class struggle prisoners: An intro to the ideas of the ABC.

Writing to Prisoners. Advice if you're writing for the first time.

Practical Support for Prisoners How to send stuff into jails, visits, letters, etc.

Getting the Best Defence from a Solicitor. Some experience and advice

Suing the Police If you've been

nicked, beaten up, abused by the cops, get your own back.

ABC Prisoners List A list of the prisoners we are supporting, or know need support. Essential.

No Comment: the defendant's guide to arrest With Criminal Justice Act update.

Send SAEs or stamps to the London address.

Taking Liberties

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FREE TO PRISONERS

THEM WITHOUT THE CAPITAL

• **During the period January 1995 to May 1996 there were 97 deaths in prisons. Of these 16 were non-suicides, including 5 due to "unknown circumstances" and 9 murders.**

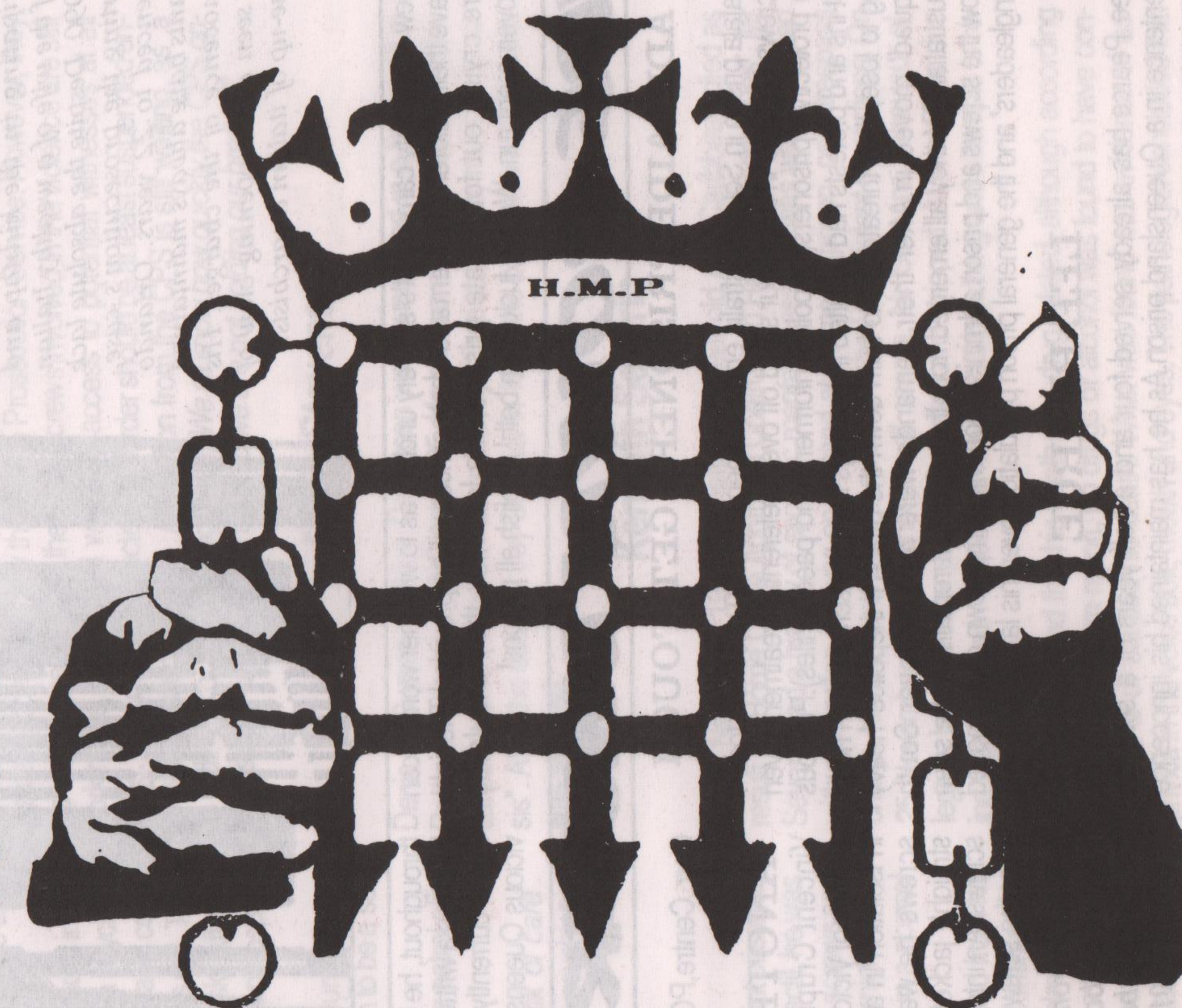
• **At present the death rate exceeds the rate of executions before 1964. The rate of suicide in prisons is now 10 times that on the outside.**

• **In 1972 the prison population was 37,000 and there were 19 suicides. In 1995 the prison population was 55,000 (a record high) and there were 59 suicides - almost 5 per month.**

• **Since 1990 nearly half of all suicides (48%) have been carried out by remand prisoners.**

• **Of the 381 suicides between 1990-95, 56 were under 21, three were aged 16 and three aged only 15.**

• **SEE "DEATHS IN PRISON", PAGE 4.**



GET THE PUNISHMENT

Also in this issue: Dirty protests, strike in Perth Jail, report on Holloway and Durham, plus the usual news, views and screws.

SUPPORT CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS

PERTH PRISONERS PROTEST

More than 50 prisoners at Perth Prison in Scotland went on a work strike on Monday June 10th in protest over what they call "the deterioration in access to visits".

The prisoners complained that there are not enough places for families and friends to visit, and that despite promises and official Scottish Prison Service policy, nothing had been done. They demanded that at least another two visiting places be provided, especially at the weekend, to relieve frustration and anger over the overcrowding that exists.

The statement given out by the prisoners (reprinted on this page) announced that they were withdrawing their labour in a "peaceful and disciplined protest".

The strike was solid on the Monday in A Hall, the long-termers' wing. According to John Bowden who took part: "The response of the administration was to lock the hall down for the day, although at some point during that day they pushed copies of a letter from the governor under all our doors; in it he promised to look into our complaints regarding the situation with visits and assured us that as long as people returned to work the following day there would be no reprisals or victimisation. Most prisoners decided to take him at his word, although we'd already agreed to continue staging a one day strike each week until there was a definite improvement with visits. The following day, everyone returned to work, and during that afternoon a group of screws entered one of

the workshops and asked a prisoner, Willie Barbour, to accompany them back to his cell for what they described as a routine search. Upon entering the hall with them, however, he was suddenly surrounded by a much larger group of screws and handcuffed. A governor appeared out of nowhere and informed him that he was being transferred because 'security information' indicated he was one of the 'main ringleaders' of the previous day's strike. he was then dragged to a van and transferred to Glenochil Prison. When news of Barbour's ghosting became known to the other prisoners the atmosphere throughout the whole prison became charged with anger and rage...the most immediate response of a large number of prisoners on A Hall was to sabotage cell door locks, thereby preventing the screws from locking up many prisoners over the usual tea-time bang-up. Following a meeting of prisoners on A Hall that evening a decision was made to stage another strike for the following day, this time for an indefinite period, in protest over Willie Barbour's victimisation. Representatives were sent over across to D Hall with a plan for solidarity, which was responded to positively.

On the 17th of June both A and D Hall prisoners, numbering over two hundred, refused the order to work and were all locked down.

At about 11.30 that morning a gang of screws unlocked my door and informed me that the governor wished to talk to me in his office on the ground landing. Of course

I smelt a rat immediately, but had no choice but to go with them to the ground landing. When we got there, a large crowd of screws surrounded me and my arms were pinned behind my back and my wrists handcuffed. A governor appeared from nowhere... In short John got exactly the same treatment as Willie Barbour.

This sort of protest we think is going to be happening more often. As the Home Office presses the prison Service to crack down on and tighten up prison conditions, cons will be forced more to take action to protest what little 'rights' they have and start fighting to regain the ground being lost. *It's vital we stick by them on the outside!*

Nice one to the lads at Perth, we hope they stick together and build on these powerful actions.

