The Incarcerated Lumpen
Jose H. Villarreal

There is a strain of thought which seeks to label mass incarceration in the U.S. with solely profits of the helm. This is not so; incarceration in the U.S. is really about social control of mostly Brown and Black people. At the same time it’s important that we also properly identify the incarcerated masses because we cannot change a phenomenon without first fully understanding it. U.S. prisoners mostly belong to the Lumpen class!

Oppression within the U.S. revolves around class, nation and gender. These are the main forms of oppression that people face in U.S. borders-including prisoners. Leaders within U.S. prisons should understand this in order to help find ways to resolve these forms of oppression. We can’t defend against something we do not understand.

When it comes to class we should look at the facts of where prisoners stand. The truth is the majority of prisoners are not workers, do not work in prison and have never held a job in their life. Those who have worked did so sporadically. In my 30 or so years of being incarcerated I have had two jobs, both of which lasted less than 6 months. Once I worked as a “Block Porter” which is basically a janitor for the cell block I lived in. I swept, mopped and dumped trash. I was paid 11 cents an hour and this lasted about a month.

Another time I worked for a couple of months in the prison kitchen and was paid nothing! These were the two times I worked in nearly 30 years of incarceration. Most never worked. The thing is there are not enough jobs in prison to work everyone even if the state wanted to.

Most of my cellmates; when I had them, had never worked in or out of prison and most were serving a life sentence. They fall...
already that we have not had a contract-ed doctor here, able to handle medical situation, we are either seen by a NP or NOT seen about at all. I am housed inside of women max, when it rains on C-zone it still comes through the ceiling in the dayroom, but they just had a new roof installed, it didn’t include a new ventila-tion system, it took less than a month. The women generally have one temperature we can not set the temperature or the gauge in the shower. We only have all hot water, no cold or warm water. Let me move on to Mass Incarceration, M.D.O.C. is so very overcrowded and with underfunding and understaffing have had disastrous consequences on the prison population, including wide spread disease, excessive violence and a lack of opportunities for education and rehabilitation, which has led to unnecessarily high recidivism rates for some groups of offenders. The “Save” system is so overcrowded that they have taken all the female offenders and housed them into two tin warehouse units. Unit 2 B is now also housing cell phone offend-ers which means they have two zones out of the four zones. But you also have to understand that the female offenders were taken from the big yard and F and G building, That was seven buildings plus two tin warehouse units. Several females were able to leave off compound and go to satellite and some to Washington County, but over half of them have returned back on the compound for various reasons and they too have been added to the many that already overpopulated zones. There are no jobs or schooling for these ladies, the very few jobs that are here for females are limited as well as the schooling. There is nothing here for rehabilitation, parenting or re-entry preparedness programs. The one thing we had closely to society was the quantity time we were able to spend with our loved ones at the family house or our husbands at the conjugal visit. Ev-eryone knows how important family is to everyone, so why take the one good thing we had away from us. The “Save” system started this in the 1900 with the Penal Farm, so why change it now after all these years. We did not always use to act with an "I don't give a damn" attitude but we had

Class Consciousness continued

respect, trust and aspire to bourgeois/ capitalist/dominant cultural values. How do we reconcile this contradiction within our ranks? 4 ) Who all, among and within our under developed community agrees with us executing a coordinated campaign to abolish the slavery clause of the 13th amendment, as a strategy to create a sort of “no man’s land” that separates Human Rights and Human Power? Non incarcerated and incarcerated members of the working class would mobilize around this issue, internationally and domestical-ly. This recognizes the judges, prosecutors, police, legislators, prisons, parole systems as forcing us to be dependent and idle, forcing labor, denying us agency, econom-ic freedom and political influence and col-lectively destabilizing and destroying our class and community. I think this is the, or could be the “door way” to a full scale self determinationist movement. What does everyone feel about this strategy? 5 ) I hope to be involved in a renewed system of dialogue and revolutionary praxis, and I'm eager to create synergetic interdependency within our community, for effective change.

