INTRODUCTIONS

We are excited to present to you the third issue of Proposals, a publication that aims to provide a space for critical dialogue, discussion, and news relevant to prisoners in North Carolina. Your responses have been enthusiastic about this project to say the least, as prisoners’ letters asking to be added to our mailing list continue to pour in. We are happy to say that submissions and letters to the editor have also increased, prompting us to add a “letters to the editor” section to the publication. We hope this section can prove a useful place for people to respond to and debate the news and analysis presented in these pages.

It continues to be an intense time full of feverish activity on the outside. The massive rebellions which struck Tunisia and Egypt when we last went to print have now spread to Libya, Bahrain, Syria, Yemen, and other areas of North Africa and the Middle East. It is unclear how these rebellions will proceed, but while critical of the US’ involvement in Libya and the role of politicians and “opposition leaders” in recuperating these struggles, we remain steadfastly supportive of the popular roots of these rebellions. The strength and power of these uprisings lies not in the political machinations of wannabe politicians or in appeals to “democracy,” but in the riots, street blockades, strikes, and evictions turned violent, as masked demonstrators attacked police and luxury shops, eventually occupying Trafalgar Square and causing over $4 million in economic damage. Several weeks later, in response to the eviction of an anarchist squat, the entire neighborhood of Stokes Croft in Bristol erupted into streetfighting with police. Large numbers of British youth are confronting the realities and miseries of 21st century capitalism, and anarchist struggle has been thrust back into the spotlight as an alternative to the bankrupt reformism of the Labour Party and trade unions.

Related tensions have surfaced in Wisconsin as in the UK, where thousands of angry workers and students took over the Capitol building after lawmakers finally passed a bill that would effectively eliminate public employees’ unions. This energy has also spread to the east coast as well, with large anti-cop demonstrations in Seattle, WA, March 2011

to be added to or removed from the mailing list, or to submit materials for future issues, write to us at:
North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services PO Box 25397 Raleigh, NC 27611
NCPLS is a private non-profit that helps North Carolina prisoners litigate their cases post-conversion, provides general information about legal rights to prisoners, and helps prisoners press civil suits under cases of abuse and rights violations.

To be added to or removed from the mailing list, or to submit materials for future issues, write to us at:
Support for Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) 115-A South Walnut Circle Greensboro, NC 27409
Provides in-school support groups for children of incarcerated parents, where kids can talk with others who have parents in prison, and can form or strengthen a relationship with that incarcerated parent through weekly letter-writing.

WHERE DA’ LADIES AT?

As more and more people ask to be added to our mailing list, we wanted to take this opportunity to particularly invite the thousands of prisoners in women’s facilities across North Carolina to participate in this publication. Despite the fact that women’s prison populations have grown tremendously over the past few years, the struggles of women behind bars are often overlooked or completely ignored. Inspiring histories of events like the Black August rebellion at North Carolina’s own rebellion at the Women’s Correctional Center in 1975 remain absent from popular collective consciousness. The pernicious illusion that the struggle against prison reformism of the Labour Party and trade unions.

related to anarchist theory and writings by political prisoners. Multiple copies can be requested for study groups, etc.
that PERT a paramilitary group.

is pared, and briefed.

on demonstrations and protests in outside that is assembled to break up dem-

looked like the same type of outfit heavily armed and equipped. They

They were like a paramilitary group,

our Emergency Response Team

Around 5am, the PERT [Pris-

and tore the block to pieces.

other, looted each others' lockers,

in a wall that separated two blocks,

running around in police raincoats.

heard that maybe a guard got beat
telling them to burn the place down,

and we were making announcements

and it spread throughout the whole

side for help, for medical attention,

but they wouldn’t open the gate for

They train in preparation for quell-
ing riots and insurrections, han-
ding work stoppages, hostage situ-
atations, and so forth. Anyone who is

a member of PERT is always on call.

When the alert goes out, it goes out
to all PERT members throughout the

state. They receive their instructions

and convene in units to preestab-
lished locations to be full briefed on

the emergency situation. Then when

they arrive at the prison they arrive

with the force of numbers and equip-

ment.

