

**Newsletter of the Break The Chains prisoner-support collective.**  
**Issue #14, Winter-Spring, 2002-2003. Write to us at: Break The Chains, PO Box 11331,**  
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### ***The Inseparable Earth and Animal Liberation Movements - By Craig Marshall***

My intent for writing this brief article is to explain what I feel is the inseparability of the animal and earth liberation movements. I would like to think that the connection between these movements and the struggle against an ever increasingly technological society would also be painfully obvious, but I fear this is not for so many.

No matter how many animals are rescued; no matter how many trees are saved; if the current technological state progresses or even carries on at the rate it is currently destroying the ecosystems all life depends on, life on this planet is doomed. Civilization as we know it depends on the domination and exploitation of every type of "resource" (whether living or habitat for the living) and can not exist without such exploitation. Humans were once mostly nomadic, with few exceptions, only settling into permanent villages as plants and animals were domesticated. The exploitation of these life forms allowed the populations of these beginnings of civilization to increase which in turn called for the "need" to further exploit the plant and animal populations and the ecosystems which these life forms need to survive.

Flash 10,000 years into the future...today. There are very few places on earth where humans have not tried to and for the most part succeeded in forming some dominating relationship over the life forms which dwell there. The vast majority of the so-called civilized world has been scarred and/or covered over with concrete. The current rule of existence rivals that of the dinosaurs, while saving a particular grove of trees or all the hostages of a particular farm is a noble cause, it is like trying to use a band aid on a fucking chest wound.

If we could save every animal in the world from suffering in factory farms and labs, in the long run, what good would it do if there was no wild places left to free them into? Conversely, what would be the point of protecting the last wild spaces if the animals were all domesticated - their wild spirits broken? These struggles are inseparable. All the different aspects of civilization conspire against all that is wild. It is the totality of it - not just one element, that dooms life...that is, if we allow it to continue unabated.

Our struggles can not ever hope to be effective as long as we each only focus on one aspect of the dis-ease of civilization. We must attack the totality of it every single day. We must be relentless in our struggle - for civilization is ever progressing on its death march and we can not allow it to continue to trample over every existing life form. We must challenge the assumptions that are integral to the everyday existence of industrial society. We must attack the hubs of the wheel of oppression. The majority of people fighting for the liberation of one life form unknowingly or unthinkingly support the oppression of many others everyday. No? Well then its safe to assume you don't use electricity? I do realize there are necessary evils if we want to be effective in our struggles, such as the use of petro-fuels in igniting huge bonfires in which we can watch corporations go bankrupt, but we must be aware of the negative impacts our actions (and tools) have on ecosystems (both local and distant). I hope I don't sound as if I'm condemning these activities - by all means, burn the fuckers to the ground - just be aware. We can not carry on with our lives in the manner those who condone civilization (and its inherent destructiveness) have taught us and ever expect to end any form of domination. Civilization from its inception has been rooted in domination - it's dependent on it for its continued survival.

We can continue to debate each other about which beings' oppression is most valid to fight against, or maybe we should realize single issue politics feed into the divide and conquer of our movement(s). Each of us must face the totality and decide whether we want to continue to strike at the fingers of the beast that has all life in a chokehold, or if we need to, strike at the head. Don't get me wrong - biting off one of these fingers is never a bad thing, but unless it is part of a larger strategy it is not going to put an end to the human domination of animals and nature.

We will never succeed in convincing corporate interests to stop the exploitation of animals and the earth - it is against their "nature." We want to protect life at all costs; they want to protect a way of life no matter what the cost. Their job is to make as much money as possible regardless of the suffering. Our job is to put the bastards out of business because of the suffering.

# Editorial

This winter we have been working hard on a variety of projects – all of which are continuations of past projects. We have a variety of new participants, but hope to have even more in the near future – especially as we go into high gear for the conference in August (changed from its original date in June) of 2003. We are still learning, however, how to work with new folks and make new voices heard.

As stated in the last issue, much of our work this winter was dedicated to facilitating relationships with women at the Coffee Creek Penitentiary in Oregon.

Included in this work was the creation, with Portland's APLAN, of the **Radical Women's Correspondence** project and of the **Women's Corner** of the Break the Chains Newsletter. The Women's Corner will always be the centerfold of the Break the Chains Newsletter – watch for it!

Robert Thaxton and Brian McCarvill, two anarchists in Oregon's Prisons were recently thrown in the hole for four months after receiving misconduct reports for "Unauthorized Organization" (see Rob's article "Watch Your Back!" for more info). So, rather surprisingly, much of the prison activism energy in Oregon this winter went to supporting our two comrades wrongfully thrown in the hole. In addition, we continued work in support of the Children of the River: a campaign in support of three of Oregon's prisoners who were recently given additional prison time for participating in a jailhouse riot aimed at winning better educational programs for all prisoners and religious rights for Native prisoners. We also continue to work actively for Jeffrey "Free" Luers and Craig "Critter" Marshall – both of whom we have produced zines by, for and about (see the section on publications).

In late November 2002 we hosted a forum on liberation with Derrick Jenson and Rod Coronado – an event which was a fundraiser for both the Break the Chains Collective and the Green Anarchy Collective. In January of 2003 we brought out two ex-political prisoners and freedom fighters: Ed Mead (ex-member of the George Jackson Brigade) and Splitting the Sky (Attica Survivor and Native Activist) for a sort of mini-west coast tour. We appreciate the time and energy of all of our speaking guests – all of whom have offered us invaluable insight and inspiration. These events have all been in preparation for the Break The Chains conference in August of 2003. So, again, if you're planning to come through the Eugene or if you'd like to help us prepare for this conference, or you'd like to help prisoners in the Northwest, be sure to get in touch with us.

Lily, BTC.

## Break The Chains needs your support!

Break The Chains collective provides the much needed service of legal, material, monetary, and interpersonal support to political prisoners in the Northwest and abroad. Your contributions continue to make the difference in our ability to organize to ensure long term prisoner support, which is an essential part of sustaining a resistance movement.

Break The Chains is a radical organization that believes that change must come from the bottom up. Unlike liberals, we cannot count on the government for support: we rely solely on the generosity of the community to sustain our efforts.

With your ongoing support, we will continue to be there providing the necessary support for political prisoners, conscious social prisoners, and to comrades on the outside facing time for taking action against an increasingly repressive state. In addition to supporting prisoners and those facing time, we strive to educate the community about the prison-industrial-complex and the hierarchal and oppressive foundations on which it has been built, and we ally ourselves with affected groups because this repression can only be successfully fought when we stand together.

With your generous contribution of \$25 or more we will provide you with a free one year subscription to our quarterly newsletter, *Break The Chains*, and we will send you other important materials that we produce.

## Pledge to support the Break The Chains collective:

Let us thank for your generous ( ) monthly or ( ) yearly pledge of: ( )\$25 ( )\$50 ( )\$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Donations to the Break The Chains collective will go to covering postage and copying costs for producing our newsletter and sending literature to prisoners, paying rent for our office and buying office supplies, towards planning and publicizing events, and financially assisting comrades facing state repression.*

## Pledge to support the prisoner of your choice:

**Jeffrey "Free" Luers** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( ) One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Eco-defense prisoner serving an outlandish 22+year sentence for setting fire to SUV's to protest the destruction of the environment. Free has an appeal coming up and he's in desperate need of funds.*

**Craig "Critter" Marshall** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( ) One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Eco-defense prisoner serving a 5+year sentence for setting fire to SUV's to protest the destruction of the environment. Critter is being sued by a corporate car-dealership and he needs financial support to pay fines, to have his material needs met while he's incarcerated, and so that he may leave prison and enter society with some level of financial security.*

**Brian McCarvill** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Brian is serving an absurd 30+year sentence related to a custody battle and a violent altercation with the Child Service's Department. He's a dedicated prisoner rights activist involved in a lawsuit against the Oregon*

Department of Corrections for mail censorship and his in need of financial assistance to pursue this effort.

**Tewahnee Sahme** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

American Indian prisoner serving a lengthy sentence under Measure 11 "mandatory-minimums" guidelines for being an accomplice to an armed robbery. This was his first offense and he should not have been punished like this. Tewahnee has been highly active in the struggle to defend the rights of Indian peoples in Oregon prisons. He needs your financial assistance to continue his efforts fighting for Native rights behind bars, to pay off fines stemming from his participation in a prison insurrection in February of 2001, and to be able to enter back into society with some level of financial security.

**David "Looks Away" Scalera** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

American Indian prisoner originally incarcerated for a non-violent offense. His sentence was recently lengthened because of his involvement in a prison insurgency in February of 2001. Looks Away has been highly active in the struggle to defend the rights of Indian peoples in Oregon prisons. He needs your financial assistance to continue his efforts fighting for Native rights behind bars, to pay off fines, and to be able to enter back into society with some level of financial security.

**Thomas Tripp** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Anarchist prisoner originally incarcerated for a non-violent offense. His sentence was recently lengthened because of his involvement in a prison insurgency in February of 2001. Thomas has been highly active in the struggle against corruption, racism, and abuse of power in Oregon prisons. Thomas will be released from prison in late Summer, 2003. He REALLY needs your financial assistance to be able to pay off fines, and to be able to enter back into society with some level of financial security.

**Oregon's women prisoners** ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Oregon's female prisoners have many different needs than their male counterparts. Please help support our women fighting back from the inside!

**Other prisoner** \_\_\_\_\_ ( )Yearly ( )Monthly ( )One Time \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: These are only a few of the many prisoners that we support. Contact us for info on others who need support.

### One-time donations:

I am unable to be a regular donor at this time but I would like to be kept informed about your activities. Here is my one time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Intended for \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send checks or well-concealed cash (no money-orders, please) to: **Break The Chains**, PO Box 11331, Eugene OR 97440. Checks can be made out to "Break The Chains." For more info, please write, or email us at [breakthechains02@yahoo.com](mailto:breakthechains02@yahoo.com).

## **ABCN Newsletter Issue #2**

We are excited to announce that the next edition of the Anarchist Black Cross Network publication will be produced by the Break The Chains collective. We are now accepting submissions for the newsletter from anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist prisoners and prison activists - so send us your contributions of poetry, artwork, and articles analyzing the Prison Industrial Complex, how prison relates to and reinforces other forms of oppression (racism, gender oppression, etc.), articles on prisoner-support and prisoner resistance, critiques of contemporary movement trends, and suggestions for how anarchist prisoner-aid groups such as the ABCN can be more effective at supporting prisoners and building a movement to abolish prisons and the deranged society that continues to build them. We are especially interested in hearing from politically conscious and active women prisoners and prison activists, whose voices are all too often underrepresented in our movement. Send contributions to: **Break The Chains**, PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440.

# EUGENE COPWATCH



watching them as  
they're watching you

Contact Eugene Copwatch at:

1430 Willamette #506, Eugene, OR. 97401/

#541-343-8548/eugenecopwatch@yahoo.com/

[www.eugenecopwatch.org](http://www.eugenecopwatch.org)

### Impressive new items from Lawrence ABC

The newsletter of the Lawrence Anarchist Black Cross, *The Abolitionist* is now out. They also just released the Missouri Prisoner Labor Union information and resource packet. *The Abolitionist* is one dollar and the MPLU packet is two dollars. You can send checks, money orders or well concealed cash to: **Lawrence ABC**, PO Box 1483, Lawrence, KS 66044. Checks can be made out to Anarchist Black Cross.

*This issue of Break The Chains is dedicated to Robert "Standing Deer" Wilson and to Nilak Butler.*

## ***On Standing Deer***

Revolutionary, Native American, and former political prisoner **Standing Deer Wilson** was stabbed to death by a man he recently befriended in January 2003. Standing Deer was just released from prison in September 2001 after a 27 year sentence for armed expropriations. He was also known for exposing the plot to kill Leonard Peltier by the US government. To his friends, Standing Deer epitomized kindness, warmth, honesty and revolutionary commitment. He had been working with many young indigenous activists in Houston and Texas, offering his insights and wisdom. His death was senseless, but Standing Deer's spirit will live on. In a post on the Prison News Network list-serve, someone said, "Standing Deer wrote dynamic stories from prison. Sometimes the things he wrote about were frightening in their reality....His spirit will strengthen us from a better place, for he was a good man, loved by many."

