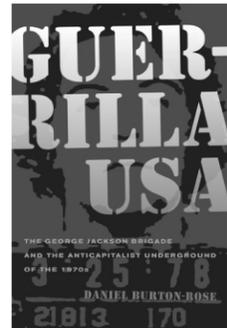


Brigade

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG. 4
their cells. The authorities claimed that they had killed themselves, but it was commonly understood that the prisoners had been executed. Seeking revenge, the RAF drove Hanns Martin Schleyer into the woods, shot him in the head, and told the media where they could find the dead Nazi.

To express their international solidarity with the RAF, the Brigade bombed a Phil Smart Mercedes Benz dealership in Bellevue on November 1st. The dealership was chosen because Schleyer was formerly president of Daimler Benz, the manufacturer of Mercedes Benz cars. Two days after this action, the Brigade released its 40 page political statement, *The Power Of The People Is The Force Of Life*, a text that details all of their exploits in their

own words. Inspired by the actions of the RAF, the Brigade's next plan was to kidnap the director of the Department of Social and Health Services, the person who oversaw all Washington prisons. Their plans were underway when the unthinkable happened. Rita Brown was captured, the group fled Seattle, and fear began to dominate the group's minds. We will conclude the story of the George Jackson Brigade in a following issue. ✈



To learn more about the **GEORGE JACKSON BRIGADE** read **Guerrilla USA** by **Daniel Burton-Rose**

Jealous Cop

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG. 2
no charges of armed robbery were ever filed, and Jeffries never filed a complaint, knowing the SPD would never take action against its own officers. Now, however, Jeffries and his brother have filed a lawsuit against Waters and the City of Seattle.

May the longshoreman get rich, may the SPD disappear, and may all cop girlfriends dump their psycho boyfriends.



George Jackson Brigade member Ed Mead (right) and lover Danny Atteberry in Walla Walla State Prison, late 1970's

anarchistinternational.org
waronsociety.noblogs.org
anarchistnews.org

pugetsoundanarchists.org
autonomiaseattle.org
continualwar.wordpress.com



issue #5 | late august 2011
tidesofflame.wordpress.com
tidesofflame@riseup.net



Who will revive the violent whirlpools of flame if not us and those that we consider brothers?

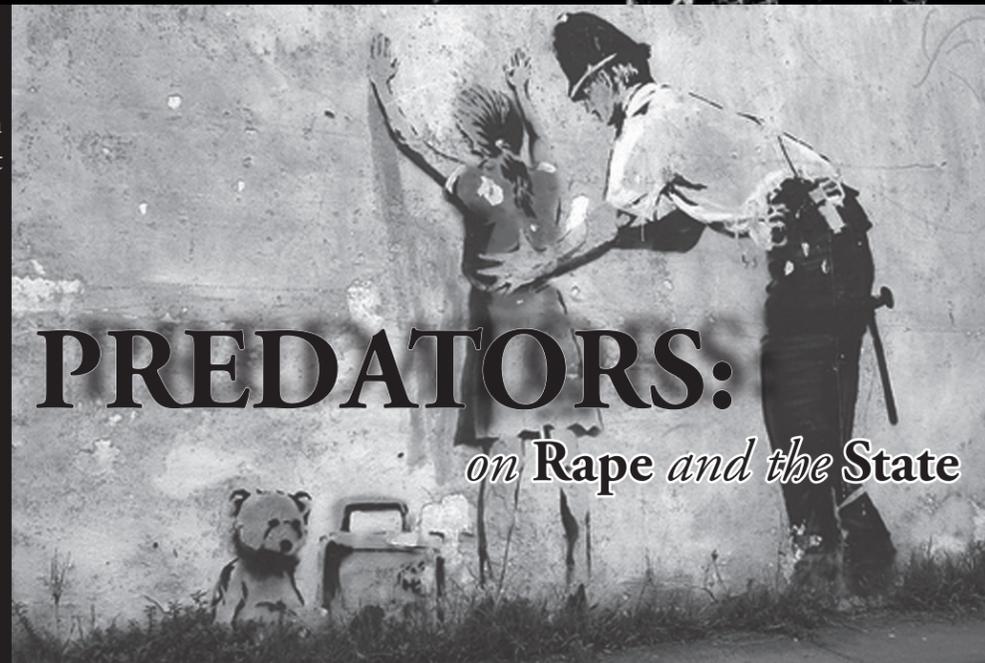
Come!