If there was anything I

learned from that riot at Polk, it was

that these people are well-organized

and can easily crush a rebellion if it

isn’t very well-planned and coordi-
nated.

When they came through

the gate on A-block, their presence
alon estilled terror and restored
order. I remember seeing 50 guards
in full body armor lined up at the
gate of A-block. The lead man had
a tear gas gun. I didn’t know what
it was at the time, I thought it was a
bassoon! They had gas masks on and
the whole nine. I thought they were
going to kill us.

But they barked orders that

nobody disobeyed, and made us all
line up against the wall face first,

and sit on our knees. They told us not
to talk, not to move, not to turn our
head to the side. And as a handful of
them kept us like this, the rest of the
guards from that unit went through the
block and threw away everything.

If you had personal property laying
out, shoes, whatever, they threw it
away. They stripped all the remain-
mattresses bare and when every-
things was cleaned up, they called
our names on a time according to
the bunk we were assigned and
sent us to our bunk. It was freezing
cold because we had husted out all
the windows and tore up the heating
system, and there were no sheets on
the beds. Some people were in their
boxers.

At about 9am order was fully
restored, but PERT was still there.

They prepared pack-outs for break-
fast and pulled up buses to begin
shutting people out. There were
over 700 prisoners at Polk and the

cap was supposed to be 335.

The media was out there, and

they didn’t want us talking to the me-
dia. So people gagged us with
tape over our mouths as we were
escorted from the prison. It’s crazy
how my memory would be jarred al-
though I don’t know immediately
how my memory would be jarred al-
though I don’t know immediately
northwestern Us, where the last few
months have seen a massive upsurge
in anti-police activity following the
police murder of an elderly Native
man in Seattle. There have been
large marches, street blockades,
banner drops, and attacks on banks
and police stations on a weekly if not
daily basis in several cities in Wash-
ington State. Thanks in part to the
energy and initiative of various anar-
chist groups, this activity has largely
surpassed the usual reformist rheto-
ric of “police accountability” to take
on a more radical perspective.

Closer to home, several of the
2010 MayDay arrests who were
facing trial this past month had their
trial delayed due the beginning of an
SBI investigation into the disappear-
ance of nearly $20,000 worth of drugs
from the Asheville Police Depart-
ment’s evidence room. Soon after
the scandal broke, the Police Chief
announced his early retirement.

Though having to wait even longer
for trial will be emotionally difficul-
for the defendants, the outcomes
of the investigation could have broad
political and legal implications for
the Asheville Police Department.

In part due to the busy state
of affairs out here, we’ve decided to
transition to publishing Proposals
every other month rather than on
a monthly basis. It’s our hope that
this will allow us more time to corre-
spond with everyone regarding pos-
sible submissions, and will enable
us to compile more content in gen-

Also, as per several readers’
suggestions, we want to explore the
idea of focusing subsequent issues
on specific themes. You’ll notice this
issue has several pieces that explore
the necessity and difficulties of cre-
ating prisoner unity. For the next is-

we’d like to encourage readers
to discuss amongst their own study
groups and comrades the theme of
gender and resistance for the July is-

we, so that dialogue can be sparked
from several directions on that top-
ic. Possible questions could include,

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I just finished reading your first issue and another prisoner allowed me to read. Interesting.

You request submissions—may I offer an addendum to start a dialogue by requesting some submissions on a specific issue within the prison system or regarding a current event/policy. Add your own opinions, us prisoners will add ours, and we can all develop our thoughts, ideas, etc. on a specific issue, then move on to the next once we start becoming redundant or going in circles, possibly returning to an issue at a later time.

I do not claim to be a “con- vict,” since I see that as a sort of religion. To claim/own that title requires an adherence to a set of ideas and trained responses. I am for the people though, no doubt—anyone who knows me knows that—but I see every incident/offence as an opportunity for acquiring tailored responses. And I say “response” not “reaction.”

To me, a response requires clarity of mind and entails a logical thought process to make an informed, calculated decision based on facts and possibly requiring risk. A reaction to me is emotion-based and, though not necessarily wrong in and of itself, the risk of making a mistake—which could cause a collapse of previously built efforts or future gains is much higher.