In struggle and solidarity, Herukhuti-Wommb Institute
When we examine or study any successful collective of people, in the present world and throughout history, the principles and core values are uniform; whether we’re considering the IWW, the Free Mississippi Movement United, the Black Panthers, the Panthers in Mississippi, the billions in contracts the M.D.O.C. has made of slaves. And the “Slave” system has run into yet another problem, the slaves are being cuffed and beaten. Commission Fisher and Superintendent King have filled those chairs where so much corruption has infected the prisons. The prisoners are still trying to grasp the idea that what has been for so long will start to come out, but it’s as if it ended just as fast as it started. That is why it is so important to look into the legacies, because there is no way possible that Epps, McClary and even Benjamin could have been able to pull this off without some inside help. Ever since Epps has been filled with the new Commissioner, the same things are happening. Yes, it may look to the outside world as if he is doing a good job, but the truth of the matter is, you can not keep painting over all of this mold and fungus. With all the money the taxpayers pay for the prisoners to be housed in M.D.O.C., why are we still going through the same or worse. This is the 3rd time this year (whether cooperative or hierarchical); if something is wrong, that “something” must be identified and changed (whether minutely or drastically). Persisting in failed systems always leads to losing armies or basketball teams, etc. The organizational and operational models for contemporary self-determination are not adequate to meet the needs of our society. The movement must be focused on not only the struggle for freedom but also the struggle for social justice. The Free Mississippi Movement United is a grassroots organization that is dedicated to the struggle for self-determination and freedom. We believe that the struggle for freedom is not only about ending slavery but also about ending all forms of oppression. We are committed to the principles of cooperation and solidarity and to the development of a new society based on equality, justice, and freedom for all people.
July

30: After a Supreme Court ruling that ruled three strike sentencing as unconstitutional, many federal cases will be reviewed and thousands of prisoners will be eligible for release. This great news is not because of the benevolence of the powers that be, but progress like this would not be possible without the organization and resistance of brave incarcerated workers!

September

In a major victory for incarcerated workers’ rights, California has agreed to greatly reduce the use of solitary confinement as a part of a legal settlement that may have major implications in prisons nation-wide. The decision on Tuesday, September 2, 2015 came following years of litigation by a group of incarcerated workers held in isolation for a decade or more at Pelican Bay State Prison, as well as incarcerated worker hunger strikes.

October

6,000 Incarcerated workers from federal prisons across the U.S. will be released this October/November, and an additional 8,550 inmates will be eligible for early release between November 1st 2015 and November 2016. The released were charged with non-violent, mostly drug-related crimes. This is enacted from U.S. Sentencing Commission and separate from Obama’s public release of 89 incarcerated workers. However, this good news comes at a price, one third of the prisoners will be deported and despite Obama’s compassionate gesture; his administration has set deportations at an all time high. As punishment for what stratifies California Prisoners used to build Peace and end hostilities. We need direct contact with one another as well as cross collaborative operations and partnerships between captives and non-incarcerated class allies. Our entire community, non incarcerated and imprisoned, has to rediscover our common interests, our shared histories and our symbiotic possibilities. Remember: “Unity” is not just a word or an idea; it’s an actual FORCE to be embodied and used to achieve great things. It doesn’t mean we always get align or agree with one another; but it does mean we “we try to avoid conflict and quickly resolve differences to create win/win solutions and focus on the bigger picture.” Thus we’ll develop shared identity and purpose, and have the potential to move from “Class Consciousness” to “mobilization for Class Economic and POLITICAL POWER and INDEPENDENCE,” pooling our resources for effective action etc.; preparing ourselves for self governing and adding value to the global culture and social institutions. But these Higher Possibilities will not be attained without, first, mastering the art of unity, solidarity and being ONE PEOPLE who experience and suffer numerous forms of oppression. All of our various “issues” can be encompassed in a “list of demands” or “grievances”, under one general “Human Rights”, “War Crimes”, “Crimes against Humanity” complaint. Here are some questions I have for us all:

