

# AGENDA

ANN ARBOR'S ALTERNATIVE NEWSMONTHLY

## Prisons: Justice for all?

### Political Prisoners in the U.S.

by Andrea Walsh

There are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war in the U.S. today. They include, progressive Christians, draft resisters, grand jury resisters, and members of anti-intervention and sanctuary movements. Some of these people are leaders of Black Nationalist, Puerto Rican and Native American struggles. Whereas these prisoners are honored, loved and respected by those in the movements they represent, the U.S. government contends they are criminals or terrorists. In an attempt to weaken movements and intimidate others from taking a stand, the government has placed these prisoners in the highest level security prisons (known as control units) in which the harshest treatment of any found in the U.S. prison system is administered.

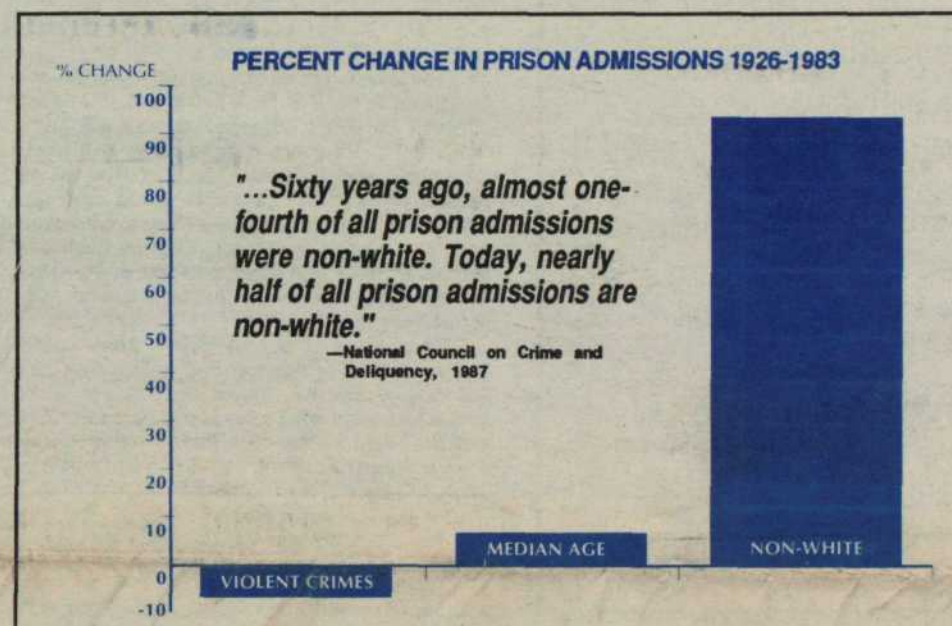
Richard Korn, Ph.D., correctional psychologist and criminologist, issued an extensive report on one such unit. "The program sets up a hierarchy of objectives. The first of these is to reduce prisoners to the state of submission essential for their ideological conversion. That failing, the next objective is to reduce them to a state of psychological incompetence, sufficient to neutralize them as efficient, self-directing antagonists. That failing, the only alternative is to destroy them, preferably by making them desperate enough to destroy themselves."

The two control units presently operating in the U.S. are the Lexington Control Unit for women and the Marion Control Unit for men. These units contain both political prisoners and prisoners who have been singled out as the most dangerous within the prison system.

Marion was opened in 1963 to replace Alcatraz Prison, which closed that year. Since 1983, when two guards were killed in unrelated incidents by two prisoners, conditions for the 350 men housed at Marion have become brutal and dehumanizing. Prisoners are locked in individual cells, denied contact with each other and forced into total idleness 23 hours a day. According to the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, during the initial stage of the lockdown, 60 guards equipped with riot gear were brought in from other prisons and assisted Marion guards in systematically beating approximately 100 handcuffed and defenseless prisoners. Beatings by a specially trained team in riot gear continue when a prisoner refuses a command.

All contact visits have been ended. No prisoner can touch or be touched by family or loved ones, instead they speak by phone while across a table separated by a glass wall. Additionally, all work programs, educational activities and religious services have been terminated at Marion.

Amnesty International has condemned Marion as being in violation of the Standard Minimum Rules of the United Nations—rules which require that prisoners be treated in such a way that encourages self-respect and develops a sense of responsibility. To the contrary, conditions at Marion produce feelings of intense rage and helplessness



that are inevitably expressed through behavior that is either self-destructive or outwardly violent. The Lexington Control Unit, a 16-cell unit in the basement of the Lexington Federal Prison for women, opened in 1986. The five women currently incarcerated in this unit (including three active in Puerto Rican independence, Black national or Italian national movements) are constantly observed by video cameras and guards—in their cells, in the showers, and in the exercise rooms. Despite such strict surveillance, the women are subjected to strip searches whenever they leave their cells. They are allowed no personal possessions and can only wear prison clothing. Guards are instructed not to talk with the women and to log every interaction.

On October 24, 1987 the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown sponsored a conference in Chicago entitled "The People's Tribunal to Expose the Crimes of the Control Units." At this conference, several family members of those imprisoned in the control units offered testimony. Rev. Jose Torres, to whom Puerto Rican independence activist and Lexington prisoner Alejandra Torres is married, said the following: "Nothing is taken for granted inside the walls of the Lexington Control Unit. Not even eating. Sometimes the women are even denied food. The prison guards bring the food but often they do not call the prisoners to eat; a few minutes later, the guards send the food back to the kitchen. In addition, the guards do not allow the women to sleep; three or four times during the night they set off the fire alarm to ruin their sleep and destroy their nerves. They also create all kinds of other noise during the night by moving chairs, speaking over the telephone in a loud voice, pushing the desk drawers, and making howling noises like wolves. They also shine flashlights in the women's faces during the night."

Manny Rosenberg, father of political prisoner Susan Rosenberg (associated with Puerto Rican and Black independence movements) who is also incarcerated at Lexington, described what it is like to visit his daughter in prison. "First we were

processed through, then they take our pictures, and then we proceed through the various electronic devices. Then we are taken by one of the personnel about a quarter of a mile to the High Security Unit—the HSU. We approach a building which is seven stories, but our destination leads to the basement. Before entering it, it is necessary to be identified, checked by T.V. camera, and await the opening of first one electronically controlled gate and then another. I turned to note

three rows of razorblade wires, not one row, but three rows on top of the fence and three rows on the ground. With the T.V. following us to the entrance of the cellar, we arrive at an electronically controlled door. The door is finally opened, and there are several steps down to the first inner room. Our pictures are checked and we go through still another electronic device. Finally, the fourth electronically controlled door is opened and we go inside. During our first visit, everything was white. Maybe I have seen too many films, but this reminded me of snow blindness. Complaints by the prisoners and their lawyers of eye problems, plus the adverse publicity, forced the prison authorities to change the color to tan."

Last fall, in response to national and international pressure, the Federal Bureau of Prisons revealed their plans to close the Lexington Control Unit. In its place they plan to open an even larger control unit in Marianna, Florida. Locally, Michigan is using Marion as a model for a Maximum Correctional Facility in Ionia.

These control units have been the target of several national and international protests. On July 4, approximately 90 people marched to the Lexington Control Unit to denounce the continuing human rights abuses of political prisoners. On the same date in Puerto Rico, 3,000 marched in San Juan demanding that Alejandra Torres be freed. Two groups active in opposing the control units are: the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, 343 S. Dearborn, Ste. 1607, Chicago IL 60604; and the National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Women's Control Unit, 294 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

## The View from Inside

### Sanctioned Sexual Violence

by Susan Fair

Women in the free world are complaining and calling it sexual harassment when males in positions of authority over them do nothing more than verbally make suggestive or degrading comments to them. In women's prisons, however, male guards are authorized to do body "shakedowns" on us, where they run their hands all over our bodies. They are allowed to feel the breasts of a woman who is obviously not wearing a bra and therefore could not be concealing contraband in the area of her breasts. They may also feel the sanitary pad between a woman's legs, and then send her to be strip-searched to determine the nature of this "unidentified object" they have discovered.

Male guards are employed at all women's prisons in Michigan. At Crane Prison, approximately 80% of the staff is male. At Huron Valley, approximately 50% of the staff is male. These guards have total authority to do almost anything they want to do to us. They are allowed to walk in on us while we are undressed in our cells or cubicles, and while we are taking showers. The officers' desks are located right next to the bathrooms at Crane, and the bath-

room doors must be left open at all times. At all of the women's prisons, the male guards are permitted, even obligated, to walk into the bathrooms on us.

Women must deal with these strange men standing over their beds in the mornings to wake them up, and ordering them out of bed in their night clothes. When they have had an unexpected menstrual flow begin during the night, women must ask male guards for sanitary supplies. When women must take care of such intimate basic needs as changing sanitary protection, or douching, or defecating, they must do it with male guards in the bathrooms and showers with them. Lotions or powdering their bodies after a shower is an almost impossible task to complete without a male guard walking in on them. At times when the heat, humidity and lack of ventilation is excessively uncomfortable, women prisoners still must be sure their bodies are fully clothed or covered even while they sleep.

