



A poem

I feel that my childhood been a blur, I have seem to grow up a little too fast. Seen my father be taken back to his native land Look at my mother struggle on her future plan I been where a kid skips childhood in order to be a man Heard officers take teenage lives just for a promotion I had thought I was in paradise, but I was scared of the ocean Know how to swim but I afraid I'm drown Drown in my emotions so I seem to push them aside None of my friend/family talk on our problem's behalfs Just wave the pain with grams and halves I learned on the corner that you make the money and don't let it make you never wanted a 9 to 5 I'm just another Hispanic male with ink on my body and scars on my soul with a orange jumpsuit on, I feel like I was parachuting into failure, cause to them I'm just a number B-----, felony charge for kicking doors could I at least see the inside of the court. —J.B.

Hammer and anvil

I have been 'detained' in Durham jail longer than any other current inmate. October will mark the fourth year of incarceration. The tools of injustice here in Durham County are like a hammer and an anvil. The 'hammer' is a totally flawed and corrupt judicial court, and the 'anvil' is the evil and grossly incompetent jailers.

The 'hammer' used a lying district attorney to load up bogus charges and falsely accuse me of being a fugitive from justice. The 'hammer' then insisted on a \$10 million bond, which a corrupt judge was all too willing to grant. The 'hammer' employed a rubber-stamp grand jury to indict me. The 'hammer' appointed a public defender who was too lazy to share with me the evidence presented in discovery. The 'hammer' was judge after judge who routinely denied the motions for due process and habeas corpus that I argued in court. The 'hammer' denied me speedy trial because NC repealed that law in 1989!

The 'anvil' is composed of wicked lazy officers (with a few exceptions) who delight in making conditions in the jail as miserable as possible. This is a very effective strategy which, along with long, pretrial delays, act to coerce inmates to accept plea 'bargains' that would otherwise be refused. If an inmate criticizes an officer, he risks being handcuffed and beaten in

an empty cell away from the cameras. In four years, no fruit has been on the trays. Garbage is served to encourage purchases from ARAMARK, a criminal corporation which conspires with the jail to extort incredible prices for their chips, candy, and 'hot trays.' Paytel Corp also is in collusion to rip off inmates for sky-high telephone service. These are monopolies granted by the 'anvil.'

Inmates are 'locked back' in their tiny cells for more than 19 hours every day. Visitors are treated rudely, and limited to twenty minutes in loud, cramped quarters. The 'anvil' has not provided any sunlight for inmates. Medical service is deplorable, and mental health screening and treatment non-existent. Mail is frequently returned, or not delivered without reason. In any confrontation with a detention officer, the inmate is presumed to be wrong. The 'anvil' is a breeding ground in which juvenile offenders become career criminals. The 'anvil' is cruel housing for the homeless, for those who cannot pay child support or restitution, and for those young men caught with possession of a small amount of weed.

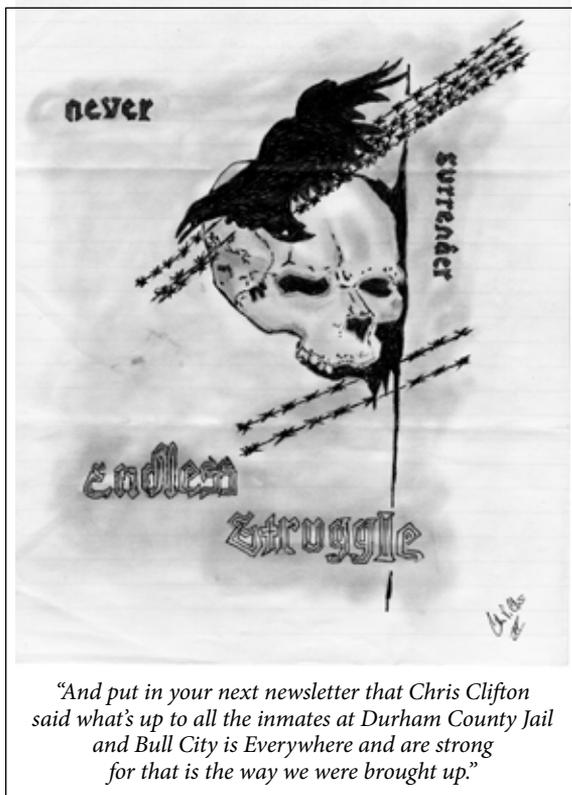
Thank you for your support and tireless efforts to let the public know of the police-state's 'hammer' and 'anvil.' —V.S.

