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- 16-17: Mischief, by Abie Weisfeld. Back from a 30-day sentence at the Ontario government's torture centre on Innes Road, the author reflects on his experiences there.
- 17: BC's Resource Depletion: the meek shall inherit the dearth.

Editor's note: It is no coincidence that we are printing articles on the school system and the prison system back-to-back in this issue. From the government's standpoint schools and prisons serve roughly the same purpose, to keep people off the labour market and enforce hierarchical patterns of behaviour dictatorship in which the few control the many. The prison inmates have committed the crime of trying to share the property of the wealthy, the school inmates have committed the crime of being young; both are punishable offences in this society. (Being old is also a crime, with incarceration centres for those who have failed to accumulate enough money to remain independent.) As our social system denies the opportunity of earning a regular income to an ever-growing proportion of people, it will institutionalize a correspondingly increasing proportion of the remainder. Since this state of affairs suits the people who control society very well, we must abandon futile protest and educate people as to the need for an alternative society.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WAR TOYS WALKATHON: Saturday Sept. 29. A 10-kilometer inter-city event sponsored by ANVA. Organized locally by Youth Action for Peace. Contact Eliza, 233-2842.
- YOUTH CULTURE PROMOTIONS: A concert will be held on Saturday September 29, to initiate a series of six concerts on the last Saturday of each month, for the next six months. Local bands featured. Sponsored by KRCU, Radio Carleton 93.1. Contact Vig, 233-6494.
- OUTAOUAIS DIVESTMENT COMMITTEE: opening meeting Sunday September 9, 10 a.m., 442 Cambridge. information, Mike 230-9868.
- RAPE/WAR/PORNOGRAPHY CAMPAIGNS: women's caucus-Christine 230-0827  
men's caucus-Rick 235-5435
- SEMINAR ON IMMIGRATION ACT: focus on racism. In Montreal, mid-September  
Information: Mike 230-9868
- PAGAN EARTH RITUAL: Monday September 10, midnight, full moon.  
Planning Monday September 3, noon. Information: Mike 230-9868

BLACK UMBRELLA LAUNCHES SECOND PUBLICATION

Outaouais Outrage, a second publication of the Outaouais Black Umbrella, made its debut in August. The Umbrella will publish Network once monthly and the Outrage twice monthly. Outrage is a single-sheet tabulation of news of immediate importance for wide-spread distribution; Network is a lengthier publication which will try to provide more news and set it in the framework of a radical social analysis. Network will attempt to serve as a clearing-house for information from the various publications we receive.

NEEDED: Scrap paper (one side clear) for printing Network. If you have any, please call us at 230-9868.

Challenging Sexism

## PORNOGRAPHY-RAPE-WAR CAMPAIGN

flier statement

The pornography-rape-war campaign is one of the three campaigns of the Alliance for Non-Violent Action for 1984 (the other 2 being the Military Toys Campaign and the Military Facilities Campaign.) It originated in the Wymyn's caucus of ANVA and then moved to the Feminist Collective. It is a creatively diversified action, i.e. not centrally organized or controlled (although a few active members of the feminist collective and Wymyn's Action for Peace in Ottawa have organized things such as pamphlets, buttons, etc...thus far.)

One of the goals of this campaign is to make the links between the issues and to see that there is one common mentality that underlies the issues--and taking the words a step further--a nonviolent direct action method of addressing these links. Men and Wymyn act separately but in solidarity, with an emphasis on men challenging other men. Many people have thought about the three issues on a separate basis, but any basic in-depth thinking will show the connections between the issues. For example: pornography was used in the Viet Nam war to hype the soldiers, and the fantasy rapes that appear in porn increase the likelihood of rape in reality. Rape is very prevalent in war--the "kill the men, rape the Wymyn, pillage the town" mentality. For Wymyn rape is a daily war in life. Pornography also changes the perceptions of human relationships, creating barriers between the sexes, increasing stereotypes, objectifying and making it difficult for there to be a world without hate, abuse, violence, rape, war, etc...From these basic examples it can be seen that these issues affect people from all walks of life, and we are encouraging groups and individuals from all walks of life to participate in this action.

In thinking about possible actions involving the links between the 3 issues, we tried to think in a positive way--positive inversion mentality: instead of no porn, in its place but dignified erotica. Instead of no rape, dignified, non-abusive sexual freedom. Instead of no war, creative conflict. At this moment in the campaign, we have a few pamphlets explaining the action left, we have buttons on sale for \$1 apiece, and a handbook for the action will be available very shortly. Although the focal date of this campaign is October 13, it is hoped that actions will occur to lead up to this date as well as take place after the date. Here is a suggested reading list to learn more about the 3 issues:

Pam McAllister (ed). Reweaving the web of life. New Society Publishers, Philadelphia 1982.  
 Susan Griffin, Rape, the Power of Consciousness. New York, Harper & Row, 1979.  
 Laura Lederer ed. Take Back the Night: Women on Porn. New York, Morrow, 1980.  
 Andrea Dworkin, Pornography: Men Possessing Women.

for more information, write: Porn-Rape-War, P.O. Box 16125, Station F, Ottawa K2C 3S9.  
 p.s. Please pass the word around.

MASAC: MEN CHALLENGING MEN ON SEXISM

from a member

Last July 21st, approximately twenty men staged a demonstration at the Mags & Pags magazine shop, protesting the sale of pornography there. This action launched the formation of MASAC, the Men's Anti-Sexist Action Collective. Who are we? As our position paper states, "we are a group of men who acknowledge and wish to challenge the sexism inherent in our society. We also realize that as men we share in the power and privilege which being male confers on us. Therefore, the Men's Anti-Sexist Action Collective has made a commitment to challenge ourselves and other men to recognize the role we play in this oppression and take action against it."

