J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

Left Wing

UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

VOL I NO. 3 JUNE 15, 1970 MDM BAY AREA
NAS ALAMEDA AND TREASURE ISLAND

2214 GROVE STREET BERKELEY PHONE: 549-2172
THIS PAPER CANNOT LEGALLY BE TAKEN FROM YOU

If the people at the bottom of the pile stopped grinning and let go, what would happen?

BULKHEAD EDITORIAL

This is the third edition of 'Bulkhead'. It's clear by now that we're here to stay. Each issue looks better than the one before, and unlike some GI papers, we haven't folded after the first issue. We're now long overdue for a critical look at ourselves.

What has happened to us in the first three months is that the writing, layout, printing, and distribution of this paper has virtually been forced underground. In fact, we have faced many of the same problems with this paper that the inmates of San Quentin faced putting out their underground paper, "The Outlaw." Our civilian and GI photographers have had their film and cameras taken from them. Our active duty writers have been court-martialled for trying to get the Navy's side of the story, and our distributors have been harrassed and in some cases busted for passing out the paper. The compartment cleaner chief at NAS Alameda has even offered 24 hours liberty to anyone who turns in a brother he suspects of being associated with 'Bulkhead.'

These conditions have forced us to do almost all of our newspaper work off-base. Articles are smuggled off-base, where they are typed, set on a page, and printed in secret by the people not intimidated by the military agents of the ruling class. The only way we'll be able to make this paper more responsive to the needs of Bay Area sailors is if you work with us in putting it together. We people who put out 'Bulkhead' are turning our hate of the military dinosaur and our love for the people it oppresses into energy. You see, we are bound by hate and love both. That's a bond that's hard to break. All we want now is for more of you to share this feeling with us. The clicks, buzzes, humms, and rustlings of shuffled papers are the music of production. Our machine is like no other. Why not join us at our next 'Bulkhead' production meeting. Call 549-2172 for the time and place.

We'll be the first to admit our mistakes. They include the following: (1) the 'Bulkhead' is not yet really a Navy paper. It's treatment of the news is still too general. (2) We have not gotten enough letters-to-the-editor. (3) Because we are forced to operate secretly we have not been in close enough contact with one or two particular bases here. (4) We have not really explained our twelve point program in detail.

We're sure that you're all on to many of our shortcomings. The only way we can recognize them and deal with them is if you tell us, either in person or through the mail. Remember, this is supposed to be your paper.

If we were putting out a supplement to 'Navy Times', if we were putting out a sea scout monthly, we would be able to clear the paper through base authorities, sell it in the commissaries and cafetarias, and pass it out in barracks without any trouble. As long as we'd be putting out a paper which did not challenge the security, the authority, and the legitimacy of the US Navy, they would have no reason to stop us. The Navy is not fighting us because we're putting out a newspaper. They're trying to squash us because our paper and our organization are against everything they stand for.

We are armed with the truth, and we are not kidding around. Their organization and their lives are built on lies, and they aren't kidding around either. For these reasons we are partially underground. We expect no mercy from their laws, their courts, or their prisons. We do not believe in asking permission to make a human revolution. We know that those who try to openly exercise their 'rights' have always been bitterly disappointed to discover that they have all the rights in the world only until they try to exercise them.

But you ask, "If you are underground, how are we going to find you?" Our paper and our office are like the top one-tenth of an iceberg. But our strength lies underwater, in the unity of our organization both on and off base. And no seaman who has ever seen an iceberg ever forgets that it's the part of the iceberg you can't see which sinks the ship.

Commie-Pinko-Prevert Blues

The brass has told many people that MDM is a communist supported movement, and that much trouble can come to you for possessing this paper. Every one of those charges are outright lies.

MDM is mainly a donation-supported group. We are not communists, but rather freedom fighters. They cannot legally prosecute you for being in MDM, or for reading or possessing 'Bulkhead'.

MDM was organized to make a better military by making it a democracy. The brass cannot let you have democracy without a fight. The only true power they have over you isfear. From your first day to your last they must keep you scared, uninformed and subjugated. We are showing GI's that they have nothing to fear from the Pig. This strength can only come from unity and knowledge of the UCMJ.

Brass all over California know the power of MDM, and fear us. They are losing a grip on the oppressed enlisted man, and cannot legally do a thing.

Many of our brothers were harrassed and some even brigged on totally phony charges. They only made us stronger because our Brotherhood is stronger than their oppression.

We cannot help more of you brothers without your aid. The public must be shown the military is corrupt and outdated. This we cannot do without you. Remember that with us you can break the lifers' stranglehold. So ignore his idle threats.

Power to the People
Richard Gould

FIGHT

On 1 June 1970 at about 1500, the captain of the attack carrier USS Midway made two announcements. But we are only concerned with the one pertaining to MDM. He made it clear that the ship's officers had intercepted, opened, and read the letters intended for other members of the Midway. They had handed them over to the captain. Only after he had inspected the contents of the envelopes did the captain let them be distributed. He said we were free to read the contents and make up our own minds whether or not we agreed with the information in them. This is a constitutional right given to all citizens of the USA. Nice of him to allow us to exercise this right, wasn't it? But to this 'privilege' he added his own subtle command by saying if one had been sent to him he would hand it over to ONI and let them handle it.