New friends: this will please you.

We will never work, oh tides of flame!

This world will explode.

A. Rimbaud



PREDATORS: *on Rape and the State*

The following article deals primarily with the state's intervention in cases of sexual violence. Many studies have shown that most acts of sexual violence go unreported and are thus far more common than crime statistics show. It is also worth noting that the justice system has proven itself over and over again to be extremely racist and unreliable. There are doubtless many so-called "sex offenders" who were convicted of crimes they did not commit.

A few miles from the former McNeil Island Corrections Center, a lonely fortress sits surrounded by razor-wire and tall trees. It is often described as a mixture between a college dormitory and a prison. Compared to its defunct neighbor, this facility's security features have a more low-key quality. There are lounges with comfortable couches in pleasant colors, and the lighting is designed to beat back the winter grays and blues. It's called the Special Commitment Center (SCC), home to 282 legally-defined "sexually violent predators."

All of those committed to the SCC have already served the prison sentences that were supposed to re-balance the scales of justice. But upon evaluation for release, an End of Sentence Review Committee determined that each of these prisoners presented a very high risk of re-offense due to serious pathological problems. They were thus referred for possible "civil commitment" to the SCC.

In a civil commitment process, a court or jury must find beyond a reasonable doubt that the individual meets the legal definition of a sexually violent predator.

CONTINUED ON PG. 2 ▶

◀ violent predator. If so, the individual is committed to the custody of DSHS for placement in the SCC, “a total confinement facility for ‘control, care, and treatment.’”¹

From 1994 until 2007, the SCC was operating under federal injunction due to allegations from inmates that the facility was not really fulfilling its purported mission. Today, a full 40% of SCC inmates refuse treatment and are expected to remain at the facility for as long as it exists. Only seven inmates have been unconditionally released from the facility after fulfilling all treatment and release requirements. Others have been released by courts for various reasons including medical conditions which severely limit their ability to become sexually violent.

As stated above, the Special Commitment Center has very limited capacity. With thousands of rapes and sexual assaults reported and over 800 convicted sex offenders released every year in Washington, the state must have other strategies to deal with sexual violence, right? Sure, it does.² But because prison is for punishment and not rehabilitation, the treatment options available to incarcerated sex offenders are extremely limited and often fail completely.

There are currently two programs in WA state prisons—the 200-bed Twin Rivers Sex Offender Treatment Program at Monroe Correctional Complex and a similar program at the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor. Both programs are strictly voluntary and most participants only enter treatment within the last 18 months of their sentences due to long waiting lists. And then, even when admitted, they face the constant risk of ejection if they engage in “sexual behavior” or are otherwise unruly or disobedient. As a result, many of those convicted of sex crimes leave prison without having received any treatment whatsoever. After having made it through a gray, stainless steel hell, they re-enter the world, arguably even more unstable and potentially dangerous.

That said, it doesn't really seem to make much of a difference whether sex offenders receive treatment from Washington prison programs or not. According to a report released in June of 2006 by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, sex offenders who participated in the Twin Rivers program were actually re-incarcerated for sexually violent felonies at a higher rate than those who volunteered for but were not admitted to the program.³ In other words, the program *does not work*. But really, it's not a big surprise that a sadistic institution is completely incapable of healing sadistic people

Prison is a method of social control that serves to warehouse undesirable and unpredictable populations. This is its primary function as part of the United States' democratic capitalist system. Prisons are designed to break the spirit and dull the mind, and imprisonment threatens the defiant, the restless, and all of those who long for freedom and an end to slavery. That rapists, child molesters, and psycho killers sometimes get caught and locked-up is merely a side effect of a system that is primarily structured to protect the interests of the rich at the expense of the exploited.

The existence of prisons and police, as well as increased funding for their new toys and technologies, are always justified by the need for “community safety”. But the fact is that prisons and police only deal with sexual violence *after it has already happened*. Meanwhile, this sociopathic culture creates new “sexually violent predators” every day.