All too often, men may talk about sexism, may recognize the sexism in their own lives, and may even attempt to work at confronting and hopefully changing their own perceptions and behaviour. But we feel this is not enough. The reality of oppression in the daily lives of women is a call to action, as well as reflection. Because all men benefit from the misogyny/women-hating of our male dominated society, it is important that men be the ones who take the initiative in challenging and educating ourselves and other men. MASAC will

be participating in the Pornography, Rape and War day of protest on Saturday October 13. While our specific action has not yet been decided, we will be organizing a "men only" educational and/or demonstration. As well, MASAC will be providing child care during the day for all participants in the ANVA action. Details will be announced later.

We welcome concerned men to participate with us on October 13th. We would ask that they call Rick or Phil at 235-5435 for further information. Our mailing address is MASAC, c/o 214 Arlington Avenue, Ottawa K1R 5S9.

by Roz Ross

### GUELPH YOUTH PEACE BASH

The 1984 Youth Peace Bash was held in Guelph, Ontario August 10-12. It was a chance for youth and youth groups from across Ontario to get together and discuss new ideas and set up networking plans. Although it was a great idea and an awful lot of fun, it was poorly organized. There was a chance for people to get to know each other but the workshops and speakers didn't work out. Ken Deyarmond did make it down, but they other speakers were in jail from the August 9th action. So maybe the organization was fucked up by the state, not the people who organized it. I don't want to pick it apart, it was fun (not too politically broadening, but...) and there will be another at New Years in Toronto and yet another next summer in Ottawa.

### BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE R.A.R. LIBRARY (FOR BORROWING)

among many, here are a few titles of interest from Rock Against Racism:

1. Duncan Inness: Anglo-America and the Rise of Modern South Africa.
2. Outposts of Monopoly Capitalism: South Africa's Transnational Corporations.
3. The Law Union of Ontario: The Immigrant's Handbook.
4. Julian Sher: White Hoods, a History of Canada's KKK.
5. Idafsa: Apartheid; the Facts.
6. National Security Memorandum: The Secret Kissinger Report on South Africa.
7. Roger Southall: South Africa's Transeki: the Political Economy of an Independent Bantustan.
8. Jim Messerschmidt: The Trial of Leonard Peltier.
9. Heather Robinson: Reservations Are For Indians.
10. Poets to the People (South African Black Protest Poets.)

Periodicals for Distribution (donations equal to cover price requested): Overthrow (N.Y.C.), CounterSpy (Washington), Kick It Over (Toronto), Bulldozer (Toronto), Scream (Ottawa), Network (Ottawa), Akwesasne Notes (Mohawk Nation), Crazy Horse Spirit (U.S.), Ideas and Actions (San Francisco.)

For Reference: back issues of periodicals, resource files on a wide spectrum of relevant topics.

Also: books, buttons for distribution; pamphlets; networking resources.

### REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICA

compiled by Mike Larsson

Foreign Investment-1983-UK pulled out \$1.5 billion (U.S.)

USA dramatically increased investments by Reagan lifting trade bans.

UK, USA West Germany made up 84% of their investment (South July 84)

ANC Militants Extradited-South Africa signed NKOMATI accords with Mozambique to hand over ANC militants to Swaziland police, who in turn hand them over to South Africa. 90 have been detained, 2 murdered (Can Tribune 6-3-84)

False Elections-The South African government has ended not allowing non-whites to vote; Coloureds and Asians have their own assemblies with limited power, but blacks are still preventing from voting on the grounds they have their own "free" republics (the Bantustani homelands, 13% of S.A.) and aren't citizens (there are 20 million blacks, 4 million whites, 2 million Coloureds, 1 million Asians/Indians.) August 28 elections widely boycotted. †

## NEWS BRIEFS

(editor's note: subscribers to Network should have copies of the Eagle and the Jackal, a country-by-country history of U.S. exploitation. They may wish to clip these briefs and paste them on the back of the pages dealing with the various countries, to keep the record up-to-date. Non-subscribers may obtain a copy of The Eagle and the Jackal from us for \$3.)

## Lepreau II - Canada's Gift to America

POINT LEPREAU, NEW BRUNSWICK-Canada is building a second, larger (630 Megawatt) nuclear reactor here solely to export power to the USA, estimated cost \$2.5 billion. (New Maritimes, June 1984.)

## IBM Bombed

NEW YORK CITY-The United Freedom Front bombed IBM here 19-3-84 in reprisal for IBM providing South Africa with all its Military/Police computer technology, including the computerized pass system used against the blacks. (Overthrow May-June 1984.)

## U.S. Plan 2020

PUERTO RICO-New Pentagon documents have revealed that the USA intends to make Puerto Rico a complete military base to launch a Central American military campaign. (Overthrow March 1984.)

## BioRegional Green Congress

MISSOURI-200 people from all across North America gathered here in May to initiate the green movement in North America, with five days of workshops and conferences. Another congress is planned for next year. (Synthesis August 1984.)

## Atomic Bomb Exploded

JAPAN-An atomic bomb was exploded 100 miles east of here over the Pacific, probably by a Soviet submarine; U.S. air force planes spotted the mushroom. (Ploughshares Monitor, June 1984.)

## Brian Mulroney's Defence Plans

CANADA-Mulroney has promised to do as Reagan asks and up military spending, presently \$3.8 billion, by 10% and perhaps even 50%. (Canadian Tribune 6-8-84.)