We also know that on 2 June 1970 he held a forum which was a real joke. He made it clear that he had unleashed the ONI dogs on MDM. He also in his own subtle way made the following accusations against MDM:

1) He said the 'Bulkhead and the pamphlet 'Military Duty, Service or Subservience?' contained misinformation from sources of questionable reliability.

2) Because the return address reads 'Student Research Facility', the captain thought students had something to do with the paper.

3) Following his ridiculous assumption that students were writing a GI paper he got even more lost by questioning how students could pay the cost of the 'Bulkhead'

BACK!

Our answer to your accusations, oh captain:

1) MDM is an organization of active duty GI's. The 'Bulkhead is written by active duty GI's. Aren't GI's a reliable source? The pamphlet was written by a newly reborn Army GI for the Student Research Facility. Isn't he a reliable source?

2) Because of ONI harrassment and brass harrassment on base, we have an office in Berkeley at 2214 Grove St. We share the office with the Student Research Facility. There are no students in MDM, except students in military schools.

3) We do not get any funds from Hanoi, Peking, Moscow, Cuba, or any foreign governments. We also do not receive our funds from the CIA.

No, captain, the dissent is RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF YOUR OWN COMMAND. The GI's in MDM get funds from their own pockets, from ads in 'Bulkhead', from contributions we solicit from sympathetic civilians, and from fund raising.

Food for thought: if the Nuremburg trials proved one thing, they proved that each GI is responsible for his own actions. How many German war criminals went to their deaths with these words on their lips? "But I was only obeying my orders."

POWER TO THE PEOPLE
signed, Members of MDM
imprisoned on the USS Midway

MDM ON USS MIDWAY

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

PEEPING TOM

Well, it's true. Big Brother here at TI is sneaking around, peeping through keyholes, listening at holes in the wall. Brain police are like maggots in the garbage.

Last week the fascists herded everyone in barracks 209-8 over to investigations for mug shots. It seems that we at MDM have the brass extremely paranoid at TI. It seems that two brothers, Dave Chapman and Rick Gould had nine pictures taken when everyone else had only three.

It also turns out that NISO (the Navy answer to the CIA) has been showing people pictures of brothers Rick and Dave and asking about their political affiliations and beliefs. Then when brother Rick was called to NISO about another man's statement, the Pig decided to find out first hand. Rick didn't deny or admit anything. His reply to the charges and a sneakphoto of him and brother Dave was, "So?".

The brass can only control people who fear them and are apathetic. Our brothers from MDM here at TI have no fear of the fascists because we know, that with all their power, they still fear the Movement.

Brother Dave was stopped one morning for not wearing socks with his uniform. That means the pig must be hiding everywhere to watch us dress and do many other things.

The Gestapo is everywhere, but they are useless as long as our Brothers are there. And we will always be there to protect and defend our Brothers.

Power to the People
signed, The Political Prisoners of Treasure Island

GETTING IT TOGETHER

On Friday, May 22, at about 9:30am the pigs came to 209-8 to bust 4 people for possession of weed. In their travels they managed to kidnap 9 others. How they went about it is like reading "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich."

While downstairs at the MAA office, someone upstairs allegedly called them 'pigs'. How did they know anyone thought enough of them to waste their breath unless they were paranoid of the truth? They gathered 9 of us, everyone on the top floor, excluding the watch (how did they know he didn't do it?). When they couldn't extract a 'confession' there, they herded us into the pigmobile, four of us, some in only T-shirts, were forced to ride in the back of an open pick-up truck.

When we arrived at the main gate, we were informed they only wanted one of us and we could stand there until 6am. It was cold and windy there, too. Then one of our brothers had his beads stolen. When he asked for a receipt he was told by some chief who was straight out of Crumb's Head Comix, that he would get one when he was 'goddamn good and ready to give him one', which was never.

One of us went to dispencary and overheard the pigs talking about how they could make a believer out of us 'punks' by driving through a car wash with a prisoner in the back. A Lt. Cmdr (MD) gave an order that

our brother was to be taken to the barracks as soon as possible. This enraged the most active fascist of the whole abortion, BTI Sweat. He said that he might be back by 6am. This happened at 11:30pm.

At 12:15am, the doctor was informed of what was happening, and called the main gate and issued the order again. He was then taken to MG, handed a report chit, and when he tried to read it, had it snatched out of his hands and told to read it on the way to the brig. His (BTI Sweat's) reply when asked what he was going to the brig for was, "Any fuckin' thing I can think of."

No one in our group was informed of Article 31, our rights.

Five of our brother who wouldn't, or rather couldn't sing, were put in the "back room". Then the brother who had been to sick bay inquired about the medical order. In two minutes they were herded into the back of the open pick-up, and driven to the barracks at 45 mph, base speed being 25 mph.

This is just a typical example of fascist oppression and subjugation at TI. This type of criminal justice must come to a screeching halt.

RISE UP AND ABANDON THE CREEPING MEATBALL

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Tough Tommy Prettyman

TI's own super Dick Tracy does it again. He found four more brothers of 209-8 that he could fuck over while just trying harrass one brother who is an active participant in MDM. The four brothers had special 'detail' at the Commissarry Store where the MAA ran the brothers liberty instead of barracks 209-8. The MAA at the store told the brothers to put a chit in for liberty on Friday, May 29, 1970, so they could have the three day holiday along with the rest of the base.