What stratifies California Prisoners used to build Peace and end hostilities. We need direct contact with one another as well as cross collaborative operations and partnerships between captives and non-incarcerated class allies. Our entire community, non incarcerated and imprisoned, has to rediscover our common interests, our shared histories and our symbiotic possibilities. Remember: “Unity” is not just a word or an idea; it’s an actual FORCE to be embodied and used to achieve great things. It doesn’t mean we always get align or agree with one another; but it does mean we “we try to avoid conflict and quickly resolve differences to create win/win solutions and focus on the bigger picture.” Thus we’ll develop shared identity and purpose, and have the potential to move from “Class Consciousness” to “mobilization for Class Economic and POLITICAL POWER and INDEPENDENCE,” pooling our resources for effective action etc.; preparing ourselves for self governing and adding value to the global culture and social institutions. But these Higher Possibilities will not be attained without, first, mastering the art of unity, solidarity and being ONE PEOPLE who experience and suffer numerous forms of oppression. All of our various “issues” can be encompassed in a “list of demands” or “grievances”, under one general “Human Rights”, “War Crimes”, “Crimes against Humanity” complaint. Here are some questions I have for us all:

1. How can we create a framework and platform for dialogue, so that we can realistically choose and commit to strategies for class conscious raising and unified identity?
2. Is working class seeking self determination or merely striving to be governed “more fairly”, with “less pain” and “discomfort”?
3. There are many within the underdeveloped, oppressed, working class who

August

13: A great legendary revolutionary veteran, Hugo “Yogi Bear” Pinell was assassinated in a riot at California State Prison-Sacramento on Wednesday 8-12-15. Pinell was active in the Black Panthers and Black Guerrilla Family. He was part of the San Quentin 6, prisoners who attempted a rebellious escape along with legendary George Jackson who died in the escape attempt. Hugo continued to organize in prison, even though he was kept in isolation a majority of the time; he even took part in the CA hunger strikes. We mourn our fallen comrade, but we shall continue to organize. We’ll remember our dead, but we’ll fight like hell for the living! Never forget, and never forget!

22: Arizona is cutting ties with private prison company, Management & Training Corp. (MTC), that it says failed to control uprisings in July of this year. The uprisings left one facility near Kingman badly damaged, caused injury to 16 people, and forced the relocation of more than 1,000 incarcerated workers, the Arizona Republic reports. This is a major economic and political loss for a corporation that profits from the exploitation of incarcerated workers.

22: International Day of Trans Prisoner Solidarity observed in 40 cities around the world as requested by trans prisoner and IWW member Marius Mason.

23: Alice and Stoughton Lynd corresponded with incarcerated workers who have won concessions in a 6 day hunger strike in Menard Correctional Institution in Illinois.

IWW News

Greetings Fellow Worker,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and in good health! As this is the first year of the IWW’s IWOC program, we are working our best practices for keeping up with new participants. Currently, we would like to hear from everyone at least once a year. We’re particularly interested in your ideas and comments on how we can improve our program. If you have any questions or suggestions, please mention it in the comments. Also, if you need more information about IWOC, please use the form to let us know.

Please tear off this portion of this page and mail it back to us at IWOC, PO Box 414304, KC, MO, 64141 or if you want to keep your newsletter intact, you can just write the information on a separate sheet of paper. Solidarity!

IWW

| Name __________________________ | DOC # __________________________ | Today’s Date __________________________ |
| IWW Member Number __________________________ |
| Address __________________________ |
IWW Union Glossary: Part I

Assessment – A voluntary or mandatory contribution (depending on the situation) in addition to union dues allocated for specific purposes, such as a GDC or a strike fund.

Branch – A chartered group of IWW members in the same job site, city, or region organized around a common workplace, industry, or regional grouping.