In addition to being subjected to all of these

(see Sanctioned Violence, page 11)



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## LETTERS

### Absence Makes...

Oh dear, it's quite heartbreaking to see AGENDA in the mailbox and to see the "postage paid" stamp on it and know that some familiar hand put it there.

The paper looks great, it looks even better and more exciting from this distance than it did even the first day we got bundles of it back from the printer. And Ann Arbor, well, Ann Arbor looks like a place positively rocking with social change in the pages of AGENDA. I think all those parking structures going up were destroying or at least suffocating my perspective; now that I'm away I can see that something's really happening.

I hope you're all fine and happy and enjoying the

paper. If it gets too bad shut the office and go for a swim 'til you feel better.

I'm fine, just taking a break from reading endless piles of stuff on poverty, homelessness, hunger, local statistics, the budget, war, war, war, all so I can go take the legislators by their horns and pull them 'round to our view of things. Love to everyone,

Peggy Novelli  
PHELPS, NY

Letters to the editor, up to 500 words, should be sent to AGENDA, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor MI 48104. AGENDA reserves the right to edit, condense or reject any letter. Please include your address and phone number (not intended for publication).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Michigan Alliance for Disarmament Issues Statement on Iranian Airbus Downing

"The shooting down of an unarmed Iranian civilian airliner by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf on July 3rd, although no doubt unintentional, was not just a "tragedy," as President Reagan called it. It was a predictable and inevitable crime caused by the reckless U.S. military presence in the Gulf. The attempts to justify this act by the Reagan administration, presidential candidates George Bush and Michael Dukakis, and many members of Congress, in terms of the "right of U.S. forces to defend themselves," are reprehensible.

"Of course in this case a U.S. Navy cruiser "defended itself" against a civilian airliner. One need not imagine the well-merited derision with which similar excuses made by the Soviet Union would be met. We heard the response when the Soviets shot down a civilian KAL airliner in 1983. In that "tragedy,"

everyone was quite clear that accident or no accident, the Soviet action was a crime. The U.S. justifications deserve the same response.

"The key question this incident raises is not whether the shooting-down was a mistake. It is rather what the U.S. is doing in the Gulf. Officially the story is that vast military forces are necessary to "preserve freedom of the seas." In view of the rather cavalier approach to the freedom of the skies demonstrated in this incident, that excuse seems rather doubtful. More realistically, the U.S. military presence is meant to protect "our oil," that is, the interests of U.S. and European oil companies. As U.S. taxpayers are paying millions of dollars a day for the honor, and as Iranian civilians are being killed by those forces, it is past time to demand that the U.S. immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from the Gulf."

### Activist Serving Five Years in Prison

On Jan. 11, 1988 Katia Komisaruk, who last summer destroyed a NAVSTAR main frame computer at Vandenberg Air Force Base (see AGENDA August 1987), was sentenced to 5 years in prison. She is presently incarcerated at Camp Geiger in Spokane, Washington. Her sentence included the provision that if she were to receive money from a potential book or movie about her action, she would

owe the first \$500,000 to the government as restitution. Katia and her support group, the White Rose Collective, are presently appealing her sentence on the basis that she was not given a fair trial. Contributions to Katia's legal defense can be sent to the White Rose Collective, 1716 Felton St., San Francisco, CA, 94134.

### Children's Visitation Program Underway

The Childrens Visitation Program (CVP) is a broad-based, statewide coalition of individuals and organizations concerned about the welfare of children whose mothers are incarcerated. Their goal is to work with the Department of Corrections and female inmates to develop and implement quality programs and services designed to maintain and strengthen the bonds between incarcerated women and their children.

A 6-month pilot program will begin in September at the Huron Valley Women's Facility. The program will take place on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:45 pm. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers to participate in this exciting program. If you are interested please contact Dr. Christina Jose Kopfner at 973-8611 for additional information.

### Women Q-tip Q-Zone

On Sunday July 3, about 50 women (including 12 from Ann Arbor) staged a demonstration and civil disobedience action at the Seneca Army Depot. The women marched from the Seneca Women's Peace Encampment to the Q-Zone gate of the Depot, where the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the United States is located. The women sang, displayed ban-

ners proclaiming "Lesbians Rising in Resistance" and "Women Rising in Resistance," and danced. The group carried a ten-foot Q-tip to "Clean out the Q-Zone." Four women were arrested.

The August issue of free women's words will feature women's peace camps.

### Pollack Refuses Gay/Lesbian Support

In a July 16 meeting with representatives from the U-M-based Lesbian and Gay Rights Organizing Committee, candidate for the Democratic Congressional bid, Lana Pollack refused to publicly acknowledge support from gay and lesbian groups. Pollack stated that she would not sponsor or co-sponsor legislation on gay rights during her first term if she

were elected to Congress. "My sexual orientation is of the majority's kind. Gay and lesbian rights simply are not on my agenda," stated Pollack. After meeting with Pollack's opponent in the primary Dean Baker, who supports equal rights for lesbians and gay men, LaGROC gave Baker their endorsement.

### Television Series Promotes Peace

Peace InSight is a new locally produced television series created by people from a variety of peace groups including: the Ann Arbor/Juigalpa Sister City

Committee, Beyond War, Computer Programmers for Social Responsibility, Women's Action for Nuclear

(see PEACE, page 11)





## RANSBY ON RACISM

by Barbara Ransby

Within the American legal system, not only is implementation of the law biased, unfair and reflective of individual prejudices, the laws themselves are rooted in class, race, political and gender biases. And thus, in critiquing the surface problem of "crime" we must at the same time examine its institutional roots and its very definition.

What is deemed "criminal" in our society? Essentially poverty has been criminalized, Blackness has been criminalized and political radicalism has been criminalized.

Ordinances against loitering and vagrancy are a reflection of the criminalization of poverty. The laws shove homeless people from park bench to park bench, and hovel to hovel so as not to be too unsightly for too long in one spot, especially in the "nicer parts of town."

Racism, Classism and Political Persecution

## Abuses of the Criminal Justice System

Blackness, as well as poverty, has been criminalized in this society. Murder, theft, rape, and assaults are all devastating social problems affecting Black communities in particular. However, such acts are not always deemed "crimes," depending on how, where and by whom they are committed. In identifying the structural features of racism within the judicial, law enforcement and penal systems of this country, we must inescapably look not only at the personnel within these institutions—the bad attitudes and corruption among cops, judges and prison guards—but at the rules of the game itself.

A Black person is ten times more likely to be a suspect in a criminal case and more likely to receive a jail term or the death penalty than a white person. The erroneous but pervasive stereotype of all young Black men as criminals has led to widespread police harassment and police brutality.

(see JUSTICE, page 10)

## The Case of the Sharpeville Six

by Pam Nadasen

In the spring of 1978, ANC member Solomon Mahlangu and two other Black men were walking quietly down Johannesburg's Gogh Street when they were pursued, quite unexpectedly, by South African police officers. One of Mahlangu's companions turned and opened fire, killing two people and wounding several police officers. Mahlangu, though not a participant in the killing, was convicted of murder under the law of "common purpose." "Common purpose" assumes that one is guilty if one has similar motivations to another who commits a crime. Therefore, Mahlangu's presence alone implicated him. He was sentenced to death. His case sparked international outcry, as well as protests and demonstrations within South Africa. Despite these demands for clemency, Mahlangu was hung on April 6, 1979, one year after his conviction.

In 1985, in a case very similar to that of Solomon Mahlangu, one woman and five men (the Sharpeville Six) were convicted of complicity in the murder of a town councilor and a deputy mayor. The

two victims had been regarded as traitors to Black South Africans for their collaboration with the white minority government. Though the Six were part of a crowd which stoned and burned the two, no evidence was ever presented in court that they actually took part in the killing. However, under the law of "common purpose," it was not necessary for the Sharpeville Six to have participated in the crime in order to be convicted and sentenced to death.

On March 18 of this year, under intense international pressure, the Botha government granted the Sharpeville Six a stay of execution. Soon thereafter the defense entered legal pleas for a reopening of the case based on new evidence. When this was brushed aside and termed "frivolous" by the presiding judge, the Sharpeville Six were newly scheduled to be executed on July 19. Most recently, on July 12, they were granted a stay of execution which lasts only until the defense exhausts all legal recourse. However, the only remaining legal channels are two

(see SHARPEVILLE SIX, page 11)



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DISTRIBUTION—Bill Diesenroth, Chuck Gattone, Bill Gladstone, Al Lozano, Alan Murakami, Pat Staiger, Earl Uomoto, Shawn Windsor

THANKS—Hunter, Rosemary Sarri, National Coalition on Crime and Delinquency

AGENDA is an independent non-aligned newsmonthly published by Agenda Publications, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 313/996-8018. Vol. 3 No. 5, AUGUST 1988, Copyright © Agenda Publications. Subscriptions: \$15/year U.S., \$30/year international.

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# The Prison System

## An Interview with Rosemary Sarri

Conducted by Phillis Engelbert

What are some of the major flaws you can identify with the system of processing and incarceration of prisoners? I think the single biggest flaw in our system, and this certainly is true in Michigan, is that we process too many people. Other flaws are institutionalized racism and sexism, and the reliance on closed institutions as the punishment mechanism rather than probation and community alternatives.