When you run such a chit through, you must have it cleared by every office which holds your records. They went to discipline because their records were kept there. Then they were told to take the chits over to super Dick Tracy or Tough Tommy to have them cleared. Like the shithead he is, he disapproved them. Since when does the Navy let a civilian or a blundering stupid moron such as Prettyman sign a chit for a military man's liberty?

He doesn't have the name Tough Tommy for nothing. It wasn't good enough for him to disapprove the chits. He ran out of his office and over to the billetting office and had all four brothers pulled off of special detail.

Being the asshole he is, he fucked over three other brothers so he could subjugate and harrass me because of my political beliefs and my association with all my brothers at MDM.

Super Dick Tracy, not being so tough or smart, has fun and builds his ego up by

holding up my records and statements for as long as he wants to, in order to harrass me over my political beliefs. Tommy likes to keep you a political prisoner for as long as sixty or ninety days.

Prettyman does this because he is paranoid of MDM. He'll try to make a man change his political beliefs by holding him prisoner in 209-8, by holding him prisoner in the Navy.

Because of MDM, me and others like me can be helped and shown the way to use the UCMJ and other methods to put a stop to the bullshit Prettyman tries to do to all the brothers in 209-8 and around TI.

With the advice and help from my brothers in MDM, I used the lifers' own rules and beat them at their own game. By taking the issue to a request mast, me and three brothers got put back on special detail. When lifers realize that we're organized and can fight back, they stop fucking with us.

put the pig in the brig
power to the people
signed, The Political Prisoners of Treasure Island

WELCOME TO FT. ORD . . .

MAY 16

On May 16, twenty-five bases around the country called off Armed Forces Day on the suggestion of the Pentagon. In some cases, bases were totally closed and GI's restricted to base because the brass felt the necessity for extra people to be on hand for 'riot control duty'.

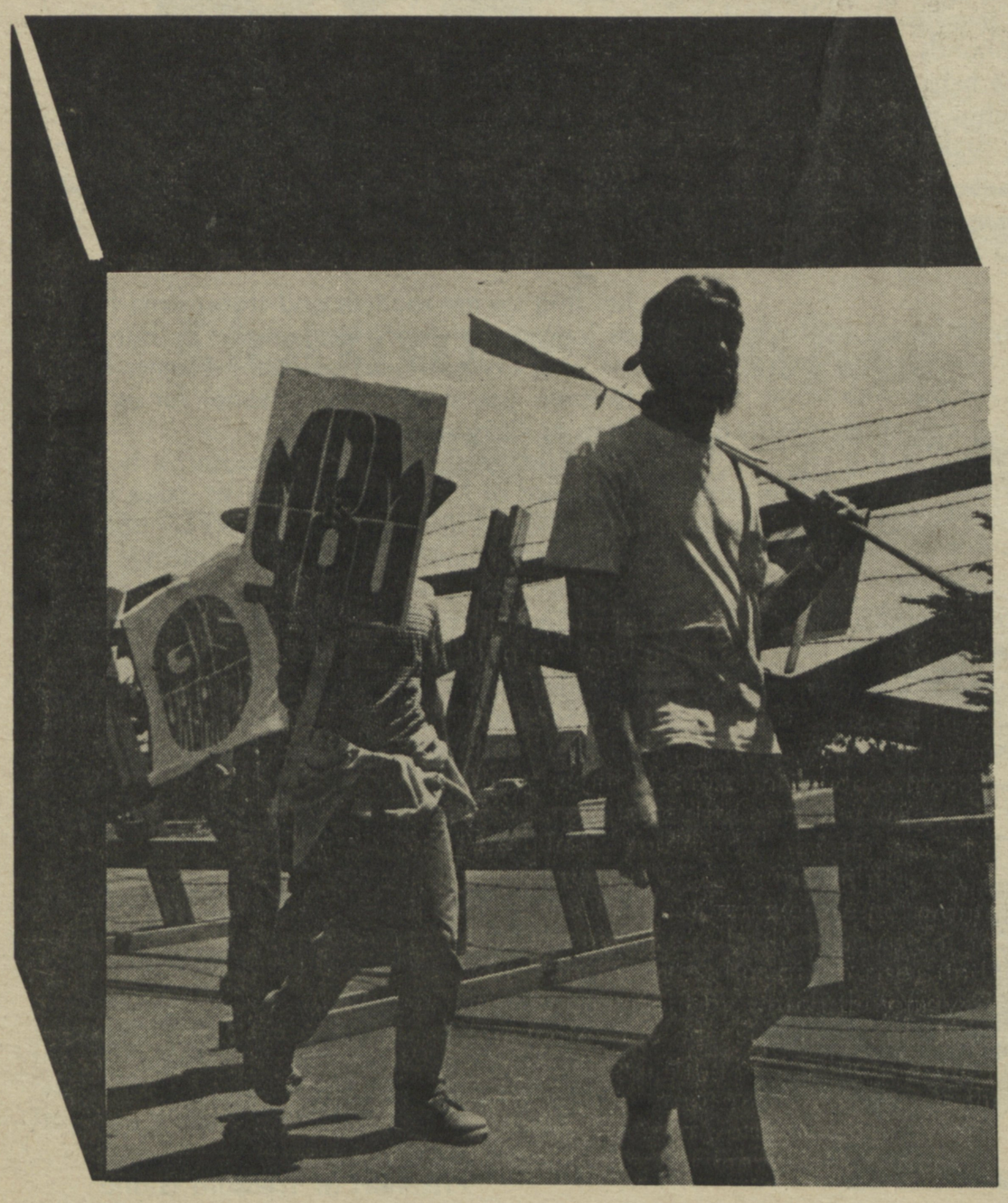
Since MDM was already considered a major threat to military security in the 11th and 12th Naval Districts, it was fitting that NAS Alameda prepared for an armed land and sea invasion. What's outasight is that WE forced them to show their real face. There was no display of too-shiny brass and too-well shined shoes and too-well disciplined squads of troops. Instead there was just evidence everywhere of a brass scared shitless. Its gates were locked, its soldiers confined, and its power mobilized to defend itself from us, the people, you and me.