## ***On Nilak Butler***

Longtime Native activist Nilak Butler died on December 26, 2002, at the age of 49 from ovarian cancer. Ms. Butler was a member of the Big Mountain speaking tour in the late '80's, which linked the struggles for national liberation for the Indigenous peoples and the Black people of South Africa then living under the racist white apartheid regime. Nilak was a member of the Indigenous Women's Network, and a founding member of the Indigenous Environmental Network, and she spent the last 30 years of her life doing environmental justice work with Indigenous communities. **The following is Leonard Peltier's statement mourning the loss of this wonderful individual.**

### **Leonard Peltier's Tribute**

I am deeply saddened by the news I received regarding the passing of my good friend and sister in the struggle, Nilak Butler. ... Nilak was a strong and courageous woman who was admired



by all those who knew her.

I remember those early days when she took the responsibility of placing herself out in front on many issues seeking to correct the wrongs and gain justice for our people. She fought so hard all her life against these injustices perpetuated against us. Nilak knew the meaning of sacrifice as she always put the needs of the people ahead of her personal needs. Her humor and her dedication will always stand out. She is one of the finest examples of the strength and courage of Native women that I know.

We will all certainly miss her presence in the struggle and miss her as a friend. We must honor her life by picking up where she left off. We must continue this struggle to ensure the future of the coming generations.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,  
Leonard Peltier

The forest defense community has been hit hard over the past few months. Only days before the official victory of the Eagle timber sale cancellation, Beth O'Brien, or "Horehound", tragically fell to her death from a tree-sit. The following is from a April 13th press release by the Cascadia Forest Alliance in Portland: "We are a community shocked and saddened by Beth's tragic death. Years of community efforts, heralded by direct action, have protected the Eagle Creek area thus far. Beth's death came as we were preparing to take down the tree sits upon receipt of a signed legally binding contract canceling the sales...Tree-sitting is a risk taken to protect our remaining native forest from destruction. It is a tragedy that such risks must be taken. While we recognize the dangers inherent in tree-sitting, we take safety seriously. Tree-sitters and tree-climbing trainers are taught the best safety available and constantly stress the importance of conveying safety protocols to others. This tragic accident results because communities must risk their lives to protect their land." Beth spent several years defending ancient forests and was also involved with Food Not Bombs and other community groups. She will be missed and her dedication will never be forgotten.

On May 3, 2002 we lost another beautiful woman. Sadly, Jessiah (aka Jessi) took her own life just a month before her 21st birthday. Jessiah was a long time, dedicated Fall Creeker, spending most of her time living in the trees or in pods. She is remembered as someone that could always make people laugh and get over their drama, telling them to "Get a grip!" Jessiah would have done anything to protect Fall Creek. It was her home. We love you Jessiah, and will miss you greatly and we'll remember you always, especially at Venus.

In yet another tragedy, our friend and fellow warrior, Raven, was shot and killed while fending off a rapist in Mexico last summer. Raven spent time in the trees and the forest at both the Fall Creek and Winberry tree villages and was dedicated to defending these, and all, forests from chainsaws. Raven's death was a shock to everyone. Her spirit is among us.

We would also like to mention other warriors we have lost over the past several months including Sera, Fester, Poet, Captain, and little Mikey; all spent time defending our ancient forests at one time or another. The entire community and all those that got to know these individuals out in the forest are shocked and saddened to lose such great warriors. May all your spirits live on, forever wild.

- From A Tribute to the Warriors We've Lost from Green Canopy newsletter, Winter, 2002 issue.

***If we accept revolution, we must accept all that it implies: repression, counter-terrorism, days filled with work, nervous strain, prison, funerals." - George Jackson***

# An overview of some recent Break the Chains activities

## January 15-25: Splitting the Sky Tour

On January 15, 2003, began the Northwest Speaking Tour for former political prisoner, former American Indian Movement activist, survivor of the Attica massacre, author of the 650 page autobiography *From Attica to Gustafsen Lake*, and longtime revolutionary, John Hill AKA Dacajeweah - Mohawk for Splitting the Sky. From a background of orphanages and boarding schools, Dacajeweah emerged as a principal leader of the Attica rebellion at the age of nineteen, and later became a major figure in the Native sovereignty movement.

The Break The Chains collective became acquainted with Splitting the Sky late last year, when we were introduced via the internet by a mutual friend. Prior to this we hadn't heard of Splitting the Sky. But after doing our research, we found that he is a longtime revolutionary who fights to win. After a series of positive exchanges with him, we decided that we would like to host him for a series of events in Oregon. And later he asked us to arrange a full Northwest speaking tour. Two of the keynote speakers who shared lectures with Splitting the Sky on this tour - former political prisoners of the George Jackson Brigades, Mark Cook & Ed Mead - came together in Seattle 30 years ago for a prisoner-support convention called "Con-vention."

This tour - which covered Seattle, Portland, Eugene, Ashland, and San Francisco - was very successful and members of Break The Chains have written a highly in-depth report on this tour and the issues that were addressed on the course of this tour, which is available from us free of cost upon request. Sections of this report will likely appear in *Green Anarchy* magazine and other movement publications.

Reprinted below is excerpts from a short speech recently given by Splitting the Sky at a February 15 anti-war march in Kamloops Canada:

.....At any moment the US, Great Britain and Israel will conduct a massive bombing raid on Iraq to the tune of over 800 cruise missiles laced with depleted uranium in just one day alone. This bombing will be the equivalent of all the bombs the US dropped in the first massacre in Iraq in 1990. According to Dr. Helen Caldicott these serial killers have been responsible for four atomic wars, the first in Hiroshima/Nagasaki in 1942, the second in Iraq in 1990, the third in Afghanistan in 2001 and the fourth in Iraq any day now.

Depleted Uranium. What is it? It's a waste product that arises during the production of enriched uranium for nuclear weapons and reactors. It has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years. This means that the cities, battlefields, and locations where depleted uranium is used will be radioactive and remain radioactive for the next 4.5 billion years. That's twice as long as the entire evolution of life on Earth.

Depleted uranium is extremely dense; that's what makes it capable of slicing into heavily armored vehicles. That's why the American military likes it.

In the Gulf War, in 1991, the US army fired off a million rounds of depleted uranium, totaling 300 tons.

In Baghdad, where they thought they were attacking a secret bunker, they sliced into it with a depleted uranium bomb and incinerated 800 women and children who were hiding in a shelter.

Along the "highway of death", outside Basra, in southern Iraq, they incinerated every tank, every soldier. 70% of the uranium burns on impact, turning into a fine ceramic dust of depleted uranium oxide particles which gets blown on the wind, and washed into the groundwater.

In the Basra region, there has been a 100-fold increase in uranium in the groundwater.

And then there's the birth defects: Children born with fingers missing. Legs missing. Parts of their face missing. Their eyes missing. Grossly deformed skulls. Enormous distended bellies. No hands. No genitals. No skin over their bellies. Open holes in their backs. Children born whose bodies are beyond words, in their pitiful awfulness.

There has been a 10-fold increase in such birth defects in the Basra region since 1988.

Officially the United States lost around 300 soldiers as a result of direct combat with the Iraqi's but lost over 6,000 soldiers to the Gulf War Syndrome from depleted uranium.

Why is the US and Great Britain using this depleted uranium you ask? Because of our unceasing hunger for oil, and the pipeline intended to take the edge off it, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC). This

pipeline will transform Ceyhan and its sleepy seaside environment into one of the most significant petroleum outposts in the world. The marine terminal's manager, Gurhan Unal, estimates that the Caspian, Iraqi, and Turkish crude oil coming this way will amount to an annual throughput of nearly a billion barrels. Dozens of tankers will line up each week to drink from the new spigot.

BTC will own the newly expanded portion of the BOTAS terminal, with British Petroleum holding the largest share and essentially governing the operation. The other partners are a mix of state-owned and private oil companies with stakes in Azerbaijan's offshore reserves: Conoco-Phillips, Amerada Hess, Total Fina Elf, Socar, Statoil, Unocal, Turkish TPAO, Agip, Itochu, INPEX. Lashed together, this raft of players will move their construction teams north from Ceyhan and south from Baku, threading the pipeline through treacherous terrain.

Other key oil consortiums that stand to reap unprecedented profits from the blood of a million plus people include Exxon, Chevron, Shell, Mobil, Gulf, Amoco, Arco and others. With the current tax increase or systemic gouging on gas we would do well to join Green Peace in an unprecedented boycott of all petroleum cartels worldwide.

Let us not forget the 4,000 tons of opium that the Bush family controls coming out of Afghanistan at the cost of thousands of Afghanistan civilians.

The sad part about this tragedy is that the taxpayers of the world will foot the bill for these pipelines to the tune of billions of dollars and will be involuntarily complicit in genocide of the Iraqi people today, and the Iranian and Korean people tomorrow.

It is therefore our moral imperative to arrest these rouge super-powers by any and all means necessary least we



become candidates for collateral damage under suspicious circumstances, especially in light of the suspension of civil liberties and unbridled electronic surveillance by the US Injustice department and its unlawful enforcement agents, under the Patriot Act 1 and the soon to be legislatively passed Domestic Security Enhancement Act Of 2003.

Herman Goring once admitted to setting the fire at the German Reichstag to justify the suspension of the German people's civil liberties under the Enabling Act of 1933. This allowed the German SS to knock down doors of the civilian population and seize all weapons and resistance was met with assassinations.

In a very eerie way the massacre at the twin towers in New York City bares a strong resemblance the Nazi burning of the German Reichstag along with orchestrated fascist atrocities perpetuated by US CIA operatives at the Gulf of Tonkin, which opened the door for all of Vietnam's oil, tin and rubber reserves, Pearl Harbor, to secure Japan as a military client outpost, the Oklahoma bombing, to secure passage of Clintons anti-terrorist bill of 1996 in Congress. The same applies to the USS Cole, Bali bombing and many more anticipated dirty bombings by these wicked and vile politicians like George Bush, Rudy Gulianni, Henry Kissinger, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick (Lou) Cheney, Colin (cancer) Powell, and countless others.

We must not be fooled by these types of operations and remember what happened to President John F. Kennedy when he refused to sign off on a military operational plan known as "Operation Northwoods". This CIA directed operation proposed to blow a US passenger airplane filled with US citizens and blame it on Castro to justify the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. Kennedy refused and had his head blown off for it.

If they can kill a US president without conscience and virtually with impunity you must realize what they can do to us. We are living in extremely dangerous times and it is essential that we consolidate our efforts to hold these ruthless warmongers accountable to our children's future on this sacred planet.

Canada, unknown to most, has already delivered its military special forces the Joint Task Force 2, to the sovereign country of Iraq, as they have sent them to Oka, Gustafson Lake, Quebec City, Kananaskas Alberta, Somalia and many other operations which violate UN charters on the use of military forces in international warfare. The JTF2 committed atrocious killings against young Somalian boys looking for food and water in their camp wherein the Chretien/General DeChasterlaine government moved to shut down the Somalian Inquiry according to former military general Dan Loomis.

As we speak the Joint Task Force Two along with the US Navy Seals and British SAS have penetrated Iraqi borders and are painting infrared lasers on military and civilian targets within Baghdad, Basra and other regions which allow NATO jets to deliver so called smart bombs and the previously mentioned 800 cruise missiles laced with depleted uranium to commit a genocidal slaughter on the Iraqi people, leaving another 10 million people scattered as refugees throughout the mid-east.

We must never forget that it was Canada's uranium that was used in the atomic bombs which incinerated a hundred thousand women children and babies in Japan at the behest of President Harry Truman who till the day he died refused to apologize for this horrific war crime.

We as a people must demand that Canada, Israel, the US and Great Britain cease and desist in the plundering of sovereign resources of sovereign peoples worldwide and at home "for these wars of attrition would constitute an illegal, aggressive war, an act condemned by the Nuremberg

Tribunal as "the supreme international crime", according to Lawyers Against the War who have sternly warned the Chretien government to withdraw bilateral support for these unilateral war crimes.