JOHN BOWDEN BACK IN ENGLAND

John Bowden, a longtime prison organiser, rebel, communist and contributor to taking Liberties and other prison solidarity groups, was involved in the Perth strike. As he was describes above, was ghosted out on the Thursday to Shotts Prison. John had previously been threatened with being returned to the English prison system, from where he escaped in 1992 and where many regimes and screws have it in for him, due to his activities and resistance. This year he was told by the Scottish Prison Service that if he was well behaved for 12 months, he would not be sent back. We're proud to say he couldn't keep out of trouble. HOWEVER, they have acted very quickly, John is already back in England. He was moved to Durham Prison in the last week on June, from where he went to Whitmoor, and from there to Woodhill.

As at present all dispersal prisons are refusing to take him it looks like he will be spending his time being moved from there Seg Unit of one local prison to another.

More info and letters of solidarity to:

John Bowden
HMP Woodhill
Tattenhoe St,
Milton Keynes
MK4 4DA



STATEMENT FROM THE PRISONERS OF 'A' HALL, PERTH PRISON, JUNE 10TH, 1996

"We, the prisoners in A Hall, wish to register our complaint and protest over the deterioration in access to visits since the introduction of the new visits system here at Perth.

Despite long-standing complaints regarding the insufficient number of visit places provided to A Hall and the progressive increase in Hall numbers, the situation has been allowed to get worse, creating considerable anger and frustration.

We were under the impression that the officially stated policy of the Scottish Prison Service regarding reasonable contact between prisoners and their families amounted to a real statement of purpose. But this is certainly not our experience at the moment here at Perth.

We are asking the administration to provide at least two additional visiting spaces for A Hall, especially at weekends, considering the under-utilisation of the visit room on an average day here, such a concession would hardly result in a serious problem of over-crowding.

To emphasise our unhappiness about current problems with the visits situation here, and to support our request for additional visit places, we, the prisoners of A Hall, have decided to withdraw our labour for one day on Monday the tenth of June. The strike will be disciplined and peaceful, and staged purely as a means of emphasising our discontent with the current visits system."

FREE THE KINGS CROSS 2

Badrul Miah and Showkat Akbar are appealing against convictions for murder and violent disorder which followed the stabbing to death of schoolboy Richard Everitt in North London's Somers Town last year.

Richard's death, which took place at a time of racial tension between White and Bengali communities in Somers Town, is clearly a tragedy and should never have happened. But there has been a serious injustice done.

After the stabbing the police immediately said there was a possible "racial motivation" to the murder. The next day they retracted this and said it was a case of mistaken identity - the murderers had been looking for a white boy who had stolen some jewelry and a mobile phone. But it was too late: the media had jumped on the racist bandwagon, portraying young Asians as violent racists looking for Whites to attack. As usual, whipping up shit which widens the gaps that do exist between communities, encouraging the BNP to get active in the area. After the murder there was huge police investigation in which over 300 Bengali youth were questioned. Every Asian in Camden was under suspicion. Asians reporting racist attacks to the police were questioned about Richard's murder. Others were stopped in the street, taken to the police station on various pretexts, eg drugs offenses, but once in the copshop, only questioned about the murder.

THE TRIAL

At the trial the Crown Prosecution Service ignored the police evidence (!) and told the court that Richard's death was a racist murder. They argued that Badrul and Showkat "would stab any white youth". So they did not even try to prove that the two had committed the murder, but argued that because they were Bengali, they were racist against whites, and so probably went out killing white boys anyway! Showkat was given three years for violent disorder. Badrul was given a life sentence for 'joint enterprise' in the murder - despite there being

no evidence that he had anything to do with the killing. Joint enterprise means if you are part of a group or with someone else who commits a crime, you can be convicted too, even if you did nothing. Being in their company, or being present, can leave you open to an equal sentence.

The judge and the CPS knew in court that this was so, but told him he was carrying the can for those who were not in court. It's clear that the Joint Enterprise here is being a Bengali in Somers Town.

THE CAMPAIGN

The *Free the Kings Cross Two Campaign* are fighting for the two lads' release. They say: "We want justice for all, black and white. We want to stop the violence. We want better facilities for the whole of the community. We don't want to see innocent people murdered, nor people locked up for crimes they did not commit". They are asking for people to sponsor the campaign, send donations payable to the 'Kings Cross Two Campaign, get groups they are involved in

to support it, write letters to local MP Frank Dobson to get him to support the campaign, and to the CPS demanding that they do not contest Showkat and Badrul's appeal.

Free the Kings Cross Two Campaign, Box 132, 63 Camden High St, London, NW1 7JL.

Tel 0171 388 3 2 5 9 / 0 9 5 6 6 4 6 7 0 3 / 0 9 5 6 1 4 5 6 9 4.

A.B.C network

- Brighton ABC - c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton
- Essex ABC - c/o Box A, 12 Mill Rd, Cambridge
- Highlands ABC - PO Box 5754, Elgin OV30 2ZD
- Glasgow ABC - c/o PO Box 1008, Glasgow, G42 8AA.
- Huddersfield ABC - 17-21 Chapel St, Bradford BD1 5DT
- Leeds ABC - c/o LAG, 145-149 Cardigan Rd, Burley, Leeds
- London ABC - c/o 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0LR
- Manchester ABC - Box 8, 1 Newton St, Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 8HW
- Newcastle ABC - c/o PO Box 1TA, Newcastle, NE99 1TA
- Reading ABC - Folder 19, Rising Sun Institute, 30 Silver St., Reading, RG1.
- Sheffield ABC - PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY
- Wolves ABC - PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV1

OTHER CONTACTS

- Conviction - PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF. (Supports framed prisoners.)
- Class War Prisoners Group - CW Federation's prison work: PO Box 467, London, E8.

Four prisoners staged a dirty protest in the Segregation Unit at high security Frankland Prison in Durham, starting on May 24th. They were protesting against beatings meted out by screws while in segregation. The four: Ray Gilbert, framed for murder, Jimmy Taylor, & ex-Strangeways convicts Tony Bush and Bary Morton, went on the dirty after being stitched up for an alleged assault on their wing. Whilst in segregation, Ray had been supported by the other three in building an appeal against his 1981 conviction, along with John Kamara, for the murder of betting shop manager John Suddell in Liverpool. The inmates vowed to stay on the protest until their demands had been met. These included:

- Beatings in the Seg Unit to be investigated by an outside body;
 - Tampering with mail and phonecalls to stop;
 - Interference with their food to cease;
 - The Board of Visitors to explain why the prisoners are being held in continuous segregation;
 - That their entitlements to exercise and a change of cell were granted while on protest.
- The protest was supported by Newcastle ABC, who leafleted Durham's city centre over the beatings on several occasions, and demonstrated outside Frankland, leafletting visitors as they left the jail. The response from the prison was one of surprise and they promptly called the police, who when they arrived, looked a bit bemused as to what they could do - so they did nothing! (Hey, we could do with more cops like that!)