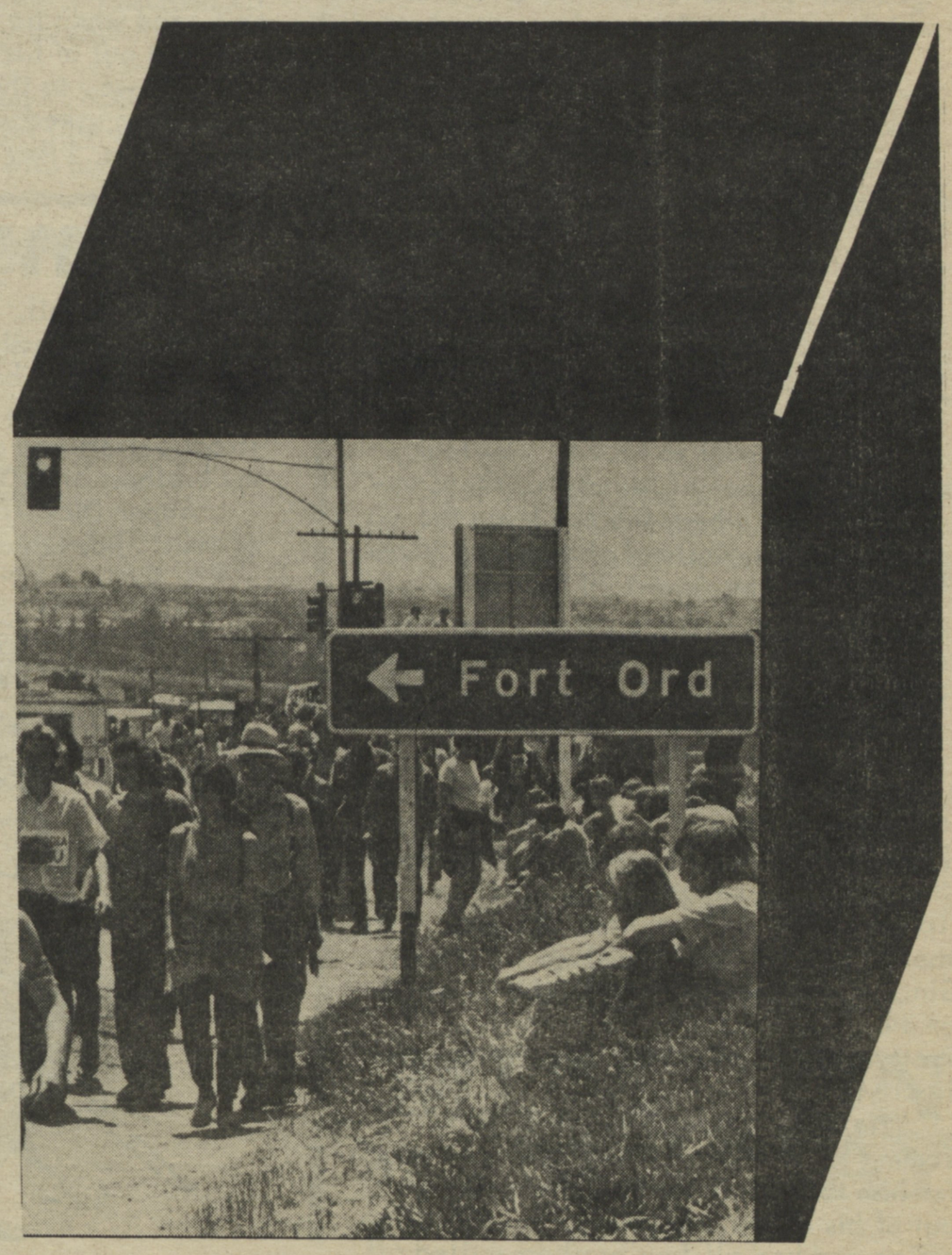
While Alameda brass were scanning radar scopes for sub units of the Peoples' Navy, while Hamilton and Travis airmen paced nervously on scramble alert, ready to intercept the fighter-bombers of our Peoples' Air Unit 5, 3500 people had gathered in a sandy lot near Fort Ord. Marching to show support for the GI's at Ft. Ord was the order of the day. Under threats of parking bans, community harrassment and CID provocation, people gathered in good spirits hoping to meet and rap with GI's.