If the US defense department has to justify its multi-trillion dollar contracts between Bin Laden Inc. (who does preferred business with George Bush Sr.'s defense contracting firm the Carlye Group) and Martin Marrietta, TXR, Lockheed Martin, McDonald Douglas, Hughes, Boeing and numerous others that manufacture weapons of mass destruction, then let them bomb the hell out of each other along with the rest of the oligarchic plutocracies of the world.

Last of all, more than anything else, we must continue to raise our voices against these atrocities without fear of offending the global corporate masters and their political henchmen like George Bush who threaten us with reprisals for decent. To hell with George Bush and all his Nazi cohorts. We must not be intimidated by the current reign of terror the Bush government has released on the Arab American people in the form of illegal detention, suspected torture, murder and deportation. What the Ashcroft injustice department is doing is in effect state sanction death squad tactics like those deployed in Central and South America by the CIA with financial aid by the US Congress.

We must resist this totalitarian police state and bring them to their knees before they exercise military operation against our homes and personal liberties.

We must cry out with one united voice with the estimated ten million people protesting the oncoming murder called war worldwide:

**- NO BLOOD FOR OIL!**

**- NO WAR IN IRAQ!**

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## **Overview of recent Break The Chains activities continued...**

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### **1/10/03: Prisoner-Support Activists Confront ODOC Talking Head**

On January 10th, some folks from Break The Chains, along with some folks from Portland's Anarchist Legal Aid Network attended (or shall we say, bombarded?) a small forum on Prison Growth, hosted by the U of O law school. Included on this panel were a variety of bureaucrats and academics from around Oregon and California, as well as Brigitte Sarabi of the Western Prison Project and Ben DeHaad "acting director" of Oregon's Department of Corrections. Our main objective was to grill Mr. DeHaad him about the recent treatment of prisoners Brian McCarvill and Robert Thaxton. McCarvill and Thaxton are currently spending four months in the hole for "forming an organization." In actuality, this punishment is in response to a post card campaign initiated by Rob and Brian (with the help of APLAN) to protest the DOC classification of anarchists as a gang, and therefore not allowing any literature containing anarchist symbols (such as the circled A) inside prison walls. After the forum and during the question and answer period, folks from APLAN disrupted things and demanded to know why these comrades are in the hole for receiving post cards! Things calmed down relatively quickly but not without causing a little bit of a scene first! Because of this bold action, we seemingly inspired others in attendance to ask the panelists questions pertaining to political prisoners, DOC



# ***New Year's Statement of Political Prisoner Richard Williams***

Greetings! Here's an update on my situation: I'm still in solitary (administrative segregation). On 9/11/01 I was locked down and let out 2/12/02. Then on 4/30/02 I was locked down again, so it's been 8 months on this stretch of my persecution for Sept. 11. I was told by a high official that my being let out in February was a mistake, that I should not have been let out. I'm one of their highest profile prisoners, so that's a little hard to believe. It was an article written in a local paper and letters written by most of you people that did it. And I believe it was the bust of my lawyer, Lynne Stewart, in April that led to my second lock-down. Most transfers take about 6 months. Disciplinary transfers take up to 18 months. I was put in for a transfer 14 months ago, so it seems obvious what kind I am, though they won't admit it. Still scheduled to go to ADX Florence, or Marion as affirmed by the denial of my appeal in Washington D.C. I am proceeding to take this to district court. Not that there is much hope for me there, but to embarrass these people as they squirm on the stand to avoid admitting that this is political suppression. The heat was finally turned on Oct. 31, but later turned down to half to save money, so it's cold in here most nights. The warden complains about spending a million dollars in water bills, though half the cells leak for want of acorn washers that they don't have. This has been going on since I've been here. You would think that they'd just order some, instead they cut the heat and half the time don't have supplies such as toilet paper, writing paper, pens and cleaning supplies for the cells. All things we depend on from them, since there is no way we can get them independently.

I was told by a deputy captain (a title I've never heard of) that the reason transfers take so long is because all these transfers are costing money that could be spent on tanks and war-planes, and that we are the 'enemy' by our conduct. Yes, he got an earful and I proposed he let me out then, since I didn't earn my status by any bad conduct on my part. A progress report was done on me, that they do to everyone every six months, and it was recommended that I participate in programs, work at UNICOR and put a portion of my money away for my release. Seeing as how I'm never getting out and, will never work for UNICOR, their conclusions must be for a different Richard Williams and there has been a mix-up. Not unusual. They welded the lights in the cells closed, so when they blow out the cells have no light. That's happened half a dozen times, and they are still putting people in them and can not change the bulbs.

My health is holding up, though my legs swell a lot. Health care is adequate. I was refused a visit because they didn't have a lieutenant to escort me - makes me wonder that if I have a medical emergency that there is no Lt. available, how quick they will be to open the door. There is a sign on my door expressly forbidding the door to be opened without a Lt. and 2 guards. These people are not good at improvising.

Family is just fine. I've gotten a lot of letters from different people supporting me, which is very encouraging. My spirits are holding up. They will not defeat me this way. Thank you for your caring and support, and I wish you a good new year. Down with Bush and his warmongers! No war in our name!

**Write to: Richard Williams 10377-016, 3901 Klein Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436.**



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## ***Revolutionary greetings, folks, this is Richard's son, Netdahe writing now.***

Dad has asked that we all hassle (i.e. write, fax and call) the western region of the B.O.P about the delay in his transfer. His appeals to stay in general population at Lompoc have been denied, and he has been told his is not a disciplinary transfer, so what gives? If you would, please contact the WRBOP and ask: what's taking so long? Is his transfer disciplinary? If so, what did he do? If not, what's taking so long? Etc...have fun making them feel uncomfortable, I know I do. By the way, the spelling errors are mine, not my dad's. I encourage questions about my dad's case and situation. Chin up, fists up folks!

**Write to: Netdahe Williams Stoddard  
PO Box 160 Johnson VT 05656.**

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**US Bureau of Prisons  
Western Region Office  
7950 Dublin Blvd. 3rd floor  
Dublin, CA 94568.  
Fax: 925-803-4802.**

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## ***Sherman Austin Still Under Attack!***

Raisethefist.com is an anarchist and direct action website that has been under attack by the government. In January, 2002, the website was shut down, the computers were seized, and its founder, Sherman Austin, had his house searched. Then in February, 2002, when Austin protested the World Economic Forum in New York City, he was detained by the Secret Service & FBI and imprisoned for 13 days.

Austin is facing two felony charges for distribution of information relating to explosives on his website and possession of a firearm not registered to his name. His plea bargain was revoked by the judge that heard the case last October. If he is eventually convicted, he could serve three to 20 years in federal prison.

Austin's next trial, originally set for March 15, was recently postponed.

He is encouraging folks to set up benefit shows to get the word out about raisethefist.com and to set up demonstrations outside federal buildings around the country. He is also in need of donations to help with legal expenses.

For more information or to lend support to Austin, visit: <http://www.raisethefist.com>

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## ***Love for humanity means non-stop struggle against imperialism! - Political Prisoner David Gilbert.***

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## New statement from Californian Anti-Fascist/Anarchist Activist & Political Prisoner Matthew "Rampage" Lamont

Dear *Break the Chains*:

I heard you wanted a run down on what's cracking on my case, so here it is. Also with this is part of my police report to give you an idea on what went down. Maybe it would be better to start at the beginning:

The beginning of this year (2002) was pretty much the beginning of the end. While I was chilling in Oregon at their info-shop in Eugene waiting for the Anti-Patriarchy Conference I got word that the home of Sherman Austin, founder of the Raise-the-fist website, had been raided by several agencies. Not too long after this Sherman left to the World Economic Forum in NYC and was arrested. To make a long story short, he was charged with several federal charges including hacking. The pig cops weren't cool with all of the stuff going on in LA. His charges were later dropped. It was around this time that some filthy pigs gunned down a mentally impaired old lady in our hood, Long Beach. You guessed it, she was Black. A flier was distributed depicting a man shooting a pig calling for protest. The media jumped on it, and so did the Justice Department who sent a federal mediator to the local community center currently being run by some anarchist including myself. He was there to keep the city from going up in flames. The local newspaper did an interview with me as well. The basically painted a bulls-eye on my head. After interviewing me they asked to take a picture of me. I declined, but their people are persistent, and so I figured, fuck it. Next day the Long Beach police are running my face up on the "put this man in jail" list. I'll tell you about this later in the story. The protest goes on, peaceful, and relatively successful. Now the bee's nest is rattled and everything starts balling up. Police start harassing us. Towing cars, surveillance, shutting down shows, stupid shit basically. One day two individuals hang a "Off the Pigs" banner from the community center which ended up with pigs surrounding the place and shining their floodlights in the window while standing in the streets trying to video tape the people in the shop. They eventually left. However, with a grudge.

On April 20th four pigs followed me and another dude named Maxwell Lucas. We were pulled over around 9 pm in Whittier by La Habra police. Apparently Long Beach pigs called LAPD while following us and had them check the car for weapons. They ended up pulling us over in the city of Whittier. After finding gasoline, a sponge, and candles the police arrested us on possession of a

destructive device and attempted use of a destructive device. Later charges of transportation of a destructive device and ingredients to make a destructive device, a long with hate crime enhancements were added. The authorities claim I was intending to use the gasoline on a Hitler's birthday party, because of the vicinity of my arrest. The car I was traveling in however had not only passed the "Hitler Birthday Party", but was in another city traveling the opposite direction when I was detained. Further, Hitler's birthday party was cancelled (sorry Adolph) a few days earlier.

Their only evidence has been that I detest Nazis (doesn't practically everyone?) and that I am an anarchist with gasoline. At my first court hearing my bail was set at \$100,000 and as I was going back a friend yelled "thug life!". He got arrested for contempt. Not too long after this Sherman was recharged on federal charges of incendiary device possession and some other garbage, fortunately they left him on the streets instead of in custody. Maxwell Lucas took a plea deal that offered no jail time. After a May Day protest went to the facility I was at, authorities put me in the administrative segregation unit on total separation status. My preliminary hearing was a big joke. The judge fucked off and upped my bail to \$200,000. I've been bound over for trial; the new judge lowered my bail to \$100,000 again. The District Attorney isn't offering anything. We have filed three motions. Dismissal, suppression, and a puncheons (not sure if I spelled that right). Pre-trial hearing for this is December 20th. I hope to beat the case, as I've already got the hate crime dropped. Even if I was alleged of trying to attack Nazis how could you hate crime a hater? Three of the felony charges are specified under a penal code outlawing having a breakable container filled with flammable substances, with a wick attached. I didn't have this at all. The container isn't even breakable. Not surprising, in the police report was a newspaper article that I spoke of earlier about the police brutality protest with a picture of my face ready to be pinned up. This kind of case happens all the time (minus the explosives charges) in the hood. In my cellblock I watch homeboys get shipped off like cattle to prison. For me it was gasoline. Someone else it could have been police framing them with crack, or heat or whatever. Bottom line is we go to prison and they get away with it. Why? Because nobody gives a fuck about young people. Especially young poor people. And even more young poor people of color. Activists don't even care about

political prisoners unless they can buy their bumper sticker (how long did it take Mumia to get mass support?). But we are still here. Boiling in anger. Getting stronger and smarter to come back at their punk system.

If anyone wants to donate money, I strongly need it. Daryl Cherney, where are you? You just won some millions from these Feds on that Earth First! Lawsuit. Kick me some bread and I guarantee you'll make the pigs hate you more. I'm young I can cause hell for a longtime. Consider it an investment. Bail me out and I'll get 187 FBI tattooed on my ass. For donations send checks, money orders, and well-concealed cash to:

Shannon Rice  
VCSC, College Ten, #0303  
600 McLaughlin Dr.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

If you have any questions or just want to send support I'm at:

Matthew Lamont  
#2057034  
IRC, 550 N. Flower St.,  
Santa Ana, CA 92703.