In the 1970's, second-wave feminists coined the term “rape culture” to describe American society. The term,

CONTINUED ON PG. 6 ▶

1. According to DSHS itself.

2. There are also post-release programs (like sex offender registration and halfway houses) and treatment-based alternatives to incarceration.

3. “Sex Offender Sentencing in Washington State: Does the Prison Treatment Program Reduce Recidivism?” - <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/06-06-1205.pdf>

Cop Tasers Ex-Girlfriend's Potential New Boyfriend

SEATTLE - Living up to their reputation of being sleazy, insecure psychopaths, the Seattle Police Department has once again found itself at the center of another controversy. This time, the story involves a jealous cop named Michael Waters, his ex-girlfriend, and a longshoreman named Alan Jeffries. The drama unfolded at the Chelan Cafe, a longshoreman's bar in South Seattle.

After having grown tired of dating a power-crazed maniac, the un-named girlfriend broke up with Waters. She tended the bar at the Chelan Cafe and had to endure his continued presence after the break up. One night, she and Alan Jeffries were flirting with each other while Waters was there. Accustomed to getting his way, Waters was not able to stomach seeing her talk with this other man.

Naturally, Waters quickly decided to use his gun, his badge, and his authority to seek revenge. On the night of August 22nd, 2009, Waters and his partner drove their cruiser to a marina where he knew Jeffries would be. The supposed reason was that Jeffries resembled a bank robber. However, Waters never told any of his superiors that he suspected Jeffries of being a bank robber and acted autonomously without informing the SPD.

While on duty and wearing their uniforms, Waters and his partner pulled up to the marina, drew their guns, and ordered Jeffries and his brother to lie on the ground. When Jeffries challenged Waters as to why he was being detained, Waters shot him with a taser. Alan Jeffries was arrested for obstructing a police officer. The charge was later dropped,

CONTINUED ON PG. 8 ▶

Mother

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

Government stood at the ready to assist the State of Washington and the Monroe Police Department during this challenging period. Correctional officers play an invaluable role in maintaining public safety. Each and every minute of their work day puts them in harm's way for the protection of our community. They are an integral piece of our law and justice system and their security must be a top priority.”

The death of a guard violently disrupts the rhythm of a well oiled machine. It sends the prison into lock down, jolting the guards, aggravating the already existent tension between them and prisoners. But the open air prison of society also experiences a moment of breakdown that the forces of authority scramble to repair. The call for security means that the facilities and staff receive the funds to perfect the mechanisms of the prison.

The community of guards, police, and people who feel protected by them is sent into a state of confusion when someone does not submit to the humiliation of their plan. Strangling the person who suffocates you is the ultimate act of refusal. A prison guard's daily life and chosen duty is the oversight and inflection of a much slower death. A symptom of the sickness of this society is that the death of a prison guard is mourned at all.

Monroe is the state's largest prison with about 2,500 inmates and five units with varying security levels. At the time of Biendl's death, guards carried no weapons—no guns, pepper spray or batons—while on duty at the Monroe prison. The “community” took the opportunity to chime in, seeing this as a moment to back a budget increase. Thus, \$11 million dollars was added for guard safety and security. This allocation by the Legislature is paying for new body alarms and pepper spray for officers which will be tested this month. Other precautions, including security

“proximity” cards for officers, are being debuted in Walla Walla. In King County, the guards will soon carry tasers. Clearly, increased safety of prison guards is, necessarily, the increased misery of prisoners.

Five corrections officers have been killed on duty in Washington state according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Jayme Biendl was the first Washington corrections officer killed in 32 years. Her fellow officers delayed discovery of her body for nearly two hours and now seven employees at the Monroe Reformatory—two lieutenants, a sergeant and four officers—face potential discipline for violating policies. They are making a vain attempt to ensure that this never happens again, but so long as prisons exist violent attacks against guards are inevitable. It is only a matter of time.

Scherf was the last to leave the chapel on the night of his attempted escape. Instead of heading to his cell, he locked an exterior gate and darted back in the chapel. He later told detectives he was stewing over a comment by Biendl that he interpreted as disrespectful to his wife of 23 years. “The more that ran through my mind, the madder I got,” he told detectives. “Years and years of just crap and I got tired of it and boom.”