## Australian Conservationists Block Rainforest Destruction

DAINTREE, QUEENSLAND-80 environmentalists have successfully held off the construction of a major road through the northern tropical forest; 40 have been arrested. Tactics included making human barricades, chaining themselves to trees, burying themselves up to the neck in the ground on the roadside. Construction was scheduled to start last December. (Synthesis August 1984.)

## Untouched East Indian Culture

JAMMU/KASHMIR, INDIA-A group called the Ladakh project is attempting to develop the ancient desert Labakh culture in an ecological fashion before industrial development reaches the area. \$20,000 has been raised to build passive solar energy stations in the oasis villages, before a dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels can come about. The Ladakhis have created over the centuries a perfectly harmonious tribal community society, almost completely bare of social problems. (Synthesis, August 1984.)

## Unionists Charged for "Assault" of Klansmen Strike-Breakers

TORONTO-Two Trotskyist union militants, Mike Mares and Paul Schneider, have been charged with assault against Wellington Richardson and George Graham, two long-standing Canadian Nazi Klansmen, Richardson being a former CIA agent. The alleged assault took place at a pro-choice rally last October in Toronto, where the two Nazis were hired by Centurion Investigators (a professional union busting service) to bust the rally. Their preliminary hearing is scheduled for this August 29. They have been expelled from the letter-carriers postal union, whose president's brother owns Centurion, so will be denied union help during their trial. (Spartacist March 1984.)

### Big Mountain Indians To Be Relocated

ARIZONA-14,000 Hopi and Navajo Indians will be forced off their ancestral homelands in Southwestern USA by June 1986, unless sufficient resistance and support can be collected. A vigil resistance camp is being set up and calling for international support; it needs both people and money to take the Bureau of Indian Affairs to court. They are being relocated so that the uranium rich area can be mined to provide material for nuclear death weapons. This action, similar to South Africa's mobilization policies for its native population, exposes the underlying government policy on native peoples. Over the last ten years, hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been seized for uranium mining. At Pine Ridge Sioux Nation reservation, the people have suffered a 38% miscarriage rate due to nearby uranium mining. Most of these mining operations are run by large corporations--Atlantic, Phillips, Texaco, Standard Oil, Gulf, Exxon. (Overthrow Summer 1984, Akwesasne Notes summer 1984.)

### Marion Penitentiary Cracks Down

MARION, ILLINOIS-Marion Penn, the most extreme maximum security federal penitentiary in the USA (where Leonard Peltier and his brother are), is cracking down on all prisoners after the killing of two prison guards October 1983. The guards, two klansmen, were killed by two Jewish prisoners whom they were torturing. As a result of this, a 50-man task force of the most cruel guards from prisons all across the nation has been imported to brutalize and torture the prisoners. All rights and privileges have been suspended. Visitors and the media have been denied entry until November 15, following a lengthy screening process. Photographs are not allowed to be taken as they would show the extent to which prisoners have been beaten. A handful of native prisoners who have been subjected to particularly severe torture including Leonard Peltier, Steady Deer and a few others have embarked on a death fast in order to obtain the right to practice their religion in the prison. (Bulldozer Spring 1984.)

### Peace Activists Seize U.S. Military Arsenal

ROCK ISLAND, IOWA-100 people were arrested for sitdowns on the road leading to this 100-year-old arsenal recently renovated to acquire a complete range of conventional and nuclear weapons; another 100 demonstrators escaped arrest. The base spent \$½ million on security preparing for the demonstration, whose members did not apply for permits or announce their intentions publicly. Security included barbed wire fences, 24-hour guarding, flying in a 300-man specially trained task force, coast guard patrol of river approaches, helicopters, police surveillance and presence of stun guns. (5th Estate/June.)

### Diablo Canyon Blockade

DIABLO CANYON CALIFORNIA-Since this blockade started at the beginning of 1984 it has averaged 50 arrests per day, with county judges refusing to try protesters and judges brought in from Los Angeles. (Overthrow May-June 1984.)

### Maliseet Indian: Loose Fishing Rights

PERTH, NEW BRUNSWICK-700 Maliseet Indians have been denied the ancestral right of gathering salmon for food in exchange for a welfare program. Up to now Maliseet Indians have been spared many of the social problems many other tribes have suffered since they were able to operate in their old ways. (Fifth Estate June 1984.)

### Detroit Activists Held Indefinitely

DETROIT-Five people who committed civil disobedience at Williams International, which makes the engines for Cruise missiles, have been jailed indefinitely for civil contempt after refusing to promise not to trespass again. The group, including two nuns and a minister, is staging a hunger strike. (Guardian July 25, 1984.)

### Boston Activists Block "Merchants of Death"

BOSTON-40 people committed civil disobedience at a gathering of the Technical Marketing Society of America, whose sell of military equipment to Third World dictators has earned it the name "Merchants of Death;" the conference credited Reagan's policies with an increase in foreign military sales. (Guardian July 25, 1984.)

Olympics '84 Security Tight

LOS ANGELES-Olympics 84 had 17,000 armed security guards and 8,000 unarmed; with 93,000 people involved in the Olympics this meant one guard per five people. Private funding of the Olympics enabled 30 corporations to increase their profits by advertising including Macdonalds, ABC, Transamerica Corporation (Budget Rent-a Car) and the Times Mirror Corporation which owns television stations, newspapers and magazines. (Canadian Tribune August 6 1984.)

Lech Walesa a Western Puppet

BRITAIN-Lech Walesa is the only union man to receive good media coverage here, as it is useful anti-communist propoganda. He recently said of Margaret Thatcher that she is a "wise" and "brave" woman; "I have great respect for her. (Canadian Tribune August 6 84.)"