Talkin' mail blues

For nearly three months, the mail room rejected all mail sent from the post office box of Inside-Outside Alliance, or by anyone thought to be associated with IOA. Envelopes were not opened. Nothing was marked on the envelope about why the mail was rejected. Pressure put on by prisoners on the inside and people on the outside, including a sympathetic lawyer, thwarted this attempt to cut off our communication. We must remain vigilant, however. The answer to them messing with the mail should be more mail flowing and more organizing. —IOA/Feedback editors

Text of mail grievance:

For Major Couch. Pertaining to mail. It has come to my and multiple other inmates' attention that our mail is being denied, held, or thrown away without our consent or acknowledgment. Many of us have received letters stating that letters sent to us were sent back unopened. Other inmates have seen mail and magazines unopened in the trash. Still yet others have received mail well passed the mail's arrival date to the jail. This is immoral, corrupt and illegal. We request professional oversight of our mail services, which is our legal right and reasonable expectation.



“And put in your next newsletter that Chris Clifton said what’s up to all the inmates at Durham County Jail and Bull City is Everywhere and are strong for that is the way we were brought up.”

The jail does mess up a lot of people's mail. They find any way they can control us. Mail is sometimes all people got to keep hope alive. So they lose or hold our mail to keep us down. —K.S.

What is feedback?

Feedback is a publication of Inside-Outside Alliance (IOA), a group of people trying to support the struggles of those inside (or formerly inside) the Durham jail, and their families and friends. We recognize that any of us can be outside one day, inside the next -- the revolving door of incarceration. We also participate in struggles against police harassment and brutality. IOA maintains a website called Amplify Voices Inside (amplifyvoices.com) that publishes the words of Durham jail inmates and former inmates talking about conditions inside and outside and how they see the world. The name Amplify Voices Inside comes from something a brave and rebellious inmate wrote in the fall of 2012. This publication, Feedback, is a sampling of recent contents of the website. When something amplified is redirected at the source of the sound, the effect is called feedback. That is what this is: the voices that have been amplified to the outside world being re-broadcast inside the walls of the jail. Writer's initials have been changed to protect identities and minimize repressive attacks and harassment.

Write to us or send us art: IOA, PO Box 1353, Durham, NC 27701.

Or, if you are not in jail and are able to, send an email: insideoutsidealliance@gmail.com

*** Se habla español. ***

Some days are better than others

. . . Recently, a c.o. and I were talking. I asked why we were getting out on Saturday mornings for clean-up, instead of locking back until everyone was done. He told me Aramark and Pay-Tel basically told the jail 'WTF, why aren't we getting our money on Saturday mornings?' So to solve that they started letting us out. Then the c.o. said "Now you know who really runs this jail." I think he meant Aramark and Pay-Tel, but since the inmates pay for it, doesn't that give us the power? I told an inmate about this and how if we denied Pay-Tel for a week we could make a serious change, before I could finish he stated, "Nah, man, I gotta talk to my girl." I tried to tell him it would pay off in the long run, but he just turned into a broken record. I want to be a better speaker. Words are stronger than any sword and can fell fortresses. About that grievance. I'm going to place it, but obligation for them to reply is ZERO. I've had a grievance go 30 days without an answer, then it gets closed. But as long as it's on record that's all that matters. Recently there was a fight 2 on 1. After the fight the sarge said that we couldn't come out our rooms if we had shoes on. Yes, really. Like we can't still fight if we didn't have them on. Anyways, it led to many inmates walking in their socks because they didn't have shoes. This place gets worse. Every day. I've been here one year since May started and haven't been to court or seen my lawyer since August! They're some pretty good jokesters since they still don't have a court date set for me yet. Every time I ask the court c.o. if he's go-

ing to take me he replies, "Are you ready to take a plea?" Ha. Innocent inmates don't do that. At least not this one. I think what I'm going to do is make an inmate council. Gather ideas and plan. I really want to jump head first into this, but sometimes it's easier to ease into the water and slowly go fully in. Any progress is progress.

I forgot a story that happened months ago. Mr. R. commented to the laundry c.o. "If your service went any slower it would go backwards." The c.o. took his blanket and left him with none. If Mr. R. wasn't able to buy a new one he STILL wouldn't have one. Also, I got locked back a few weekends ago for 2 days. I raged at a c.o. who wouldn't let me in my room, for my spoon to eat when trays came. He said 'No, I called for spoons earlier.' This ignited my rage. I listened INTENTLY for him to call for spoons and he never did. The fact he lied made me angry. I let my tongue loose and after the insults were flung I got locked back for 2 days. But every dark tunnel has its light. For the rest of the weekend he called for spoons before each meal. I like to believe it was from my criticizing him and calling his lie. I may not have went at it the best way, but catching them in their lies and then exploiting them seems to work. You may suffer for it, but as shown, you get results. I also found out the c.o.s aren't allowed (according to their handbook) to lock you back for more than an hour without a write up. Whether that was a blessing from God or that c.o.'s guilty conscience I don't know. Probably both.