While marching to the main gate of the fort, marchers could be heard cheering as GI's would flash fists and peace signs from the other side of the barbed wire and concertina wire. All this time helicopters filled with CS gas droned overhead waiting for the slightest provocation. At this point the people piled up in front of the gate. Marchers tried to rap to MPs, but to no avail. People felt that it just was not enough to march up to the gate and then turn back again; they wanted to break down the barriers between themselves and the GI's.

Later that day at the rally, a message was read to us from an MDM brother who had managed to have this note smuggled off base. "The brass . . . are reacting as if they were under attack by another armed army. They have closed the fort totally. They issued live ammunition to the GI's who were forced to pull riot control duty, and then took it back from everyone except the handful of lifers they knew they could trust. They have barricaded every gate. They have developed elaborate communications systems. They have put lights and 'restricted area' signs around the stockades and SPD. They have made all the brothers pull a full day of duty to insure that they won't be able to rap to you. They are locking us in when we work and posting guards at the door They are even making us keep all windows closed to be sure we can't hear anything . . . ."

Here's a message to you Pentagon strategists who're clipping this article and xeroxing it in triplicate. If you thought May 16 was heavy, you ain't seen nothin' yet. This is only the beginning.





Left Wing

LETTERS

Dear Bulkhead

I feel more people should know how the Navy is. This is why I'm writing this letter to tell how it has made my life and my marriage so difficult.

About one year ago my husband and I were married. About one week before our wedding he got orders so he went UA. When I became pregnant he stayed UA to see if he could get a job. It was hard to find one because of his situation with the Navy. When he went back, my nerves got so bad I lost my child. He served his time in the brig. I didn't get my allotment check until September. When he got out he went UA to get a job again. So when it was time for his next duty station, we didn't have enough money to get him there.

When he went back this time, the judge asked him why he went UA again. He told him that he had to support his family, because I can't live on $100 a month and he has not been paid by the Navy for over a year. They took away his pay and he went from a 2nd class all the way to a fireman's apprentice, which is next to a recruit. The judge told him his first obligation was to the Navy - his family came second. So my husband asked him who supported his family, fed them and clothed them. The judge said he was not obligated to say because he was not on trial.

I am pregnant again so he went UA. The doctor told me if I want this baby I can't work. Before he got a job to support me, the Navy picked him up. He was gone only 34 days but they are trying to get him for 67 days. His counsellor told him he could expect from 4 to 6 months in the brig.

I cannot live on a hundred dollars a month and get things for our baby. You just can't keep an apartment and support a baby on it. My husband is an epileptic and it came back just recently while he is in the brig. He hasn't had it for over 5 years. All the Navy is doing about it is keeping him doped up on darvon and phenabarbatol.

All I can say is I don't see why we should be treated this way in the 'richest and freest' country in the world.

a Navy Wife

Dear MDM,

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Do you believe that all are equal today? Now we are engaged in what might turn into a civil war. Are you willing to stand up and be counted for what you believe in? The men who fought in the battle at Gettysburg believed in what they were fighting for. Why can't you? They fought because they had a reason. Give me one real reason why we are in Vietnam? You don't know do you? I see no reason why we are fighting someone-ses' battle when we are not wanted. Don't you agree? In the discussions to which this interest has given rise, and in that arrangement by which they may terminate, the occasion has been deemed proper for asserting as a principle the rights and interests of our cause. If they will not listen to words, then I say give 'em violence. If they will not fight with word, then neither will we. God gave you a body. He gave you a head. In that head he placed a very delicate mechanism better knows as a brain. That brain stores a lot of knowledge. Why not use it? Put that brain to work and stand up for what you believe in. Fight for the cause. You stand one of two ways. You are with us, or in the silent majority, afraid to stand up and be counted. Why? You do not want any trouble. You do not want in the brig, or whatever the case may be. We are not looking for trouble either. All we want is what we are fighting for, and the only way to get it is to fight for it. Don't you agree?

Pepper

Brother Pepper:

We read in your letter that you were readly to fight, but you never told us what for. If you believe that all men should be equals today, then that leaves you at war with better than half the world's population: women.

There's nothing good or honorable about just fighting for a cause. The USA is fighting for a cause in Vietnam. The ruling class of America needs new markets for its products and new resources for its factories. Without the oil and rubber of Indonesia, without the tungsten of Thailand, without the cheap labor of Asians, the American economy would take a nosedive which would make this recession look like a minor dip. Then the ruling class tells its puppet ruling brass to tell its soldiers that they are fighting to keep Ky and Thieu in power and to keep communism from American shores. Our task, as revolutionaries within the American military, is to expose the lies we're force-fed in the military, expose the brass as the darlings of the American corporate elite (see our article on 'Brass in the Corporations'), and then organize enlisted men and women in the military as a power to be dealt with.

This is what we're for. If you'd come down to our office on 2214 Grove Street in Berkeley, we'll tell you how we're fighting for it.

Dear 'Bulkhead'

When I was about seventeen years old, I visited a cousin of mine who at the time was serving a five year sentence in Louisiana State Penitentiary, and the things that came down on those guys were really bad. When I first got there, I had to go through a lot of red tape just to see him. Then I went on a so-called tour. Six to seven men shared a very small cell or room. A mess hall that was nothing but a long room. I heard from many people that the food was rotten. Then I found out what kind of trades these men were taught, so they could get a job when they got out. Dig, they learned how to repair shoes, become auto mechanics and many other low paying jobs. I was also told that most of their time was used up on useless hard labor. But if you were a brown-nose you'd get something really easy to do.