Particularly notable as a flaw in our prison system is the lack of any kind of program. People are essentially locked up and the vast majority receive no appropriate program that will help them to be law abiding when they leave prison. And persons who are incarcerated are disproportionately persons who are undereducated, who are poor, who have been unemployed—often times unemployed for a long period of time or maybe never really gainfully employed. By not providing any program—so that they can be gainfully employed in a society that demands that every adult be employed—the system is setting them up to fail. And not surprisingly, they fail. You can say “they’ve learned their lesson” or something like that, but if someone who has never really been at all successful at getting employment receives no training or no work experience in prison that prepares them for finding employment, what leads you to believe that when that person walks out of the prison with a record, that they’re going to be able to find a job?

How is racism manifested in our prison system? First, by a tremendous overrepresentation of Blacks in the system, and increasingly now, Hispanics. Hispanics will probably catch up and surpass Blacks in the system as they become the majority minority population sometime in the early part of the 21st century. A good example is the current situation in Michigan, where there is a great overrepresentation of Blacks in the prison population and an almost total absence of Blacks on the staff. In Coldwater, which is in the southwest part of the state, there is a prison facility for close to 500

women. Most of the guards are white males. Most of the inmates are Black women. That whole interaction there—the whole social meaning of being subjected to supervision by white males—has a lot of overlay that is extremely problematic for Black women.

What problems, in particular, are faced by women in prison? The majority of women who go to prison have family responsibilities. Most are single mothers. A major, if not the major problem, is being able to carry out, in some fashion, their parental responsibilities while they’re in prison. And that is made almost impossible. They don’t know where their children are unless family takes them and keeps them informed. If they have a very long sentence, their parental rights are terminated and their children are adopted by somebody else. Women prisoners are very much concerned about their kids. They really worry about what’s going on with their kids—what’s happening to them, are they getting to school, are they getting this, that and the other thing taken care of, and so on.

Another major problem is that the vast majority—perhaps three out of four women who come to prison—have a substance abuse problem. Most prisons have no treatment for substance abuse. You can go cold turkey—that’s it. You’re lucky if there’s an Alcoholics Anonymous or some such program, but there is no systematic, on-going treatment program.

I mentioned that a major flaw of the prison system is the lack of training and vocational opportunities. Men, in general, even though the situation’s not good for men, have more opportunities for education than do women. The Glover v. Johnson case which began in Michigan in 1977 and which has still not been settled fully, was about the fact that women did not have equal opportunity with respect to education or vocational programs. Women who go to prison and who want to do something about their education, now

(see INTERVIEW, page 10)

## Conditions of Confinement

by Penny Ryder

People have advocated on behalf of prisoner rights for hundreds of years. The first penitentiary resulted from the efforts of advocates to rid our country of the excesses of European corporal punishment. Now renewed advocacy is needed to protect the rights and privileges of those in U.S. prisons.

The courts have ruled on three major class action suits regarding conditions of confinement. Their decisions mandate an improvement in conditions in several key areas: overcrowding, access to the courts, mental health care, and sanitary conditions. Frustrated by judges’ court orders directing them to treat prisoners with dignity, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) expends energy and resources appealing court decisions, rather than accepting their challenge and moving to improve the conditions of the state’s prisons. The exercise of absolute control has compromised prisoner rights as well as limiting or ending programs which promote rehabilitation. The effect on the daily lives of prisoners is increased despair and resistance.

Individual acts of prisoner violence, such as the March, 1987 rape and murder of rookie officer Josephine McCallum at the State Prison of Southern Michigan (Jackson Prison), are used by prison officials to justify sweeping repressive measures, some of which affect Michigan’s entire prison population of 23,000. However, there are indications that several of these incidents, including the McCallum murder, may have been avoided by prison employee compliance with institutional operating procedures. Many prison procedure manuals, in fact, are outdated. According to an MDOC report dated June 26, 1987, “many officers felt that regardless of whether or not the manuals were outdated, their co-workers and supervisors did not follow the procedures, so why bother.”

Prisoners are perceived to be the only cause of violence within the prison system. Documentation showing that an act of violence within the system could have been avoided by employee compliance with existing rules is rarely available to the public. The response to such incidents by the MDOC and our legislature in an election year is always to implement increasingly repressive measures.

The death of officer McCallum and other incidents which have occurred at Jackson prison bore no relation to family or friend visits or any prisoner organizational activity, nevertheless the result has been a dramatic loss of outside contact for prisoners. Visiting hours have been changed and reduced in number, forcing many families to stop regular visits to prisoners. Prisoner organizations which formerly had frequent outside contacts have had those contacts drastically cut or entirely halted. This has caused a great loss in volunteer participation, loss of continuity in contact with the outside, and loss of organizational funding. The MDOC has implemented these restrictions contradicting their stated support for prisoner contacts and activities. This is unfortunate because studies have shown the positive and rehabilitative aspects of family visits, self-managed prisoner organizations, and outside volunteer participation.

Prisoners’ voices are not often heard due to their confinement and due to the popular notion that all prisoners have criminal minds, lie, manipulate, and are only capable of defending their own causes. Consequently, the public is frequently denied accurate information on conditions of imprisonment and rehabilitation.

Censorship is another reason why the public rarely hears

(see RIGHTS, page 10)

## The Politics of Crime

by Rev. Joe Summers

A year ago I became the vicar of a small mission church. I was excited to become part of this community because I knew it to be a group of people who were actively committed to working for peace and justice, both internationally and at home. But I also felt intimidated and apprehensive about participating in the church’s main form of outreach—its prison ministry. Through my work in the prison ministry, however, I have decided that there is no issue which more dramatically highlights the problems of racism, classism and sexism in society, than does our penal system.

Between 1975 and 1985, at a time when there was only a modest increase in our population and crime rates, the number of people incarcerated nationally and in the state of Michigan more than doubled. In addition, during this period the minimum length of sentences imposed by judges in Michigan nearly doubled. Michigan now ranks first in the nation in terms of the length of time people serve for property offenses, with prisoners serving almost 50% more time than the national average.

Despite a massive prison building campaign, Michigan’s prisons continue to grow more crowded. At present incarceration rates,

the state would have to build one new prison a month just to keep pace. The Michigan Department of Corrections’ annual budget is presently approximately \$800 million per year and the projected costs of the prisons which are being built is over one billion dollars. It is estimated that the new crime legislation, co-sponsored by Rep. Perry Bullard, will cost the state \$265.3 million in increased prison administration costs and \$160 million in new prison construction costs over the next four years. With each new prison costing around \$30-40 million to build and around \$8-9 million to operate, it is clear that we need to radically review our present criminal justice policies if for no other reason than budgetary concerns.

Why is all this happening? Why is our state in the midst of constructing 26 new prisons at a time when the crime rate is predicted to decline as our population ages? Why has the state been led to pursue a course which will divert millions of dollars from such vital crime prevention areas as education, child care, job training, substance abuse counseling, and community development funds?

Because crime sells. If in the 1950’s Democrats proved they

(see POLITICS, page 10)



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# The View from Inside

## More Female Guards Needed

by Patricia Lickfeldt

Although most courts agree that a prisoner has no basic right to privacy, nowhere has anyone considered the female prisoner's basic right to dignity, modesty, and some sense of personal worth. The presence of male guards in all Housing Units of Michigan's three women's prisons absolutely negates any attempts to create humane living conditions for female prisoners.

At Florence Crane Women's Facility—Main and Annex, there are only about five women in permanent Resident Unit Officer (RUO) positions out of the 32 positions available on first and second shifts. In the main facility, where the bulk of the population is housed, only one position out of sixteen available is filled with a woman on a permanent basis. No matter what the reasons are for this gross overrepresentation of male RUO's, or how valid these reasons may seem, women prisoners are faced with a situation which breeds hostility, degradation, and sexual abuses.

Although all male officers do not commit blatant abuses against female residents, the women themselves often have past histories of having suffered sexual abuse—mental and physical—at the hands of

men. It should be patently obvious that women who have spent lifetimes as victims are probably going to be unable to relate to any man in a healthy manner, much less an absolute authority figure who is allowed excessive freedom to dominate and intimidate those for whom he is responsible.

Women cannot build self-esteem when men are allowed to view them naked or feel their bodies intimately as part of their regular duties. Women cannot learn healthy male-female interaction when men in authority over them are allowed to make sexually suggestive and derogatory remarks. Women cannot develop any level of personal independence when they are kept under the thumb of some male guard and forced to accept total male dominance.

Wake up citizens of the FREE world! Women in prison will some day be returned to society, and when they are you have every right to expect fully functioning, potentially productive community members. If you want well-adjusted women released from our penal system, then that system must be changed to support and encourage personal pride and emotional growth.

## Public Holds Key to Own Safety

by Joyce Dixson

The Department of Corrections' policy on rehabilitation reads: "Rehabilitation should be viewed as a process of internalizing values, social attitudes, and the skills necessary for social integration... Rehabilitation is to social integration as the learning process is to knowledge." The objective of this policy is certainly a positive one and it is good in theory. The reality, however, is that due to the lack of therapeutic programming within our prisons, the objective of rehabilitation cannot be met.