Recently in Washington, a guard shot a state prison inmate dead after his attempted escape. Two prisoners conspired together, one caused a disruption in the yard while the other drove a bulldozer through the gate. A praiseworthy attempt that ended in death. The one that is back in prison was the infamous Tacoma mall shooter from 2005. As with Scherf, it is appropriate to wish for the escape of all prisoners regardless of their alleged crimes because no one is deserving of incarceration. The prisons and the moral, sensible, and healthy society that they protect should all go up in flames. After four years without an escape from Monroe there have been seven in the past six months. To all of those who got away, Godspeed. 🐾

FOR FURTHER COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST PRISONS AND GUARDS!

Asses

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

One shining example of their shift in consciousness is the fact that there are now 405 officers armed with tasers. With these weapons, cops can now electrocute you until your heart stops rather than kill you outright. In addition to this vast improvement, 1,800 staff of the SPD have gone through the “Perspectives in Profiling” training. After receiving this training, each cop understands that they must abuse and murder civilians in an indiscriminate manner, regardless of race or gender. This training ensures that the racist good old boys in the SPD will kill more white people this year. The shining jewel in their improvement, however, is the “Donut Dialogues.” During these sessions, SPD officers force young children to listen to them while they talk about how cool it is to be a cop and how bad it is to break laws.

Clearly, the SPD has done nothing other than pull its usual tricks. Little has changed, the police still act with impunity, and the only time there is mass public anger is if a death or beating is captured on film. But that does not have to be the case. After the anniversary of John T. William's death, take the time to let an SPD officer how much you hate them. When you see them biking on the street, yell at them, curse them, and treat them with the amount of scorn and hatred they deserve. 🐾

Predators

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

despite the vast limitations of second-wave feminism, is still applicable today, when rape and other sexual violence remain commonplace and when attitudes, norms, practices, and media continue to condone, normalize, and excuse sexualized violence. One reason so little has changed is that anti-sexual/domestic violence advocates have for so long forged dependent relationships with law enforcement and courts, turning to them for protection. Some organizations have broken from this trend and now recognize that police and prison guards, as perpetrators of coercive violence and racism, are fundamentally unfit to ensure “community safety”.⁴ Anarchists, meanwhile, have always known that the state is the biggest, most dangerous predator on the block.

The fact that rape and other acts of sexual violence continue to happen in great numbers every day is proof that the state and its systems of crime and punishment are entirely incapable of stopping sexual violence. In fact, sadism and sexual violence are part and parcel of prison culture. Beyond outright instances of guards raping prisoners or looking the other way when prisoners rape other prisoners, the threat of sexual violence comes in both blatant and insidious forms. In Seattle earlier this summer, a group of young people arrested at a party were told by sneering police officers that they would be raped in jail.⁵ One can only assume that this is a common, unofficially accepted tactic used by police to intimidate their captives. On the subtle side, consider the Prison Rape Elimination Act videos played on repeat in the holding cells at many jails across the country. It would be easy for jail officials to insist that this is a legitimate attempt to stop prison rape, but ask anyone who has spent time in these jails just how reassured those videos made them feel.

Sick, Sad World

This is a sick, sad world that churns out sick, sad people. There can be no end to sexual violence as long as sadists continue to run the show. McNeil Island may well be teeming with very dangerous men and women, but many of them get to ride the ferry home every day at the end of their shifts.

When everything, including our bodies and minds, become objects to be bought and sold in the market of everyday life, it becomes very easy for some to use and abuse others. Some wear uniforms and get paid to do it. Others use their positions of trust and authority to wield power over their victims. Broken relationships and the rising sexualization of young children, as just two examples, contribute to a culture within which sexual violence is encouraged, fought, and feared all at once.

It is in this climate that state and local budgets, even for jails and prisons, are drying up. Maple Lane School, a juvenile detention facility in Centralia, WA, and McNeil Island Corrections Center have already closed. There was a proposal earlier this year to move the Special Commitment Center to the site of the former Maple Lane School due to budget concerns. The costs to DSHS of operating an island prison, with its ferries and barges, are certainly much higher than those of a regular land-locked facility. The DSHS budget is already extremely tight, and with more and more cuts coming every year, it's easy to see what sort of “tough choices” lie ahead. Which will it be, the Food Assistance Program or the Special Commitment Center? Hunger or rape?