Leonard Peltier Update

MARION, ILLINOIS-Convicted for supposedly killing two FBI agents 3 years ago, Leonard Peltier will (if he survives) receive a new trial based on evidence that the FBI had covered up. He is fasting with other native prisoners here because of denial of his spiritual practices. (Overthrow May/June 1984.)

South Africa Terrorizes Neighbours

SWAZILAND-By blocking tourist trade to Swaziland and applying political pressure, South Africa has forced Swaziland to stage raids on members of the African National Congress in which South African, Israeli and British police participated. Several ANC men were killed, over 100 detained and badly beaten by police. All ANC members have been expelled from Swaziland and Mozambique, also a victim of South African destabilization. (South, July 1984.)

Latin American Sovereignty Urged

ARGENTINA-International Monetary Fund policies are bankrupting Latin American debtors to the extent that they will never be able to repay their international creditors, Argentine economist and presidential adviser Aldo Ferrer told the New York Society for International Affairs 10-5-84. These policies have created a massive outflow of Latin America's resources, imposed austerity (i.e. poverty) on the people, emasculated economic growth, fostered political instability and heightened the risk of default and the collapse of the financial system that sustains the West. Ferrer challenged Latin American governments to take hold of their own economies, reassert national sovereignty and relate the debt issue to a total strategy for domestic economic and social development geared to national, not international, aims. (South, July 1984.)

Hunger Increases in Brazil

BRAZIL-While production of export food crops such as soybeans increases to meet national interest payments on foreign debts, production of food crops for Brazilians has dwindled to the point that imports will be needed next year. Last year the prices of food staples such as black beans rose 400%, and hungry mobs looted local supermarkets, but the IMF adamantly opposes food subsidies. Meanwhile, U.S. farmers are threatened by increasing importation of orange juice and soybeans. (South, July 1984.)

Why USA forced Marcos to Hold Election

PHILIPPINES-The USA pressured Marcos to hold an election here (a) to drive a wedge between the established elite opposition which was strengthened by the Aquino assassination and the issue-oriented progressive sector, including the illegal national Democratic Front which favoured boycotting the election (b) to legitimize the government so it could push through austerity measures demanded by the IMF in exchange for rescuing the debt-ridden national economy (over \$3 billion interest is paid annually to international banks and financial institutions.) The election did split the opposition, but Marcos' continued exercise of dictatorial powers has strengthened support for the leftist groups that boycotted it. (CounterSpy June-August 1984.)

### Graft in El Salvador

EL SALVADOR-A confidential audit for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and unpublished Government Accounting Office reports show that government and business leaders are diverting a large proportion of U.S. aid (which totalled \$222 million in 1983) for personal gain. (CounterSpy June-August 1984.)

### Hawke Adopts Reagan Policies

AUSTRALIA-Prime Minister Hawke is trying to force the Victorian branch of the Labour Party to accept affiliation of four rightwing unions, whose leaders were trained in CIA-linked organizations and programs, to counter the Victoria branch's opposition to Hawke's unlimited support of U.S. war machine activities in the Pacific and Indonesia's imperialism in West New Guinea. (CounterSpy June-August 1984.)

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**PEACE CAMP IS BAD NEWS**

by Michael Larson

Recently I made an excursion up to the peace camp on Parliament Hill to talk to the people there and to find out what their plans were. Rumours had spread that the camp was closing down sometime soon. What I found was that the old group of peacecampers had irresponsibly left the future of the camp in the hands of some complete idiots, who had no idea whatsoever what the peace movement is about. As it seems, a number of people had moved in to keep it continuing indefinitely. Pointing out very politely that I felt the peace camp had served its purpose and was no longer useful (as will the entire liberal peace movement be after the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign ends), I met with a very antagonistic reply from a person there supposedly named "Peter." Calling me an RCMP informant and a Jew, he flew into an indecipherable set of verbal hysterics. Obviously not having a clue what the peace movement was about, he said government and police were "peace people." I proceeded to try to find out about this stupid, racist person. I later found out that others had witnessed equally revolting behaviour from this person, who said that "niggers" and "Jews" should not be allowed on the hill.

I must make a few comments to the peace movement on these incidents:

- if the people who formed the peace camp wish to set up a camp independent from the rest of the peace movement (as they did), they should assume responsibility for everything that goes on there.
- the founders should not, when they leave, give the camp to any passing-by lunatic, and should close it if they can't find suitable people to continue to run it.

We must remember that this camp represents the movement to many international visitors, and having some geerhead telling African visitors that they wouldn't be able to be on the hill isn't a good way to create a positive response. The other peace camper, another new recruit, didn't react at all when this person told me "I bet you're a Jew too, eh?" This entire scene reminded me of a story a friend in the Toronto movement told me, about the people from ACT (Against Cruise Treaty) getting similar uninvolved people to leaflet Yonge Street for them, since they themselves were too uncommitted to do any hard work. If people in the peace movement can't count themselves committed to doing any real work, perhaps they had better resign themselves to signing petitions and wearing buttons, and allow others to carry out their responsibilities.

### Postscript: Peace Camp Alive and Well

As this issue of Network was going to press, we learned that the peace camp now has twelve volunteers to participate in its continued existence, and so will go on for an indefinite period. The person whose behaviour is discussed in the above article has been expelled (crank? RCMP plant? who knows?)

# THE STUDENT AS NIGGER

by Jerry Farber

(editor's note: This article was reprinted in several publications during the student/administration confrontations of the late 1960s, which resulted in a number of concessions to the students. All these concessions were gradually rescinded after the confrontations stopped in the 1970s. This year, the Ontario government is a ding extra course loads and behaviour rules for high school students. A good time to re-read some 60s literature.)