I guess this letter has turned into a submission for Proposals and you may use it for that purpose. I may ask that you keep me anonymous because of the threat factor. I am not afraid of retaliation, but I want to at least have the option of turning this into a tool to further bring about change in our cause, which if I understand correctly, transcends all others—to love each other and all/make way for the freedom to do so. I believe that is the root, and other causes flow from it, i.e., prisoner rights, unity, freedom from government/prison oppression, etc. Am I correct?

It’ll be interesting to be a participant in this movement from this beginning, and I guess that I will be involved and contribute when possible in whatever manner possible. Please accept my pledge to the cause, as I understand it. May we grow with the blessing and guidance of god.

Sincerely,
A friend from Central

HISTORY

One of the brothers here at H-Con (Super-Max) let me see the first issue of Proposals. I wish to first thank you and commend you for providing a voice for NC prisoners. Thank you!

Secondly, I think a word of caution is warranted in that you want to consider the wording of the letters published. I do not advocate censorship, but if the DOC reads material they feel promotes violence, insurrection, riots, etc. they will ban this publication. Having an outlet for our cause I do see as us—we can’t receive it. Please print my letter in the next issue if you can.

I have been in this system for 17-plus years now and want to tell you about how the DOC permits us to relive from a few observations I’ve made concerning the state we currently find ourselves in.

Many times I’ve heard fellow prisoners state the conclusion that “the prisoners [in this state] are weak as hell.” I do not believe that we, as prisoners, are any “weaker” than prisoners in any of the other “hard” prisons in other states. I think the major reason NC prisoners lack unity is due in a large part to how the DOC transfers us from prison to prison on such a frequent basis. If you go to some other state to do time, you spend your entire bid at one prison. In such an environment those prisoners spend years together and form bonds, friendships, and almost familial ties. These relationships form a solid core which is the foundation for strength and unity. They stand with and for each other in a common cause.

We lack that mindset in this state. We form no strong relationships. Our general mindset is: “Screw that dude! I don’t know him! He ain’t my race, religion, gang, set, etc. The police ain’t doin’ nothing to me, what do I care what they do to him?” They see each other and us as enemies and each other. This is why we seem weak. Somehow we need to find a solution to our lack of unity. We all know the problem, but let’s hear some constructive solutions. The police have taken and continue to take more and more away from us and our lack of unity allows it to happen.

And no, it’s not a new problem. And if you think all of those police are smart, you need to think again. They know what the hell they’re doing. I’ll give you a short illustration.

Back in 1993-94 we were allowed to purchase real “boombox” style radios in the canteens. They took those. We could buy walkman-style radios, so not many raised hell over losing their radios and those few that did went to lock-up. That was the start, but then:

- 1993 - No smoking on lock-up
- 1997 - No more food from home
- 1998 - No more shoes from the street
- 1999 - No more TV and canteen food on lock-up
- 2000 - No more breakfast meats on lock-up
- 2000 - No more watches and jewelry from the street
- 2001 - No more nude photos/magazines
- 2001-02 - No more candles, go cash-free
- 2009 - No more microwaves in Close Custody Canteens or on lock-up
- 2010 - No more free weights in Close Custody
- 2010 - No more tobacco in prisons

There are probably many more things that could be added and all of my dates may not be correct, but they’re close enough to see what would have happened if that thing was taken every year or so. If anyone or a few raised hell...straight to lock-up. Let everyone calm down a year or two, let the police get on their assigned bunk. Polk Youth Center after its closure in 1997.

I was at Polk Youth Center during the riot on New Year’s Eve 1993. Me and a few guys were standing around smoking cigars and talking while anticipating the New Year. It had to be around 10pm, and lights out was usually at 11pm. But since it was New Year’s everybody was anticipating that we would be permitted to stay up until the new year arrived, and for the most part every body was in good spirits and a generous mood. Back then we still had our own sneakers and jewelry, and we were allowed to get Christmas packages in the canteen. Everybody had homemade food, cigarettes, and cigars, and it was a pretty festive atmosphere.