The switchboard at Frankland was also deluged with calls from supporters demanding that the ill-treatment stop and enquiring about the prisoners' well-being. After 16 days on the protest, Jimmy, Barry and Ray had all their demands met and came off the protest. Tony Bush kept going, because as Ray says: "As one of the Strangeways

lads he has experienced harassment on a worse scale than me." (He has since stopped too) The prisoners think that the demands were granted

PLAYING IT DIRTY

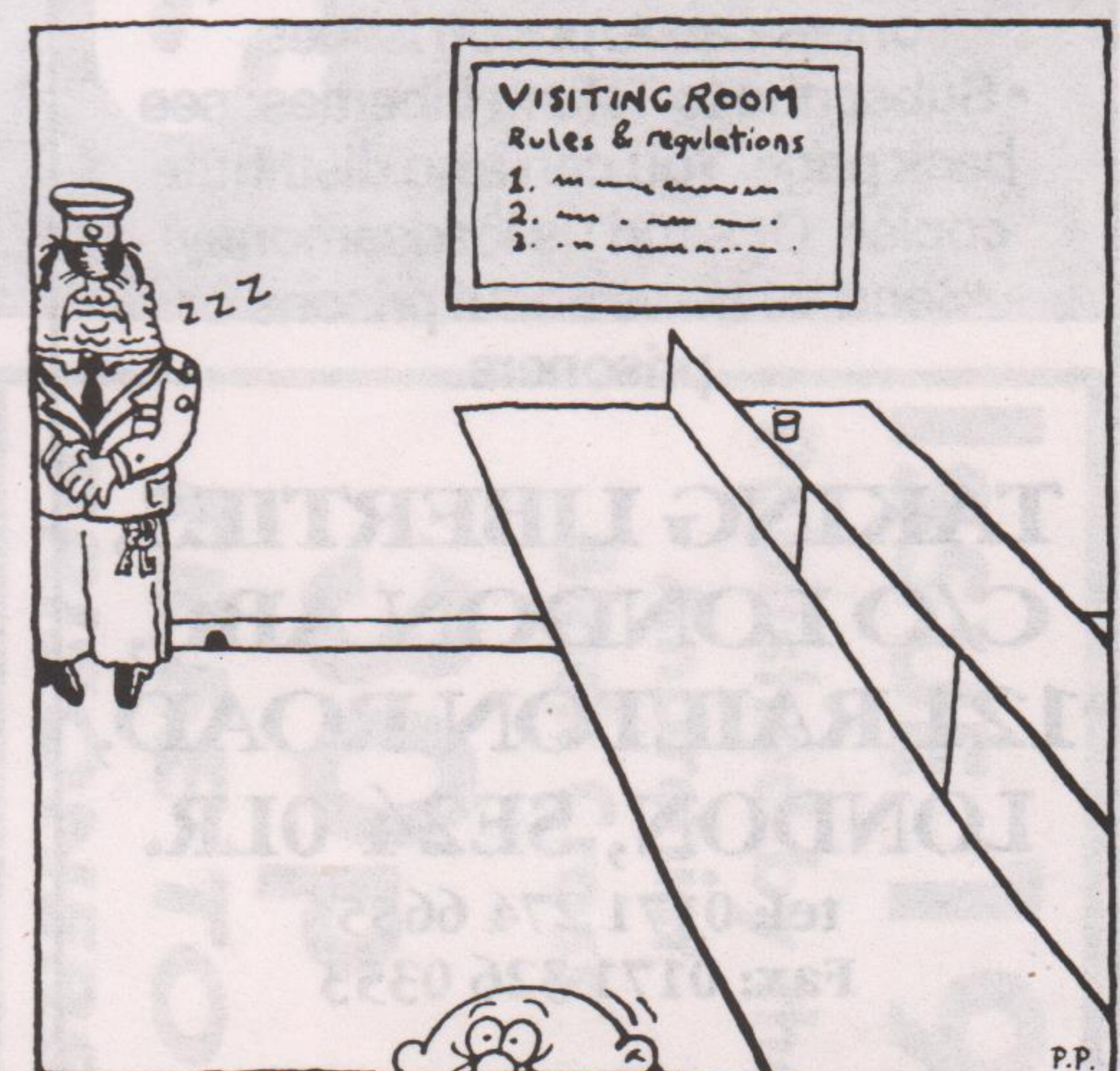
due to the outside response and awareness generated by people on the out. To those who phoned the prisoners and wrote letters of encouragement, Ray says "It was fantastic to have so much support." Ray and the others with to thank everyone

who took the time to phone or write. The level of support from people who received leaflets outside the jail and in town was very high, with a number writing to the prisoners and one bloke even arranging to visit one of them after getting in touch.

Ray Gilbert, moved to Long Lartin, continues to build for his appeal. He has been stuck in the Seg there too, having been told by the Governor that it is suspected that he will commit "acts of Indiscipline".

Send letters of support to: Tony Bush CD0405, HMP Whitmoor, Longhill Rd, March, Cambs, PE15 0PR
Barry Morton CV0221, HMP Garth, Leyland, Preston, PR5 3NE
Jimmy Taylor at HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD.
Ray Gilbert, H10111, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, WR11 5TZ.

It is very encouraging to see outside support can work once in a while. Clearly the staff and governors at Frankland did not expect their regime to be put on trial and be made an issue out of. Lets hope similar tactics can work in the future.



VICTORY IN LONG LARTIN

After a week long hunger strike at the end of June, harassment of Kenny Carter and other prisoners has continued in The Segregation Unit at Long Lartin Jail. During July prisoners' mail was delayed and tampered with by screws, which is a major issue to the prisoners there. one prisoner. Robert Knapp, was assaulted by the 'Control and Restraint' (MUFTI) Squad, for refusing to go onto the Basic Wing. he received a badly cut eye for his troubles, and immediately went on hunger strike. On Friday 2 August, 6 prisoners: Kenny Carter, Matty Wainwright, Bill O'Flaherty, Mo Lewis, Ian Davies, and Gordon Tapen, having taken enough shit from the screws, decided to fight back. They agreed to commence a dirty protest within the Unit and no-one was going to back down until their demands were met. These included the prisoners being moved to a different prison, that they received all their entitled

personal belongings and clothes back, and that the brutality in the Unit was investigated by an outside body. During the 13 days of the protest they had it hard: they were denied mail, proper food, and were not allowed to exercise at all; plus all the usual petty harassment meted out by screws. All six were in fact down the Seg on Good Order and Discipline, which in itself should have meant that not strictly being on punishment they were entitled to the same personal items and clothes etc as if they were on normal location. They were denied all the above. The prisoners lasted until August 15th, when Mr Yeomans, the Governor of Long Lartin, came into the unit and gave in to their protest, offering to meet their demands! So far as we know this has happened. MORE INFO FROM NEWCASTLE ABC (see ABC address list page 2)

GOOD NEWS FOR KENNY

Kenny Carter was moved out to Belmarsh Prison and so far has received no harassment from screws there; he has been moved up onto normal location, a relief in itself after months in the Segregation Unit at Long Lartin. Upon arriving at Belmarsh he received some great news from his solicitor George Gross. Legal aid has been granted for Dr Bernard Knight, a leading pathologist and specialist in hanging deaths to investigate evidence in Kenny's case. (In case you've forgotten Kenny is doing life for 'murder' after his cellmate hung himself in Durham Jail in 1990: Kenny was fitted up to clear the prison authorities of responsibility.) This is really positive news for Kenny and his fight to get

to the Appeal Courts. We can only hope that Dr Knight can refute the original pathologist's evidence at Kenny's trial, which played a large part in wrongfully convicting Kenny in 1991. We wish Kenny all the best in building his appeal. It's been a long hard struggle for him, he has suffered at the hands of the prison authorities in every way possible, facing constant harassment, beatings, ghostings with constant resistance. It looks like all the blood and sweat may pay off. **Kenny Carter, AD3434, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, Thamesmead, London, SE28 0EB.**

Write to:

GLYN WILLIAMS

Glyn is an ex-Strangeways prisoner, one of the last to be taken off the roof after 25 days in April 1990. But he has received very little support from outside. he recently had his release date put back five and a half months to May 1997, due to being stitched up for other offences. Clearly the prison authorities (who have viciously long memories) wish to see Glyn remain behind bars after taking part in the longest collective protest in British prison history. Glyn has refused to work within prison since the protest in 1990. **Glyn Williams, HMP Garth, Leyland, Preston, Lancs, PR5 3NE.**