Some days are better than others, Ryan W.



Life choices and decisions

All of these choices and decisions cost me time in prison without thinkin about what I was doin! The things that I chose to do were wrong, but it felt right, me myself, my choice was to become a gangbanger which I am... but everything has changed now, specially me coming to Durham County.

Back in February, I went back to Durham County Jail to get a charge dismissed and it did get dismissed. I was processing in 3A cell 19A. I went upstairs to 5A on the 10th, everything was fine and gucci, that Tuesday night C.O. Burden was working the pod. It was 10:45 pm and it was time to lock back, alright we locked back, but I was trying to get a book from the dude next to my cell I was in 35A... It was another dude up there gettin a book too from the same dude I was getting one from. He stayed down stairs on the first floor, I'm on the 2nd floor, she ain't say nothin to him, she wait and say somethin to me after I get the book aight, so boom, she come upstairs to get the book, i don't give it to her. She walk off talking shyt so I say 'say something else and ima turn up on yo shyt, so she said something else. I started kicking the door. The door was tightly shut, but as I started kicking, the door started to come open a little bit! So, the DERT (detention emergency response team) team came in, all 4 of them: C.O. Coleman, C.O. Burden, C.O. Statton, and C.O. Harris. They all came in my cell tellin me to sit on my bunk so I sat down on my bunk, Sgt. Holloway and Sgt. Miggit come 2-steppin in the cell, they ask me what's goin on and I told her wassup. C.O. Burden come in screamin talkin shyt, then Sgt. Holloway started talkin shyt! So I start talkin shyt to everybody that was in the cell with me!! I'm callin them pigs, fake ass police, bitchazz cops, so Sgt. Holloway say 'he checkin off y'all,' so I say word on my kids I ain't checkin shyt off, so she say 'shut the fuck up,' and I say to her, 'Fuck you, bitch,' then that's when they put the handcuffs on me and took me down the stairs out the pod! And right when they got me out the pod C.O. Coleman slammed my head into the wall then they jumped on me from there. They split my eye open and I have damage to my right eye and I gonna get a lawsuit against them fuck niggas! Oh, and after they took me to the hole, I told them Ima catch them on the rebound when I come home from prison! And then I came back to the county a second time, because they ain't

bring me to court the first time. When they brought me back that second time they dismissed all my charges, but I still came back to prison on my robbery charges and the probation violation!

Everyday that I sat in the Durham County Jail, the officers that did the beating on me would not, I repeat, would not look me in my face at all or look me in my eyes... But to stay away from people that ain't got shyt on their minds, this is to my brothers that are locked up right now as I am, and to the ones that are free right now!! Still be a part of your nation! It don't matter if you blood, crip, LK, VL, it don't matter about none of that it matters about stayin outta jail and prison and makin good decisions for yourself and for your future. At the end of the day we are our own man and woman, we got one mind and a lot, thousand choices and decisions to make for our self and future. People don't really look at it like dat! But me...as a grown ass man with one mind and one life I take shyt real serious. In life God took me through things to change what I was doin, and how I was doin it. He put me in prison to do a lot of changin and lookin at my life! This is a promise that I'm makin to the community and to my kids that I made. I'm puttin back into the community and give back what I have taken from them!....

Look at:

Rodney King
Malcolm X
Dr. King
Harriet Tubman
Rosa Parks

But look at these people these are the people who fought for us to have freedom in the United States of America. Look at Biggie Smalls and Damn Tupac Shakur. These men died over beef they had goin, but at the end of the day they made history with their music! That's what people need to take to the head—it's so many ways to make history....

I been through it, I lost my mother back in 2012 March 12 8 am. It was on a Monday I found her dead with my kids in the house! Some people don't know what it's like to wake up and find their parents dead, I do but you as young adults got to look at it as a warning from God. I know I have. God wants us to do better and be better people to everybody, but be careful of the decisions and choices you make.