Students are niggers. When you get that straight, our schools begin to make sense. It's more important, though, to understand why they're niggers. If we follow that question seriously enough, it will lead us past the zone of academic bullshit, where dedicated teachers pass their knowledge on to a new generation, and into the nitty-gritty of human needs and hang-ups. And from there we can go on to consider whether it might ever be possible for students to come up from slavery.

First let's see what's happening now. Let's look at the role students play in what we like to call education. At Cal State L.A., where I teach, the students have separate and unequal dining facilities. If I take them into the faculty dining room, my colleagues get uncomfortable, as though there were a bad smell. If I eat in the student cafeteria, I become known as the educational equivalent of a niggerlover. In at least one building there are even rest rooms which students may not use. At Cal State, also, there is an unwritten law barring student-faculty lovemaking. Fortunately, this anti-miscegenation law, like its Southern counterpart, is not 100 percent effective. Students at Cal State are politically disenfranchised. They are in an academic Lowndes County. Most of them can vote in national elections--their average age is about 26--but they have no voice in the decisions that affect their academic lives. The students are, it is true, allowed to have a toy government run for the most part by Uncle Toms and concerned principally with trivia. The faculty and administration decide what courses will be offered; the students get to choose their own Homecoming Queen. Occasionally when student leaders get uppity and rebellious, they're either ignored, put off with trivial concessions, or manoeuvred expertly out of position.

A student at Cal State is expected to know his place. He calls a faculty member "Sir" or "Doctor" or "Professor"--and he smiles and shuffles some as he stands outside the professor's office waiting for permission to enter. The faculty tells him what courses to take (in my department, English, even electives have to be approved by a faculty member); they tell him what to read, what to write, and, frequently, where to set the margins of his typewriter. They tell him what's true and what isn't. Some teachers insist that they encourage dissent but they're almost always jiving and every student knows it. Tell the men what he wants to hear or he'll bust your ass out of the course.

When a teacher says "jump" students jump. I know of one professor who refused to take up class time for exams and required students to show up for tests at 6:30 in the morning. And they did, by God! Another, at exam time, provides answer cards to be filled out--each one enclosed in a paper bag with a hole cut in the top to see through. Students stick their writing hands in the bags while taking the test. The teacher isn't a provo; I wish he were. He does it to prevent cheating. Another colleague once caught a student reading during one of his lectures and threw her book against the wall. Still another lectures his students into a stupor and then screams at them in a rage when they fall asleep. Just last week during the first meeting of a class, one girl got up to leave after about ten minutes had gone by. The teacher rushed over, grabbed her by the arm, saying "This class is NOT dismissed!" and led her back to her seat. On the same day another teacher began by informing his class that he does not like beards, mustaches, long hair on boys, or capri pants on girls, and will not tolerate any of that in his class. The class, incidentally, consisted mostly of high school teachers.

Even more discouraging than this Auschwitz approach to education is the fact that the students take it. They haven't gone through twelve years of public school for nothing.



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ing. They've learned one thing and perhaps only one thing during those twelve years. They've forgotten their algebra. They're hopelessly vague about chemistry and physics. They've grown to fear and resent literature. They write like they've been lobotomized. But, Jesus, can they follow orders! Freshmen come up to me with an essay and ask if I want it folded, and whether their name should be in the upper right hand corner. And I want to cry and kiss them and caress their poor tortured heads.

Students don't ask that orders make sense. They give up expecting things to make sense long before they leave elementary school. Things are true because the teacher says they're true. At a very early age we all learn to accept "two truths," as did certain medieval churchmen. Outside of class, things are true to your tongue, your fingers, your stomach, your heart. Inside class, things are true by reason of authority. And that's just fine because you don't care anyway. Miss Wiedemeyer tells you a noun is a person, place or thing. So let it be. You don't give a rat's ass; she doesn't give a rat's ass. The important thing is to please her. Back in kindergarten, you found out that teachers only love children who stand in nice straight lines. And that's where it's been at ever since. Nothing changes except to get worse. School becomes more and more obviously a prison. Last year I spoke to a student assembly at Manual Arts High School and then couldn't get out of the god-damn school. I mean there was NO WAY OUT. Locked doors. High fences. One of the inmates was trying to make it over a fence when he saw me coming and froze in panic. For a moment I expected sirens, a rattle of bullets, and him clawing the fence. Then there's the infamous "code of dress." In some high schools, if your skirt looks too short, you have to kneel before the principal, in a brief allegory of fellatio. If the hem doesn't touch the floor, you go home to change while he, presumably, jacks off. Boys in high school can't be too sloppy and they can't even be too sharp. You'd think the school board would be delighted to see all the spades trooping to school in pointy shoes, suits, ties and stingy brims. Uh-uh. They're too visible.

What school amounts to, then, for white and black kids alike, is a 12-year course in how to be slaves. What else could explain what I see in a freshman class? They've got the slave mentality; obliging and ingratiating on the surface but hostile and resistant underneath. As do black slaves, students vary in their awareness of what's going on. Some recognize their own put-on for what it is and even let their rebellion break through the surface now and then. Others--including most of the "good students"--have been more deeply brainwashed. They swallow the bullshit with greedy mouths. They honest-to-God believe in grades, in busy work, in General Education requirements. They're pathetically eager to be pushed around. They're like those old grey-bearded house niggers you can still find in the South who don't see what all the fuss is about because Mr. Charlie "treats us real good."