After seeing the mess hall, we went on top of this wall where there were guards who stood with high powered rifles. From there I could see all of the prison yard. In the yard I saw all the men had short hair and the same uniforms who were being marched. These men weren't known by their name, but by a number they were given.

Two years later I got drafted. I received the same harrassment, almost the same living quarters, the same rotten food, and we all had the same uniforms. Many guys kissed ass so they wouldn't have to do no hard work. We all had time to do. They didn't know my name, but brothers, they had my number!

an Army brother

Dear MDM,

Yes, it is time to stop apologizing to youth. It is time to start listening to them. The youth of today are among the best educated people to ever live on this earth. From this education they have also become the most humanitarian of the earth's inhabitants. They believe that a democratic form of government will work only if the lawmakers allow it to work. The dissent on the campuses of today stems largely from this deep belief in a democratic form of government. The United States Consititution guarantees that Congress cannot abridge the right to free speech, but Seaman Roger Priest was given a bad conduct discharge from the Navy for publishing an anti-war newspaper.

The Constitution guarantees that no one shall be held in involuntary servitude. But we still have the draft.

The Constitution guarantees that all men are equal in the eyes of the law. But see which is granted permission to rally if permit applications are submitted by a pro-war and an anti-war group on conflicting dates. Better yet, tell me what would happen if a black family tried to move into "good ole" West Frankfort. I venture to say that the most "Chirstian People" would cast the first stone.

The Constitution guarantees the right to select the men in prominent positions of our government. But who selects the men who run? Certainly not the people. The Constitution guarantees that only Congress can wage war. But look what the President did in Cambodia. For the first time in our nation's 200 year history WE ARE THE AGGRESSORS. Yes as much as our God-fearing, flag-waving Silent Majority hates to admit it, WE ARE AGGRESSORS.

Today, approximately 40% of the colleges in the United States are closed because of the War Protests. Don't you think it's time our 'Silent Majority' realized that they are now a minority. Don't you think that our government realized that whenever this many people are dissenting to government policy that it's about time to re-evaluate the issues?

I will admit that the Communist nations gleefully watch the campus disturbances. But I can guarantee that this nation was not founded by a 'Silent Majority'.

I would like to close by quoting the philosopher Stephen Byington in saying, "It can never be unpatriotic to take your country's side against your government. It must always be unpatriotic to take your government's side against your country."

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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

I have been to many other Marine Corps indoctrinations before. But the propoganda that was unleashed upon us at 'Domestic Disturbance' (Riot Control) training, on the 28th of April was so unreal, that I could not believe it.

We have training once a week, and I knew that riot control would eventually find its way into the curriculum of the lifer pigs. It started out with the hippies. We were told that the hippies from Berkeley and Frisco plan to take over Treasure Island, not to just occupy the B of A or the post offce, but to "kick every Marine and sailor's ass."

"Men, they want to come here and take a chunk out of every one of your asses. They hate you because you have short hair (like we have a choice) and they are going to come here and kick your ass. Are you going to let that happen?

At this time the boots and non-Vietnam vets yell no.

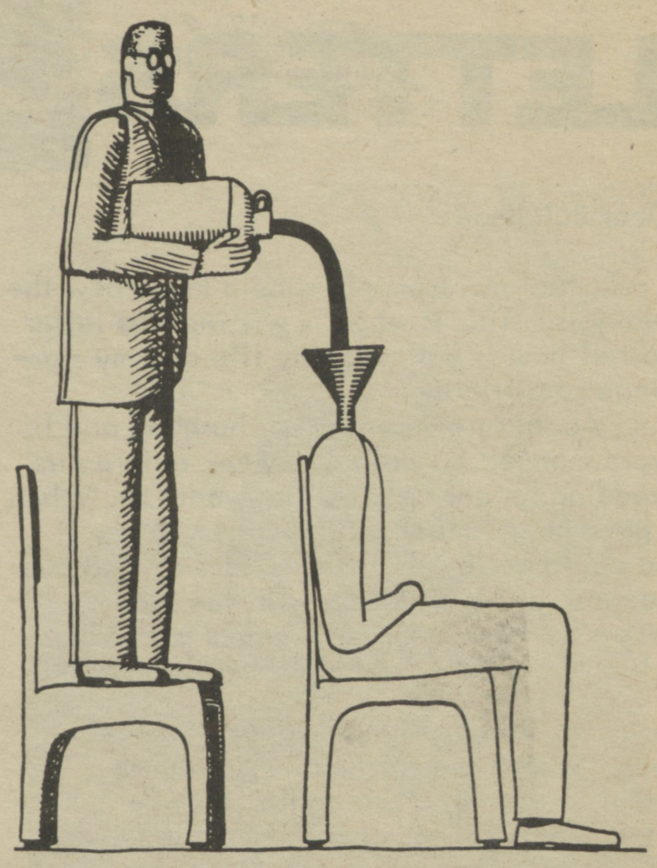
"Are you going to let the dirty hippies piss on us and spit on us?"