My Durham County citizens ask yourself

this: What do you think is the point of jail or prison?? Ask yourself that because now that I'm in prison I ask myself that all the time, and I ask other people and they said to put us back into modern slavery. Which is true, but also ask yourself this: why should you get into trouble? To come to the county jail or prison? And do you know why the police fuck wit us so hard, because we are Black and how street nig-gas dress with our pants half way off our azzez that's why they fuck wit us so hard. But ask y'all selfs these questions and answer them.

P.S. I myself don't wear my pants off my ass no more ain't no goddamn way what if you want to get a job somewhere they don't want to see yo asses at all!!

P.S.S. to all my young adults: Respect your elderly and keep your pants on yo asses.

Keep your head up and stay strong for your nation.

Because you can be where I'm sittin as I speak in prison doin a 3-year bid as I speak, to all my brothers and sisters I am doin a 3-year bid, I been down 2 years now, I'll be home this comin February 2015....

....IOA I support you all the way 100%. Keep me tuned in.

Yours truly, Deandre

“...To be honest with you this is my first encounter with Law Enforcement & Justice System. Boy, it really (has) opened my eyes. I never thought they can just keep you locked in jail for so long with basically nothing. I haven't been to court in 10 months. I feel like they can just drag on as long as they like while left me rotting in jail. This isn't what “land of the free” feels like...” — *I.Y.*

“...Freedom is not free, for us everything in this world cost to have. They say this is a fair and free nation, but I have yet to see those words true.... We are all human. Nobody is better than the rest. A lot of us just have some growing up to do then maybe the Fourth of July will mean much more than cookouts and fireworks because we will really be free and independent...” — *B.T.*

They tell us to act like grown men

....Me, I like to write. But now they say “No pencils in the rooms.” What? Really? Have to write it in the day room. Which makes little sense. How am I supposed to concentrate with 50 odd dudes yelling? The day room is pose to be our out time to stretch our legs. But they make it so all you can do in the room is sleep, shit and read. Pretty soon they going to say we can't read in here. I want to know why put a desk in these cells if we can't use them? They also only bring in like 7 pencils. There's 50 something people in one pod and you only have 7 pencils?

Shit kills me really. They tell us to act like grown men but they treat us like kids or animals. The law was made for the law. Only people that control it and enforce it really matters to them. When they hear you say otherwise they either lock you up or silence you “Forever.”

People don't kill people, the government does. Then they give medals and shit. You can quote me on that.

The newsletter was great. I passed it around when I was done. A lot of people liked it. One of the dude's artwork that was in the newsletter is in the same pod with me. Right now the letter is just floating. . . .

Peace & love,
K.S.



A lot of things going on

Dear ---,

Hey how are you doing? There are a lot of things that is going on at the Durham County Jail. There is an inmate that is here and she get treated like shit, they deny her one hour a day. I have eyewitnessed her get beat by an officer. The inmate is autistic and when she don't get attention or get her way she acts out, hurts herself, and still gets treated like she's less than a human. They have this chair here that you have to be handcuffed to by your arms and legs and on the instructions it says that you can only be in this chair up to 2 hours and this inmate has been in the chair for 3 days and more in a row. There are 3 pregnant women here and it takes

them 30 plus to go to the hospital or to a prenatal appointment. These guards are having sex with the inmates and are offering to have sex with them. The guards have they picks and favorites. We don't never come out of our cell on time, , the trays come whenever they want to and we have to rush and eat because of something we couldn't control or eat in our room where we use the bathroom at and our toilets don't flush right away. It flushes 2 times a hour automatic. So you see how unpleasant that is. My last comment—I thought it was innocent until proven guilty? Here in Durham County Jail we are guilty until proven innocent.

—T.L.

Out of order

Dear Sirs,

I hope you and yours are in the best of health and that the alliance is getting stronger by the day. Your organization is a much needed cause for the community. This jail I am in is a total disgrace the way it is being run. There is no order except "out of order." Each shift of the c.o.s run their shift with their "own rules," rules, not as posted. Most are hateful bastards that treat us convicts and inmates as animals. Can't even have a pen to write with, geez, what the hell. This place is an atrocity and an abomination. Filthy toilets (no brushes to clean with) and showers. Inmates here that definitely need to be in places for the mentally ill. What the hell has gone wrong with the system to allow the many posted and "un-posted" rules to be violated? This could be a fine jail if it had the proper leadership but apparently there is none, none whatsoever. The mattresses here for the biggest part are so used up and filthy they are more like a big dirty rage. "They," and who the hell is "they" (?), keep it so cold in here that the COs wear heavy clothing and the indigent inmates can not obtain warm clothing that is sold by the "Aramark" canteen which has every item at above manufacturer-suggested retail — a real rip off. This place is Hell on Earth. It is now midnight and the present shift of COs are standing in the rec area talking, carrying on very loudly, an atrocity.