College entrance requirements tend to favour the Toms and screen out the rebels. Not entirely, of course. Some students at Cal State L.A. are expert con artists who know perfectly well what's happening. They want the degree or the 2-S and spend their years on the plantation alternately laughing and cursing as they play the game. If their egos are strong enough, they cheat a lot. And, of course, even the Toms are angry down deep somewhere. But it comes out in passive rather than active aggression. They're unexplainably thick-witted and subject to frequent spells of laziness. They misread simple questions. They spend their nights mechanically outlining history chapters while meticulously failing to comprehend a word of what's in front of them. The saddest cases among both black slaves and student slaves are the ones who have so thoroughly introjected their masters' values that their anger is all turned inward. At Cal State these are the kids for whom every low grade is torture, who stammer and shake when they speak to a professor, who go through an emotional crisis every time they're called upon during class. You can recognize them easily at finals time. Their faces are festooned with fresh pimples; their bowels boil audibly across the room. If there really is a Last Judgment, then the parents and teachers who created these wrecks are going to burn in hell.

So students are niggers. It's time to find out why, and to do this we must take a long look at Mr. Charlie. The teachers I know best are college professors. Outside the classroom and taken as a group, their most striking characteristic is timidity. They're short on balls. Just look at their working conditions. At a time when even migrant workers have begun to fight and win, college professors are still afraid to make more than a token effort to improve their pitiful economic status. In California state colleges the faculties are screwed regularly and vigorously by the Governor and Legislature and yet they still won't offer any solid resistance. They lie flat on their stomachs with their pants down, mumbling catch phrases like "professional dignity" and "meaningful dialogue." Professors were no different when I was an undergraduate at UCLA during the McCarthy era; it was like a cattle stampede as they rushed to cop out. And in more recent years, I found that my being arrested in sit-ins brought from my colleagues not so much approval or condemnation as open-mouthed astonishment. "You could lose your job!" Now, of course, there's the Vietnamese war. It gets some opposition from a few teachers. Some support it. But a vast number of professors who know perfectly well what's happening are copping out again. And in the high schools, you can forget it. Stillness reigns.

I'm not sure why teachers are so chickenshit. It could be that academic training itself forces a split between thought and action. It might also be that the tenured security of a teaching job attracts timid persons and, furthermore, that teaching, like police work, pulls in people who are unsure of themselves and need weapons and the other external trappings of authority. At any rate teachers ARE short on balls. And, as Judy Eisenstein has eloquently pointed out, the classroom offers and artificial and protected environment in which they can exercise their will to power. Your neighbours may drive a better car; gas station attendants may intimidate you; your wife may dominate you; the State Legislature may shit on you; but in the classroom, by God, students do what you say--or else. The grade is a hell of a weapon. It may not rest on your hip, potent and rigid like a cop's gun, but in the long run it's more powerful. At your personal whim--any time you choose--you can keep 35 students up for nights and have the pleasure of seeing them walk into the classroom pasty-faced and red-eyed carrying a sheaf of typewritten pages, with title page, MLA/footnotes and margins set at 15 and 91.

The general timidity which causes teachers to make niggers of their students usually includes a more specific fear--fear of the students themselves. After all, students are different, just like black people. You stand exposed in front of them, knowing that their interests, their values and their language are different from yours. To make matters worse, you may suspect that you yourself are not the most engaging of persons. What they can protect you from their ridicule and scorn? Respect for authority. That's what. It's the policeman's gun again. The white bwana's pith helmet. So you flaunt that authority. You wither whisperers with a murderous glance. You crush objectors with erudition and heavy irony. And, worst of all, you make your own attainments seem not accessible but awesomely remote. You conceal your massive ignorance--and parade a slender learning. The teacher's fear is mixed with an understandable need to be admired and to feel superior--a need which also makes him cling to his "white superiority." Ideally, a teacher should minimize the distance between himself and his students. He should encourage them not to need him--eventually or even immediately. But this is rarely the case. Teachers make themselves high priests of arcane mysteries. They become masters of mumbo-jumbo. Even a more or less conscientious teacher may be torn between the need to give and the need to hold back, between the desire to free his students and the desire to hold them in bondage to him. I can find no other explanation that accounts for the way my own subject, literature, is generally taught. Literature, which ought to be a source of joy, solace and enlightenment, often becomes in the classroom nothing more than a source of anxiety--at best an arena for expert-tose. a jedger bppl fpr tje egp/ :oterature teachers, often afraid to join a real union, nonetheless may practice the worst kind of trade-unionism in the classroom; they do to literature what Beckmesser does to song in Wagner's "Meistersinger." The avowed purpose of English departments is to teach literature; too often their real function is to kill it.

Finally, there's the darkest reason of all for the master-slave approach to education. The less trained and the less socialized a person is, the more he constitutes a sexual threat and the more he will be subjugated by institutions, such as penitentiaries and schools. Many of us are aware by now of the sexual neurosis which makes white man so fearful of integrated schools and neighbourhoods, and which makes the castration of Negroes a deeply entrenched Southern folkway. We should recognize a similar pattern in education. There is a kind of castration that goes on in schools. It begins before school years with parents' first encroachments on their children's free unshamed sexuality and continues right up to the day when they hand you doctoral diploma with a bleeding, shriveled pair of testicles stapled to the parchment. It's not that sexuality has no place in the classroom. You'll find it there but only in certain perverted and vitiated forms.