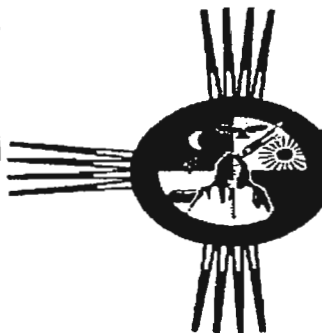
*(Break the Chains note: Also included with this letter were 15 emails from various people that were included in the affidavit pertaining to Lamont's case. All of these people are under surveillance by the Long Beach and LA authorities. Unfortunately, some of these people seem to like to chat it up about committing crimes. Fortunately, Lamont was not one of them. The authorities are apparently trying to use these emails as probable cause against Lamont. But Lamont did not take part in, nor was he even mentioned in, any of these email exchanges. The LB/LA authorities claim that these emails come from members of the "Southern California Anarchist Alliance". However, in reality, the emails were taking place on an LB info-shop list-serve. For copies of the emails that were contained in the affidavit, send \$2 to Break the Chains).*

## ***Defend the REACH Center! Defend the Long Beach Resistance!***

In attempt to shut down the Long Beach REACH Center, Long Beach Police contacted the leasing company, Crestwave, and threatened to take legal action against them if the REACH Center was not shut down. The notice came on January 2nd, 2003, from Crestwave when they called the REACH Center, stating the LBPD called them regarding a concert benefit for Raise the Fist. The police reportedly told Crestwave when they came to the show with a noise complaint someone tried to assault them and the door was slammed in their face. *This is a lie.* Police officers came to the show with a noise complaint, stating the noise needed to be turned down, then left. There was no confrontation. The situation was dealt with peacefully and respectfully. The noise was turned down, the last two bands were canceled, and the show ended at approximately 8pm, two hours early. If someone tried to assault the police then how come nobody was arrested? The LBPD appear to be disappointed in fact that despite intensified political repression against anarchists in Long Beach, the REACH Center still remains open. There has been a continuous effort by Long Beach Police, FBI and INS to repress political descent, particularly that of the anarchist movement in Long Beach. Police are now actively trying to shut down the center - the only anarchist community space in Long Beach. The REACH (Revolutionary Empowerment and Community Help) Center is an anarchist space that seeks to empower the community of Long Beach by providing an open community space for meetings, political events, programs such as Food Not Bombs, Cop Watch, and books and information otherwise not readily available to the community.

### **KEEP THE REACH CENTER OPEN! STOP POLITICAL REPRESSION NOW!**

For more info, contact the **REACH Center**, 684 Redondo, Long Beach, CA. 90814. Call #562-434-6934. And visit the following website: [www.StopLbRepression.org](http://www.StopLbRepression.org)



# **NAPS**

## **NATIVE AMERICAN PRISONER SUPPORT**

**Address:** General Delivery  
Shawnigan Lake, B.C.  
CANADA V0R 2W0  
**E-mail:** [naps\\_ca@yahoo.com](mailto:naps_ca@yahoo.com)  
**Ph/Fax:** 1-250-733-2593  
**Website:** <http://www.hri.ca/partners/naps>

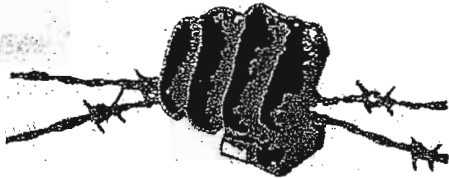
# Views from

## Help Native women with our need for tradition and sacred ceremony.

The pain of the dominant culture's lack of willingness to understand has left us with no place to turn. We do not have a circle. We do not have sweat ceremonies nor drum/dance/powwow or any other type of Native American activities. We need someone who is willing to apply as a spiritual advisor, who would work on the facility grounds. A person who would lead us un ceremony and would be willing to work with DOC. Thank you.

For more information, please write to:

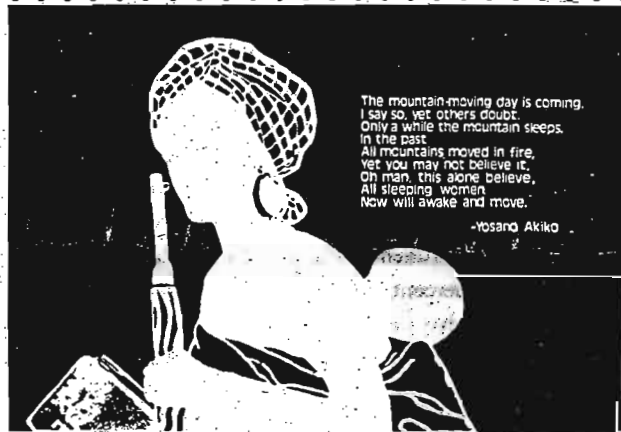
**Mélanie Schmid**  
#5992221  
PO Box 9000  
Wilsonville, OR 97070.



*behind these four walls they can't contain me  
they will never tame me this is nothing  
but earthly illusions I won't be conditioned  
by their delusions they'll never create  
in me an institution because I  
will not succumb to this form of state  
prostitution*

*I FEEL all that they try to keep from me  
I see past this hell so senseless and empty  
my spirit soars past this concrete & razor wire  
like the phoenix rising from the sacred fire  
NO they will never tame me  
I am forever free*

*by Paula Rhodes #13992868, PO  
Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR 97070.*



...Sorry I haven't written sooner. I've been fighting with medical for my heart meds, our main drain from the bathroom was backing up and flooding the dorm with sewage, and tours have started coming in unannounced (again). I finally got my meds, after being withheld them for ten days. They replaced the drain pipe and I got a promise from the minimum manager that tours will be announced from now on. As I am between outrageous neglect, inhuman and degrading conditions I can pause for a minute to write.

I am weary. This place is slowly grinding me down. We have to fight for everything, even food and necessary medical attention. The dentists here no longer do fillings for cavities. They only do extractions. If you have a cavity they ignore you unless you are in intense pain for over a week or more, then they call you in and pull the teeth. Frontier Dentistry at its finest. Fillings cost too much. We have women here with breast cancer who have been told they have to wait until they get out to get surgery or chemotherapy. For many of these women that is two-to-three years of waiting.

Privacy is just a vague, fond memory. The water pools outside our showers, creating a perfect reflecting surface, enabling everyone to see what's showering behind curtain #1 and whether or not she needs a shave. Our bathroom stalls have half walls and half doors. The door area has a large gap, allowing others to view you in your most private moments.

I am so tired of being disgusted and outraged. I also feel like I am the only one fighting some days. These women are so compliant and apathetic. Maybe they feel helpless to change any of it? Maybe they don't really care. They don't complain and they do nothing to change it. I don't understand.

**Laura Jellison-Maca**  
#12404722,  
PO Box 9000,  
Wilsonville, OR 97070.

# Coffee Creek

## The Invisibility of Women Prisoners' Resistance

Although women in prison are under six percent of the nation's prison population, their numbers are increasing more rapidly than those of male prisoners: Between 1990 and 2000, the rate of female incarceration increased 108%. However, male prisoners seldom know about female prisoners while the broader public, if they think about prison issues at all, tends to think about men. In 2000, when I first began researching women prisoners' resistance, I asked the former president of a male prisoner organization, a member of the Missouri Prisoner Labor Union and a male anarchist prisoner what they knew about women prisoners. Their responses showed me that even male inmates struggling against the prison-industrial complex are almost completely unaware of their female counterparts and the issues they face.

Why the cloak of silence around incarcerated women, their issues and their acts of resistance? One woman prisoner, Barrilee Bannister, observed that *"a lot of women believe themselves to be helpless, due to how they were raised, or perhaps abused as a child. I see a lot of women with very low self-esteem/worth."* A study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that over forty-three percent of women prisoners, as opposed to twelve percent of male prisoners, had been physically or sexually abused before their admission to prison. A 1999 Department of Justice study confirms these observations, finding that almost half of women in jails and prisons had been physically or sexually abused before their incarceration - a much higher rate than reported for the overall population. Thus, women prisoners have to deal with not only with the apathy or inertia of their fellow inmates and the fear of administrative retaliation, but also the issues of past abuse and socialization of obedience and subservience that affect women. As a woman incarcerated in Illinois put it: *"Do you think women who are conditioned to be subservient to their men (and the world) are going to come to prison and suddenly just grow a backbone?"*

Another explanation might be that women are seen as passive. This idea leads to the dismissal of the notion that women can and do contribute to struggles for change. Just as the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s downplayed the role of women in favor of highlighting male

spokesmen and leaders, the prisoners' rights movement focuses on men to speak for the masses. Such neglect leads to the definition of prison issues as masculine and male-dominated, dismissing prison issues which are distinctly feminine (i.e. the scarcity of sanitary hygiene products, the lack of medical care specifically for women, especially prenatal care, threats of sexual abuse by guards, etc.) and thus any actions which women take to address and overcome these concerns. For instance, on August 28, 1974, women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility protested the beating of a hostage for two-and-a-half hours. However, "the August Rebellion" is virtually unknown today despite the fact that male state troopers and (male) guards from men's prisons were called to suppress the uprising, injuring twenty-five women and that twenty-four women were transferred to Matteawan Complex for the Criminally Insane without the required commitment hearings.

Similarly, women in a California prison held a "Christmas riot" in 1975: Protesting the cancellation of family holiday visits and holiday packages, inmates gathered in the yard, broke windows, made noise and burned Christmas trees in a "solidarity" bonfire. Even more recently, following the 1995 rebellions at Talladega, Allenwood and other federal male prisons, the women's federal prison in Dublin, California, along with every other federal facility, was placed under lockdown. Despite the fact that there had been no disturbances at the prison, FCI Dublin remained under lockdown all weekend and women were forced to go to work that Monday under lockdown conditions. To voice their protest, women began staying away from meals and, that night, set simultaneous trash can fires in all of the units. Approximately seventy women were sent to administrative segregation and charged with arson and "engaging in a group demonstration." In 2000, women at an INS detention center in Los Angeles were involved in a facility-wide hunger strike, protesting the lack of food and ventilation and the unsanitary living conditions. Although its primary organizers were men, the women became the strongest group of participants.



## The Invisibility of Women Prisoners' Resistance cont.

However, most women are unaware of these uprisings and other organizing around women's prison issues. Both Dawn Amos, imprisoned in Canon City, Colorado, and a woman incarcerated in Illinois have remarked that illiteracy also plays a role in women's lack of protest and resistance. Amos noted that most of the women around her "are very illiterate, they don't even have education to take a pre-GED test, let alone read a law book or even a newsletter about other prisoners and what they have been subjected to. They can hardly comprehend the rules that we have to live under let alone a way of comprehending a way to stand up for their rights."

Amos's observation echoes that of a letter from a prisoner in Illinois: "I know illiteracy is one of the hindrances pursuing any relief," she wrote. "We need to educate women how to write grievances and we need to have available people to help [the] illiterate and [the] mentally/ emotionally ill prepare grievance[s] regarding their rights."

Added to this is the administrative harassment, discouraging potential activists and organizers. One woman stated that the level of harassment is "so great that most of your fellow prisoners think that you must be crazy for even attempting to challenge the prison system wrong doings in any ways." Kebby Warner, a prisoner in Michigan, has encountered similar resistance from her fellow inmates: Once she started to become aware that her problems were shared with thousands of other women, she tried to organize and educate those around her about the prison-industrial complex: "I was laughed at and they went so far as accusing me of being a Klan member because of the way Amerikkka was spelled in the zines I passed out. They wouldn't even read them." A woman released from a Texas prison offered this explanation as to why she chose silence: "I once tried to get my mom to know that there was abuse happening in the unit. But when my letter was pre-read, it was turn[ed] in to the warden, which in turn called me in the office and said if I wanted to remain in population I better keep my opinions to myself. And I did not want to be in solitary confinement...so I closed up."

Similarly, Barrilee Bannister, Dawn Amos and a California inmate who wished to remain

anonymous have stated that they are reluctant to write about certain aspects and instances because their letter can be and, at least in Bannister's case, are read by prison officials.