I am housed in a female correctional facility in Coldwater, Michigan. Staff shortage, lack of funding, lack of space, and the number of women in transit from one facility to another make it impossible for this institution to adequately administer the therapeutic needs of its prisoners.

As an employee of Prison Legal Services of Michigan, Inc., a non-profit organization which provides legal services and paralegal training for

... I have read many Presentence Investigation Reports where the court recommended specific therapeutic programming. Much of the programming, however, is either unavailable or the wait list so long, that a prisoner cannot get into the necessary program for months. In some cases the Parole Board continued the incarceration of prisoners who had not completed their recommended therapeutic programming, despite the prisoners' diligent attempts to acquire the needed therapy.

prisoners, I have read many Presentence Investigation Reports where the court recommended specific therapeutic programming. Much of the programming, however, is either unavailable or the wait list so long, that a prisoner cannot get into the necessary program for months. In some cases the Parole Board continued the incarceration of prisoners who had not completed their recommended therapeutic programming, despite the prisoners' diligent attempts to acquire the needed therapy.

There is one psychiatrist and one psychologist on staff at Coldwater. These two professionals must serve the needs of approximately 500 prisoners. Housing unit managers, already charged with the responsibility of overseeing 38 to 50 prisoners per

unit, have been assigned the additional task of holding group counseling and substance abuse sessions for the prisoners. Each group includes approximately eight to ten prisoners and runs six to eight weeks. Sometimes the unit managers must cancel, thus depriving the prisoners of the full six to eight weeks of therapy. More importantly, resident unit managers do not possess the training necessary to provide the extensive therapy that many prisoners need in order to get to their often deep-rooted problems.

There are many prisoners who do not understand what caused them to end up in prison. Many women prisoners ask: "Why did I allow this man to abuse me so?" "Why do I keep stealing? I'm not a bad person, I'm just a thief." There are other questions such as, "Why am I weak? Why can't I control my rage and anger? Why does the whole world hate me?" These people need help in addressing these issues.

One day these same people will return to society. If the public really wants to help promote and actualize a safer society, it must aid in this effort by supporting rehabilitative programs in prison. Providing the necessary therapy and education presents prisoners with alternatives to crime. It gives them a positive self-image and a hunger to learn more. Helping them to feel better about themselves also allows them to feel better about others. The public holds the key to its own safer society.

## The POISONING of Michigan

By Joyce Egginton



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(L-R: Lisa Dixon, Tucker Brown, Anne Stoll, Todd Seage)

## "Getting Out"

Performance Network of Ann Arbor presents "Getting Out": the compelling story of a woman's first days "out"—after serving eight years for robbery, kidnapping, and murder. Brilliantly crafted by Marsha Norman (Pulitzer and Tony winner for "Night Mother") this script uses two actresses to portray the teenaged criminal and the nearing-thirty parolee. In a winding sequence of parallel action the playwright shows Arlie/Arlene's struggle with her past and her present, ultimately unifying the character as she comes to terms with her family, new environment, friends and self.

Through the wild, out-of-control Arlie we find neglected and abused childhood, violence out-of-desperation with a completely intact and unsinkable sense of humor—even as she sits in

solitary or interacts with obtuse prison guards. While Arlene goes through the motions of settling into her new home; dealing with her mother, ex-pimp, ex-guard, and finally, the sharp-witted neighbor, Ruby—who becomes her friend.

Gritty, heartbreaking, and sometimes funny, this production is directed by Susan Lupo and features Tucker (Lori) Brown, Anne M. Stoll, Bob Laine, Kathy Klein, Lisa Dixon, Todd Seage, Romy Suskin, Darren Ayres, and Jeffrey Guss. "Getting Out" will be presented July 28-August 14 at the Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday, 8 pm; and Sunday, 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$6 for students and seniors. For reservations or more information call 663-0681.

## Prison Conditions in the Occupied Territories

by Steve Ghannam

"Under our military rules, we can arrest and hold prisoners without permitting them to see a lawyer. Nor are we required to hold court proceedings. Under these conditions, in which we report only to ourselves, are you surprised to hear that there is torture? How else do you suppose we keep more than a million people subdued, if not by torture." This quote was made by an Israeli military official in a 1983 interview with the November 29th Committee on Palestine and was published in the committee's brochure entitled: "Human Rights Violations of Palestinian and Lebanese Political Prisoners." It offers some insight into the brutal reality faced daily by Palestinians in the Occupied Territories at the hands of the Israeli occupiers, as well as the dilemma faced by the Israelis in attempting to control the lives of another people.

Since 1967, over 300,000 Palestinian men, women, and children have been imprisoned for violating one of the over 1,100 Israeli military orders. The majority of these orders have never been published or posted in the occupied territories and are not available even to lawyers. The orders range from travel restrictions (not being able to stay overnight inside Israel), to the prohibition of wearing or displaying the colors of the Palestinian flag.

Before the current uprising (which has jailed 10-15,000 Palestinians) over 3,500 Palestinians were held as prisoners of conscience in Israeli prisons. Of those; 1,000 were serving long-term sentences (25 years to life), another 1,000 were serving ten to fifteen years, and the remainder were serving one month to ten year sentences. These figures do not include the many (an estimated 20,000 each year) who are routinely arrested without warrant, detained and interrogated for months at a time, and finally released without ever having been charged. Most males over the age of sixteen have been interrogated

and held at one time or another in their lives for periods of varying duration.

In all of the territories under Israeli occupation, any soldier or police officer has the right to detain an individual for whom there are "grounds to suspect" that he or she has committed an offense. The law does not specify the nature of the suspected offense, and often times Palestinians do not know why they have been arrested and detained.

Upon arrest for suspicion, a Palestinian may be detained for an 18-day period which can be renewed indefinitely. Lawyers are routinely denied access to the detainees before interrogation is complete. Israeli lawyers claim that the reason for this arrangement is that the focal point of interrogation is to obtain a confession. To achieve that end the authorities invariably subject a prisoner to isolation, torture and subhuman physical conditions.

Conditions of overcrowding in Israeli prisons are some of the worst in the world. The world average space allotment is eight square meters per prisoner, while the Israelis allot only one square meter per Palestinian prisoner. Al-Fara'a Detention Center, designed exclusively for short-term detention and interrogation of young men, has 20-square meter cells which hold 30 prisoners each. Three by six meter tents which hold 50 prisoners each, contain the prisoner overflow. Jnaid, the new maximum security prison opened in June of 1984, holds 25 prisoners per 30-square meter cell.

In both al-Fara'a and Jnaid, some political prisoners are held in these cells for 22 hours a day. Other political prisoners are forced to produce military equipment for the Israeli army. Food in Jnaid is served through the cell door, and prisoners must crouch in the 80-centimeter-wide space between bunk beds to eat. Windows are blocked with asbestos

(see OCCUPATION PRISONS, page 11)



To publicize SEPTEMBER CALENDAR events send formatted listings by August 15 to AGENDA, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. (996-8018)

FORMAT—Event: Sponsor Time, and Place. One or two sentence description. (Fee). Phone number

Unless otherwise noted, all events listed in the CALENDAR are free and open to the public (including all committee meetings). Also, all locations are in Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.

## 1 Monday

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Integrity 8:45 pm, Canterbury House, 218 N. Division. 665-0606

## 2 Tuesday

Lesbian-Gay Radio Show: Gay Liberation 6 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. 763-3501 or 763-4186

Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. Locally produced program on issues of justice and peace. This week features Elenore Romberg on the international peace movement. Re-broadcast the Friday following each showing at 6:05 pm.

Meeting: Lesbian & Gay Rights Organizing Comm. (LaGROC) 8:30 pm, 3100 Mich. Union. 763-4186

Primary Election Day. Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm. Call 994-2725 to determine your polling place. VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

## 3 Wednesday

Volunteer Orientation Session: Women's Crisis Center 4-5 pm, 306 N. Division (St. Lawrence St. entrance of St. Andrews Church). Learn about WCC and how you can join our work in helping women help themselves. Call to sign up. 761-9475 or 994-9100

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm, Blind Pig, 208 S. First. 996-8555

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee 8 pm, 2435 Mason Hall. 665-8438

## 4 Thursday

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm, 408 W. Washington. Compelling story of a woman's first days "out" after serving eight years for robbery, kidnapping, and murder. \$8 (\$6 students & seniors). 663-0681

## 5 Friday

Women's Tea: Women's Crisis Center and U-M Lesbian Programs Office 5:30 to 7 pm, 306 N. Division (Lawrence St. entrance of St. Andrews Church). All women are welcome to this alternative happy hour. Enjoy pleasant company and a relaxed, alcohol-free atmosphere at WCC.