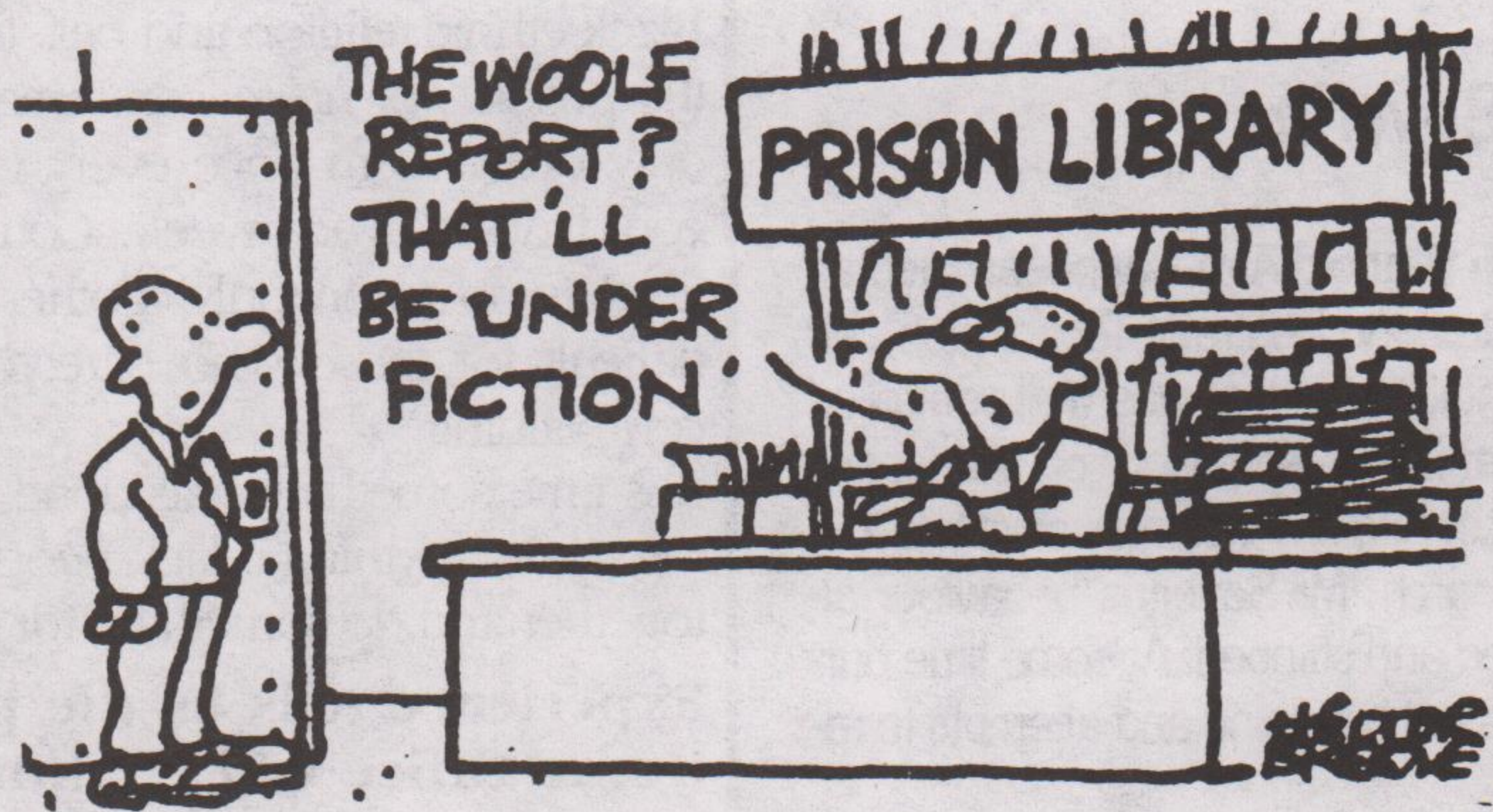
JOHN HUGHES

John Hughes started a 14 year sentence in 1990 and was in the Segregation Unit at Strangeways when the riot occurred. Although he was not convicted for the riot, he has received loads of shit since. He has been moved 19 times around the country since June 1993, making it difficult to maintain contact with family and friends. John has also received beatings and been confined to his cell 23 hours a day, spending days on end in strip cells. He would like to keep in regular touch with supporters: **John Hughes, AK2374, HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD.**

In the wake of the Woodcock and Learmont Reports, requested after high profile escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst, the prison system is slowly transforming into the austere, punitive regime which Michael Howard envisaged. All the reforms proposed by the Woolf Report after the Strangeways and following riots have gradually been eroded or side-stepped in an endeavour to give prison staff absolute power. However, wherever an autocracy exists, the abuse of such responsibility is witnessed regularly. It appears that all the negative aspects of both reports have been implemented and any positive ones ignored. The concern was that certain political and 'dangerous' prisoners had too much power in the system. This has been used as an excuse for them to clamp down on all prisoners rather than targetting those who they deem posed a threat to security. Trapped in the middle of Home office and media debates, women appear to have suffered more than perhaps was foreseen. At Durham Prison, increased security has meant the women have seen the facilities offered cut in half. Access to the gym has been reduced from open availability to one hour per day. Education classes have been cut to a maximum of five sessions per week and all open learning facilities have been withdrawn. There are 78 short term male prisoners at Durham, who have access to full time education, apart from when they have to go off for canteen, kit change etc. This is blatant sexual discrimination and the matter may have to be taken to outside court, with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission. All the weekend classes and one evening class have also been cut on the female side, thus restricting the limited program still further. Learmont said that many aspects of the prison regime were repetitive and boring and he advocated that more interesting work, particularly focussing on education, should be found. However, the money has been taken away from education to pay for the increase in security, so the dangers of subversion to relieve mundanity are ever present. He recommended that less women should be imprisoned and hostels/centres built to cater especially for their needs, but this has also been ignored. Every woman at Durham is a long term inmate and over half are lifers, yet they do not enjoy the same privileges. Visiting space has been reduced from 6 places a day to 5 to make way for another officer in the room, yet 3 officers for 5 visitors is extremely excessive. There are now no facilities to take pictures on vis-

its either as cameras have been withdrawn. The foreign nationals have a raw deal as despite a Home Office circular to governors stating that they should be entitled to extra money for phone calls (as it is impossible to contact their family with the reduction of private spends), at Durham at present there is no scheme to permit them to buy extra phone cards, up to £15 a week, as operates at Holloway and Bullwood Hall. The new privilege system of placing prisoners on enhanced, standard and basic has so far been open to extreme abuse, depending on whether an officer likes you or not. An inmate was demoted from enhanced to standard for refusing to go to the workshop on one occasion, ie disobeying a lawful order, whereas another one who committed an identical offence was not demoted. Another woman who smuggled a camera into the prison and who took pictures of a high profile inmate to sell to the press was kept on enhanced despite committing an extreme breach of security which makes a nonsense of the whole system. Officers are far more likely to punish those who they feel educationally inferior to, than those who display violent tendencies. In any male prison where there is a small unit for women, the females are bound to lose out, as their needs are marginalised in a patriarchal system. H Wing has had much publicity due to the notoriety of some of the women which has allowed the authorities to make the regime more oppressive. In Holloway, despite recent media interest in the appalling conditions there, little has changed since last year. Association has increased slightly during the week although at the weekend most women are locked in 20 hours per day. The medical care is still dreadful, bordering on dangerous, and the hygiene is substandard. There are still long waits for urgent hospital appointments due to shortages of staff; and pre- and anti-natal care is very basic despite the tragic incident last year when a pregnant woman was beaten up and lost her baby. She is now going to sue the prison, but nothing can compensate for such a dreadful incident. Even though two women hung

themselves in 1995, the care of women when they first come to prison or are sentenced is still negligent. Suggestions offered by outside groups and concerned inmates have largely been ignored and this means that the suicides and high level of attempted suicides will almost certainly continue. Many women are demoralised at the treatment they receive and depression affects a substantial number, who resort to psychotropic drugs to block out their traumas as there is very little counselling offered. One of the main (stated. Ed) aims of the new incentive scheme is to stop bullying, yet this is still prevalent on many of the wings at Holloway. On one wing, a single girl is responsible for most of the trouble and has intimidated and threatened several girls, some in full view of officers yet they do absolutely nothing to stop her. She basically runs the unit as she is able to have phone calls, baths etc when everyone else is locked up. No-one else is permitted this privilege. it makes a mockery of the system when this is allowed to occur, yet it would seem that the officers are not too concerned or are too scared. All officers have their favourites and it is these who are placed on enhanced rather than those who perhaps truly deserve it. Assessment panels are supposed to regularly review the level people are on, but these tend to have a similar set up to a kangaroo court, and can be composed of a Senior officer or officers with no independent member present, from probation, the Board of Visitors or psychology for example. Whilst any decision can be appealed against, this is unlikely to be acknowledged. The women who have put in complaints about members of staff are automatically put on basic even though their behaviour may not warrant this. In conclusion, the regimes at Durham and Holloway have suffered greatly since the implementation of the Woodcock and Learmont reports. It appears that much is written and implemented specifically to deal with men, yet the women are often punished more harshly as a result. The Home Office should learn to treat women separately when it comes to recommendations and perhaps a separate body set up to look into the operation of the new privilege scheme to review its fairness and effectiveness.