What if anything can be done to bring this place into proper order??

I want to know more about your alliance and would like to be put on your mailing list.

—D.C.



Hear our cries, society

We Inmates treated like Animals? Are we still Humans? DO OUR TEARS STILL EXIST?

I'm a young hispanic 18 year old struggling here in Durham County Jail and over the time being here, I've seen and experienced a lot of depression, not only about my situation but the way we're treated...Do they even remember we're still humans? I've seen what they did to a fellow inmate; he asked to be put in solitary confinement. They refused him; so to get where he felt best he did what they wanted him to do, which was act out, and they went in his cell with 5 grown men and beat him severely. The kid wasn't any older than I was, probably younger.

They lock us back because we lock back a few minutes late sometimes but when it's time to get some freedoms from our rooms they always take half an hour or a whole hour from the measly 3 hours they give us? We ask them why they do these things to us? We ask them why they do these things to us; and they respond "because they can" or "because we can"!

We have a cell in 5A, it's colder than all the other rooms which are called refrigerators but that one specifically we call a freezer. When you wake up in the mornings your feet feel completely numb. If it was any colder I'd expect one would catch frost bite. It seems funny and absurd but if your mother, brother, father, or sister were treated like this you'd be outraged.

One of my fellow inmates forgot his spoon and cup in his room. He asked the c.o. if he could open his door again, and because he



asked him to do something that is "his job" the c.o. took away his freedom for 3 whole days... What do they expect us to do, eat with our hands? Like animals?

We have a very ill old man in this pod and he explains to me how much pain he goes through every night when he tries to sleep...I asked him why doesn't he ask for pain medication. He said they refused him because he's an illegal citizen. He might not be from this country but he's still HUMAN!!! That's what I call absurd. The man has arthritis in his whole body and because of one mistake and wanting a better future they put us through this pain.

I wish a health inspector could also see how the water they give us to drink eats away at the concrete...This letter isn't to let out my pain, only it's to show how crooked and corrupt Durham County law enforcement is! They're supposed to be here to help this community, not kill it! Look what happen to Jesus Huerta. How the fuck the officer let a gun in his police car, even if he did or not he didn't do his job right. Hear our human cries society! — K.B.

Tired and restless

This place really makes me sick. I'm tired of eating the same food, every week. Probably if we had real cooks, and real food, this jail "might" be a little better. Maybe!!! I'm restless, my body hurts because of the mats they give us to sleep on. We don't come out enough. I hear stories about other jails, and stuff and they stay out all day until it's time to lock back, when it's time to go to bed at night. This jail is so crappy, when we get money and buy our own food and stuff, it's soooo expensive, but when they bring us our trays, the food "they cook" is processed. It's not real food!!

These guards that work here needs to know how we feel. They need to be in our position, and we need to be in theirs and treat them how they treat us and see how they like it. It's ok, though, because they are going to get theirs, all this bad stuff they're doing is going to come back on them all.

—F.B.

Friday the 13th

If you were inside or anywhere near Durham jail on Friday, June 13th, you probably heard/saw a noisy group of protesters. This is an excerpt from IOA's call out for the demonstration, which coincided with others around the world in support of people imprisoned for ecological activism.

It may be natural for one who follows the amplify voices blog, or keeps tabs on Inside-Outside Alliance to ask, 'Why are you making a point to support ecological activists or long-term anarchist prisoners?' A natural question, perhaps, but one borne more out of the logic of our enemies, and the enemies of freedom everywhere. It is our enemies who seek to divide, to keep our struggles apart. In fact, the mainstream, middle-class environmental movement, which in 40-plus years has created for itself a business if nothing else, shows the fatal weakness of such an approach. In its attempts to ostensibly address serious problems—climate change, pollution, endangered species and extinction--this moribund movement rarely acknowledges that the economic system by which we are organized--capitalism--is itself an ecocidal system. We live on a sinking ship of a planet, and the only way off—save zombie apocalypse or divine intervention—is through radical thinking and radical action, the kind for which Marie Mason, Eric McDavid, and a number of others are being so severely punished.