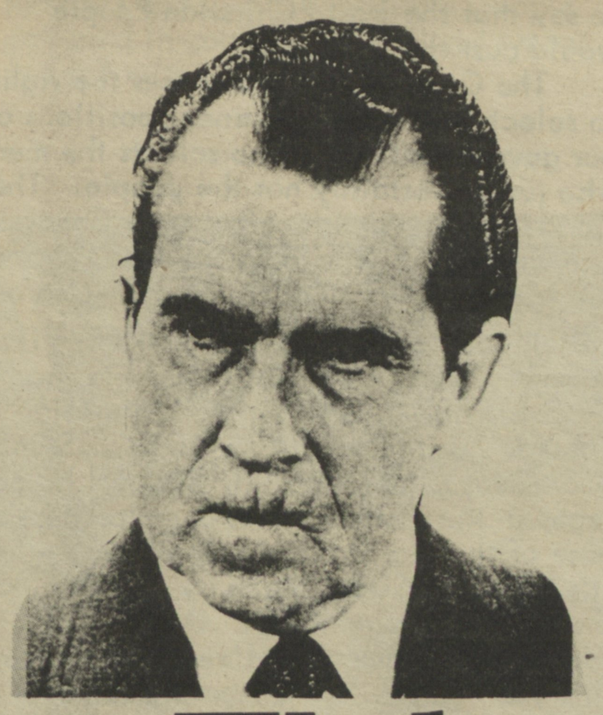
This time one of the Viet-vets could hold his piece no longer, and explained to the men that the people who comprise these riots have tried every peaceable way. All non-violent efforts have been exhausted and a lot of the rioters are veterans too.

But this Marine was shouted down by the people who have not seen what is happening in Vietnam first hand. And then the discussion was turned to the real reason why we are in Vietnam. This Marine Gunnery Sergeant had the audacity to tell us that our immediate goal should be to fight CHINA (800 million people) with GROUND TROOPS!!!!

At this point, many of the Nam vets began shouting Peace, and the lifers were shouting War, and the discussion was completely disrupted. The Gunny told everyone to go outside, and have a cigarette to cool off, and then return in five minutes. Well, we're tired of having to listen to fascists talk their Ki ll trash. So when we left the class, we didn't return.

To all of you lifer Marines who may be reading this article, when you are laying in the mud with your arms and legs blown off, and your buddies are dead (like so many friends that I saw killed in Nam) remember that you could have participated in a Peace Movement. Then and only then would you have the opportunity to raise a family and strive to achieve your personal goals for life. But if you remain in the same train of War thought that you are in now, then you deserve what your fate is certain to be. DEATH. Not by the Chinese or Vietnamese forces, but killed by the capitalistic War Machine that the United States of America has become.





DISCLAIMER This paper does not represent the views of the US Navy. Neither do the views of the Navy represent us. And that goes for the US government too.

We do something they don't do.

After a nice weekend, far away from the lifers, it is standard procedure to return on a Monday and again face the fact that the Marine Corps is really fucked up. Take for example what happened Friday night while I was far away on liberty, not even distantly relating myself to the military machine. It seems that some juice freaks, one an E-5, came into the barracks late Friday night or real early Saturday morning, and started making noise, kicking lockers, and causing an all around disturbance. They woke people up, went into the Squid (Navy) barracks, and punched some of them around, while provoking fights with people who they had just woken up. And somehow, a mattress was burned.

Now the hole in the mattress was only about as big as a half-dollar. I have bigger ones on my mattress. But the 1st Sgt decided that it was time to make a big thing out of something. So he said that we, the people who are supposed to live in that barracks, would have to have a field day (scrub the walls and such) every night after work until someone admits to burning the mattress. The Marine who did it was probably drunk when he did it, and can't even remember if he did it or not. But regardless, everyone is supposed to suffer. There are quite a few heads in the barracks, and we don't cause disturbances when we come in at night, and so don't feel that we should have to put up with this illegal infringement of our free time. It is just one more reason why people comprising the Armed Services must get together and rule ourselves. If it is necessary to defend this country from outside aggressors, then we will stand ready and tall. But we must no longer allow some high-ranking, rich, non-combat-eligible lifers make our daily decisions for us. If you want hair, then we can get hair. If you do your job, why should they ask you to look like a lawn mower ran over you? We must relate to each other, and strive to participate in and learn about politics. We must organize amongst ourselves and get together, and stand together when the shit hits the fan. We owe it to ourselves, living and serving the richest country in the world, to maintian the military as professionals with no infringements of our basic personal or constitutional rights.

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

LETTERS continued

Dear Brother:

Although we disagree with some parts of your letter, we wish to thank you for expressing your thoughts to us. We will attempt to answer your letter by commenting point-by-point.

You give a series of Constitutional guarantees followed by their practical contradictions. The Constitution is a paper law like any other. Those laws got on paper because people fought long and bitter struggles for what they thought their rights should be. For example, a constitutional amendment granted voting rights to women. That in itself did not guarantee women's rights. Women themselves struggled for and won that right only after many years of fighting. And only their continued vigilance guaranteed that the paper law meant anything.

On your point that this is the first time that "we are aggressors". The North American continent was colonized by European powers. In order to set up those colonies, native Indians were bought off, moved out, or decimated. What was manifest destiny if not the continuing westward expansion of white power? Colonial aggression necessitated the slave traffic. Westward expansion demanded "coolie" slave gangs. And now capitalism demands new markets, new resources, and cheap labor. We are just beginning to find out that America has been the aggressor from the word go.