Women prisoners also face different circumstances during their incarceration and thus have different priorities and different ways of challenging their conditions than their male counter-parts. General ideas about prisoners are masculine: The term "prisoner" usually makes people think of a young, black man convicted of a violent crime such as rape or murder. Politicians seeking votes and media seeking sales play on this representation, whipping the public into hysteria to get tougher on crime and build more prisons. However, the image of the young, black male felon overlooks the growing number of women imprisoned under the various mandatory sentencing laws passed within the past few decades. Because women do not fit the media stereotype, the public chooses to overlook them rather than deal with the seeming paradoxes inherent in women prisoners, who, by virtue of their incarceration, have somehow defied the societal norm of femininity. This is compounded by the seeming contradiction of prisoners as mothers, as women with reproductive rights (or even the ability to reproduce), and as women in general. Women prisoners and their differing needs and concerns complicate the public view of prisons and prisoners. However, prison authorities have been slow to recognize these differences and thus give them the same, if not worse, treatment as their male counterparts.

Despite these obstacles, women in prison have found ways to challenge, resist and organize against these conditions.

- Vikki Law, PO Box 20388, Tompkins Square Station, New York, NY 10009.



## *Inside Investigator: How To Keep From Being A Victim Of Retaliation*

I am an investigator. I am also incarcerated in a state penitentiary. The danger here is that the prison industrial complex prefers to keep its secrets, and the "brotherhood" of corrections officers has the muscle to enforce it. You are outnumbered and outgunned, but you don't have to be outsmarted. You can protect yourself and make it much more difficult for them to punish you and get away with it.

The first tool you have is solidarity. Get involved and get support from as many outside organizations as you can. By writing to any one group you can easily get a useful directory of supportive groups going. It really doesn't matter if the group has the same views as you, what you'll have in common is an interest in prison reform and/or human rights. Just about any grassroots organization works for that, in their own way. Solidarity means working together for a common goal, period. Never omit an alliance just because they support something you don't. There is safety in numbers.

Next, carefully find those inmates that would like to see a change and converse with those who would like to get involved, but perhaps don't know how. It is your mission to educate and motivate as many inside allies as you can. At first steer clear of others who aren't receptive to your ideas, but don't burn your bridges either, they might just change their minds when they notice momentum. Lots of people will "get on the train" and that's okay! It really doesn't matter when you gain a supportive ally, as long as you gain one more. "Do not judge yet ye be judged."

Once you have some support, inside & out, start sharing the info you get. Organizations are two-way connections to information. Knowledge is power! You can even specialize info that helps you add more to the pool. Quietly send as much accurate info to your favorite groups as you can. If it's a rumor say so. If you find documentation, send it or copies of it to more than one group. The key here is to be objective and get the info out of the prison as safely as possible. First hand experience is best. Here are a few tips on how to report credible information:

- 1) Get the facts! Keep them straight! Substantiate!
- 2) Do not personalize the facts by using prison slang or name-calling. Using names like "punks" or "wannabe's" only discredits you, and probably will keep others from learning whatever else you say too.
- 3) If there were others who witnessed the incident, get them to send their version to whomever you send yours to. It never hurts to have more than one account, just ask that they stick to the facts like you do. Keep it as short as possible.
- 4) Do not use names unless you first get that person's permission. Remember that others might get upset or hurt if you put them on the frontlines without their permission.
- 5) Do not try to coerce anyone with information. Your purpose is to break the code of silence and let the outside

world know what really goes on inside.

6) Don't be vindictive. If you come off sounding like you're "getting even" it only destroys your credibility. It's never worth it and it makes you sound as bad as they are. You never want that do you? If you can, include documentation that is easy to read. Stay away from using someone else's info to support your own info.

7) Just stick to the facts. For example, I recently found a copy of a DOC newsletter with information that was meant for DOC eyes only. It was their own newsletter! It's always best if they can't dismiss it.

8) Make sure that you keep a ledger, that you can transfer its contents to single sheets of paper and integrate those into your property. It is easy for the DOC staff to eradicate all of your efforts by simply taking your ledger. So make them dig for it! This tactic makes them also have to justify taking several sheets of info, rather than just saying your book had code in it and was a threat to their security. They will never just take out the so-called code and return the rest of the book. I have kept a ledger of miscellaneous stuff, more of a diary actually, and when they found it and reviewed it they found nothing dangerous and stopped looking because they thought they had already found what they were looking for! I use the back of other papers and kites that are not important for my best details. You can also fill out a kite and put your info in it, just keep it separate and don't accidentally send it. Old legal papers work well also.

9) Never use code. This only arouses their suspicion and you don't want to do that. That is probably the easiest way to draw attention and get into trouble.

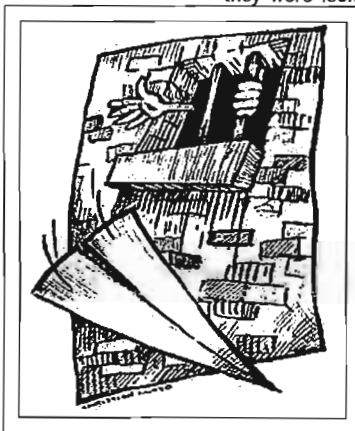
10) If you don't think they are investigating you for any reason, take a breather. Don't make the mistake of allowing them to stumble onto your efforts because you thought you were bulletproof! It happens all the time and it really catches you unprepared. You want to avoid being blindsided. Be aware and be sure to tell the organizations this. They go to great lengths not to compromise you, but

they can't help you if they don't know what's going on.

While you are in prison you may be housed with people who know about things of interest to you. Casual conversation is useful as long as you refrain from gossip and never reveal who your source is. In order for people to talk to you they must trust you. Never betray that trust. It takes time to build trust, so don't rush it. Basically, if you use the ten tips wisely and are serious about what you are doing for the right reasons, people will support you in many ways. As your representation builds, you will find that others know that you are putting yourself on the line for their benefit too and will intend to be protective of you. I know that times I was called to the captain's office for whatever reason, all eyes and ears were observing the incident. If something had happened to me, the whole world would have known! As I mentioned before, it is secrecy that perpetuates power and breaking the power of secrecy is the whole plan! Turn on the spotlight and eradicate the lies! Knowing is half the battle - Doing is the other half!

they can't help you if they don't know what's going on.

**In struggle - Annette Lambert**  
#5889770, PO Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR  
97070.



# Ways to Support Jeff 'Free' Luers

## Write to the Attorney General of Oregon

Urge the Attorney General of Oregon to commute Free's absurdly long 22.5 year sentence. Point out the punishment does not fit the "crime" and that the Tyree oil conviction was based on circumstantial evidence. Sample letters are available from *Howl for Freedom, Break The Chains* and *APLAN* (see contact info at the end).

## Contribute to Free's Legal Defense

Free is appealing his 22.5 year sentence on numerous grounds. It will take a few years before it gets before the court and will take lots of funds. This is the largest expense in defending oneself from state charges. Make all checks and money orders to "Howl for Freedom" and send it to the Howl for Freedom address listed below.

## Write Free

Prison is an extremely lonely place and sending letters to Free asking how you can help, sharing stories, telling him about what is going on in the world is a great way to help. Free responds to his letters and is a great correspondent. All letters can be sent to: Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, Oregon State Prison, 2605 State Street, Salem, OR 97310. Take care not to write anything on the envelope except these addresses and to avoid writing the words "Anarchy" or "Anarchism".

## Contribute to Free's College Education

Free is currently taking classes in prison toward a college degree. Obviously, this will take time and a lot of money. All checks and money orders can be made out to "Howl for Freedom" and sent to their address (see below).

## Send Free a book or zine

Prisoners in Oregon State Prisons must receive new books and they must be sent directly from the publisher. Best bets for getting books to Free is Amazon.com. No, they aren't anarchists but they have everything and get books into prisons often. Their website is: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## Order Free's publication, *Let's Get Free!*

*Let's Get Free!* is a very impressive compilation of artwork and writings by Free, which also includes commentary from Free's supporters and sympathizers, and info on how to help Free. This publication was produced collaboratively by Free's Defense Network and the Break The Chains group. It can be ordered through the mail for \$5 (or more) from Break The Chains or Howl For Freedom. Make checks or money-orders out to "Howl For Freedom."

## Visit Free's website

The main support website for Free is located at [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org) and profiles on Free can also be found at [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net)

## Free's West Coast Support Groups

- Anarchist Prisoners Legal Aid Network (APLAN), SW 3rd Ave. PMB #354 Portland, OR 97204. Email: [weneversleep@ziplip.com](mailto:weneversleep@ziplip.com)
- Break The Chains, PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440. Email: [breakthechains02@yahoo.com](mailto:breakthechains02@yahoo.com)
- Howl for Freedom, PO Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97405.

## *Free Appealing - from the Eugene Weekly, 1-30-03*

Jeffrey "Free" Luers, the activist who was sentenced to more than two decades in prison for starting a fire that burned three trucks, has started the long, winding process of appealing his sentence and convictions on multiple counts of arson and attempted arson.

The majority of it is trying to get my sentence reduced down to a reasonable amount of time, Free told EW during an interview inside the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Free said he and his attorney, public defender Shawn Wiley, are confident the sentence could be reduced by about half, to 11 to 13 years. That, he's almost 95 percent positive about, the inmate said. As far as going below that, we don't have any expectations.

Free and his co-defendant, Craig Critter Marshall, were arrested in June 2000 for starting a fire at Romania Chevrolet on Franklin Blvd. Critter pleaded guilty to two lesser charges and is serving a 5-year sentence at the Snake River Correctional Institute in Ontario, Ore. Free's case went to trial, where he was linked to an attempted arson at Tyree Oil on West 1st Ave.. He denies being involved in or knowing about the Tyree incident.

His Jan. 14 filing before the Oregon Court of Appeals raises a number of issues beyond the length of his sentence. For example, Free's attorney argues that police searches of a car and a storage room Free used were illegal, and that he had been illegally detained before the searches.

The brief also deconstructs the legal logic that led to the 266-month sentence. One point of contention is the judge's declaration that the risk of injury or death posed by a fire justifies a long prison term. Wiley says that is erroneous; the judge should only have considered what actually happened, not what could have happened. No one was injured in either incident.

The state has until March 4 to file a response. The entire appellate process is expected to take a year to 18 months. - Alan Choate

## **Matt Whyte is free!**

Matt Whyte of the Santa Cruz 2 was released from prison on December 18th of 2002. He's now living in Eugene, and he'll be at a half-way house for a short while before being temporarily placed on house arrest. Letters to Matt can be sent to the Santa Cruz 2 Defense Fund PO Box 583, Eugene, OR 97440.

# Facing the Enemy: *Recent Developments in the Case of the Children of the River*

**Recent statements from American Indian political prisoner David "Looks Away" Scalera from the Children of the River**

**November 21, 2002:**

Brothers & Sisters in the Resistance,

I am Looks Away, one of the Children of the River. I'm writing this as an update to those of you who have given us much support over the last two years and to those who are unfamiliar with our story and would like to become part of the support network. On February 28, 2001, eight inmates took over and destroyed a housing unit at Oregon's newest "super prison" - Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI). The Children of the River are three of those eight. Ours was a direct act of protest after eight months of trying to open a dialogue with administration addressing our grievances. Those included the neglect of our religious ceremonies, disrespect for our religious articles, mistreatment by ultra-authoritarian guards, disrespect of our visitors and violation of the mail process. For our part in the riot on unit nine we have been in maximum custody lockdown since February 28, 2001, and we each received additional time to our original sentences.

Within the last month two of the three have been transferred. We have spent the last year and a half in the Oregon State Prison (OSP) Intensive Management Unit. Tewahnee Sahme (Warm Springs Indian) and myself (Arapaho) are now being housed in Closed Supervision Unit (CSU), at the TRCI, where all of the story begins. Things have been tense to say the least. Directly after the riot we were threatened by numerous guards who were very angry at having their authority stripped from them and their control jeopardized. We were told that when we came back our lives would be a living hell and we would get ours. Well now we are back. The situation is very dim here at CSU. Once again we face religious persecution in the form of denial of *any* religious activity including speaking with the elder who comes in. We have been told not to sing our traditional songs when we have our three hours outside. We face many forms of oppression that we will continue to resist. Your support will not be wasted. Tee and I are working to have headbands approved to be worn and the use of the sacred pipe and a hand drum. We will continue these fights even in the belly of the beast. What we are asking of those of you who stand with us is a phone call campaign to the head of the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) letting him know that we don't stand alone. It will be much harder for the guards here to play games with us if they receive pressure from the outside. I ask you to let it be known that you're watching what happens to the Children of the River and that any "setting us up" or bum beefs, will not be accepted. Your voices are important and the weapon we have against the capitalist, imperialist system is Unity. They truly fear those who stand together with one purpose. There is nothing that we cannot accomplish together and much has been done already. A traditional lodge has been built here at Two Rivers after the riot. CSU is not permitted to use it but I believe that with your support, we in here can continue to be a thorn in the side of this oppressive system and make it an easier road for

those who follow us down this road. In honor of all of you out there who stand in strong resistance in this struggle against oppression I walk with my head high.