As most readers of TL probably know, Simon Sunderland's 5-year sentence for painting graffiti art on Sheffield buildings, was quashed on October 3rd. Sheffield Council, the press, prosecution etc claimed 'Fista's' graffiti was responsible for virtually every evil in the city. Since his conviction, Simon's family have been campaigning tirelessly for his release, gaining support from other graffiti artists, comedians, trade unions... A good crowd of around 50 picketed the Appeal Court, packed the Public Gallery and cheered wildly as the 3 judges knocked the sentence down to 2 years. This should have meant Simon's immediate release. The feeling was brilliant. Victory! Everyone was in

MUSICAL UNTRUTHS

Meanwhile a benefit planned for Simon's campaign was dropped from a venue in Doncaster by the local council, who said it was "too political" and the band organising it (Chumbawamba) had "deceived them" by not telling them what it was all about. Aaahh! The gig will now take place in Sheffield in October.

Another prisoners benefit has caused a scene in Reading, meanwhile. Reading ABC put on a benefit gig at a local arts centre in March. Two local prospective tory parliamentary candidates were outraged because the Rising Sun Centre gets some funding off the council, and said the venue should not have been used for such an event. Oooh. One of the Tories, a Nicholas Bennett, claimed that "ninety-nine percent of the population do not take any notice of these loonies" and that "if there was a National Front skinhead band at the centre the council would pull the plug straight away." Hmmm.. Rumours that Mr Bennett is just pissed off cause his NF skinhead band weren't allowed to play at the Rising Sun are of course totally unfounded. By his maths we have worked out that at least one percent of the population must take some notice of what we do. So we haven't been struggling for nothing all these years!

tears or had a big grin on their face. But as we waited outside to greet him, we were told that Everthorpe Jail were refusing to release him, saying he had to return and serve 20 days lost remission. As we go to press this is being contested, we don't yet know the outcome. Nice one to the prison for prolonging his and his family's agony, out of bureaucratic spite. Congratulations to Simon, his mother Angela and everyone who supported the campaign. **I know whose side I'd rather be on.**



ROCHESTER ROW

On Friday 17th May Riot Police broke up a peaceful protest by 69 asylum seekers on D Wing in Rochester Prison, which at any one time holds on average 150 asylum seekers being detained while the Home Office looks into their claims to stay in this country. On the previous Thursday (16th) notices were put up on D Wing that all detainees would be locked in their cells for 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday. At 8.30 pm on the Thursday evening, the asylum seekers refused to go back into their cells. They sat peacefully outside, not threatening any screws. At about 1am the authorities asked them again to go back to their cells, they refused and half an hour later, riot police stormed D Wing, smashed furniture and forcibly put all the detainees into their cells. Some detainees offered passive resistance, rolling themselves into balls. 10 of them barricaded themselves into a cell. Many received minor injuries. This is all the information we have, apart from the fact that when the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns rang the jail to ask for information they were told that the governor had "gone on holiday". Apparently his holidays often coincide with trouble at the jail. Suspicious 'we'd say.

PRIVILEGE OR PUNISHMENT?

certainly continue. Many women are demoralised at the treatment they receive and depression affects a substantial number, who resort to psychotropic drugs to block out their traumas as there is very little counselling offered.

CLARE BARSTOW
HM PRISON DURHAM,
OLD ELVET, DURHAM, DH1 3HU.

DEATHS IN PRISON

CONT FROM FRONT PAGE

Errol Commock

Outlined here are just a few cases from recent years - the tip of the iceberg - ones where we have information. Getting information particularly on suspicious deaths is difficult. Just try asking bereaved relatives.

SUICIDES

Many prisoners are desperate for proper psychiatric help. Indeed for many this is the reason that they are in prison. Being locked up for 23 hours a day is not the best therapy that they could be receiving. In 1991 the Institute of Psychiatry estimated that 1,100 prisoner were in need of immediate psychiatric help and a further 16,000 were suffering from other mental health problems. Imagine where these figures must stand now, with 5 years extra care in the community and a record prison population.

Claire Bosley - A Typical Example

Claire Bosley died within an hour of being inside Holloway. This April the inquest heard that in November last year after medical problems and bouts of depression and mental health problems, Claire Bosley confessed to stabbing her husband to death. Claire was taken from police custody to Holloway by a WPC, along with a POL1 form. These forms are used by the police to describe prisoners who are at exceptional risk for the benefit of the receiving prison officer. (Claire had already tried to kill herself 3 times in 24 hours whilst with the police.) Senior Officer Pauline Martindale, a member of Holloway's Suicide Awareness Training Team told the inquest that she processed Claire and that she was "...distressed but not a risk". Martindale further admitted that she had not properly read the POL1 form and that her priority was to deal with two other disruptive prisoners first. However the inquest heard that a further three non disruptive prisoners were "processed" before Claire. By which time Claire was dead this time she had succeeded in asphyxiating herself by stuffing toilet tissue into her airways. The inquest returned a verdict of "suicide contributed to by neglect". In her defence Martindale stated that nearly half of all prisoners arriving have POL1 forms. As if that makes everything OK, and it certainly says something about the mental state of many people receiving "care" of the Prison Service! One week after Claire Bosley's death by neglect, the Chief Inspector of Prisons took the unprecedented step of walking out of his inspection of Holloway in protest at the infestation of rats, cockroaches and lice and the "over zealous security in the gaol". There also followed a damning report by the Board of Visitors telling of a complete breakdown of management, and highlighting their concerns over the "degrading treatment" of the inmates. The BoV also said that despite Mrs Bosley's death and that of another inmate earlier in the year, training remained totally inadequate.

With so many prison "suicides" there is almost always a string of failures, oversights (some deliberate) and apathy that put inmates into unbearable conditions. So without help and support they do the only thing left open to them. This is nothing short of execution of the most vulnerable, through the back door.

Kwaku (Andrew) Ohene

Kwaku Ohene a 31 year old Ghanaian is a typical example of how the vulnerable suffer under the prison system. Mr Ohene was described in court as suffering an intermittent but serious psychotic illness by Dr Coid a forensic psychologist. His behaviour was of such concern that Dr Coid said any repeat of his illness should be immediately reported to him, apparently this message never got around to the 13 prisons that Mr Ohene was sent to.

- In the Mount prison he suffered a bout of mental illness and told them of Dr Coid - he was never contacted.
- In Swaleside prison he cut his wrists after hearing voices in his head and telling staff he could not cope. He was not seen by a psychiatrist, a doctor in the prison hospital thought that wrist slashing was a common problem in prison, stitched him up and sent him back to his cell. This even surprised the screws who thought he was a suicide risk. After 2 days of disturbed behaviour, Mr Ohene was sent to the prison hospital for "general observation".
- Mr Ohene was never seen by a doctor and the nurse made no attempt to contact one as she did not consider him to be a serious risk.
- He was found that night (13 June 1991) by a lone patrol officer, hanging.

The inquest heard that his death was "aggravated by lack of care". During his time in prison he never received any medical or psychiatric care up to his death.

Delroy McKnight

He died in Wandsworth prison in 1991. Diagnosed at Highpoint prison as an acute schizophrenic, and placed on regular doses of largactil, he was transferred to Wandsworth for medical reasons, although the screws and medical officer thought it was for disciplinary reasons. Mr McKnight on arrival was given continued doses of largactil and was locked in a normal shared cell for 23 hours per day.