Department – An international coordinating body of closely related Industrial Unions, such as the Department of General Construction 300, which includes the General Construction Workers Industrial Union 310, the Ship Builders Industrial Union 320, and the Building Construction Workers Industrial Union 330. There are six such departments outlined by the IWW Constitution.

General Assembly (GA) – An annual assembly, held (US) Labor Day Weekend, where members, delegates and officers of the union meet to discuss union business, prepare for the annual election and referendum, and set union policy. The decisions of the General Assembly are subject to review by the entire IWW membership.

General Organization Bulletin (GOB) – A (mostly) monthly, printed document issued to all members in good standing (except those who specifically ask not to receive it). The GOB contains articles, columns, editorials, trial Unions, such as the Department of General Construction 300, which includes the General Construction Workers Industrial Union 310, the Ship Builders Industrial Union 320, and the Building Construction Workers Industrial Union 330. There are six such departments outlined by the IWW Constitution.

General Membership Branch (GMB) – A chartered body of IWW members located in a local geographic area (usually a city or metropolitan area) composed of members from many different industries. A GMB is a temporary structure designed to aid in the formation of Industrial Union Branches.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW. The ST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Organizing Committee (OC) – The chief coordinating body of an Industrial Union consisting of five members elected annually to a one-year term by a democratic vote of the membership of that Industrial Union.

General Representative (GR) – A chartered body consisting of members of the Industrial Workers of the World, consisting of seven members elected to one year terms annually by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership. The GR is composed of multiple IWW locals, branch councils, and district councils.

General Representative (GR) – A chartered body consisting of members of the Industrial Workers of the World, consisting of seven members elected to one year terms annually by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership. The GR is composed of multiple IWW locals, branch councils, and district councils.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

General Secretary-Treasurer (ST) – The chief administrative officer of the IWW’s General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.
solidly into the Lumpen class. The Lumpen being the unemployed, prisoners, under class etc. U.S. prisoners are overwhelmingly Lumpen. If we are grappling with the way forward and how to combat our oppression the first step would be to understand where we stand on the economic totem pole. Without doing so or by labelling our existence in ways that do not correspond with reality will have us spinning our wheels. You can’t cure yourself of cancer if you are diagnosing yourself as having diabetes.

The newsletter should be directed to its audience in the Lumpen. The majority of U.S. prisoners are not workers. At least not in state prisons. This may be true in the Federal Prison System where the majority are Latinos and mostly migrants who are workers coming to work the fields and factories of Amerikkka for exploited wages.

If the eight cells in my pod two of us have had jobs in prison and three of us have ever had a job in society. This is a normal snapshot of prisoners. If you look to the average prison. Each yard of roughly 1000 people has roughly 60 jobs available. At least this is what California prisons look like.

The incarcerated Lumpen are not a hopeless bunch. Prisoners do not need to be called “workers” in order to give us hope of being redeemed or becoming a positive force. The Lumpen are capable of becoming politicized as well. We are proving this in the control unit of Pelican Bay S.H.U., and in Georgia and everywhere prisoners are organizing and rising up for human rights.

Lumpen can be a positive force if politicized. We saw this in the 60s and 70s when the Black Panthers, Brown Berets and Young Lords Party rose up. These groups were largely Lumpen which were recruited into these revolutionary organizations. Those who made up these groups came from the landios and ghettoes, they were Lumpen and yet they pushed their people’s struggles the furthest in U.S. borders thus far.

We should learn from history so that we can transform the future for U.S. prisons and all oppressed people.

The End

Jose H. Villarreal

The Incarcerated Lumpen continued

I was approached by a brother (for the sake of disrespect and discipline as pertains to emotions I’ll use “Brother” over Nigga or negro, however said //////////) Who says “That nigga dumb, all he had was some child support”

I began to ponder on the need 1st for all lumpen - communes to call a spade a spade. The overall sentiment of the occupying force commonly called “police” is that black lives are worthless! Police training cannot thwart 100% of years of programming into the ////// of white skin privilege - people of color are less than, therefore should be policed in a ruthless manner! I reflect on the functional aspects of constitut’ the people, which deals with the transitioning chase, from there to practice - building a base which ghetto communes circle, and accept as vanguard of the people!