Referring to your fifth paragraph. Yes, we do believe that the issues should be re-evaluated. Even that is an understatement. However, we can't leave it at that. We believe that the only way we're going to get our rights is to fight for them. Neither Nixon nor the Congress intends to serve them up to us on a silver platter. If you'd come into the office, we'll tell you just how we're fighting now for the rights we think are ours.

To Concerned Peoples of MDM,

This is to inform you that we on Alcatraz have not changed our stand. Our goals remain the same. Even though our differences with the Government are many and their actions against us are harsh and unjust, we will not stop short of victory. Victory for us is that Indian people of America will be accorded the respect and dignity that is the right of all free men.

We are not seeking violence or rebellion, but we are seeking freedom. In the words of Joseph, "If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian he can . . . just let me be free . . . free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think, talk, and act for myself. Let me be free and I will obey every law and submit to the penalty." That is how it must be.

We seek your help and understanding in our efforts for our people.

Indians of All Tribes
John Trudell

PS: Nation follows nation, tribe follows tribe as the waves of sea, it is the order of what must be . . . Even the white man whose God walked and talked with him as friend to friend must meet his common destiny. We may be brothers after all we shall see . . . .

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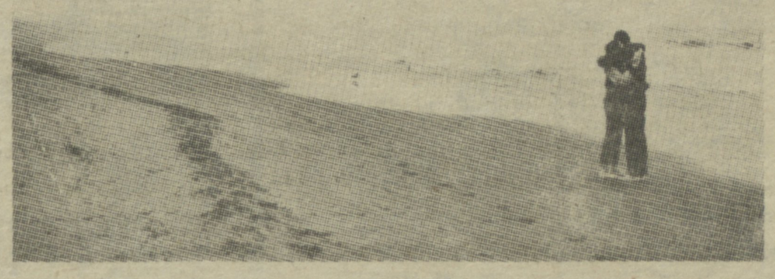

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J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

What we're for & why we're for it

Believing that ending the suppression of the American serviceman is an important part of a larger struggle for basic human rights, the Movement for a Democratic Military pledges support for the self-determination of all peoples. We are dedicated to using every means at our disposal to bring about a prompt end to the war in Vietnam, the exploitation of our brothers and sisters abroad, and the respression, both physical and economic, of those in our own land. We feel that by remaining silent, the serviceman has contributed to the denial of this deep-founded right of himself and of people everywhere to live free from intimidation and oppression. WE HAVE BEEN SILENT FOR A LONG TIME. WE WILL BE SILENT NO LONGER.

1. WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The brass must recognize MDM as an organized GI movement

2. WE DEMAND ALL CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

3. STOP ALL MILITARY CENSORSHIP AND INTIMIDATION

We cemand the right to individual conscience - moral, political, & religious. And we demand the right to refuse politically objectionable duty such as riot control, strike breaking, and imperialistic wars.

4. ABOLISH ALL MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CRUELTY IN MILITARY BRIGS CORRECTIONAL CUSTODIES AND BASIC TRAINING.

5. WE DEMAND THE ABOLITION OF THE PRESENT COURT MARTIAL SYSTEM AND N.J.P.

All cases would be subject to automatic review by a board of civilians elected by military men having one vote each. We demand a trial by jury and court of one' peers by rank. Eliminate all physical custody before trials. Place the judicial system outside the chain of command.

6. WE DEMAND WAGES EQUAL TO THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGES.

7. WE DEMAND THE ABOLITION OF THE CLASS STRUCTURE IN THE MILITARY.

End saluting and sirring and special officer privileges and segregation. End all rank privileges. We demand the right for an enlisted men's elected review board of officer conduct.

8. END ALL RACISM EVERYWHERE

Officers and senior enlisted men breed racism within the service by exploiting and indirectly pitting service men and women of different races against one another. Bring these offenders to trial by the system described above.

9. FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

In return for captured American troops in Indochina, we support amnesty for Eldridge Cleaver, Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Erika Huggins, the Conspiracy, and our brother war resisters at home and abroad.

10. STOP THE GLORIFICATION OF WAR NOW PREVALENT IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY.

11. ABOLISH THE DRAFT AND ALL INVOLUNTARY ENLISTMENT.

12. GET OUT OF INDOCHINA NOW.

The United States military is being used all over the world to maintain the US empire which controls the lives of people in other countries. When those people demand that we get out, and fight to get us out, we are forced to initiate a full scale attack on them in their homes with the most advanced weapons the military-indisutrial-educational complex can produce. We will no longer be puppets tricked into fighting against a 'Peoples War'. We will fight instead to force these genocidal rulers and the Brass to get out of Indochina Now.

PERSONALS

This column is open for your use. This is the first time we have ever run it. If you have something you want listed here, send it in to us in as short a form as possible, and we'll put it in.

LOST a Martin Guitar (beat up) around March 21 by a red-haired hippie mother with baby. Left in a coast guardsmen's car at Sutter and Divisadero in SF. REWARD. Call Anne Leist 752-6710

We've taken ads this issue because we needed the money, and because it's a quick way of finding out who are friends are. Not every place in town is out to rip off GI's for their paychecks. Many places are run by vets who quit the military and settled in San Francisco to open up either a coffee house or a small store. Others are run by people sympathetic to the GI movement. Those people who supported us with ads definitely deserve our support as customers. Patronize our friends.

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