At the inquest, Delroy's cell mate stated that he never moved from his bed, even to slop out, preferring to sit in his own shit and continuously read the bible. One month after being in Wandsworth, Delroy cut his throat with a piece of broken glass from the window. His cell mate raised the alarm. However, he stated that it took 15 minutes for the screws to arrive. Once again the verdict was death "contributed to by lack of care"

Mr Commock a 24 year old Afro Caribbean took his own life in HMP Winson Green on 3 July 1992. At the inquest the report of the visiting psychiatrist was heard, it stated Mr Commock was developing a serious psychotic illness and that he may have to be transferred to an outside hospital if his condition worsened. Despite this occurring outside help was never sought. A further two visiting psychiatrists and other prison doctors saw him, but there was a serious lack of communication between them. One even said Mr Commock was "satisfactory" 2 days before he killed himself. However, this statement was never questioned as the coroner did not call the psychiatrist as a witness. The coroner also did not allow the Governor of the prison to be questioned about a damning report by Judge Tumim about the "pitifully barren regime for the mentally ill", and the "unsatisfactory arrangements" whereby mentally ill inmates were looked after by discipline officers in D2. The Commock family were unhappy both with the suicide verdict and the coroner who warned the jury against bringing a "lack of care" verdict.

The disturbing number of deaths continues to raise serious questions about standards of physical and mental care and treatment available in prisons. There are many deaths of prisoners with severe mental health or other medical problems which highlight the failure of the prison service to care for its inmates. There is also serious failings by medical staff when prescribing anti psychotic medication (especially drugs such as largactil or "liquid cosh") for use in subduing prisoners. The total lack of support and counselling for inmates who have lost self esteem and carry out self harm and ultimately suicide plus the inhuman conditions, beatings, strip cells, segregation and intimidation that inmates receive tells us that prisons are not places for help, but are places that seek to crush and destroy anyone who deviates from the straight and narrow.

NON SUICIDES

Afro-Caribbeans' seem to have been involved in a high number of deaths following violent incidents and neglect, pointing to a whole culture of ingrained and institutionalised racism. Moreover the police and prison service carry a stereotypical view of black men as having super human strength and therefore need a massive amount of restraint before they can be controlled. The result of this restraint speaks for itself; Since 1990 there has been 24 prison deaths and 14 deaths in police custody of black people. In all these cases no criminal or disciplinary proceedings have been carried out.

The Case of Alton Manning

Alton died in Blakenhurst prison on 8 December 1995. Unsatisfactory answers were given as to the circumstances of his death. It is claimed that seven screws were seen beating him. One inmate says he saw Mr Manning being dragged out of his cell, his body limp and that "...his brain was hanging out of his skull behind his right ear." Alton Manning had been complaining of harassment and violence from police and prison staff for as long as four years before his death. Ironically, Alton told his mother only hours before his death that he thought he was going to die very soon.

At the time of his death, the Home Office issued a statement which said that: "Mr Manning had to be restrained during a violent struggle. While he was being moved to the segregation unit he "became unwell" and lost consciousness".

This does not quite match the pathologists post mortem report which says that death was caused by asphyxiation, and that this was likely to have been caused by the way that Mr Manning was being held by prison officers. The **Justice For Alton Manning Campaign** and his family and friends after months of waiting are pleased that finally criminal charges are being considered by the Crown Prosecution Service. However, they are very concerned that the same screws involved in the violence are still working as normal and will have access to potential witnesses at all times. Prison staff suspected of murder should be at least suspended under such circumstances! A decision from the CPS is still waiting, as a co ordinator of the campaign said "We all know how quickly the CPS operates when a black man dies, so we are not holding our breath!"

Denis Stevens

Denis a 29 year old Afro Caribbean was found dead in a body belt in Dartmoor prison on 19 October '95. He had worn it for 24 hours. The initial post mortem showed "acute kidney failure caused by muscle necrosis". After the death of Joy Gardner in 1993, the police use of body belts was stopped.

Kenneth Severin

On 25 November 1995 Kenneth, a 25 year old Afro Caribbean died as result of "Home Office Approved Control and Restraint Techniques". Mr Severin had a history of sporadic mental illness that was well controlled with medication. he was on remand at Belmarsh prison on a trespass charge, he had never been in custody or had any violent convictions. On 25 November after a random cell search, Mr Severin's behaviour allegedly became bizarre. He was cuffed and stripped. At some time during restraint it was noticed that he was not breathing and attempts to revive him failed.

The prison implied that his death was drug related, although according to the post mortem report, no drugs or alcohol was found to have contributed to or caused his death. What was found was evidence of asphyxia in the voice box, mouth and eyes. The pathologist concluded that

the cause of death was asphyxia following restraint. Internal police and prison investigations were carried out, non of which will be available, even to the family.

This was the third black prisoner to die in 3 months after "restraint".

What Now?

Unfortunately the future looks pretty grim. The predicted growth in the prison population, almost guaranteed as a result of Michael Howard's forcing through of his new law and order proposals (some estimates say the population will increase by up to 20-30,000 prisoners), together with things like the proposed 6ft x 6ft cells, high tech supermax prisons and the systems refusal to even discipline murderous prison staff and negligent medical and psychiatric care staff, does not inspire much optimism. The continuing privatisation of prisons will lead to more deaths. So far there have been 36 suicides in new prisons and 7 in private jails, including 4 in Doncaster prison. These figures are sure to rise. As John Bowden said in TL 18 "There is a struggle being fought out...between powerless and desperate prisoners...and vicious and amoral keepers...that will determine just how far the state is allowed to go when dealing with social dissent and defiance in the future". Perhaps he should have said that the state will stop at nothing to win the struggle, not even murder.

**Justice For
Alton Manning Campaign**
c/o BRAMU
339 Dudley Rd
Winson Green
Birmingham
B18 4HB

**INQUEST
Ground Floor
Alexandra National House**
330 Seven Sisters Rd
Finsbury Park
London
N4 2PJ

Campaigns/helps relatives
over deaths in prison.

Death On Remand
28 The Brambles
West Drayton
Middlesex
UB7 7UQ

Prison Watch
24 Rochester Close
Derby
DE24 0HS
Campaigns around deaths in
custody.

RACIST PRISON OFFICERS EXPOSED

This statement was smuggled out of The Mount Jail to the Class War Prisoners Group, to coincide with Prisoners Justice Day this year. (See back page)

"Black prisoners in The Mount Prison in Hemel Hempstead have chosen Prisoners Justice Day to release the names of Senior Officers involved in racism towards prisoners at the jail. Racism is endemic within the prison regime at the Mount, with Governors turning a blind eye while officers, including S.O. Greaves, S.O Clerk, P.O. Bell and officers Crome, Mayba, Ross and Dennison add false comments and allegations to inmates' Wing reports. These comments then ensure that it is far harder for black inmates to progress through the system than for their white counterparts. This can be seen in all areas of the prison regime:

ENHANCED STATUS: Despite the fact that ethnic black prisoners make up about half of the prison population at the Mount, just 7 of the 30 inmates on the 'enhanced' Wing are black, and even they were only moved there after numerous complaints.

HOME LEAVES: Home leave has been granted to several white inmates who have not completed drug or awareness courses. Many black prisoners have completed both courses and have been refused leave.

D-CATEGORY STATUS: While 2 white inmates have been allocated D Cat status after having served just 2 years of 8 year sentences, black prisoners generally have to wait much longer. Some white inmates have been given back their D Cat Status after being thrown out of D Cat jails. The same does not happen to black prisoners.

PAROLE: Again, the comments added to Wing reports make it much less likely that black prisoners will be granted early release on parole.

Black ethnic religion and beliefs are treated with contempt by the prison. For no reason inmates requiring ethnic foods can only order them once every 6 weeks, when previously we could do it every week. Complaints against racist officers result in no action, only in other officers making life even more difficult for those who dare to stand up for their rights by complaining.

It is time something was done. If the Home Office aren't going to do anything, black people are going to put our heads together and do something for ourselves."