I was on A-Block when the riot jumped off. The sergeant came in Butner and called us to get on our assigned bunk. We were watching a movie, and he said that lights-out would be early that night and that nobody was to get off their bunks. We were kind of surprised because we hadn’t done anything wrong, so somebody said, “Why can’t we stay up to 11:00?” And he gave a response that was something like, “Because I said so.” You could hear people sucking their teeth and muttering under their breaths because nobody was feeling it.

At just about that time, somebody yelled out, “Boot Call!” And while the sergeant was walking one way somebody threw a boot at him from behind. When he turned around to try and locate who had thrown the boot, somebody else threw a boot from another direction. Before you knew it nails were flying everywhere and the sergeant took off running out the lock, and locked the gate.

For a minute everybody just sat there on our bunks waiting to see what would happen next. But in the next moment we heard and saw commotion over in B-Block. It was pitch black over there, because they had busted out all the lights, and the next thing you know the prison table came crashing against the bars on B-Block, and then the TV. We knew they were rioting, and when we saw there was no immediate response by the guards other than to lock the gate, somebody yelled “Boot out the lights!” Boots began flying again and all the lights were knocked out, and then the rioting began.

We didn’t even have a cause, other than the fact that we were in prison and we just all had pent-up anger and aggression. We began to tear A-block to pieces! We busted out all the windows, tore down the heating system, broke some of the toilets, turned over the bunks, set fires to mattresses and sheets and locked peoples’ lockers. Of course there was violence. Some people got hurt really bad, but it was all prisoner-on-prisoner. And the guards wouldn’t come in to help. I saw a guy bleeding profusely with his face cut up and another beaten till he was unconscious. They grabbed onto the bars and begged the guards on the other
On the Importance of Unity

Unity: The merging of separate identities to become one seamless being, one body with the same overall purpose, the objective to succeed. In order to be successful each and every fragment of this party, of this body, has to play their position, do their part with the understanding that regardless of how minor or major that part may be it is just as essential as the others.

Now think about how vital the head is compared to the lovely knee. What if the head were not unified with the knee, what if they did not like each other? They would disrupt the unity of the body and adversely affect every other part whether they liked it or not.

Imagine the knee being stubborn and refusing to bend just to spite the head. The shin, ankle, foot, and toes would all be rendered incoherent bystanders caught in the struggle. Or what if the knee's response was, it is just as essential that part may be it is just as essential you have a color! If not, then look at your class, your conditions, for something that unifies us all.

We have to get past these differences and not look back but continue to look forward, so once we get re-released, we do not revert to our past but instead grow in the unity we've created.

So why can't we take it one step further and unite as a class? The entire working class. But no, sometimes the entire region. We have to get past these differences and not look back but continue to look forward, so once we get re-released, physically and mentally, we do not revert to our past but instead grow in the unity we've created.

That is of utmost importance because then and only then will we succeed.

La Premiere Liberte, Black Heart Guerrillas
Raleigh, NC

Fight Censorship

As a member of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party, I'm writing you this letter in unity and solidarity as fellow revolutionaries, conscious of the larger issues regarding the US prison system and suppression of prisoners' human and democratic civil rights. I hope that the Proposals writing/administrative staff will be willing to show a display of revolution solidarity by working together to address the wrong done to your organization and prisoners' 1st and 14th amendment rights via the Publication Review Committee's inappropria- te rejection of the first issue of Proposals. Hopefully, after reading this letter NC prisoners will choose to challenge the wrongful rejection of this newsletter, and can count on your support in doing so.

Uhuru Sasai (Freedom Now!) Laurinburg, NC
Migrants Protest Detention

SYDNEY - Asylum seekers have torched nine buildings at a detention center in Sydney, Australia in a night of wild riots. The riots kicked off late on Wednesday, April 20th, at the Villawood Detention Centre with an estimated 100 detainees involved at the height of the drama.

Protestors set an oxygen cylinder alight, which led to an explosion, and nine buildings, including a medical center and dining hall, were gutted by fire. Firefighters brought the blaze under control early on Thursday and no one was injured.