In strength,

Looks Away (David Scalera)

**December 26, 2002:**

**Hello comrades,**

....Things are not good out here but it's only what we expect. Right now all of us are in the hole. Here is what happened. On December 26th after dinner, an officer was assaulted in our unit. They locked the entire unit down the next day, took 34 people to the hole. We received a disciplinary report or D.R. for the charges of disturbance and a few other petty charges. There was no disturbance that took place. The administration has decided that we should all be sent back to I.M.U. (Intensive Management Unit) for three years for nothing. We knew we would be set up on false charges and these are completely false.

I'm also worried about Tom since I got word that he is in the Black Box or Isolation cell. When we were brought to the hole the intake offices in segregation were acting very aggressive and hostile. The inmate was stripped after I was attacked by the officers after they said he tried to "head-butt" them. But at the time his head was facing the wall. They broke his wrist. The officers were targeting little inmates for this type of treatment and there is serious hatred for Tom and all of us who were involved in the riot on unit nine....

We went to the original D.R. hearing and got it dismissed because the charges were so obviously a set up that the hearing officer refused to find us guilty. But the cops refused to let us out of the hole and rewrote the D.R. This D.R. is directed at getting us sent back to I.M.U. and keeping us in lock-down. It's total lies, but I don't think we'll beat this second D.R. The administration and hearing officer are all working together to send us back to I.M.U.... I'm not sure at this point what can be done if anything. This system is so far out of line that it would take major rebellion on the yards to bring about a positive change. The only language that the system understands on this side of the wall is violence. I'm learning that it is impossible to work with an administration that will break their own rules, lie, and disrespect you. I can't work with these cowards in the way they have designed so I have to speak a language they can hear and understand.

With only three more years to do I am trying to avoid handing myself over to their control by adding more time to my set, but it is a dangerous game and it is becoming more and more difficult for me to live under this oppression. My only hope is that I can continue to fight in honor for this struggle and not lash out in my own anger.

Also, they keep refusing the *Break the Chains* newsletters because they are afraid of the power of revolution. They have to control all thoughts and ideas that enter this facility. If the inmates were to realize that the authority of the officers and the control was a smoke screen then this entire system would turn upside down. Right now it is the goal I am working toward. Every letter I write, every conversation I have is aimed at making people aware of their own power over the system. Keep fighting the fight because those words are important. As more and more people recognize the oppression they under, things will change in here. Until then a sacrifice must be made...I guess.

With all respect and humility I remain strong in the struggle, **Looks Away**

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# ***Urgent Call for Solidarity with the Children of the River***

In February of 2001, Tewahnee Sahme, David Scalera and Thomas Tripp participated in the takeover and destruction of a housing unit at Two Rivers Prison in Umatilla Oregon. Our objectives in the takeover were to win religious freedoms for Native Americans, the reinstatement of educational programs for all prisoners and other concessions from prison authority, to protest and fight back against the generally brutal and harsh conditions at the prison. More info about this can be found at [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net)

During our sentence in segregation, after the takeover, the three of us were threatened with physical violence, routinely harassed, and abused by everyone from the superintendent of the prison (warden) to the lowliest guard. Eventually we were sent out of the prison to serve time in the I.M.U. (intensive management units). Upon leaving, we were each informed that should we return to this prison, every guard would take it upon him/herself to "make life hell" for us. After twenty two months in I.M.U. we have been sent back to Two Rivers. We believe the threats that have been made against us, so we are attempting to enlist support in a campaign to have us transferred out of this prison.

Aside from the obvious danger of our returning to such an environment, we would like to innumerate the specific reasons we feel that our being transferred out of here would be in the best interests of everyone involved, and to assist anyone out there who would like to join their voice in protesting the insanity of having the three of us back in here:

1) We are currently under the control of the same guards who were trapped on the housing units during the takeover. During our criminal prosecution for our participation in the take-over, these guards demonstrated their extreme willingness to use force in order to get us more time in prison.

2) We are also under the daily supervision of guards who were members of the "T.E.R.T." team- a S.W.A.T. like team - which raided the housing unit with shotguns, pistols and automatic weapons in order to regain control of the unit. The same people who through concussion grenades at us after we had ceded control of the unit. They later told us how very much they would have liked to shoot us!

3) The unit we live on is run on a level system in which visitation and all access to privileges is allowed or disallowed based on the personal inclinations of a select group of prison guards and officials. The same people who previously had vowed to make our lives hell. This decision making committee seems an obviously effective apparatus to, among other things, control and monitor our communication with the outside world and punish us for our participation in the takeover.

4) At this prison, the two native brothers Tewahnee and Looks Away have already been subjected to the same denial of religious autonomy and disrespect of religious articles

which helped precipitate the initial takeover. For example, Looks Away had his personal medicine dumped on the floor during a cell shakedown. This denial and disrespect cannot be tolerated!

5) Tewahnee has been assigned "security threat group" (S.T.G.) status, ostensibly as a result of a fight he was in six years ago, while it was against a member of a gang it was in no way gang related. Nor, in six years has this fight been insinuated as gang related until now. The S.T.G. status is control device employed by the prison authority - often against anarchist or activist prisoners - to limit a prisoner's access to prison activities, to limit communication with other prisoners, to censor mail and keep a prisoner's custody level as high as possible.

6) On several occasions Tewahnee's legal mail has been opened without his permission or presence. This is a major violation of federal law and yet another shining example of the state breaking its own laws when convenient. As can be seen many factors involved in our captivity here contribute to an excellent recipe for an altercation to occur between us and the prison authority. We would rather not have this occur.

*In light of all this we are asking anarchist and American Indian activist communities to help us pressure the Oregon department of corrections to transfer us out of this prison. We are asking that anybody interested contact the following list of names - any or all of them - to voice your concerns:*



**Sheila Reed**  
Office of the Governor, 900 Government St. N.E.  
Salem, OR 97310-4047

**Ben De Haan**  
Acting Director, Oregon Department of Corrections  
2575 Center St., Salem, OR 97310

**Nick Arminicus**  
Assistant Director, O.D.O.C., 2575 Center St.  
Salem, OR 97310

**Ben Ward**  
Classifications and Transfers, O.D.O.C., 2575  
Center St., Salem, OR 97310

**Robert Sheidler**  
Superintendent, Two Rivers Prison, 82911 Beach  
Access Road, Umatilla, OR 97882. #(541) 922-2001  
The Oregon Department of Corrections website is  
<http://www.doc.state.us/>

***Write letters, make phone calls, drop e-mails, and thanks for the support!***

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# Most recent update from Looks Away:

....I have some good news and bad news. The good news is I'm on the same tier with Tom and Tee. We are all in lockdown, but at least we can communicate on an easy basis. Tom...was in the black box for a few days because a cop lied and said that Tom threw a food tray at him when in reality the cop just dropped it on the ground. But he is out of there now and doing fine. We all went to a hearing for the second write-up and got fried. Tom got 180 days because he had a few choice words for the hearing officer. Both Tee and I got 120 days in segregation.

The entire procedure was a joke. There were memos from cops who couldn't have possibly seen what they said. There were cops changing their stories from the first hearing so they could get us in the second. There were lieutenants lying so they could cover up the fact that it took three minutes for the cop in the tower to call a cell in line and for responding officers to arrive. This was a set-up from the beginning. There are fifteen or sixteen people sitting in the hole probably going back to IMU for three years and they did nothing to deserve it. Thirty four people originally came to the hole and those that beat the D.R. got out of the hole and put back on the program. When they got there they were put on red level which is a restart of the entire program. That's a six month delay in their ability to go to mainline even though they beat the charges and weren't convicted of anything.

The Children of the River knew from the beginning that they were in a dangerous situation here at Two Rivers. This place is notoriously corrupt. It starts at the top and goes down. The way things are going now we'll either go back to IMU or back to CSU when our time in DSU is over. I would rather sit in IMU for three years until I parole then sit out here with these cowards. They are fore-seeing me into a position where I will have to pick up more time. And it will only be out of my own anger. It's very hard to be in the jaws of a system as corrupt as Oregon. We have never been wanted here at this prison. I still can't understand why we were sent here. I really don't want to stay here at all. I'm done doing their so-called programs. If they were to put me in a mainline somewhere I would do my time and get out, but if I'm returned to CSU or any mainline here at Two Rivers its not going to be cool. I'll only end up in lockdown. I'm going to get together with Tom and Tee to put together a statement for the website and the newsletter. By now you know the newsletter keeps getting rejected. I'm putting in an administrative review, but I don't expect anything to come of it. These cowards police themselves and have unlimited power within these walls. Our situation is pretty grim right now brother.

Hopefully you can get in touch with Now Tush (Quiltman) and work something out that would bring awareness to our current situation. I think Tom is going to contact you as well as well as the people in Portland. I'm going to put this in the mail for you. With all respect and humility.

The struggle continues,  
**Looks Away**

## The Children of the River:

- Tewahnee Sahme #11186353, TRCI,  
82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR  
97882.

- David T. Scalera (Looks Way)  
#13405480, TRCI, 82911 Beach Access  
Rd., Umatilla, OR 97882.

- Thomas Tripp #12032560, TRCI,  
82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR  
97882.

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## *Not Vanishing*

*In the scars of my knees you can see*

*children torn from their families*

*bludgeoned into government schools*

*you can see through the pins in my bones*

*that we are prisoners of a long war*

*My knee is so badly wounded no one will look at it*

*The pus of the past oozes from every pore*

*This infection has gone on for at least 300 years*

*Our sacred beliefs have been made into pencils*

*names of cities gas stations*

*My knee is so badly wounded that I limp  
constantly*

*Anger is my crutch I hold myself upright with it*

*My knee is wounded*

*see*

*How I am Still Walking*

\*\*\*\*\*

This poem is reprinted from Chrystos' book *Not Vanished*, which is in our opinion her most powerful work.

Chrystos is a queer Indian (Menominee) activist, author, and poet who lives in Bainbridge Island, WA.

She is scheduled to speak, along with Lora Wetzel of Women Embracing Freedom Together, at a benefit for Break The Chains in Eugene on April 7, 2003, at the Lord Leebrick Theatre.

# Watch your **BACK!**

**Communique from Rob Thaxton on Oregon anarchists being singled out for repression due to their beliefs.**

On January 9th, anarchists Rob Thaxton and Brian McCarvill were sanctioned with 120 days in the Disciplinary Segregation Unit at Oregon State Penitentiary. The offence listed on their Misconduct Reports is "Unauthorized Organization I", but the hearings officer told me that she found me "guilty of continuing to be involved with the anarchist movement." The Oregon Department of Corrections and OSP in particular, have taken it upon themselves to act as thought police and punish people for their political views. The act which inspired this punishment is so petty as to be laughable: we had asked people to send us mail. When people responded by the dozens, the prisoncrats took offense and sent us to the hole. One day, I'll look back at this time and laugh. Right now, though, this isn't very funny - sitting here without my guitar, books, magazines, income from my job in the prison infirmary, almost no chance for visits, listening to idiotic conversations between people shouting, anarchists Rob Thaxton and Brian McCarvill were sanctioned with 120 days in the m one cell emblazoned with swastikas to another. This whole episode revolves around symbols and their power, though apparently OSP staff have fewer worries about swastikas than they do about circle-A's, the "anarchy" symbol.

It's the little things.

Since I was first incarcerated here at OSP, the prison authorities have been overly concerned with my politics. I am routinely denied materials they think cross some vague boundary of unacceptability. UK literature professor, the late John Moore's book *Examining Anarchist Tendencies in "Primitive" Societies* was forbidden. Canadian art professor Allan Antliff's book on *Anarchist Influence in Modern Art* was not allowed.