Experience tells us the prison authorities & the Home Office will continue to do bugger all and carry on conniving with prejudice. It's vital that prisoners of all colours get together to resist racism from the screws. Only collective, united action, can force change. Watch this space.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Repression in Italy

An ongoing attempt by the police and judiciary to criminalise and intimidate a whole section of the anarchist movement culminated in raids on the houses of over 30 anarchists around the country at the end of last year. The alleged crimes under investigation are involvement in terrorist activity, 'subversive association', possession of weapons and explosives, use of car bombs, as well as armed robbery and even murder for some of these individuals. The jail cells of the four anarchists arrested for armed robbery in 1994 (Jean Weir, Antonio Budini, Carlo Tesseri and Christos Stratigopoulos), and those of the imprisoned comrades Orlando Campo and Marco Camenisch, were also turned over. In the searches the Carabinieri did not find anything, other than addresses, books, leaflets and newspapers. However, they showed particular interest in correspondence with prisoners, which was seized, together with material relating to the activity of the Comitato Difesa Anarchici (the Anarchist Defence Committee), which was formed to provide financial and legal help to imprisoned comrades.

Sparked off by investigations relating to a spate of unsolved kidnappings (which led to the frame-up and conviction among others of the anarchists Barcia and Campo, for respectively life and 22 years), the magistrates' attempt to frame the anarchist movement gained credibility in the person of a supergrass - a young woman who was one a friend of one of the four anarchists arrested in 1994. Claiming in court to have taken part in the robbery for which the four had been convicted, as well as a previous unsolved robbery, and implicating a further three comrades in the latter, the young woman managed to land further hefty prison sentences on the four expropriators. She also provided a useful mouthpiece by which the police could implicate many of those groups and individuals that over the years had been a thorn in the side of the state,

in a phantom 'armed organisation'. At the same time adequate scapegoats were created for various unsolved crimes which, being in the public eye, had provided embarrassment to the powers that be. Though demonstrating the inadequacy of the magistrates' job of indoctrination, by spouting a succession of 'Don't Knows', incoherences and absurdities in court, the word of the 'Supergrass' was taken to be sufficient proof by the judges, no doubt earning her a state pension, new life and ticket for further collaborations with the judges. The severity of the charges has guaranteed the isolation of the anarchist movement and a climate of general silence in the face of the frame-ups in progress. At the same time, however, anarchists have not remained inactive in the face of this latest repressive project. As well as producing various publications, leaflets and flyposters attracting attention to the frame-up, turning up at trials, organising demonstrations in solidarity with the comrades in prison or under investigation, and fundraising activities in order to support the activities of the CDA, the fightback has also included the occupation of the Rome headquarters of the daily paper *il Manifesto* among other direct actions. Demonstrations of international solidarity have included the picketing of the Italian consulate in Athens...Further actions of this sort are needed, not only in solidarity with the comrades under attack and in order to prevent the liquidation of the most combative section of the anarchist movement in Italy, but also in light of the fact that a success of the magistrates in this battle could only lead to further attacks and further defeats for the movement. "As we can see, if the aim of the magistrates was to silence us, they got it all wrong."

**The Comitato Difesa Anarchici,
c/o Laboratorio Anarchico, via Fossano 28,
12100 Cuneo, Italy.
or c/o El Paso, via Buole 47,
10127 Torino, Italy.**

ITALIAN ANARCHIST PRISONERS

Edoardo Massari, Casa Circondiale, corso Vercelli 165, 10015 Iurea (TO). Serving a year and 8 months for alleged possession of explosives. Also must serve another 7 months for "outrage to the national flag".

Marco Camenisch, via Sforzesca 49, 28100 Novara. 12 years in Italy for attempted murder (as a result of a shootout with police before his arrest), possession of explosives and weapons and explosive attacks against electricity pylons and TV signal repeaters. In the early eighties escaped from prison in Switzerland where he was serving a 10 year sentence for a dynamite attack against a hydroelectric plant. During the escape a guard was mortally wounded. Marco is now fighting extradition to Switzerland as well as protesting against the gulag-like conditions of Novara prison.

Antonio Budini, via Pilati 6, 38100 Trento.

Jean Weir, via Camporagno 40, 20090 Opera (MI).

Carlo Tesseri, via Leopardi 2, Fossombrone (PS).

Christos Stratigopoulos, via Sforzesca 49, 28100 Novara.

All long term anarchists serving 3 years and 4 months (Four years for Carlo) for a bank robbery which occurred in 1994. They received an additional 6 years and 6 months (7 years for Carlo) for another alleged bank robbery, as part of the frame-up detailed above.

Horst Fantazzini, c/o Carcere San Michele, 15040 Alessandria. Prison activist. Accused of a prolonged series of robberies, he has been in prison since 1967. Various more or less successful escape attempts as well as his bitter struggles and resistance to prison conditions, has led to him being hit with many further charges since then. Horst has been condemned to a further four years recently as a result of a bank robbery he allegedly committed during a year of freedom he gained in 1990 after not returning at the end of some home leave.

Franco Florina, c/o Carcere San Michele (see above). A libertarian communist, Franco was arrested in 1983 after a shoot out with police. He is accused of having held a position in the COLP: Organised Communists for the Liberation of the Proletariat.

Orlando Campo, via delle Macchie 9, 57100 Livorno. Anarchist activist. Orlando has been accused of participating in the kidnap and eventual murder of the wife of a wealthy Italian businessman in 1990. Despite the absolute lack of evidence supporting the prosecution's case, Orlando was sentenced to 22 years. Orlando and his co-defendants have always maintained their complete innocence of the charges. His sentence has been seen as the opening blow of the attempted frame-up of Italian anarchists.

On January 30, 1996, George Skatzes (pronounced like "Skates") was sentenced to death for the murders of two prisoners

during the 11-day uprising back in April 1993 at the maximum security Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio.

(As we reported in the last issue of Taking Liberties) George acted as a peacekeeper and spokesman for prisoners during the uprising. Many prisoners credit George with saving their lives during the riot. Former hostage guard Jeffrey Ratcliff asked the jurors to spare George's life, stating under oath that George helped protect two guards and even released a third guard who was badly injured. Ratcliff went on to say that he wouldn't be alive today if not for George. Surely the death toll from the uprising would have been much higher, if not for George.

He's been sentenced to death because he refused to cooperate (snitch) with prison officials, who promised not to prosecute him if he would "cooperate". George became the target of the investigation because he had the courage to come forward and help negotiate a peaceful end to the uprising. As a spokesman, he became a symbol and a target. The prisoners who actually committed the murders that George has been sentenced to death for haven't been charged with any crimes, or were given lenient sentences in exchange for their testimony against George.

Is that how justice works? The real killers get off the hook by blaming someone else? They admitted that they killed the prisoners but that George gave the order. These low-lives would say anything to avoid the death penalty!

Assistant Franklin County prosecutor Dan Hogan stated, "Hopefully we've sent

a message to any other inmates who might ever consider doing anything like this again." Yes, they intend to execute

George to send us a message. But the message is: You can kill guards and prisoners during a riot and blame someone else for it afterwards - and the state will help protect you! Another message the state sends us with this verdict is: Don't get involved; don't step forward and try to stop the killings. Step

aside and let it happen, otherwise you become a symbol and a target for state prosecution. That's the real message and justice was not served in the death penalty verdict George received. He's 49 years old and sitting on death row, waiting for his appeals to run out and an execution date to be set.