How does sex show up in school? First of all, there's the sado masochistic relationship between teachers and students. That's plenty sexual, although the price of enjoying it is to be unaware of what's happening. In walks the teacher in his Ivy League equivalent of a motorcycle jacket. In walks the teacher--a kind of intellectual rough trade--and flogs his students with grades, tests, sarcasm and snotty superiority until their very brains are bleeding. In Swinburne's England, the whipped school boy frequently grew up to be a flagellant. With us the perversion is intellectual but it's no less perverse. Sex also shows up in the classroom as academic subject matter--sanitized and abstracted, thoroughly divorced from feeling. You get "sex education" now in both high school and college classes; everyone determined not to be embarrassed, to be very up to date, very contempto. These are the classes for which sex, as Feiffer puts it, "can be a beautiful thing if properly administered." And then, of course, there's still another depressing manifestation of sex in the classroom: the "off-colour" teacher who keeps his class awake with sniggering sexual allusions, obscene titters and academic inuendo. The sexuality he purveys, it must be admitted, is at least better than none at all.

What's missing, from kindergarten to graduate school, is honest recognition of what's actually happening--turned-on awareness of hairy goodies underneath the petti-pants, the chinos and the flannels. It's not that sex needs to be pushed in school; sex is push enough. But we should let it be, where it is and like it is. I don't insist that ladies in junior high school lovingly caress their students' cocks (someday maybe); however, it is reasonable to ask that the ladies don't, by example and stricture, teach their students to pretend that those cocks aren't there. As things stand now, students are psychically castrated or spayed--and for the very same reason that black men are castrated in Georgia; because they're a threat. So you can add sexual repression to the list of causes, along with vanity, fear and will to power, that turn the teacher into Mr. Charlie. You might also want to keep in mind that he was a nigger once himself and has ver really gotten over it. And there are more causes, some of which are better described in sociological than in psychological terms. Work them out, it's not hard. But in the meantime what we've got on our hands is a whole lot of niggers. And what makes this particularly grim is that the student has less chance than the black man of getting out of his bag. Because the student doesn't even know he's in it. That, more or less, is what's happening in higher education. And the results are staggering.

For one thing damn little education takes place in the schools. How could it? You can't educate slaves; you can only train them. Or, to use an even uglier and more timely word, you can only program them. I like to folk dance. Like other novices, I've gone to the Intersection or to the Museum and laid out good money in order to learn how to dance.. No grades, no prerequisites, no separate dining rooms: they just turn you on to dancing. That's education. Now look at what happens in college. A friend of mine, Milt, Milt, recently finished a folk dance class. For his final, he had to learn things like this: "The Irish are known for their wit and imagination, qualities reflected in their dances, which included the jig, the reel and the hornpipe." And then the teacher graded him, A, B, C, D, or F, while he danced in front of her. That's not education. That's not even t

training. That's an abomination on the face of the earth. It's especially ironic because Milt took that dance class trying to get out of the academic rut. He took crafts for the same reason. Great, right? Get your hands in some clay? Make something? Then the teacher required a 20-page term paper--with footnotes. At my school we even grade people on how they read poetry. That's like grading people on how they fuck. But we do it. I'm the Adolph Eichmann of English 323. Simon Legree on the poetry plantation. "Tote that iamb! Lift that spondee!" Even to discuss a good poem in that environment is potentially dangerous because the very classroom is contaminated. As hard as I may try to turn students on to poetry, I know that the desks, the tests, the IBM cards, their own attitudes toward school, and my own residue of UCLA method are turning them off.

Another result of student slavery is equally serious. Students don't get emancipated when they graduate. As a matter of fact, we don't let them graduate until they've demonstrated their willingness--over 16 years--to remain slaves. And for important jobs, like teaching, we make them go through more years just to make sure. What I'm getting at is that we're all more or less niggers and slaves, teachers and students alike. This is a fact you want to start with in trying to understand wider school phenomena, say, politics, in our country and in other countries. Educational oppression is trickier to fight than racial oppression. If you're a black rebel, they can't exile you; they either have to intimidate you or kill you. But in high school or college they can just bounce you out of the fold. And they do. Rebel students and renegade faculty members get smothered or shot down with devastating accuracy. In high school, it's usually the student who gets it; in college it's more often the teacher. Others get tired of fighting and voluntarily leave the system. This may be a mistake, though. Dropping out of college for a rebel is a little like going North for a Negro. You can't really get away from it so you might as well stay and raise hell.

How do you raise hell? That's a whole other article. But just for a start, why not stay with the analogy? What have black people done? They have, first of all, faced the fact of their slavery. They've stopped kidding themselves about an eventual reward in the Great Watermelon Patch in the sky. They've organized; they've decided to get freedom now, and they've started taking it. Students, like black people, have immense unused power. They could, theoretically, insist on participating in their own education. They could make academic freedom bilateral. They could teach their teachers to thrive on love and admiration, rather than fear and respect, and to lay down their weapons. Students could discover community. And they could learn to dance by dancing on the IBM cards. They could make colouring books out of the catalogues and they could put the grading system in a museum. They could raze one set of walls and let life come blowing into the classroom. They could raze another set of walls and let education flow out and flood the streets. They could turn the classroom into where it's at--a "field of action" as Peter Marin describes it. And believe it or not, they could study eagerly and learn prodigiously for the best of all possible reasons--their own reasons.

They could. Theoretically. They have the power. But only in a very few places, like Berkeley, have they even begun to think about using it. For students, as for black people, the hardest battle isn't with Mr. Charlie. It's with what Mr. Charlie has done to your mind.

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John and Margaret Rowntree: Youth as Class. Our Generation vol. 6 nos 1-2.

Published in 1968, this article presented an analytic and statistical basis for a revolution of youth that Farber argues for on an emotional, gut-level basis. The Rowntrees argue that youth as youth have become the potential revolutionary core. Growing public tension results from the adaptation of two traditionally public sectors of the economy, defence and education, to the service of monopoly capital; youth are forced into unproductive labour as soldiers and students, and their differentiation from the dominant system has caused them to develop class values. Their self-liberation requires the overthrow of administrative imperialism, whose conditions are imbedded in the economic system itself.

by Abie Weisfeld

25/03/84

Spontaneity in social and political life is dangerous. But then freedom is based in spontaneity. Of course one needs to be mindful of the needs of others, as well as the constraints brought about by State law and social convention. If we are to consider freedom alone as desirable then our goal must then be to eradicate the latter two constraints, State law and social convention.