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm (see 4 Thurs)

Gay Men's Coffee House: "Brothers" 8 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. 763-4186

Ranking Roger: Prism Productions 10 pm, St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit. Former frontman of The English Beat and General Public. \$13.50 in advance from all Ticketmaster locations. 99-music

Forum on the Jackson Campaign and the Democratic Party: Solidarity Detroit. Speakers include: Joanna Misnik of Solidarity; Perry Hall who is on leave from the Wayne State Center for Black Studies and a WDET commentator; and Bernard Parker, chairperson of the Detroit chapter of the National Black United Front and organizer of the east side Jackson campaign office. Call Mike at 665-2709 for details or a ride.

## 6 Saturday

Frogs: Falling Water Books & Collectables 10 am, 318 S. Ashley. Story time with Ruth Scott, for children ages 5 to 8. This week features several stories and a visit with Fred, the Frog Puppet. 747-9810

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm (see 4 Thurs)

## 7 Sunday

Hiroshima Day Rally: Michigan Alliance for Disarmament 2 to 5 pm, Williams International. Legal nationwide demo at cruise missile engine maker. Carpooling from Ann Arbor Public Library starting at noon. 995-5871

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 6 pm, Michigan Union. 930-2959

Bible Interpretation: School of Metaphysics 6:30 pm, 719 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. On-going study of the holy works written in the language of mind. 482-9600

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm, Blind Pig, 208 S. First. 996-8555

"Getting Out": Performance Network 6:30 pm (see 4 Thurs)

## 8 Monday

Volunteer Information Session: Women's Crisis Center 5 to 6 pm (see 3 Wed)

Ann Arbor Hiroshima Day Commemoration: Michigan Alliance for Disarmament 6 to 10 pm, Island Park (old shelter). Picnic, games, speakers, music and lantern boats. 995-5871

Nagasaki Day Nonviolent Resistance: Michigan Alliance for Disarmament 7 to 9 pm, Williams International. Civil disobedience action. For info call Peter, Tues-Fri, 4 to 7 pm at (517) 337-2833

Meeting: Parents-FLAG/Ann Arbor 7:30 pm, First Methodist Church, State at Huron. 763-4186

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Integrity 8:45 pm (see 1 Mon)

## 9 Tuesday

Lesbian-Gay Radio Show: Gay Liberation 6 pm (see 2 Tues)

Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Channel 9 "In the Nuclear Shadow: What Can the Children Tell Us?" (see 2 Tues)

Meeting: Lesbian & Gay Rights Organizing Comm. (LaGROC) 8:30 pm (see 2 Tues)

Benefit: World Hunger Education-Action Committee 9 pm, The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Benefit to raise money for an agricultural cooperative in the Philippines. Featuring the music of Juice. \$3

## 10 Wednesday

AGENDA September issue deadline: News and feature articles 6 pm, 202 E. Washington #512, 48104. 996-8018

New Class in Applied Metaphysics: School of Metaphysics 7:30 to 10:30 pm, 719 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. Learn how to apply mental powers in everyday life. 482-9600

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee

8 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 11 Thursday

Why Solidarity?: Solidarity Discussion Group 7:30 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. Joanna Misnik will speak about building a socialist movement. 995-5871

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm (see 4 Thurs)

## 12 Friday

Women's Tea: Women's Crisis Center 5:30-7 pm (see 5 Fri)

Metaphysical "Rap" Session: School of Metaphysics 7:30 pm, 719 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. Discuss concepts of the universe. 482-9600

"Ghosts": Cross Street Art Ensemble 8 pm, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 120 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Ibsen's gripping tale of the Alving family's tragic attempts to free itself from the "ghosts" of the past. \$5 (\$4 students & seniors). 483-4016

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm (see 4 Thurs)

## 13 Saturday

Mosquitos: Falling Water Books & Collectables 10 am, 318 S. Ashley. Story time with Ruth Scott, for children ages 5 to 8. This week includes one fine book and a string story. 747-9810

"Getting Out": Performance Network 8 pm (see 4 Thurs)

"Ghosts": Cross Street Art Ensemble. 8 pm (see 12 Fri)

## 14 Sunday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 6 pm, Michigan Union. 930-2959

Bible Interpretation: School of Metaphysics 6:30 pm (see 7 Sun)

"Getting Out": Performance Network 6:30 pm (see 4 Thurs)

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Poetry Reading and Book Signing: Falling Water Books & Collectables 7 pm, 318 S. Ashley. Poetry reading by local poets Brian Greminger and Charles Ordowski. Mr. Ordowski will also be signing copies of his new book, "Echoes & Images." 747-9810

Meeting: Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament (WAND) 7:30 pm, St. Aidan's/Northside Church, 1679 Broadway. Phyllis Ponvert, a local WAND member, will discuss her slides and empowering experiences in Juigalpa, Nicaragua. 761-1718

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Bonnie Ralitt: WDET 8 pm, Power Center. Order tickets by phone, 763-TKTS

## 15 Monday

AGENDA September issue deadline for Community Resource Directory & Calendar Listings by 6 pm, 202 E. Washington #512, 48104. 996-8018

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Integrity 8:45 pm (see 1 Mon)

## 16 Tuesday

Lesbian-Gay Radio Show: Gay Liberation 6 pm (see 2 Tues)

Peace InSight 7:05 pm Cable Channel 9. "The Great Peace March, Washington D.C." (see 2 Tues)

Meeting: Lesbian & Gay Rights Organizing Comm. (LaGROC) 8:30 pm (see 2 Tues)

## 17 Wednesday

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 18 Thursday

Volunteer Information Session: Women's Crisis Center 6-7 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 19 Friday

Women's Tea: Women's Crisis Center 5:30 to 7 pm (see 5 Fri)

Lecture: School of Metaphysics 7:30 pm, 719 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. "Dreams—The Journey Within." Explore the world of dreams and dream interpretation. 482-9600

Gay Men's Coffee House: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 5 Fri)

"Ghosts": Cross Street Art Ensemble 8 pm (see 12 Fri)

## 20 Saturday

"Ghosts": Cross Street Art Ensemble 8 pm (see 12 Fri)

## 21 Sunday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 6 pm, Michigan Union. 930-2959

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 22 Monday

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Integrity 8:45 pm (see 1 Mon)

## 23 Tuesday

Volunteer Information Session: Women's Crisis Center 12 noon-1 pm (see 3 Wed)

Lesbian-Gay Radio Show: Gay Liberation 6 pm (see 2 Tues)

Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. "Calien Lewis: Nonviolent Conflict Resolution" (see 2 Tues)

Meeting: Bread for the World 7:30 pm, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Discussion of domestic and international hunger issues, legislative updates and planning for fall hunger events. 487-9058

Meeting: Lesbian & Gay Rights Organizing Comm. (LaGROC) 8:30 pm (see 2 Tues)

## 24 Wednesday

Back to School: Falling Water

Books & Collectables 10 am, 318 S. Ashley. Story time with Ruth Scott, for children ages 5 to 8. This week's stories are about beginning school or going to the next grade. 747-9810

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 26 Friday

Women's Tea: Women's Crisis Center 5:30-7 pm (see 5 Fri)

## 27 Saturday

Second Annual All Together Now: Manzana Productions 10 am to 10 pm, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. The celebration includes: a live performance by Badfinger, a play, speakers, a giant flea market with Beatles records and memorabilia, and a museum of rare Beatles items. \$5 at gate, \$4 in advance from Manzana Productions, PO Box 85582, Westland, MI 48185. 729-1310

## 28 Sunday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee 6 pm, Michigan Union. 930-2959

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

## 29 Monday

Bible Interpretation: School of Metaphysics 6:30 pm (see 7 Sun)

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Integrity 8:45 pm (see 1 Mon)

## 30 Tuesday

Lesbian-Gay Radio Show: Gay Liberation 6 pm (see 2 Tues)

Peace InSight 7:05 pm, Cable Channel 9. "Interviews with Observers at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site." (see 2 Tues)

Meeting: Lesbian & Gay Rights Organizing Comm. (LaGROC)

# ALL TOGETHER NOW '88



## A CELEBRATION OF THE BEATLES

The 2nd annual Beatles fans convention, to be held August 27 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, will feature a concert by Apple Recording Artists, Badfinger. Speakers include Russ Gibb of the famed Paul is Dead rumor and Erin Howorth, author of the Beatles book, "They Said, They Said."

8:30 pm (see 2 Tues)

## 31 Wednesday

Women's Tea: Women's Crisis Center 5:30 to 7 pm (see 5 Fri)

Lesbian-Gay Men's Music: Gay Liberation 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

The Labor Studies Center and *wDET* Welcome



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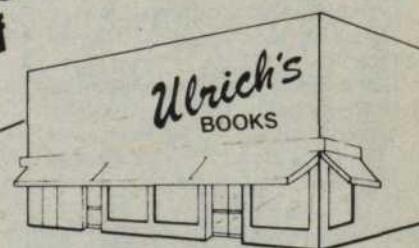
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# COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

## AGENDA Recognizes Supporters

AGENDA has traversed a rocky financial road these last couple of years (a never-ending road, it seems). Nonetheless, here we are with AGENDA's 26th issue. We would like to acknowledge the supporters without whom this would not have been possible. Our contributors, subscribers, and advertisers have provided the entirety of AGENDA's funding base, and to all of you, we at AGENDA extend a heartfelt "Thanks!"