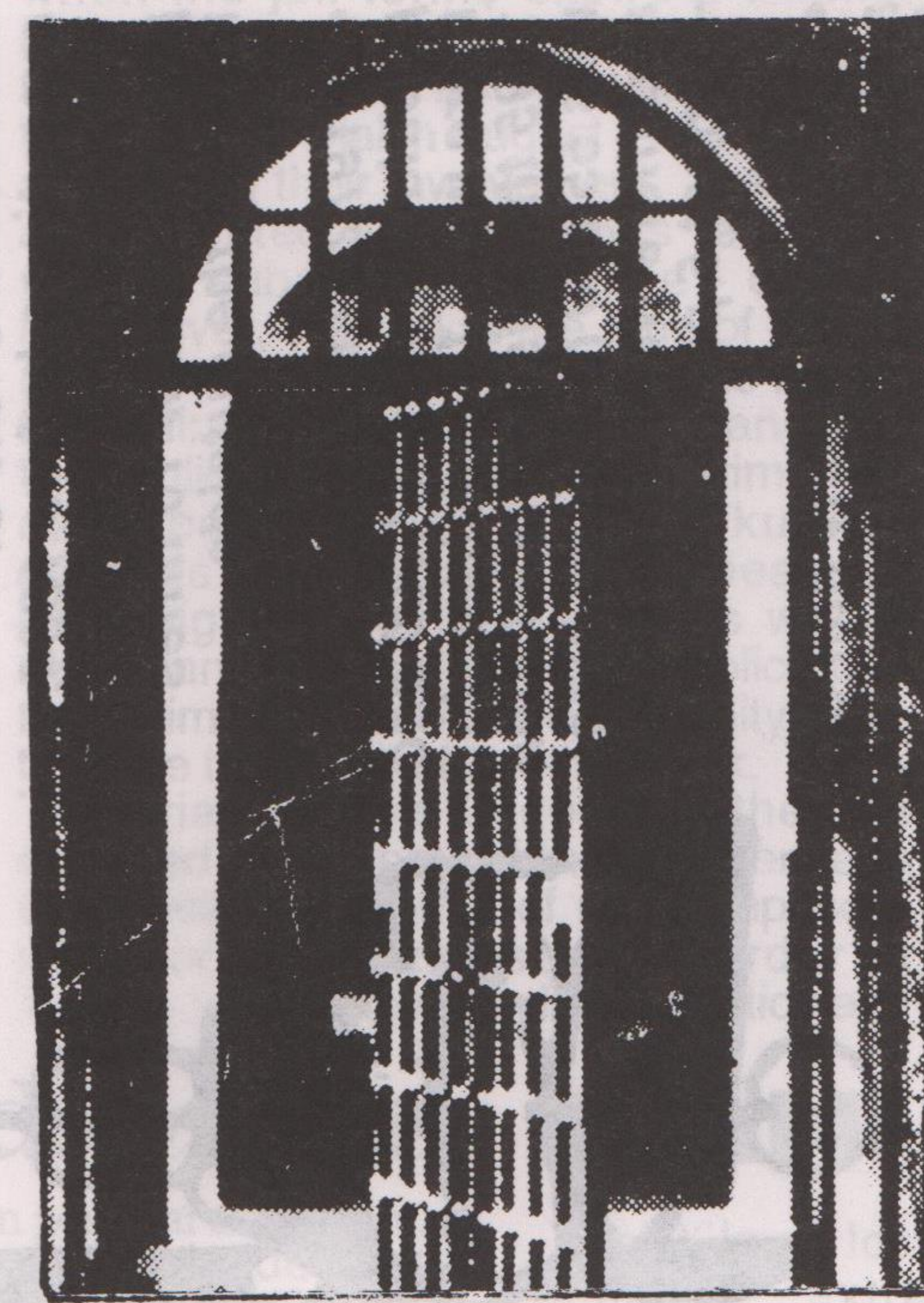
The truth has to come out. We can't allow George to die as a symbol to send us a "message". I have known him for many years and he's a good solid convict who's always willing to help someone else. Everyone who knows George agrees that he's innocent of these charges.

This is a desperate plea to support an innocent man. His sister has agreed to help form an outside support group and a defence committee for her brother. Anyone interested in making a financial contribution to his defence fund, or would like to help organise support for George or wants more information about this case, contact: Mrs. Jackie Bowers, P.O. BOX 1591, MARION, OHIO 43301-1591, U.S.A.

Please send George your encouragement and solidarity:

**George Skatzes, CCI#173-501,
PO BOX 5500, CHILICOTHE, OHIO
45601, U.S.A.**

MORE ITALIAN RAIDS... On the night of 16/17 September, Italian cops raided 50 houses in the anarchist scene, nicking 20 people. They, and 9 people already in custody, have been charged with membership of a subversive organisation and "bombings directed against persons". The partners of Jean Weir and Antonio Budini were among those lifted. Many were involved in solidarity work around upcoming trials for the bank robberies (see above). More info as we get it.



CZECH ANTI FASCIST ARRESTED FOR MURDER

On the 20th of March, a young anti-fascist, Pavel Kroupa, was travelling by bus with his brother from Prague to Mlada Boleslav. On the bus were 5 fascists who started threatening Pavel, saying "you'll never get off this bus alive". At the end of the journey when Pavel got off the bus the fascists were waiting for him, one with a knife, another with a knuckle duster. A fight started and in self defence, Pavel killed one of the fascists with a knife. Pavel was later arrested and accused of murder.

Pavel's supporters are raising money to pay for a good lawyer to get him released from prison and cleared of the murder charge. Please send donations and ask for more information from: Ivana Vranova, Bohunicka 19, 600 00 Brno, Czech Republic.

or Tel: 09425/339895 (ask for Borek)

Send letters of support to:
**Pavel Kroupa 4.3.1977, Veznice
Vazba, Straz Pod Ralskem, 47127,
Czech Republic**

ANTI-NUCLEAR PRISONERS

Bosco Boscovitch and Maya Catts, Pacific Popular Front activists, are currently inside for setting fire to the French consulate in Perth, Australia in protest over French nuclear testing in the Pacific last summer. Bosco, who got 3 years, is eligible for parole around August 96. Until then he can be contacted:

Bosco Boscovitch, c/o Woorroo Prison, Locked Bag 100, Lynley Valley, WA 6556, Australia

Maya Catts appealed against her sentence and had it doubled! Maya Catts, c/o 100 Middle Swan Road, Guildford, WA 6055, Australia.

FAIRLEA EXCITING

On 19th of May, over a thousand people converged on Fairlea Prison in Victoria, Australia to celebrate its imminent closure only 4 years after it opened and to protest against the institutionalised abuse carried out behind its walls. However the bad news is that Fairlea will be replaced with Victoria's first private prison at Deer Park (built on a site that is a contaminated rocket fuel testing area) which will be run by a subsidiary of the worlds largest private prison corporation - Corrections Corporation of America. There will be no purpose built detox centre and no 24 hour medical facility or supervision. Instead there will be 24 hour video and audio surveillance, 24 hour lighting and women will be forced to shower in full

view of security cameras. It's still very unclear as to whether women can have their children with them and what services will be provided. The right are crying out for private prisons, the left think they should be government run. We say fuck them both! Abolish all prisons!

INSIDE DOWN UNDER

ADELAIDE PRISONERS GET TOUGH

Yatala prison in South Australia erupted when about 30 prisoners took 4 screws hostage in a 12 hour stand off over preferential treatment given to protective prisoners (ex-police, informers and paedophiles). Previous sit-ins and protests had resulted in beatings from the screws. With nothing to lose, they threatened to burn down the prison if the police 'heavy squad' moved in. After their demands were read out over South Australian TV they all emerged from the prisons. It remains to be seen how the screws and prison administration will clamp down on supposed 'ringleaders' and the general prison population over this latest fight.

LEE PEARCE

Lee Pearce has already served four and a half years of a six year sentence in a Queensland prison. As he has maintained his innocence

throughout, he has been refused all remission and been told that unless he signs a written statement admitting his guilt he'll serve the full 6 years. Lee is currently writing a book called 'Sunshine State Justice' about the vicious Queensland prison system and his experience of incarceration.

He desperately needs funds/materials to keep writing & an interested publisher. If you can assist Lee in any way, your support would be greatly appreciated. Write to: Lee Pearce, Borralion Corr. Centre, PO Box 4305, Ipswich, QLD 4305, Australia

ANOTHER INTRACTABLE KILLED

Vincent Crupi was jailed for making death threats against the premier of Victoria, Jeff Kennett. While in Pentridge prison he was shoved in isolation in an attempt to break his spirit. After he wouldn't give in to screws he was transferred to Barwon prison. There, whilst in a straight-jacket he suffered a fatal heart attack in a scuffle with the screws. An internal inquiry has been called, which as usual will no doubt clear the screws of any wrongdoing.

Info taken from the Australian Anarchist Black Cross Bulletin no 2. Contact Melbourne ABC, Po Box 145, Moreland, Victoria, Australia 3058, or Brisbane ABC, PO Box 558, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4101. email: abc@exchange.apana.org.au