Around 400 people are held at Villawood. Many of them are asylum seekers, but the facility also houses people who have overstayed their visas.

The protest started with just two inmates, apparently upset at the immigration department denying their applications for visas to remain in Australia.

Australia has a policy of mandatory detention for asylum seekers while their claims are processed, and generally holds detainees on remote Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

Last month the Christmas Island facility endured days of riots, with about 250 inmates setting fire to accommodation tents and hurling makeshift explosives at police, prompting them to respond with tear gas.

Prisoners Rebel in Lebanon

BEIRUT - Prisoners demanding amnesty and better conditions rioted and set fire to bedding in Lebanon's notorious main prison of Rumieh on Saturday, April 2nd, the interior ministry said in a statement.

"Riots have been going on for hours in the central prison of Rumieh by a number of prisoners demanding a general amnesty and better conditions of detention," the statement said.

Warden Cover-up Exposed

POLKTON - A former correctional officer at a maximum security prison in Anson County, NC says her boss ordered her to destroy a video that may show a staff member using excessive force during a fight with inmates.

Richard Neely, who until last week was the administrator of Lanesboro Correctional Institution, has been arrested and charged with obstructing justice for allegedly giving the order to keep the video under wraps. Neely could face up to eight months in prison if convicted on the felony charge.

Stephanie Miller, a former sergeant at the prison, said in an interview Wednesday that Neely instructed her to destroy the video footage taken in November 2009.

"I was instructed not to put the video in the felony file and to destroy it," Miller said Wednesday. "It was basically a cover-up of the assault. (Neely) didn't want to be investigated."

Instead, she took her information about Neely to the State Bureau of Investigation, the agency that later arrested him.

Asked about Miller's account, a representative of the state Department of Corrections confirmed that in November 2009, a group of inmates assaulted staff members at Lanesboro. Four prisoners were charged.
Reportbacks

An Update on the Asheville 11

Called “MayDay” and “the International Workers Day” by some and Belflame by others, May 1st is an internationally celebrated holiday. The history of resistance on this day goes back primarily to the labor movement of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.

In the United States this day has seen many different incarnations and uses, from protests and celebrations to strikes and sabotage. On May 1, 2010 nearly $20,000 worth of damage was done to store front and car windows in a gentrified tourist section of downtown Asheville.

The connection between this vandalism and “May Day” is unclear. Nevertheless, the Asheville Police Department wasted no time in arresting eleven people and charging them with the damage. Picked at random, the eleven were swept off sidewalks and into awaiting police vehicles. They have become the targets of egregious attempts by the Asheville Police Department to show it maintains control.

What began as ten misdemeanor charges and $10,000 bail was quickly ratcheted up to $45,000 bail with an additional $5,000 fine added to every person. This coincided with the Police Chief publicly declaring the arrested individuals to be part of a vast “anti-capitalist conspiracy.” Each are facing over five years in jail; a higher penalty than is often found in domestic violence cases. The arrested were charged nearly a year ago and still have not gone to trial.

There have been some major developments in the case in the last few weeks. Five of the defendants were slated for trial on Monday April 11th, with an additional two defendants added to the trial and all jury trials in Asheville have been suspended. They will not resume until a complete audit of the Asheville Police Department’s (APD) evidence room and its evidence handling procedures has been completed.

The State Bureau of Investigation has sealed and is investigating the APD property room due to 397 missing tablets of Oxycodone. On Friday, April 1, an Assistant District Attorney and the defense attorney for Terry Landrum, a man facing 19 years for drug trafficking and fire-arms charges from 2009, went to examine the evidence. They found that two pill containers which once held $20,000 worth of Oxycodone were empty. Once this came to light most of the charges against Landrum were dropped.

Records obtained by local news sources reveal that the APD’s long-time evidence manager, Lee Smith, was placed under investigative suspension before his resignation earlier this year. Smith had been placed under investigative suspension on January 25th and resigned on February 18th, after 51 years with the department. District Attorney Ron Moore has claimed that due to Smith’s resignation he had asked for a full audit of drugs, guns and money in late February.