The difference between intellectual inclination and the desire for action is the degree of self-conviction you have in your own thinking. To be an independent confident thinker means to be entirely convinced of the necessity of one's views and perspective. So much of the radical political activity is composed of the symbolic testing out of appealing convictions to determine if they will go -- be carried in a wave of popular support. These attempts to manipulate others into carrying out a programme is typical of party formations and their leaders. Acting as you yourself actually think is not even considered, not in one's personal life and certainly not in public life. Naturally it is impractical to give in to the temptations of life because you can get convicted by Law or the social consensus.

At times we do ignore the practicalities in favour of the feeling of doing it. That feeling is the essence of the social revolution that is discussed so frequently and carried out so rarely. Wild actions, unpredicted by the social consensus of the alternative community are the most subversive events of the entrenched order because they illustrate the possibility of the impossible. The established order of competitive commodity fetishism basis its rationale on the supposed impossibility of any other system. That is why President Reagan wants to destroy the Soviet Union since even an authoritarian alternative undermines the authority of the U.S. Empire.

The attack against the Litton Cruise production facility in Toronto by Direct Action has been taken as a threatening action by both the Pentagon and the mainstream peace movement. The peaceniks have fallen for the slur that the Vancouver 5 are terrorists who should be left to the lions since they embarrassed the passive pacifists when 7 or 10 people were injured in the Litton blast, even though the police and security were responsible for not having evacuated themselves and others from the area; the mistake of not believing the impossible. But the injuries are not the real issue and the attack on Litton would have been opposed in any case because it did not follow the rules of either the old order or the new order. The degree to which this statement is true is obvious from the condemnation of the spraypainting of the Ottawa Litton office tower with "NO CRUISE" the week of the Cruise test by the political activist above who adopted the name "Brent Hansen" in solidarity with the Vancouver 5. Having been sentenced to 30 days at the July 30th trial, Brent Hansen wrote from the Ottawa-Carlton Detention Centre, "In court I stated that I didn't consider that the court had the authority to judge me since the judicial system has not allowed various Canadian citizens including myself to lay a charge against Litton, therefore automatically considering Litton innocent and so automatically considering its protestors guilty in violation of our right to be treated innocent until proven guilty." That letter was written from a maximum security solitary confinement cell because he didn't answer various questions concerning work, education and family that were included in a classification form used upon admittance into the prison. The rule book for Ontario prisons establishes an internal authority whereby a prisoner may be charged and sentenced internally to solitary confinement without a defence. "All individuals are advised they are obliged to obey the rules of the institution and the appropriate regulations made under the Ministry of Correctional Services Act. Section 23 of the regulation reads as follows:

## II .... mischief

- (1) No inmate shall,  
 (a) neglect performing the work or duty assigned to him,  
 (d) disobey any lawful order given by an employee ...

If misconduct related to the above regulations occurs an inmate must realize that he may lose all or part of the privileges ordinarily enjoyed by inmates; that he may forfeit all or a portion of the statutory remission that stands to his credit." Wheat the prison authorities consider to be privileges is better described in another letter from "the hole"; 1) regular food; the doctor approved/ordered vegetarian food for me but i didn't get it because any regular diet is considered a privilege and i was given what is called 'bean,cake' here which seems to be ground up tofy (soya bean mass) together with some vegetables, mostly onions and carrots and pressed into a square about 4 inches by 2 by ½", fried and served cold between two pieces of white(Wonder) bread together with diluted tea, and that's all for supper -- breakfast and lunch are the same (a non-vegetarian would probably think they would die on the stuff since it tastes like fried vomit.. i got sick because it was so little food ...), 2) another privilege is the mattress, sheets, blankets and pillow although i don't know if they would be withheld overnight since i was returned them that evening on the superintendent's order." The Criminal Code notes that solitary has been designated as "cruel and unusual punishment" and in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Being in prison for three weeks is long enough to feel that you will never get out but it is not a deterrence, it is only a punishment as the authorities themselves see it. They may only hope that it will deter dissidents from implementing their ideas even though prisons only raise the intensity of the conflict by having imposed a disproportionate response for extra-social activity which equates institutional violence to political dissidence or property violations. The anger instilled in captive citizens is only proportional to the violence practised upon them.

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 BC'S RESOURCE DEPLETION

by Michael Larsson

..... where's the money from the Secred budget cutbacks going to?

FORESTS-Secred government passed The Farm Licences Act, which sells large forest lands to big corporations (e.g. MacMillan-Bloedel,) gives them freedom to cut as much as they want, and reduces their taxes by \$150 million in this fiscal year. There is no effective reforestation law enforcement.

OIL-Offshore and inshore oil rights are being sold to private companies, again with little government control on their activities.

HYDRO-Double exports to USA, sold to USA for one third of what B.C. residents pay. 30% cuts for bulk users (large companies) if they promise to use (waste) more energy.

GAS-Double U.S. exports. Reduced price for bulk users and USA, increasing prices for B.C. consumers (opposite of what the NDP-initiated B.C. Petro corporation was doing before the Secreds sold it to private interests.)

COAL-The Secred government is subsidizing with \$2.5 million the selling of 900 million tonnes of anthracite coal (high grade coal) to Japan and South Korea. For this a \$450 million, 280 km rail line will be built.