The danger of continuing to rely on prisons, courts, and police to keep us safe should by now be blatantly clear. The state that every day hurts, murders, and imprisons our friends, neighbors, and loved ones is no humble guardian. Laws and standardized sentences only serve to smooth over the complexity of each instance of sexual violence. Safety comes



One Year Later, Cops Still Struggle to Cover Their Asses

SEATTLE - August 30th was the anniversary of the murder of John T. Williams. After his death, we watched the police scramble to reach out to the family and apologize while the Seattle Police Officer's Guild spokesman was meanwhile telling the public the shooting was justified. We watched public anger bubble and almost overflow the cauldron when the murderer-cop Ian Birk was officially able to walk free. But now the anger is gone from sight, the SPD is still trying to present itself as a vital institution, and the public has seemingly forgotten that the police kill all the time. We haven't forgotten, however, and we read with disgust the newest announcement from the SPD that details just how much they've changed.

CONTINUED ON PG. 7 ▶

from people forming relationships of reciprocal trust and protection against *all* aggressors—those with badges as well as those without. It is in these types of beautiful, painfully rare communities—*real* communities—that sexual violence is handled best: with care, compassion, and, when deemed necessary, swift and sweet revenge. 🐉

4. *INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence* is one good example.

5. See “Police Vs. Party,” *Tides of Flame* #3.

An Introduction to the Anarchist Affinity Group

Sorry, everyone. There is no official organization to join to become an anarchist. Because of this, anarchism has confused many people who are used to normal political organizations or groups. Anarchists appear nearly spontaneously amidst the human population of the world. Their individual beliefs assuredly vary, but the central unifying belief is that there should be no government. Another unifying belief is that people should not be governed, nor should they govern themselves, but instead they should decide their own fates based on free association. The purpose of this article, however, is not to present the philosophy of anarchism, but to instead highlight some tactics anarchists have employed to change and remedy their immediate situations.

If you are an anarchist in Seattle and are looking for “the anarchists,” look no further than your closest friends. These are the people who you must act with, because they are the only people you can trust. If your friends are also anarchists, you can talk endlessly about philosophy and the news, but this will eventually grow boring and pointless. If you want to begin to change and influence the stifling reality of capitalist democracy, you can go two directions. You can focus on social actions such as leafleting, opening a people's kitchen, planning demonstrations, and agitating around specific issues. But if you would rather do something immediately, something that may not be legal, you will need those friends closest to you. These friends will be your affinity group, the people you will act with in the future.

Whatever plans you come up

with, keep them secret, obviously. Locate some malevolent or hostile entity, think of a way to attack them, plan it carefully, and then go out with your friends. Your actions can be as serious as your intention and goal is. This is how anarchists have spontaneously started revolutions and uprisings for over 200 years: small groups that don't know each other, acting independently, with other anarchists acting socially, *en masse*. If you ever commit an illegal act, it does not mean you cannot find and seek out other anarchists. It is important to share ideas, thoughts, and have conversations with other people you have something in common with. Just

keep your mouth shut about your shady crimes. However, it might be preferable to avoid anarchist circles and form your own.

Obviously, the authors of this article chose the first option, engaging in social action. What we are telling you has been culled from numerous texts and testimonies written by anarchists throughout time. One anarchist who has inspired these words is named Alfredo Maria Bonanno, an old Italian man who is still alive and fighting. In 1977, he wrote these words:

“Anyone who is determined to carry out his or her deed is not a courageous person. They are simply a person who has clarified their ideas, who has realized that it is pointless to make such an effort to play the part assigned to

them by capital in the performance. Fully aware, they attack with cool determination. And in doing so they realize themselves as human beings. They realize themselves in joy. The reign of death disappears before their eyes. Even if they create destruction and terror for the bosses, in their hearts and in the hearts of the exploited there is joy and calm.”

Old Alfredo spent a year in jail for writing *Armed Joy*, the book these words are from. He spent much of the time between 1977 and 2011 writing, traveling across Europe, expanding informal anarchist networks, and generally be-

ing a dirty old man. In 2009, at the age of 71, Alfredo was arrested in Greece for robbing a bank. He was caught driving away from the bank with the robber in the passenger seat. 46,000 Euros were found in the car. It is unknown where this money was destined to go, but it's clear that his commitment to joy, freedom, and rebellion has kept Alfredo going into old age.