Related to the city council's so-called tolerance for dissent is the city's cultivation of a label as being green and environmentally conscious, as it grabs for investment capital and burnishes its credentials as cool. Durham is full of environmentalists, and we, like so many cities, are nary the better for it. In a city largely being 'redeveloped' on the backs of the descendants of enslaved people and migrant laborers, and becoming

It's never been about the people

... [Your letter] brightened my day up. Lord knows I need as much light as I can get in this dark place. God truly does work in mysterious ways. I saw y'all protesting (last week) and it was the first protest I've ever witnessed with my very own eyes. I was impressed to say the least. Staring down that much opposition with no fear against a corrupt monstrosity as this jail and the police force that surrounds it was a bravery that put my street reputation to shame. I never knew an organization such as yours existed in this country let alone demonstrate outside the facility I'm currently held in. . .

(11 lines scribbled out) ...There's been a shortage of paper recently so I had to recycle. LOL. This capitalist, money-hungry government has been getting away with taking from the people and crushing any resistance that tries to dig into their pockets. It's never been about the people. Only the profit. They have a gangster's mentality approaching the American people and it's "Y'all better have our money right or else." They'll send the goons (police, sheriff) to collect. (SMH). And they call us "thugs." Anyways, I hope to hear from you soon and keep fighting the good fight.

Knee deep in in the struggle, S.U.

more livable only by people with increasingly more



money, 'deep ecology' is equated with individual actions such as riding one's bicycle or ELE, composting or recycling, or with the enlightened policies of elected leaders and business elite, which result in something like the city's monstrous embodiment of 'green building,' a symbol of both the bankrupt state of environmentalism and the city's longtime marriage to white supremacy: The Durham Justice Center. A building which at every turn—even the bathrooms—heralds its energy use and sun-drenched corridors, but has less room inside its courtrooms for supporters and observers than the previous, still-standing courthouse. But what more would we expect from a building which only exists to criminalize and extract money from poor, mostly black and brown people? And whether they start out there before going to court or end up there, we must remember the next bed for a number of visitors to the "Justice Center" is a mat at the Durham County Jail.

It has been on such mats that a number of prisoners have awakened from the nightmare of existence, and sometimes dreamed of something new. That is why we endorse the noise demonstration June 13th. Just as anti-capitalist eco-warriors through their actions combat the logic of economic growth, we affirm that it's not redevelopment or revitalization (a racial code word if there ever was one) that's needed in Durham, it's regeneration, nothing less than the creation of a free society. And regeneration can only come through a glorious interplay between struggle and participation, to make our dreams—not of condos and beer gardens for the few, but of bountiful gardens and beautiful music for all—a reality... —IOA

Open wound

I'm still within the belly of the beast surviving as I know how. Yes, I did get your letter, dated March 3, a month later! That's not unusual. This system is still corrupt, the officers still dumb and unprofessional.

Let me tell y'all about the BAND AID situation.

Sat. 05...I was playing around and tore half my middle fingernail off, this was 9:00 AM.

Luckily, I had a band aid, but as soon as I put it on I needed a new one, I was bleeding profusely...So I told the officer of the block 3B (Cody) I need a band aid, and he looked at me as if I was foreign and said OK and hopped back on the phone speaking with another officer about nothing.

12:50, still bleeding, I ask to see the Sergeant (Sgt. Cole), Cody goes to the staff bathroom, comes back out, over to my cell and says I don't have any, you going to have to write a sick call...Are you serious? The officer said he was serious.

Sick call alone takes 2-3 days.

4:20 I finally speak to the Sgt. and asked him when did it become procedure that we submit a sick call for a band aid when a first aid kit is supposed to be provided, Sgt. Cole said, there was no need for a sick call and that he'd get me one.

He must have forgotten, so I ask a white officer we call Spanky...He without problem went to medical and got me four band aids!

Now...look at it this way.

If I was an AIDS or Hepatitis carrier, playing cards, chess or even touching people, I'm contaminating and putting at risk everybody from 9 AM to 5:45 pm.

But, who cares? —*Solo*



Just because we're locked up, we're no longer human

Hello

My name is B. T. How are you doing? Good, I hope. I am an inmate at Durham County Jail. I am diabetic. They do not take care of my blood sugar the right way, and the officers don't treat us with respect. The food is awful. They act like just because we are locked up we are no longer human, and this is sad to feel like we no longer have rights. And when the peo-

ple come to do bible study, they rush them to leave. I feel like we should be able to learn all we can about God. And you only get 20 minutes to visit your family. I have five children that I love very much. They mean the world to me. Please help us to get better treatment as people. And can you please send me some...pictures, please, they for my children. Thank you. God Bless You. Thank you. —*B.T.*

Lock back

It's H. here writing to say things are OK. It's not the best here but I'm making it the best I can. I'm hating the long lock back times and constantly hearing the guards say lock back. They seem to want to lock us back for any and

every thing we do. It's ridiculous how they treat us like kid men. I have been having back pains and a hole in my tooth and they want to give me tylenol. Go figure. I'll be alright I guess....