It was evident to me from the beginning that this was a bit arbitrary, and I tried to challenge their designation of anarchists as a Security Threat Group, and the circle-a symbol as an STG symbol. What this has come down to over the ensuing years is that I can receive anything, even if it has the word "Anarchy" splashed across the pages in 4-inch letters, but I can't have anything that contains a circle-a symbol. This has been used to deny me publications which featured photos of demonstrations, where a circle-A symbol on a patch on the pants of one of the participants was clearly visible. Other, similar violations were given because circle-A symbols could be seen among the graffiti in the background of some photographs. And, since most anarchist publications usually exhibit a circle-A in some manner or another, this gives the prisoncrats an excuse to prohibit them. In short, I am being cut off from contact with other anarchists and to a large extent, any mention of anarchist activities, or even activities in which anarchists participate - such as mass demonstrations against economic summit meetings and the war in Iraq. The prisoncrats even made it forbidden for people to mark or cut out such offensive circle-A's in order to make their publication palatable for the prisoncrats.

I could challenge this in court, and have

contemplated doing so, but - for one thing - the case would likely drag on for years and still not be resolved before I'm released in October '06. Also, with my experience with courtrooms in the past, I know there is little hope for much sympathy, much less a fair hearing. Courts tend to back up prisoncrats' dictatorships.

Lately, though, I've become more and more angry as fewer people write or send literature to me, due to prisoncratic interference. With less mail making it in, each Mail Violation Notice I receive angers and frustrates me all the more. The Oregon Department of Corrections does not have the right to limit my communications with people who hold similar political views. I am being isolated, at a time when the actions of the Bush Junta, and his family's dreams of a New World Order, demand that everyone who cherishes life and cares about their fellow humans' well-being speak out and take action against him and the NWO.

I'm in prison for being involved in a street battle with the Eugene Police Department, as part of one of the many "anti-globalization" days-of-action that rocked the world from '99-'01. Of all the people arrested around the world during these actions, as far as I know, I'm the only one still in

prison. Like I mentioned above, the prisoncrats have been concerned about having someone with more than 20 years of activist experience, much of it as an organizer. Those two words together, added to the fact that I'm an anarchist, spells out "Riot" to the prisoncrats - one of the charges I was convicted of, by the way. While incarcerated, I've tried to remain active, writing letters, sending contributions to anarchist publications and encouraging anarchists to be more involved in supporting prisoners.

The prisoncrats and I have been going back and forth over the mail issue for years now. What it comes down to is their arbitrary use of authority. There is no rational reason for them to deny anything entering their facilities just because there is a circle-a somewhere in its pages. Their entire argument is "Because we say so."

So, rather than go to the courts, rather than waste my time arguing with them, I did what I tend to do - I organized an anarchist protest. I asked people outside to send postcards with a circle-a and the caption: "This is not a gang symbol." Then, I forgot about it.

A little while later, since the holiday season was upon us, the prisoners here were allowed - as we are every year - to make 15 minute videos to send to our families and friends. From what I've heard since then, there are a number of people upset over my video. Not the message - it was just me reading poetry and playing my guitar. No, the Authorities were angry because they didn't review the tape before it went out. Who knows what diabolical instructions were sent on that tape - and to whom? The OSP activities crew don't keep such records, to ensure the privacy and safety of the recipients. Someone is very angry about that.



On, January 2 ('03) Benny Ward, the STG manager for ODOC, came to visit me. He wanted me to move out of my cell, which I share with Brian McCarvill. Brian is involved in a lawsuit against ODOC/OSP over using the circle-A symbol as a reason to deny mail into their institutions. He implied that there would be consequences if I didn't move. Brian and I discussed this and decided it wasn't necessary for us to move.

Five days later, we were given Misconduct Reports, concerning 52 items of mail sent to us, and charged with being part of an unauthorized organization. Suddenly, Mr. Wards' visit began to make a little more sense. ODOC is being pressured from above to do something about us bad ol' anarchists. Our lawsuits are costing them money, and the feds (rightly) think ODOC are fools who can't keep track of persons of interest within their institutions. To illustrate what great fools they are, it is illegal for prisons to retaliate, or even threaten to retaliate, against prisoners for bringing lawsuits against them. They peeled that banana, threw the skin on the floor and slipped on it themselves.

Two days later, Brian and I were sanctioned to spend four months in the hole, apiece. We are being singled out for repression because of our political views and because we stand up for our rights as human beings.

For more info about Rob Thaxton, check out [www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos/index.html](http://www.defenestrator.org/roblosricos/index.html) And you can write directly to Rob and Brian at:

Robert Thaxton #12112716, OSP, 2605 State Street Salem, OR 97310.

Brian McCarvill #11037967, OSP, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310

Mail to them must have a complete return address on the envelope.

## TAKE ACTION NOW!

Letters of support are needed to be written on their behalf. The timeline is now - until they are out of the hole. Letters should be sent to:

Rebecca Prinslow,  
Inspector General,  
ODOC Central Administration Office, 2575 Center Street, NE,  
Salem, OR 97301-4667

E-mail her at [rebecca.prinslow@state.or.us](mailto:rebecca.prinslow@state.or.us)

If you can, write your own letters. But sample copies of letters are available from APLAN (see address below).

Send copies of all text messages and ODOC responses to APLAN for their records at: [weneversleep@ziplip.com](mailto:weneversleep@ziplip.com) or to:

APLAN  
818 SW 3rd Ave.,  
PMB 354,  
Portland, OR 97204.

## March 4: New poem by Jeff "Free" Luers

### Army of One

I bow before no master  
I salute no superior  
To myself and those I love  
I owe my intelligence

Under no flag  
Will my body lie  
The cause for which I fight  
Is my own

With each breath I draw  
I struggle for freedom  
I am an army of one  
And I stand with millions

### CAPITALISM - A poem by deceased George Jackson Brigade combatant Bruce Seidel, 1976.

CAPITALISM  
*crept into my soul  
lunging at my heart  
digging into my throat  
and stabbing at my lungs  
as the blood flowed  
my heart refused to stop  
my voice remained determined  
Then CAPITALISM  
lost its balance  
hopped into his Cadillac  
and retreated back to the police  
station*

(Editor's note: On January 23, 1976, the [now long defunct] George Jackson Brigades made an expropriation attempt at the Tukwila branch of the Pacific National Bank of Washington. A brutal attack by the police left Bruce Seidel dead, others injured, and Ed Mead imprisoned).

# West Coast Direct Action News

## November 4, 2002, California: Pelican Bay Inmates Hold Hunger Strike To Protest Prison Policy

Crescent City: A group of sixty prisoners in the Control Unit of the Pelican Bay State Prison began a hunger-strike protesting the prison system's policy of classifying prisoners as gang members based on vague criteria and then indefinitely segregating them. For more info on the horrors of Pelican Bay Prison, read Derrick Jensen's book *The Culture Of Make-Believe*.

## November 5, 2002, California: Two Pigs Stabbed; Inmate-Guard Hostility On The Rise

Lancaster: Two guards were attacked by inmates at the state prison - the second such incident in the past three months. Correctional officers Nicole Hawthorne and Henry Romo were attacked by two cellmates early in the day while escorting prisoners to breakfast, according to reports. Other guards quickly broke up the fight, with one firing wooden bullets at the inmates. Hawthorne was taken to Antelope Valley Hospital with blurred vision, a cut to the right eye and lacerations to the head. She was treated and released, and was expected to fully recover. Romo was not injured. The suspects, Aaron Washington, 47, and Sharifu Washington, 30, suffered minor injuries. They were transferred to a state prison in Tehachapi. Prison officials were unsure if the two are related. Both are serving life sentences for first-degree murder. Officials said they could face prosecution for the assaults. Authorities believe that the men may have started the altercation because the prison has cut back inmates' privileges, including the removal of weights from prison yards, imposed strict dress policies and other restrictions. Nipper said prison officials angered some inmates with stricter enforcement of rules after a riot in December involving 300 inmates. The crackdown is now believed to be what motivated Crips gang members to attack three Lancaster prison guards Aug. 12. One officer was stabbed in the head and another suffered a fractured jaw. Prison officials responded to the August attack with a sweeping investigation that led to the confiscation of 70 weapons and charges against more than 15 inmates for planning or taking part in the attack. The prison houses some of the state's most violent felons. Built in 1993, the prison initially held 2,200 inmates - it now holds about 4,000. Statewide, inmate assaults on prison guards and staffers have nearly tripled in the last decade. There were 933 assaults in 1991, compared with 2,768 last year.

## November 27, 2002, Washington: Corporations Targeted On Anniversary Of The Battle Of Seattle

Seattle: The following is a communique that was released to the corporate press: *Resistance to corporate dictatorship is on the rise, in Seattle and globally. From Argentina, to Palestine, our movement is growing. Specific businesses in Seattle have been targeted. A few months ago, Starbucks got five windows knocked out. Tully's got 14 windows busted. And last night, the Gap on Broadway got spray-painted, and it's locks glued shut. These businesses were all targeted for their continued and ruthless exploitation of the earth and it's inhabitants. This behavior will not be tolerated. In the coming days, resistance will grow, in many forms. Of course, none of the journalists covering this story will do so in a comprehensive way, to do so would go against your societal role. Why not do something different for a change, and question the corporations as much as you question the "radicals". The Struggle Continues! - Unknown.*

## December 18, 2002, Canada: Nuxalk First Nation Attacks Corporate Fish Farm

British Columbia: Natives, environmentalists and fishermen stormed the construction site for an Atlantic salmon hatchery on B.C.'s central coast and tore it apart. Native leaders likened introducing Atlantic salmon and parasites and diseases spread by fish farms to the arrival of the first traders who spread smallpox up and down the coast killing 90 per cent of the native people in some villages. "Enough is enough," said Chief Nuximlayc of the Nuxalk First Nation of Bella Coola. "It is like when smallpox came into the valley. It killed our people. Now they want to do the same to the salmon." The 60 protesters who arrived by boat from the neighboring communities tore open a gate to the Omega fish hatchery in Ocean Falls and ripped down the wooden forms for newly poured concrete. "We don't want the fish hatchery. We don't want the fish farms. We mean it," said Clement Lam 35, of the Forest Action Network, who was arrested for ripping down the form. "Our ultimate goal is drive all the fish farms out of the British Columbia coast." The 20 fish farms operating in the Broughton Archipelago near Alert Bay are being blamed for destroying the pink salmon runs in the area. Fewer than 150,000 of the more than 3.6 million pink salmon that were expected actually returned this year. A scientific study of the disaster suggests the juvenile salmon were killed off by bloodsucking sea lice they picked up on the way past the salmon farms. Natives raised the alarm even before the fish failed to return. Fishermen were finding young pink salmon covered in the parasites near the fish farms and last month demanded the shutdown of all the fish farms in the area - to no avail. The B.C. Salmon Farmers' Association said it would cooperate with a scientific study into the problem. The association would not comment on the protest.

## January 18, 2003, California: Over 2,000 Anarchists Go On Rampage During Anti-War Demo

San Francisco: Thousands of protestors marched, danced and sprinted through the streets of San Francisco shouting slogans against war, racism and capitalism. The protestors were part of a breakaway march from the larger permitted rally organized by A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) which brought out approximately 200,000 demonstrators. After the permitted march got to its destination, about two thousand demonstrators broke off and proceeded on a militant and well-planned march through the streets of the city. Throughout the march, they targeted a number of symbols of the current capitalist war. They stopped at the building that holds the San Francisco Chronicle, a major newspaper, notorious for its right-wing slant. Masked speakers on a megaphone pointed out how the coverage from this newspaper, and from the capitalist media in general serve to bolster the US war effort at the same time as other masked protestors conveyed this message by tagging the building with "weapon of mass destruction," among other messages. Next, the building that houses the British consulate was tagged, with protestors stressing the international nature of the struggle against war and capitalism, and calling for similar actions by the people of Britain against the capitalists there. Protestors are well aware that Tony Blair is, as one person at the event put it, "Bush's Poodle." Protestors punctuated their message by smashing a number of windows. One spray-painted slogan read "UK out of Iraq! Burn the State!" The breakaway march wound its way through the city, using a number of sophisticated tactics to out-manuever the police. At times they stopped quickly and reversed direction. At others, they



# WEST COAST POLITICAL PRISONERS

*These are West Coast political prisoners. They are in prison for taking action to stop the oppressive practices of fascist organizations, government institutions, or corporate enterprises.*

**Marilyn Buck #004-285, Unit B, 5701 8th St., Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568.**

Serving 50 years-to-Life for revolutionary actions taken after she escaped prison, including an armed robbery of a Brink's armored truck and the liberation of Assata Shakur from prison.