**VOLUNTEERS:** As always, AGENDA is seeking volunteers. We need help distributing the paper at the end of the month, aid with fundraising, and production assistance. AGENDA also needs writers. If you'd like to talk to us about ideas for stories or want to take a reporting assignment, please call!

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY (CRD):** For a minimum fee, your organization can greatly increase its public visibility through the CRD. CRD listings should contain information about your group's current activities and news. Also include meeting times and places. The Directory is also a good place to proselytize about your issues.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** AGENDA relies on community support. If you value the existence of a free newspaper in your community, please subscribe.

**DEADLINES for September issue: August 10:** News/features **August 15:** Calendar & Community Resource Directory listings.

AGENDA, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 996-8018.

## LaGROC Integrates Farmers Market

An "integration" of the Ann Arbor Farmers Market was accomplished on July 9 by a dozen members of LaGROC, the U-M-based Lesbian and Gay Rights Organizing Committee. Members of the group held hands while strolling through the market and wrote statements in chalk on the sidewalk. According to one of the participants, the Director of the Market told the "integrators" that they were "causing a disturbance" and were "soliciting." The Director then summoned the Ann Arbor Police Department. LaGROC intends to report the Director's intervention to the City's Human Rights Department and Commission.

**OTHER NEWS:** Members of Ann Arbor's lesbian-gay community participated in the opening ceremony of the "Names Project," which brought the quilt commemorating people who have died of AIDS and ARC to Detroit's Cobo Hall last month. Several of the quilt's panels bear the names of former residents of Ann Arbor, including David Sindt, a graduate of the U-M School of Social Work and founder of Presbyterians for Lesbian-Gay Concerns.

A member of the Lesbian-Gay Political Caucus of Washtenaw County reports that Nancy Francis, a candidate for Circuit Court Judge, has responded satisfactorily to concerns about her support of the Ann Arbor domestic violence ordinance and should be considered a desirable candidate for the office. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 2.

Western Michigan is proud to announce the formation of a Lesbian and Gay Community Network, organized as a result of the National Lesbian and Gay March on Washington, D.C. last October. The group's number is 616/241-GAYS.

Gay Liberation's Purpose is to provide in-

formation, counseling, and related social services for people concerned about sexual orientation: (1) maintain Hotline for crisis intervention, peer counseling, referral; (2) help provide factual information to offset prejudice and misinformation about lesbians and gay men; (3) work to obtain human and civil rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation; (4) help lesbian and gay men's groups organize; (5) link to other community groups.

**Community services include a Hotline:** crisis intervention, peer counseling, referral. **Education:** workshops and conferences on lesbian and gay male concerns, with an emphasis on how people in the "helping professions" and "teaching professions" can work positively with lesbian and gay male clients, patients, students. **Speakers Bureau:** phone for information. **Human & Civil Rights:** information and referral to help people under discrimination because of their actual or presumed sexual orientation or "because of their presumed "cross-gender" characteristics; lobbying for human and civil rights. **Community Organizing:** information and assistance in organizing groups, setting goals, addressing conflict, linking with other groups and resources.

**Gay Liberation meetings** vary according to purpose; we do most of our work in sub-committees (counseling, groupwork, education, civil rights). Call for time and place. Gay Liberation includes U-M students, staff, and faculty, and people from the larger community. We have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. At present we have approximately fifty members. We're a registered non-profit organization.

Gay Liberation, c/o 4117 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, info: 763-4186; hotline: 662-1977.

## NMAP Sponsors Visit of Juigalpa Health Director

In a joint effort with the Sister City Project, the Nicaragua Medical Aid Project (NMAP) is bringing Dr. Xavier Luna to Ann Arbor in mid-September. Dr. Luna is director of the regional hospital in Juigalpa and will be meeting with several local groups to make the hospital's medical needs known and to secure material support for its operation.

NMAP has recently undertaken two additional projects. We are serving as the fundraising agency for the Michigan Quest for Peace effort that is sending a sea cargo container of humanitarian aid from Ann Arbor to Nicaragua in September of this year. In addition to raising the \$5,500 in freight costs necessary to send the container, NMAP is collecting medical supplies that will be included in the shipment. The destination of the container will be Juigalpa, Ann Arbor's Sister City in Nicaragua.

NMAP continues to seek donations for its Pain Project. The funds are used to purchase heavily discounted pain alleviating medications which are in short supply in Nicaragua. If you are interested in contributing to either the Quest for Peace container shipment or the Pain Project, or would like further information about NMAP, contact Donald Bessey at 747-1595 or Bob Hauert at 764-7442.

NMAP was established in January 1984 by a group of public health and health care professionals, students and concerned community people. The primary aims of this project are providing material support to health care facilities in Nicaragua and educating ourselves and other North Americans about conditions in Nicaragua. For the past six years NMAP has provided to Nicaragua: medicines, hospital supplies, and difficult to obtain items such as microscope bulbs, microscope objectives, and X-ray shields. We have also sent technicians to Nicaragua who have serviced and repaired existing equipment. NMAP participates in activities designed to meet specific needs communicated to us by Nicaraguan health care professionals. Through our membership in the National Central American Health Rights Network (NCAHRN), NMAP coordinates its efforts with those of more than 50 other local medical aid groups across the United States.

Nicaragua Medical Aid Project (NMAP), 1706 S. University, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. For information call 747-1595 or 764-7442.

## WAND Presents Sister City Report

Sunday, August 14, at WAND's monthly meeting, local WAND member Phyllis Ponvert will present slides and discuss her empowering experiences in Juigalpa, Nicaragua. Phyllis, the only woman in her delegation, was chosen to be leader on this 10-day visit to Ann Arbor's sister city this past spring. She became so inspired by her visit that she has decided to return in September and spend the next year and a half in this Central American country, to help stop the war that the U.S. government is funding. The presentation will be held at St. Aidan's/

open at 7 pm, the meeting begins at 7:30 pm, and the program begins at 8 pm. New members are always welcome.

WAND's goals are to educate ourselves and the public about the dangers of continued nuclear arms buildup, to influence our Congressional representatives by informed lobbying, and to empower people, especially women, personally and politically.

(see WAND, page 10)

## Solidarity Takes Dems to Task

Solidarity will conclude its summer discussion series with a talk featuring Joanna Misnik, editor of a Solidarity pamphlet explaining our views on the Jackson campaign and the Democratic Party. Joanna will speak on the topic "Why Solidarity?" at Guild House, 802 Monroe, on Thursday, August 11, at 7:30 pm. For those especially interested in the question of the Left and the Democratic Party—particularly given the Duke's inspiring V.P. choice—Solidarity is sponsoring a forum focusing on Jackson and the Democratic Party in Detroit on Friday, August 5. Speakers will include Joanna Misnik for Solidarity, Perry Hall, who is on leave from

the Wayne State Center for Black Studies and a commentator on WDET, and Bernard Parker, chairperson of the Detroit chapter of the National Black United Front and organizer of the east side Jackson campaign office. For more details or a ride, call Mike Fischer at 665-2709.

Solidarity is an organization committed to building a non-sectarian socialist movement in the U.S. We are socialist activists who participate in the struggles against racism and sexism, as well as the struggles for lesbian and gay rights. We firmly

(see SOLIDARITY, page 10)

## LASC to Oppose Renewed Aid to contras

According to the mainstream press, the situation in Nicaragua has recently heated up due to the Sandinistas' expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton, and the nationalization of a large sugar plantation. In reality, the U.S.-sponsored political and economic destabilization has for the last few years created a crisis situation in Nicaragua, making conditions ripe for a government collapse or a U.S.-inspired military overthrow, much like that which occurred in Chile in 1973. The Reagan Administration is once again calling for military aid for the contras (who have begun murdering civilians again since the breakdown of the talks with Nicaraguan government). Significantly, strongman on the contras' military and political directorate is, as of late, former Somoza National Guardsman Enrique Bermudez. LASC will be working to galvanize popular support against this last-ditch contra aid effort by the Reagan Administration.

LASC's purpose is to support the legitimate aspirations of Latin American peoples to self-determination. LASC aims to increase awareness in the U.S. about contemporary realities in Latin America and the U.S. role in the region. Because current U.S. foreign policy perpetuates violence and injustice, LASC acts as a community of concerned citizens to pressure our government to change its military, political, and economic policies toward Latin America.

LASC sponsors educational events such as films, slide shows, and speakers. The outreach committee provides speakers for University and high school classes as well as for other groups interested in Latin American issues. If you would like somebody to speak, contact us at 665-8438. The LASC newsletter La Palabra (our Summer issue is hot off the press) reaches about 800 subscribers. It contains a summary of our activities and updates on the news from Latin America.

Our meetings throughout the summer alternate between education on Latin American issues and conducting regular LASC business. New people are always welcome. Information about weekly activities can be obtained by visiting or calling the LASC office. The office is staffed from 12 to 1 pm on weekdays, and messages can be left on the answering machine at all other times.

Latin American Solidarity Committee (LASC), 4120 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, 665-8438.