—*H.M.*

From the Brotherhood to the Huerta Family

Statement on the struggle against DPD

Prisoners at Tabor Correctional Institution recently began organizing a multiracial group on the inside called the Brotherhood. According to their first statement of purpose, the group is “an organization and movement of revolutionary and conscious men and women who undergo oppression, racism, injustices, and inequality by the government and people of this society. Our duty is to try and uplift humanity by giving the people knowledge and understanding of the laws and systems that govern this capitalist-imperialist country, a history of who we are and what we have been through, as well as of civil rights, politics, and economics, so we can become intellectually inclined and conscious of what’s going on.”

In response to a recently distributed prison news bulletin, which documented the last few months of struggle against the Durham Police Department, a member of the group released the following statement:

When are we going to realize that change needs to occur in ourselves, society and in this corrupt country? Day by day on the news or in our eye’s view we are subjected to see or undergo police brutality, racism, discrimination, and injustice by the same people whose job it is to “protect and serve.” Honestly, I’m tired of seeing my people (i.e. Black and Latino) get treated like we’re inhuman and outcasts when naturally, if it wasn’t for us this land wouldn’t be what it is today.

Those police who took the life of Jesus ‘Chuy’ Huerta, Jose Ocampo, Keith Vidal, Tracey Bost, Derek Walker, Jonathan Ferrell and others are cowards and complete scum of this earth. I don’t wish prison on my worst enemy, but justice has to get served one way or another, or they who are the racist swine of the Durham

Police Department will continue to murder our own. See, the system don’t give a damn about the people of color. We’re the “game” to these hunters in black and blue uniforms. They either destroy us or usher us into federal, state, and county facilities or try to deport us.

It is egregious that those who “investigated” this matter called this a suicide, when clearly the elements of this case point to a homicide. Those who are in a position of power that investigated this matter are clearly trying to cover their backs and tracks, because they know that they were in the wrong.

I didn’t know Chuy, but from the looks of it, he was a good dude, and the ‘Brotherhood’ stand by him and his family in solidarity. In Fayetteville, North Carolina, where I’m from, I lost a good friend to the hands of the police and I can feel the pain of the Huerta family. I know what they’re going through and understand their anger at these racist pigs. We got to become conscious of what’s going on, Blacks and Latinos

are being targeted and it’s clearly time for a change. It’s time to destroy the system of this racist and wicked government, stand up against racism, police brutality, and injustice, fight the powers that be and seek change, because if we don’t this behavior will continue to happen. Continue the protest for every single man or woman who’ve died at the hands of the police, and continue to stand with the Huerta family.

From the Brotherhood to the Huerta family and others,

love, peace, and blessings,
and fuck the police!



Some regional news

On Monday, May 19th, 7 prisoners at Polk Correctional Institution in Butner began a hunger strike in protest of a range of indignities and grievances. According to prisoners in the facility, additional men have been joining the strike since that first day. The strike was initiated in part by prisoners who were transferred out of Central Prison, following a class action lawsuit against the facility for abuse by guards in various “blind spots” around Unit One. That lawsuit has already forced the administration’s hand in videotaping any cell extractions by guards. A demands and grievances list was sent by the prisoners to comrades on the outside. It reads as follows:

1. We are not given brooms to sweep our cells. Provide them.
2. We are denied the ability to exercise proper hygiene by clipping our nails. Provide necessary items.
3. We have to buy a whole new radio just to get headphones. Allow us to buy headphones separately.
4. Our property is not inventoried by staff when they take it. By the time it is, things are missing. Follow proper procedure and let us sign property sheets to verify accuracy of it.
5. Our food trays are melted, peeling, and/or cracked. Plastic from them is regularly found in our food. We need new trays.
6. We do not get outside recreation. Give it to us.
7. Sick calls are done at our cell, eliminating confidentiality. Give them to us in the nurse station.
8. The ventilation system is filthy. Clean it.
9. Our laundry is filthy and rancid, and on top of that we are not issued the proper amount of clothes.
10. Our property box is not 2 cubic feet, but we are still forced to mail anything that does not fit in it home. Allow us what policy states we can have: 2 cubic feet of property.
11. Staff routinely pop doors with no camera or protective gear. They slam our hands in the [food] trap and don’t report uses of force. End excessive force.
12. Mattresses and religious items are taken to punish us. Do not take these items.
13. Provide us with pens, forms, hygiene items upon request.
14. SIB (seg) cells are dirty and blood-stained. We are placed in there naked, then only given four squares of tissue to use the bathroom, then

nothing to wash our hands, then forced to eat with filthy hands. Clean the cells, and provide enough tissue and soap to properly clean ourselves.