**James Johnson #8952263, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd. Ontario, OR 97914.**

Shortly after he was incarcerated as a social prisoner, James became very active in anti-authoritarian resistance in Oregon prisons and has been met with brutal repression from the prison authority ever since.

**Matt Lamont #2057039, 550 N. Flower St., Santa Ana, CA 92703.**

Anarchist arrested based on flimsy circumstantial evidence for allegedly planning to commit an arson attack against a white power group. He's presently awaiting trial.

**Jeffrey Luers #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310.**

Serving an absurd sentence of 22+ years for a minor arson at a Eugene car-dealership. The action was in protest of the destruction of the environment.

**Craig Marshall #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd. Ontario, OR 97914.**

Serving a five year sentence for setting fire to Sports Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car-dealership to protest capitalism and ecological destruction.

**Ruchell Cinque McGee #A-92051, PO Box 7500, SHU-2-C-233, Crescent City, CA 95531.**

Serving Life for an armed court-house action to free detained Black liberation activists.

**Robert Middaugh T41137, Bldg. 410 23up, P.O. Box 8, Avenal, CA 93204.**

Serving three years for an assault on a violent LA cop during a 2001 May Day action in Long Beach, CA.

**Brian McCarvill #11037967, O.S.P. 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310.**

Social prisoner whose active in fighting prison fascism and building an anti-authoritarian prison movement.

**Gerardo Hernandez #58739-004, USP-Lompoc, 3901 Klein Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436.**

One of the "Cuban Five" - five Cuban citizens who came to the US to monitor right-wing terrorist organizations and were imprisoned on bunk espionage charges.

**Sara Olson W94197, 506-27-1 Low, CCWF - PO Box 1508, Chowchilla, CA 93610-1508.**

Serving 20 years for clandestine actions related to the now defunct Symbionese Liberation Army in the mid-70s. Her and other former SLA-associates were recently captured by the authorities and are now being punished for crimes they supposedly committed decades ago.

**Tewahnee Sahme #11186353, TRCI, 82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR 97882.**

American Indian social prisoner-turned dedicated activist. His sentence was lengthened after he participated in a jailhouse rebellion to stop religious persecution against Indian inmates and to win more educational programs for all Oregon prisoners.

**David T. Scalera #13405480, TRCI, 82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR 97882.**

American Indian social prisoner-turned dedicated activist. His sentence was lengthened after he participated in a jailhouse rebellion to stop religious persecution against Indian inmates and to win more educational programs for all Oregon prisoners.

**Robert Thaxton #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St. Salem, OR 97310.**

Longtime anarchist sentenced to 7+ years for hitting a notoriously racist cop with a rock during the June 18, 1999, Reclaim The Streets protest-turned-insurrection in Eugene.

**Thomas Tripp #12032560, TRCI, 82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR 97882.**

Social prisoner-turned revolutionary. His sentence was lengthened after he participated in a jailhouse rebellion to stop religious persecution against Indian inmates and to win more educational programs for all Oregon prisoners.

**Richard Williams #10377-016, USP-Lompoc, 3901 Klein Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436.**

Serving hard time for actions on behalf of the United Freedom Front. The UFF carried out clandestine actions against the US government and in solidarity with revolutionary movements in the 80s.

## Support Byron Shane Chubbuck!

Byron Shane Chubbuck, AKA Oso Blanco, is currently serving 80 years at Leavenworth Federal Pen. for aggravated assault on Federal Agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck, also known as Robin the Hood by authorities, was robbing banks to funnel money to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas, Mexico, during 1988 and 1999. After being caught in late 1999, Chubbuck escaped from a prison van in New Mexico (his home state) and almost immediately began knocking off banks again. Chubbuck, who was well known as a polite and courteous robber and never carried a gun, was recaptured in 2001 during a shoot out with police. The police, apparently, had discovered his whereabouts after Chubbuck attempted to contact a radio show host to speak out about indigenous rights and the treatment of prisoners. In a newspaper interview, Chubbuck claimed "I am still able to hold my head up and feel the gratification for my work in a world where money, power and destructive industry are regarded far above humanity, indigenous and impoverished peoples and cultures. I cannot help that I got into my work." For more info, write directly to:

**Byron Shane Chubbuck #07909051, USP, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048.**

*The Screws are staring at me perplexed. Many of them hope (if their eyes tell the truth) that I will die. If need be, I'll oblige them, but my God they are fools. Oscar Wilde did not do justice to them for I believe they are lower than even he thought. And I may add there is only one thing lower than a Screw and that is a Governor. And in my experience the higher one goes up that disgusting ladder they call rank, or position, the lower one gets...*

**- Bobby Sands,**  
Irish political prisoner who died on hunger strike.

# Prisoner Support Groups:

**Anarchist Black Cross Network:** PO Box 19733, Austin, TX 78760. Extremely important prisoner support group. Part of the larger ABC Network.

**Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network:** 818 SW 3rd Ave., PMB #354, Portland, OR 97204/Email: [weneversleep@ziplip.com](mailto:weneversleep@ziplip.com) Important anti-authoritarian prisoner-aid group.

**Books Through Bars:** C/O Bluestockings Bookstore, 172 Allen St., NY, NY 10002.

**California Prison Focus:** 2940 16th Street #307, San Francisco, CA 94103. Call #415-252-9211. Very pro-active support coalition for prisoners of California.

**Chicago Anarchist Black Cross:** PO Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430. Produces *Thought Bombs* 'zine and does an enormous amount of prisoner support work.

**Free's Defense Network:** PO Box 50263, Eugene, OR 97405. Website: [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org) Primary support group for eco-defense prisoner Jeff "Free" Luers.

**Jericho Movement:** PO Box 650, NY, NY 10009. Political-prisoner support movement.

**Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross Federation:** PO Box 3671 Anaheim, CA 92803-3671/Email: [la\\_blackcross@hotmail.com](mailto:la_blackcross@hotmail.com) Political prisoner support group.

**Los Angeles Anti-Racist Action:** PO Box 1055, Culver City LA 90232. ARA chapter with an anti-authoritarian and anti-prisons focus. They publish *Turning The Tide* magazine, which is free to prisoners.

**Out Of Control Lesbian Committee:** 3543-18th St., Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110. Dykes supporting women in prison. They publish *Out Of Time* newsletter and do good work.

**Prison Art Inc:** PO Box 31574, San Francisco, CA 94131-0574. Prison art project started by Ed Mead. They publish a cool newsletter and work to promote prisoner art.

**Prison Activist Resource Center:** PO Box 339, Berkeley, CA 94701. Important resource center for prisoners and prisoner-support activists.

**Prison Legal News:** 2400 80th St., NW #148 Seattle, WA 98117. Essential reading for prisoners and prison activists.

**Rob Los Ricos Enterprises:** PO Box 50634, Eugene, OR 97405. Friends of Oregon anarchist political prisoner Rob Thaxton AKA Rob Los Ricos.

**Western Prison Project:** PO Box 40085, Portland, OR, 97240. Important prison reform group.

**Women Embracing Freedom Together:** PO Box 1733, Portland, OR 97202/Email: [WomenPrison@aol.com](mailto:WomenPrison@aol.com) Providing support for women in Oregon seeking to heal the wounds from prison and patriarchal society.

**Women Prisoners Book Project:** c/o Arise Bookstore, 2441 Lyndale Ave., S. Minneapolis, MN 55405.

## Break The Chains Mission Statement:

The Break The Chains prisoner support network has been formed to deal with the increasing level of police and state repression, due to the growing anti-capitalist revolutionary current in the Northwest. As the level of resistance increases, it is now more important than ever to support those comrades who have been kidnapped by the state due to their beliefs and actions. While it is important to support political prisoners from around the world, we believe it is necessary to focus our energy and limited resources on those imprisoned in our own region. Although we are primarily an anarchist collective, we are not limiting our support to anarchist prisoners alone. Freedom fighters, eco-warriors, animal liberators, and individuals who have been framed and/or wrongly imprisoned for self-defense and standing up for their ideas all need and deserve our support and solidarity. Our goal is to provide financial and emotional support and revolutionary solidarity to our comrades and allies in the Northwest. This will include corresponding to prisoners, raising funds through benefits and raising public awareness by publishing their written works and facts on their situations. We will also organize public events such as teach-ins, forums and speak-outs about racism, patriarchy, imperialism, state repression, the prison-industrial-complex, and revolutionary struggle.

## Ordering Information:

Subscriptions to this newsletter are \$10 for one-year (six issues) for people on the outside, and \$5 for prisoners. Prisoners can pay with stamps if they need to. If you'd like to order multiple copies for distribution, email us to find out a price, or just copy them off yourself. This newsletter is free to prisoners in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California. Write to: **Break The Chains PO Box 11331 Eugene, OR 97440.** Email: [breakthechains02@yahoo.com](mailto:breakthechains02@yahoo.com) and visit our website: [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net) We will accept submissions that deal with issues like state repression, the prison-industrial complex, critiques of prisoner-support groups, and other issues that are relevant to all prisoners and prisoner-support activists. But we especially encourage Northwest prisoners to send submissions.

## Break The Chains Mail Order Distribution:

1) **Against Prisons by Catherine Baker.** A thoughtful critique of the prison-industrial complex by this French prison abolitionist. \$2

2) **Attacking Prisons At The Point Of Production by Green Anarchy Collective.** A compilation of short articles by and about groups that used direct action to halt the proliferation of the prison-industrial-complex.

3) **Back From Hell: Black Power & Treason to Whiteness Inside Prison by Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin.** An inspiring story of resisting racist brutality in prison by this former political prisoner.

4) **Consent Or Coercion by Ed Stamm.** A basic introduction to anarchist ideas and principles. \$3

5) **God Of Confinement by Chris Bellender.** Rants against religion & authority from a former Oregon prisoner. \$1

6) **Grand Juries: Tools of Political Repression by Craig Rosebraugh.** History and critical analysis of the tool of state terrorism known as the grand jury. \$2

7) **If An Agent Knocks by Anonymous.** Classic guide to dealing with harassment from feds and cops. \$1

8) **Invisibility of Women's Prison Resistance by Vicki & friends.** A great compilation articles about the - largely ignored - prison activism of women both inside and outside of prison.

9) **Let's Get Free! By Break The Chains & Free's Defense Network.** An amazing compilation of writings by and about earth liberation political prisoner Jeffrey "Free" Luers. Also contains his artwork and info on how to help him. \$5

10) **No Prisoner Left Behind: The Fight For Transgender and Gender Variant Prisoners by Kevin Weaver.** A short essay on the seldom discussed issues facing trans-gendered prisoners. \$2

11) **Our Enemy, Civilization! By Green Anarchy Collective.** An excellent anthology of essays against industrialism and civilization from the perspective of indigenous people, anarchists, feminists, and ecologists. \$3

12) **Prison Abolition by Yves Borque.** A classic text calling for the abolition of one of the most oppressive institutions in existence: the prison system. \$2

13) **We Are Everywhere by Some Oregon Prisoners.** A collection of writings by prisoners in the Northwest. Includes articles by: Brian McCarvill, Rob Thaxton, and many others. \$4

**All of these pamphlets are free to prisoners in Oregon and California, except for "Let's Get Free!" which is \$5 (and items #2 & 3 will not make it into Oregon prisons). All items are half-price for prisoners outside of Oregon and California, and full price for everyone else. Send well-concealed cash or checks. Checks should be made out to "Break The Chains." We also accept payments in postage. Donations are desperately needed, so kick down if you can. And please be patient! It may take us a short while to fill your orders, but we will fill them.**