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**WAND**

(from page 9)

**WAND meetings** are held the second Sunday night of the month at St. Aidan's/Northside Church, 1679 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Call our Information Hotline at 761-1718 for a message announcing important lobbying information, meet-

ing times, and upcoming events. Our Speaker's Bureau provides trained speakers who will address groups, classes, and public forums and rallies on a variety of issues. Contact Tobi Hanna-Davies at 662-7869.

**Washtenaw County Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, Inc. (WAND)** P.O. Box 1815 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1815, 761-1718.

**SOLIDARITY**

(from page 9)

believe that any socialist movement worthy of the name must join in these struggles now rather than perpetuate the illusion that they can either be separated from or take a back seat to the class struggle.

We oppose the growing U.S. drive toward war, whether that be in the Middle East or Central America. We support the PLO in its struggle against Israeli oppression. We see the need for interna-

tional solidarity among working people and the oppressed in a period of concessions, deindustrialization, unemployment and the growing debt crisis. We believe in a creative rethinking of socialism for the 90s in which an open environment and a variety of views are more important than presenting a monolithic face to the world or engaging in pretenses of being "the vanguard."

**Solidarity, 507 W. Huron Apt. #1, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, 665-2709.**

**INTERVIEW**

(from page 4)

in particular, have very little opportunity to do anything other than to earn a G.E.D.

Very few women in prison get health care of any significance. And it's not surprising that there are some bad accidents and that a fair number of women have died in prison because of lack of health care. That's a serious problem because if you're incarcerated there's nothing you can do about your own health situation.

I suppose another problem for women is their inability to deal with the lack of justice in the way the criminal justice system operates. They were trying often times to make it. They weren't able to make it on the outside and ended up in prison. Sometimes we talk about welfare fraud and how bad it is. I can tell you about some cases where people worked while receiving welfare because they had sick children and then ended up in prison and had their parental rights terminated. But actually they were probably doing the right thing in many people's opinion. They didn't receive enough in welfare benefits to take care of their

family responsibilities so they did something in addition, for which they were punished. Now those women have a hard time in prison figuring out, "What did I really do wrong? Why am I being punished for this? I broke this law but then there's this higher law." I think that a lot of them get very conflicted about that.

**What attention is being given to the problem of battered women in prison?** There was almost no attention given to that problem for a long period of time. People sort of knew that a very large proportion of the women in prison for homicide had committed homicide in their families. It is most unusual to have a woman commit a stranger homicide, and for a hit-person to be a woman is practically unheard of. Then, as we began to look at who were the women who killed their spouse or partner, we found that many of these women were themselves battered. They were battered for extended periods of time, maybe many years by their partners or their husbands, and finally in desperation, killed them. With the onset of the domestic violence movement in this country, there is now considerable interest in trying to work with and help battered women in prison.

**Are there programs specifically designed to encourage the continuation of the relationships between incarcerated mothers and their children?** Yes, there are programs. They began in California and Massachusetts and we've now got a program going in Michigan called the Children's Visitation Program. It's a very exciting program because it involves three groups of people, and this is the first time to my knowledge they've ever worked together.

One is a group of about 30 community volunteers—professionals, non-professionals, lawyers, social workers, church people, etc.

There's also a committee of prisoners. They are women in prison who are trying to work on what kind of really good experience they can have with their children when the children visit the prison.

And the third group of people is the staff in the prison. And we have a lot of staff people actively involved. These people are all working together. And it's very interesting for us to sit down and try to talk to one another about how to work out a children's visitation program. The warden puts on a very different hat in this situation than she

usually does. What I find very exciting about it is that people get to see each other in different ways.

**What alternatives can you recommend to incarceration?** There are hundreds of alternatives that have been tested, and work. There are community service programs, community restitution programs, probation supervision, fines, community-based residential programs where people work in the community during the day and they stay in the program at night. There are a lot of states in the U.S. that have very interesting community-based programs. The problem is not that we don't have any community programs, it's that we don't use them heavily. The numbers of those going into community programs have dropped, particularly in probation. We've been increasing the numbers in prison and we've been also increasing the length of stay in prison. As a result we have this tremendous buildup. I think these numbers will force us to start moving toward more community based programs.

**Rosemary Sarri is a professor of Social Work at the U-M.**

**RIGHTS**

(from page 4)

prisoners' voices. The prisoner newspaper of Jackson Prison (The Spectator) had a circulation of several hundred. The Spectator has not been published since February 1988. Voices from Jackson Prison have been cut off. Why?

The former editor of the paper, Duke Simmons, despite his spotless record since 1985, was ordered to "maximum security" by an MDOC official based in Lansing. This action automatically removed him from his position as editor of the Spectator. The co-editor of the Spectator was

also transferred to another facility—on the basis of his security classification being decreased.

Simmons' journalism was very political. The MDOC appears to be threatened by prisoners who speak the truth in print, in legal briefs, or in grievances. Harassment techniques against these prisoners are frequent. As controls were increased over the last year, more prisoners who spoke out have been harassed.

Prisoners do not lose their humanity upon entering a prison. They breathe, have feelings, and are able to read and process information. They do not change in any way except that they live under 24 hour control. Their observations are valid and

can be useful. Unless prisoners are heard, people of conscience will not fully understand the true human and financial cost of our multibillion dollar correctional system. We will not know or understand the consequences to prisoners in administrative segregation who are forced to live without bathing and with their own waste. We will not know or understand why a mentally ill prisoner sets his or her cell on fire after repeated pleas for help go unanswered.

Acceptance and respect for prisoner input is necessary for adequate understanding of all the issues involved in prisoner control. The public,

including state legislators and the governor, must reject popular notions that prisoners cannot be trusted. We must hear and understand when prisoners speak about their environment, about the food they eat, the air they breathe, their family visits, conditions of confinement, and the controls they live with every minute.

**Penny Ryder works in the Ann Arbor office of the American Friends Service Committee as director of the organization's criminal justice program in Michigan.**

**POLITICS**

(from page 4)

were conservative through their support of anti-communist persecutions, today they earn their conservative credentials by sending ever greater numbers of people to prison for longer periods of time, thus proving they are tough on crime.

These are harsh judgements, but it is time people faced what this so-called war against crime is really about. It is about locking up more and more young men and women, who belong predominantly to racial minorities and are overwhelmingly poor. It amounts to punishing some of society's greatest victims for the crimes of a society which is unwilling to face the real costs of justice and development. It means misleading the public into believing that by incarcerating more people, crime rates will go down. It means taking people who are suffering from the effects of dependency and powerlessness and putting them into a system in which they are rendered absolutely dependent. It means for years denying these people control over the most minute aspect of their lives and then throwing them back into a society that has no place for them, with no real

preparation to make it on their own.

No one suffers more from crime than the poor. Yet the so-called war against crime has predominantly been a war against the poor. Additionally, a large percentage of those in our prisons have been victims of abuse. We cannot, therefore, claim to be serious about working against crime unless we put significant resources into the prevention of spouse and child abuse and counseling for those who have been its victims. And given that a large percentage of those in our prisons have mental illnesses or substance abuse problems, we cannot claim to be serious about working against crime until we provide these people with adequate treatment.

Most importantly, we cannot claim to be serious about fighting crime unless we recognize the degree to which it is linked to community development. In Michigan, the crime index and the unemployment index have followed each other in lockstep fashion. The effects of underdevelopment of Michigan, which has been the result of the flight of capital and industry, have been devastating. We cannot claim to be serious about fighting crime until we help the devastated communities in our state develop to the point that the

people within them feel that there is some place for them in our society. We can do little to prevent the kind of crime most of us are most concerned about, violent crime, as long as a vast proportion of our society has no hope for a future with some measure of dignity.

We are at a crossroads. There will be no peace, no security, until we live in a society which is committed to helping every one of its members secure a place for themselves and their loved ones within it. We can either continue to invest billions of dollars in further crippling ever greater numbers of our population through incarceration in our present criminal justice system, or we can begin to invest our funds in ways that contribute to individual and community development. Though today it may seem to be a choice that will only tangentially affect many of us, ultimately it is a choice between an increasingly violent and repressive society and the kind of future most of us would wish for ourselves and our children.

**Rev. Joe Summers is Vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Pittsfield Township**

**JUSTICE**

(from page 2)

ity targeting Black and Latino youth. Racist vigilante violence is burgeoning, often justified under the guise of fighting "Black crime" such as in the Howard Beach and Bernard Goetz cases in New York City. As the Black Panther Party suggested nearly two decades ago, "the racism in the criminal justice system in the U.S. has placed the entire Black community under a permanent state of arrest."

In 1988 there are more young Black men in America's penal institutions and reformatories than in colleges and universities. In communities where guns and drugs are made more accessible than jobs and scholarships, the problem of crime is not too surprising. Most victims of violent crime are themselves people of color. The startling rate of death by homicide for Black males under 45 years old is 125.2 per 100,000 in contrast to 14.2 per 100,000 for white males in the same age group.

Most of the solutions being advocated today promise to exacerbate rather than seriously address the social problems facing Black and Latino communities. In most major cities across the country, while alarming cutbacks in social services have been made over the

past decade, increased funding continues for cops and jails. In Michigan, while school systems like Detroit are grossly underfunded, millions of dollars have been allocated, not to train and educate, but to lock up more young people in regimented "youth work camps."