There are many other sources of information about anarchist action, but one basic principle is laid out above: find your closest friends and act with them. If you are an anarchist, the best people to find are the ones you trust. Trust and friendship is our greatest weapon. Use it well and take care of each other. Good luck in all your efforts. 🐉



FORGOTTEN HISTORY

The Last Actions of the George Jackson Brigade

This issue's Forgotten History is a continuation of the story of the George Jackson Brigade, which we began in issue #1. You can find all of our previous issues online at tidesofflame.wordpress.com

After their bombing of two Ranier National Bank branches, the next action of the Brigade was to acquire more money. Obviously, living a clandestine life did not permit them to earn money slowly, and large sums were necessary to rent houses, build bombs, drive cars, and buy food. On May 21st, 1977, the Brigade robbed the Newport Hills state liquor store near Bellevue. During the robbery, the Brigade was forced to take the manager's wallet because it was in the same bag as the 1,300 dollars they had stolen. The next day, the Brigade mailed the wallet back to the manager with all of her personal money (about 45 dollars) still inside.

On June 20th, 1977, the brigade robbed a Ranier National Bank near Bellevue, continuing in their pattern of stealing from where the richest people lived. They fled the bank with 4,200 dollars. In a communique issued after the robbery, the Brigade took credit for their actions and reminded the reader that Ranier National Bank was specifically targeted because of its financial ties to the *Seattle Times*. The paper had been printing misinformation about the prison struggle taking place at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary, the place where Brigade member Ed Mead was locked up. In the same communique, the Brigade told the reader that all of the money would be

used to carry out further actions. True to their statement, the Brigade acted in less than two weeks.

Unfortunately, chaos got the best of the Brigade during the action. On July

3rd, the night before the nationalist orgy of Independence Day, the Brigade drove down to Olympia where they placed a triple pipe bomb near an electrical transformer adjacent to the Capitol Building. They called in a warning, instructing the authorities to clear the area in half an hour. When half an hour passed and there had been no explosion, the police searched for the bomb, found it, and eventually diffused it. In a communique explaining the intention of the planned attack, the Brigade said their bombing attempt had been for the prisoners in Walla Walla who were still being thrown into long periods of isolation. By August of that summer, the warden had been replaced and the prisoners taken out of solitary confinement.

Fall was approaching when Rita Brown, dressed as a man, walked into an Old National Bank, handed the teller a note indicating she had a gun, and walked out with 1,100 dollars. Eleven days later, on September 19th, again dressed in drag, she handed a note to a teller at a People's National Bank on 76th Avenue. The note read simply: **THIS IS A HOLD UP. I HAVE A GUN. THE GEORGE JACKSON BRIGADE.** She walked out of the bank with 8,200 dollars, more money than the Brigade had ever stolen. With nearly 10,000 dollars, the Brigade planned its next campaign.

Machinists from various auto workers unions were on strike and picketing car dealerships. Brigade members joined the picket lines, had conversations, and decided that the rank and file unionists wouldn't disapprove

of an attack on the dealerships. Their first bomb didn't go off, but on October 12th, they successfully detonated a bomb at the S.L. Savidge car dealership. The Brigade made sure to clearly state in a communique that they were in no way connected with the unions and were acting independently. Three days later, the group bombed two vehicles at a Dodge dealership. Three days after this, over 80 cars at a Ford Dealership had their tires slashed by anonymous individuals, causing over 5,000 dollars in damages. The Brigade was not responsible for this last action, so it is clear that the Brigade was correct in assuming that rank and file unionists supported clandestine sabotage.

Meanwhile, in Germany, another urban guerrilla group called the Red Army Faction (RAF) caused an international scandal. In April of 1977, three members of the RAF were found guilty of murder and imprisoned. That September, elements of the RAF kidnapped Hanns Martin Schleyer, the president of the Employers' Association of the Federal Republic. Schleyer had been a member of the Nazi Party and the SS during the second world war. As a respected businessman in post-war West Germany, Schleyer represented the hypocrisy, blindness, and unbroken fascism of German democracy. The RAF stated that they would not release Schleyer unless their comrades were freed from prison.