15. The hygiene supplies are insufficient. Provide more when it runs out, or let us buy our own.

16. Toilets only flush twice. At least three are required.

17. The blue razors supplied do not shave properly; we need the black ones.

18. A lot of cells have no stools to sit on at the desk. Give us chairs or something to sit on.

19. STG watch label is given out, then we get treated as if we are actually in a gang. Stop stamping out going mail as STG if we are not in a gang.

20. Our cells are not properly cleaned before we come into them. Mold and mildew in the showers as well.

21. More time than 90 days to write a grievance.

22. A law library.

23. Staff routinely open our trays. Stop picking over our food.

24. We are left in restraints without bathroom breaks or breaks to eat.

25. Stop holding us here (in segregation) for years without write-ups.

26. We need emergency call buttons in the cells.

27. Stop using nutraloaf as punishment. [ed. note: Nutraloaf is an inedible vitamin based, stale brick given out to prisoners instead of real food, often for being rebellious or troublesome. The Supreme Court supposedly prohibits the use of food as punishment in prisons...]

28. Inadequate mental health services for people with mental problems that are worsening.

29. OIC needs to make daily rounds on every block.

30. Superintendent needs to make monthly rounds.

31. Our kosher religious diet is denied here but allowed at other camps. Provide it.

32. Allow us to order religious books that have previously been approved.

The prisoners are encouraging supporters to send mail and make phone calls to: Frank Perry, Secretary of the Division of Prisons, 4201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699, (919) 838-4000.

Consider: What would *your* demands be?
Write and let us know! (See p.2.)

I'm writing to inform you the uniforms they got don't fit. I have to roll them up from being too big. And then they say they don't have any more smalls basically saying they are undersupplied for the inmates. They don't have toilet paper half the time. They deny us the chance to write letters in our cell, if they catch you with pencils in your cell you'll get locked back.

—B.R.

... You know I've been here a year and it's amazing how bad one human being can treat another when a little bit of power is put in their hand. Sometimes they act and look at us as if we're not even a person, it's really terrible. I had one guy give away my dinner tray (the last tray of the day at 4:00). When I asked him to call me up another he acted as if he wouldn't do it. Finally after everyone eats he goes in and get me one. If I can remember correctly we had patties for dinner. He brings me two pieces of bread, a big slop of peanut butter and a side of apple sauce. When I told him I was a grown man and needed a real meal, he laughed and said that's all I can do for you, and walked off. It took for me to throw my tray on the ground to get his superior's attention and get a real meal. I shouldn't have to go through that for a real meal. IOA, you guys should go to Mayor Bell, and if that don't work go higher. It's only so much disrespect we can take sometimes.

—U.D.

... It's about time that we all come together and stand up for what we believe in. As far as the jail goes it sucks. I know jail is not supposed to be like a five-star hotel but man this jail is the worst. It's dirty, they let us clean one day out of the whole week, they don't clean the showers like they supposed to, and the food is garbage. It's been numerous times I seen inmates find bugs, hair, or rocks in their food. Commissary is too expensive. A lot of the staff here is very disrespectful, with the exception of the female staff. I've been watching the news and been seeing how the ones who suppose to protect our community been doing a lot of damage and not protecting anything. Once again it's about time we start fighting for what we believe in. Thanks for the support and thinking about us that are going through a lot. ...

— E. S.



... I have drug charges of ... I've seen people with murder charges get bonds reduced quicker than I did. ... I feel that the white officer in charge of these cases is racially profiling blacks. They're using junkies and convicted felons as police, in which the police department is paying them. There is a great injustice being committed against black and people of color in Durham.

—S.Q.

... I been in jail for 7 months now. I only been to court once and only seen the lawyer once. Sent request forms to the judge and the lawyer offices trying to get a public defender since April "No Answer." My motion of discovery show the lack of evidence they have in my case and still nothing happen. My fourth month here I got jump on by three men, one from prison, in my sleep. My face was swollen and purple and I had blood in both of my eyes. My left and right arm was purple from elbow to my wrists. I had internal bleeding in my left ear, still can't hear that well now. Having bad back problems since then and can't get the proper care. Ever since that happened to me I been traumatized scared to oversleep in the morning. ...

—E.N.