Another distinct feature of the American justice system is its criminalization of political radicalism. There have been, of course, periods of intense political repression such as the reign of terror under Senator McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in the 1950's. HUAC's Cold War paranoia about "a commie under every bed" not only criminalized political radicalism, but liberalism as well, targeting and harassing activists, artists and intellectuals who were critical of any aspect of U.S. policy.

The unscrupulous meddling of the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover is yet another example of the criminalization of political activism. In particular, the FBI's Counter Intelligence program, known as COINTELPRO, was an important force in disrupting and dividing the progressive movements of the 1960's. As sociologist Manning Marable writes: "...the state developed an extraordinarily powerful and illegal apparatus—the COINTELPRO... Begun in 1956...(it)

mushroomed into a wide ranging series of assaults against progressive and Black nationalist leaders and organizations. In its 15 year history of operations the FBI sent anonymous mailings to group members criticizing a leader or an allied group..., encouraging hostility up to and including gang warfare between rival groups; (and) ordered federal, state, or local authorities to arrest, audit, raid, inspect or deport Black activists."

In addition to these rather dramatic forms of state repression, other surveillance and counter-intelligence programs are routinely implemented by local and federal agencies, such as the case recently exposed by the Center for Constitutional Rights of infiltration and spying upon Central American solidarity groups. Despite the rhetoric of political freedom, to seriously ally oneself with the Left in this country is to risk a run-in with the criminal justice system.

To simply equate crime with immorality and American law with universal justice is to gloss over the glaring contradictions within our legal system. It is a system which would put an unemployed mother in jail for stealing food for her children and give awards to military officers for the murder of innocent civilians in other parts of the world.



## SANCTIONED VIOLENCE

(from page 1)

"regular duties" of male guards, women prisoners must also endure verbal sexual harassment. If the woman responds to the verbal harassment or protests what is done to her in any way, she may be subjected to intense harassment by multiple guards, even to the point of having her sentence prolonged. These actions and this retaliatory treatment are not only sanctioned by the prison administration, they are encouraged.

This attitude paves the way to even greater

abuses of women prisoners. At least three or four women are raped by male guards each year. Far more are threatened into submitting to sexual abuses. When such abuses are reported, the women are punished severely, while more often than not, nothing is done to the rapist-guard.

This situation is even more tragic when the demographics of the female prison population are considered. It is estimated that 80% of all women prisoners were victims of rape and/or incest prior to their incarceration. Over 70% of women prisoners are incarcerated for non-violent offenses, and of those incarcerated for violent offenses, many were the direct result of abuse or coercion by husbands or boyfriends. These women are subjected to endless sexual harassment and abuse of the worst sort as punishment for their crimes, then they are expected to return to the free world and function normally.

In a civilized country, permitting and endorsing this kind of treatment is an abomination. It is long past time that the public demanded that it be stopped.

## SHARPEVILLE SIX

(from page 3)

which have already been tried with no success: an appeal to reopen the trial and an appeal to Botha for clemency.

Locally and globally, people from all ends of the political spectrum have united around the issue of clemency for the Sharpeville Six. Despite calls for reprieve from well-known allies of the South African government, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, President P.W. Botha remains intransigent in his decision not to intervene on the Six's behalf.

If the execution of the Sharpeville Six does occur, the likely result will be an escalation of the resistance struggle of Black South Africans. Solomon Mahlangu (for whom the ANC Freedom College in Tanzania is named) and the Sharpeville Six not only symbolize the brutality of the fascist South African government, but serve as inspiration for the courageous and determined resistance of Black South Africans. Their determination has not lessened, but has become stronger to meet the ever more repressive conditions. Through underground, banned organizations (such as

the ANC), Black South Africans have coordinated, over the last few years, the most successful school boycotts and work strikes in their history. They have brought international attention and support to their struggle. With this courage and spirit, the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa will ultimately prevail.

Pam Nadasen attends the University of Michigan and is a member of the Free South Africa Coordinating Committee and the United Coalition Against Racism.

## OCCUPATION PRISONS

(from page 5)

(a known carcinogen) "screens," through which no light or air penetrates. The two hour exercise period is held in a 290-square meter asphalt courtyard crammed with 150 prisoners at a time.

Such methods employed by the Israelis have prompted a series of investigations by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights organizations. A now-famous five month investigation was conducted in 1977 by the London Sunday Times into the use of torture in Israeli prisons. The study documented the cases of 44 Palestinian prisoners from 1967-1977 (the first 10 years of Israeli occupation). It examined practices in seven detention centers: Nablus, Ramallah, Khalil (Hebron), and Gaza; the interrogation and detention center in Jerusalem known as the Russian Compound or Moscobiya; and special military centers located in Gaza and Sarafund.

The investigation found that Israeli inter-

rogators routinely ill-treat and torture Palestinian prisoners. Prisoners are hooded, blindfolded and then hung by their wrists or forced to stand for long periods of time. Many are struck in the genitals or in other ways sexually abused or assaulted. Most are administered electric shock, while others are burned with cigarettes. Some prisoners are placed in specially constructed "cupboards," which are two feet square and five feet high with concrete spikes set in the floor. Subjecting a detainee to several daily routines of drying off with a space heater after a cold shower is common. The deprivation of sleep and prolonged beatings are universal in Israeli prisons and detention centers. It is estimated that between 70-80% of Palestinian prisoners suffer from some form of illness, either caused by or aggravated by their poor treatment while in prison.

Furthermore, an Amnesty International study in 1986 concluded that there is no country in the world in which the use of official and sustained torture is as well documented as it is in Israel.

Because of such investigations and the re-

sulting international pressure, the Israeli government was forced to conduct its own investigation of alleged torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian political prisoners. The now famous Landau Report concluded in 1987 that for nearly 20 years, the Shin Beth (equivalent to the FBI or the Secret Service) systematically tortured Palestinian detainees for the sole purpose of extracting a confession. It also concluded that in many cases the detainees offered false confessions just to stop the torture. The report substantiated long-held Palestinian claims of human rights abuses in Israeli prisons.

These reports give impetus to international human rights activists to continue pressuring Israel to halt such atrocities. Pressure must also be placed on the U.S. government to stop aiding Israel until Israel cleans up its human rights record.

Steve Ghannam is a member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee in Ann Arbor.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### PEACE

(from page 2)

Disarmament, and SANE/FREEZE. The series aims to show how individuals can contribute to world peace. It features talks by peace advocates, interviews with local authorities on is-

sues of justice and peace, and activities of peace activists here and around the world. The shows will be aired every Tuesday throughout August and the first two Tuesdays of September at 7:05 pm on Community Access Channel 9. Programs will be replayed every week on Fridays at 6:05 pm.

## Independent Presidential Candidate Challenges Electoral System

In November, Dr. Lenora Fulani will become the first Black woman Presidential candidate on the ballot in all 50 states, according to a New Alliance Party press release. Fulani, a New York psychologist, is associated with the New Alliance Party, which backed Jesse Jackson until it became apparent that Dukakis would win the Democratic Presidential nomination. At that point Fulani chose to challenge the Democratic Party rather than to vote for Dukakis, whom she considers the "lesser of two

evils."

Fulani's platform emphasizes non-intervention, disarmament and peace. She also advocates an end to racism, sexism, anti-Semitism and anti-gay bigotry. In her announcement of candidacy, Fulani stated: "Across this country the people cry out for a decent life for themselves, their children, their families. Job training, job opportunities. Farm subsidies. Decent welfare benefits. This is what the people need. But when it has come time to select a President

## Christic Institute to Appeal Case Dismissal

The Christic Institute recently announced its decision to appeal U.S. District Court Judge James L. King's dismissal of its Secret Team case (see AGENDA, April & May, 1987). On June 23rd, just one business day before the start of jury selection in the Iran/Contra civil

suit, Judge King halted the case which would have brought Secret Teamers: Richard Secord, Theodore Shackley, John Singlaub, and their co-conspirators to trial.

Christic Institute attorneys claim that the judge's dismissal of the case is a "judicial dis-

grace riddled with serious legal errors." One of the grounds on which the attorneys claim the judge's decision was legally faulty, is that the judge refused to accept affidavits, even though their admittance in court is federally mandated.

The Christic Institute has expressed confidence that the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals will reverse Judge King's recent ruling in the Iran/Contra lawsuit.

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**Pilar Celaya,**  
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**Francisco Rodriguez,** a refugee from El Salvador staying at the First Unitarian Universalist Church would like to share his skills with you. Francisco is an experienced farm worker and gardener who will also perform general labor. Francisco also makes a variety of Salvadoran handicrafts. If you have employment opportunities for Francisco please contact Bette Oswell at 662-0823.



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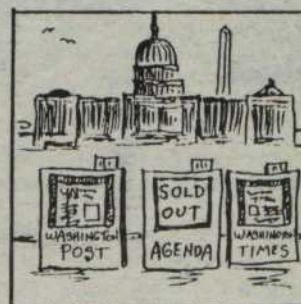
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