The German government did not respond to these demands, and so on October 16th, a commando of Palestinian comrades hijacked a Lufthansa plane, saying they would only release their hostages in exchange for the RAF prisoners. The plane eventually landed in Somalia to refuel where it was raided by German special forces. Three of the hijackers were killed and all of the hostages were freed. The next morning, the RAF prisoners in Germany were found dead in

CONTINUED ON PG. 8 ▶

The Death of Mother Nation

At the end of January 2011, Byron E. Scherf, a prisoner held in the Monroe Prison, killed a prison guard named Jayme Lee Biendl. Scherf has been in and out of prison since the 1970's and was serving life without parole after being convicted of first degree rape, assault, and kidnapping in Spokane in 1997. Now he is facing the death penalty. In fact, he is literally asking for it, going so far as to reference the bible: "you take a life, you give a life". He tried to kill himself back in 2001 and was put into high security. He was then moved to medium security at Monroe in 2009. When he killed the guard he was trying to escape.

For the media, the politicians, and the police, the death of this guard was not only something to be mourned but was as mysterious as grief itself. "What a horror," read the statements, "this is a real life terror." Another officer at her memorial added, "There will forever be a void in my soul and in this department. She made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the safety of us all." The Governor also issued a statement regarding the killing, offering her condolences to the family and friends of the officer, and gesturing toward this absence, she called the murder "senseless".

Just a month ago, the media reported that Scherf "held a grudge against Biendl." In interviews with investigators that Scherf gave against the advice of his lawyer, he called her "evil" and blamed her for the cancellation of a program that made extra food available for prisoners. His motivation is obvious to everyone but his jailers. What is confusing to the prosecutors and the good citizens is the smile he wore when he recounted the murder. To them, this is evidence of a sick mind. To us, it makes the most sense in the world. We see the portrayal of this monster for what it is: the prohibition of violent acts of resistance. A persistent feeling of resentment for a

guard does not arise from a single act but by the guard's very existence.

The terror of this event derives from its threat to the existing order and the symbolic value placed upon this woman's life, that of mother nation. After the bugler played "Taps", mourners saluted in silence and Biendl's family was presented with the flag that covered her casket. The media ushered everyone back into the house of divine judgment: "This young woman was devoted to an



agency that works around the clock to ensure our communities are safe, which makes her death all the more tragic. I ask all Washingtonians to join us in keeping her loved ones in our thoughts and prayers." Terror and mercy are closely linked, they are essentially the front and back of the same power structure.

The gender integration of Washington's correctional-officer work force started in 1972, when government agencies fell under the Civil Rights Act's ban on sex discrimination. Despite the fact that she was in her mid 30's, the guard is consistently called a "young" woman. The young woman as a subject in this progressive society is called upon to join the work force. Her liberation means that she may become an oppressor her-

self. Of the 3,708 officers in the state's prisons, 592—15 percent—are women. Around the time of Biendl's death, the media reported on the benefits of hiring female corrections officers. Female officers are hurt less often than men, according to studies. They are seen as "good communicators, often defusing machismo tension before it erupts."

There was little mention of the grievances prisoners have filed against her—15 since 2006 to be exact. Many of the grievances concerned her limiting of Muslim prayer services in the chapel that she oversaw. She harassed and threatened inmates regularly and, like all guards, got away with it.

A new test was implemented in Washington State prisons in 2008 which requires a six-week training course that teaches physical and verbal control techniques to guards. However, this mandatory brutality of Biendl and every other prison guard was ignored in order to maintain a narrative that is easier for the public to swallow.

The murder of this guard was spoken about not as a prisoner's act of resistance against his captor, but as an act of violence by a man against a woman. This narrative was used to rally support for a large sum of money to be used to increase the comfort of prison guards. Biendl had complained about working alone. The cameras in the chapel didn't work. She had spoken to her superiors about feeling unsafe working the night shift in the chapel alone. All of this was presented as a call for more and better armed prison guards.

In a statement from Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon regarding the incident, he explicitly states the role of the guard as a martyr for the community: "This tragedy is an offense to all who work to keep this community safe and to all who call Snohomish County home. Snohomish County

CONTINUED ON PG. 7 ▶