The present phase of brutality again finds the ghetto commune ripe for agitation education and organization!

The Incarcerated Worker

In Struggle and Solidarity

Hershakut of WOMMB Institute
Founder and Council Member

Anthony S. Gay # 188904
A.S.P. Eyman
P.O. Box 4000
The Pen and the Sword continued

The Revolutionary recognizes the pen as an instrument not only to organize with, but also to use in rousing the flames of dissent within the heart of the slums & within the penitentiary walls. It can poison as well as appeal. The pen in motion is a scenario-maker and the Revolutionary can illustrate with the point of a pen what s/he cannot articulate with the tip of a sword. The energy of love is an indestructible force, as well; the pen, which is able to express it in words - it by no means impotent and the Revolutionary comes to intimately understand its powers.

The Revolutionary realizes that the pen (as the sword) comes with responsibilities and discipline. The Purpose (whatever it may be) is the responsibility; and learning the ways it could be wielded is its discipline; its craft. Both come with their consequences. The Revolutionary strategist prepares for them before using both, and can effectively study their uses by trade.

A strategist looks into situations, circumstances, not just at them----- He/she is patient, calm, detached (to a degree) from emotionalism as circumstances which will affect the people unfold (police brutality). The Revolutionary understands that the pen (as the sword) comes with responsibilities and discipline. The Purpose (whatever it may be) is the responsibility; and learning the ways it could be wielded is its discipline; its craft. Both come with their consequences. The Revolutionary strategist prepares for them before using both, and can effectively study their uses by trade.

The Revolutionary is moved to invoke the spirit of liberation into the minds of the marginal- ized with the pen and uses it as a device for uplifting the suppressed of the world.

Once the Oppressed recognize their personal wealth & relevance in the Struggle against oppression, they constitute a collective threat against the oppressor & the oppressor class, as a whole!

The oppressor class - with its standing army & prison guards - bites its nails in fear of the written word more than blood dripping from the swords of its slaves! The pen in motion is an outlet for purging for the oppressed - one which can release light from the darkness of a Prisoner's innermost being - and it is able to unite the divided and divide the united!

The pen that encourages liberation is ever at odds with institutions that struggle to war- den the thoughts of their Prisoners & which stands guilty of systemic oppression. And likewise - institutions which struggle to ward the thoughts of their Prisoners are ever at diabolical odds with the pen that encourages liberation!

With the pen, the Revolutionary is able to draw a chessboard replete with numbers in the corners of its squares and anticipate the moves of the State, calmly detached - using strategy as an ally. It's able to direct as well as mislead and is able to infer indirectly as well as sow confusion among enemy forces, while cultivating a level of understanding among the misunderstood.

With the pen, the Revolutionary is able to breed chaos as well as bring about a sense of togetherness in the inter-communal atmosphere of ideas. It serves as a weapon which is able to offend as well as uplift. To defend as well as attack. To build with as well as destroy!

Bondi Lemar DeBooth #54971

Editor note: Our FW LaMar is a veteran al worth & relevance in the Struggle against oppression, they constitute a collective threat against the oppressor & the oppressor class, as a whole! & prison guards - bites its nails in fear of the written word more than blood dripping from the swords of its slaves! The pen in motion is an outlet for purging for the oppressed - one which can release light from the darkness of a Prisoner's innermost being - and it is able to unite the divided and divide the united!

In closing Mao Tse-Tung says: “In shallow men the fish of small thoughts cause much commotion, (however) In magnanimous oceanic

Revolutionary Greetings continued

We the people must assure the agents of liber- alsim do not handcuff the people's spirits nor extinguish the flames which can purify our commune and crush the chains?

“Chains that bind us mentally/physically-we cannot "organize a sleeping people around spec- ific goals" until awareness and understanding of the need to fight has been achieved - until the will of the people has been inspired/revived-until the belief that we can /// has been acquired" What must be focal point?

RE/Education - Why?

Because even though many mourn and are outraged at the indiscriminate killing of men/ woman of color - most people of color hold beliefs in the appropriateness and legitimacy of the amerikkkan shit/sys-tem of government and in the right of the oppressor to exercise authority over us?

Many cling to backward "Philosophical Perspec- tives" which indeed is the root cause of all that!

Comrades I have said enough for now, however know that although I cannot be there towering the front/line physically, comrades I am with you all spiritually/mentally for your comrades in the atmosphere!

Any further dialogue on brief essay is welcome. I can be reached at address below

Adut Ijni-Chaka Seko
v/n Bousache Green/J19885
C.T.F/Central/CW-201 low
P.O.Box 689
Soledad, CA. 93960-0689

In closing I’d love to share a degree about strate- go which is what we must build-----

Strategy is overall blueprint to achieve suc- cess-“tactics and techniques” are what must be employed to achieve said strategy/goal!
and develop resources and create wealth to satisfy our needs and operation costs. Economically stressed organizations don’t last. Unorganized movements, with no logistical frameworks, go into decline. When captives begin contributing pulling our weight, it takes the burden off of unincarcerated community members, so that together we can collectively focus on tackling the bigger issues. We should be developing social entrepreneurship platforms and community cooperatives include, both, the incarcerated and unincarcerated as share holders and decision makers. We should be accessing the latest social technology to execute our ideas, i.e. crowd funding, peer to peer organizing, print on demand publications to raise money, etc. We have to think outside the box and innovate, revolutionize ourselves, before we even think we can change socio-economic and political system. A major component of this pre requisite decolonization of psychological constructs, is the need to identify SPECIFIC genocidal, oppressive FORCES our Class/National enemies use against us. They’re not always the same in type or degree. And then we have to decide upon how these specific forces impact our whole community (class and nation, etc). After that how we’re going to resist and advance to overcome and achieve independence, self determination. As stated before, the unincarcerated and incarcerated members of the underdeveloped “underclass” have identical needs, interests, aspirations and challenges: the rogue Judicial Machine (judges, prosecutors, police), Prisons, Poverty, etc. are direct Security and Safety threats to our communities – they are destabilizing and destroying us, they perpetuate disease, crime, economic dependency, political exclusion and social insignificance. It is in all of our interests to focus on neutralizing their destructive effects on us and transforming the nature of how they function, towards the ultimate goals of prison abolition, self determination and Political autonomy. The Ruling-Class and Dominant culture’s predominant tools (judicial machine and prisons) keep us from enjoying our Human Rights (what I term as “Human Duties; to be explained why later). If we don’t take responsibility for abolishing these systems, as they exist, we will continue to perish and suffer psychological, socio-economic, political and physical death. And not just prisoners or ex-prisoners or the so called “lumpen” class; I mean everyone who is not part of the ruling elite, the state or dominant settler culture of Amerikkka and the world. The state and federal government work for the interests of the ruling class. Their social function us to execute the will of the dominant class. I ask you: “Who serves that function for us?” What collective executes the will of the underdeveloped, oppressed community? The answer is: “We have no one.” We are a governed people, not a people who have voluntarily assembled amongst ourselves to organize and institution that will execute on our behalf (self governing). That’s why we have to step up and fulfill that social function for ourselves, to provide our own security, resources and Human Rights. As long as the judicial machine and prisons function the way they do, we’ll continue to have poverty, rape, murder, theft and high crime as prominent features in our lives. Personally, I agree with a prisoner led, national push to abolish the slavery clause of the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This is critical legislation. A Human Being has a need and responsibility to be proactively engaged in their environment, to provide for their economic continued on page...