What the APD actually conducted was a “random 10% audit” that returned results with “some areas of concern.” The DA continues to claim that he was not made aware of the nature of this audit or it’s results. The APD Police Chief Bill Hogan announced his retirement. Hogan released a statement saying he was “looking forward to retirement and a new chapter in (his) life.” There was no mention of the recent evidence room scandals in his announcement, though the timing and manner of his retirement point to a direct connection to recent controversies. These developments may delay the 11’s trial indefinitely.

None of the correctional officers involved in the melee have been charged.

Neely, who formerly worked as the superintendent at Charlotte Correctional Center, has been charged with a single felony count of common law obstructing justice.

After turning her information over to authorities, Miller said she faced “harassment” from supervisors at the prison. She resigned her job at the prison last week.

Neely is still on the Correction Department payroll. His annual salary is $71,846.

8 Police Injured Defending Corporate Grocery Store

Bristol, VA - On the night of Thursday, April 21st, the neighborhood of Stokes Croft in Bristol, England erupted into a night of rioting as police attempted to evict an anarchist squat.

Clashes began when lines of officers closed off Cheltenham Road, a main route into the city center, and protesters began throwing bottles at them. Eventually hundreds of neighbors joined in, smashing police vehicles, building barricades, and engaging in running street battles with the police. Eight police were injured. The disturbances continued throughout the evening to 4am on Friday.

The origins of the confrontation lie in objections to the opening of the new Tesco grocery store on Cheltenham Road; the shop was severely damaged in the riot. The area is close to the St Paul’s area, where the first Thatcher era, inner-city riots erupted in 1980.

Reports had been received that petrol bombs were being assembled in the squat – known locally as Telepathic Heights – for, it was alleged, an attack on the Tesco store. The force confirmed that petrol bombs had been recovered from the house and were being examined.

More than 160 officers in riot gear were involved in the operation, which began shortly after 1pm. Four people have been arrested, Avon and Somerset police said, because they posed “a real threat to the local community” in Stokes Croft.

According to Kerry McCarththy, the Labor MP for Bristol East, “It was anti-establishment protest: against capitalism and corporations, similar to what we saw in the march against the cuts in London where Starbucks and banks were targeted.”

The following morning police continued to guard the severely damaged Tesco Express store.

In discussing the culture of resistance in the neighborhood, one journalist wrote, “What happened in Stokes Croft does not stand in isolation; it is framed by the civil unrest already seen across the country over the past 18 months.”
Conditions at Bertie Spark a Response

On Saturday, March 12th, about two dozen comrades and supporters of the prisoners amassed outside Bertie CI in Windsor, NC, a prison facing a tense upswing in radical thought and action. They had received word that two prisoners on Solitary Confinement had recently barricaded themselves in their cells as a protest of prison conditions and repression. This “lock-in” action lasted four days, and was timed to coincide with the outside demonstration on the 15th. It also coincided with the second of two national call-in days to the prison and NC Department of Corrections.

Facing two layers of barbed wire fencing and a row of solitary confinement cells, the demonstrators banged on drums, blew whistles, screamed chants, and held up several gigantic banners reading “Against Prisons” and “Hands Off James Graham.”

They managed to stay at the rural prison for over a half an hour before being warned that they were trespassing and faced arrest. Over the course of the time there, many family members exiting the prison at the end of visitation hours responded kindly and appreciatively to the action. This demo was a small part of a larger trajectory of recent anti-prison activity in NC, including demos at the Buncombe County Jail and Central Prison in Raleigh.

This demo was a small part of a larger trajectory of recent anti-prison activity in NC, including demos at the Buncombe County Jail and Central Prison in Raleigh.

As a protest of prison conditions and repression, this “lock-in” action written up for his behavior, his disciplinary report alleging “creeping and vicious type protest and causing other inmates to do the same thing.” Two days later, the prisoners conducting the lock-in were forcefully extracted from their cells, and later promised that many of their demands would be met.

The following is a description of the lock-in action written by one of the prisoners involved, as well as the demands they submitted to prison authorities:

“On March 10th, 2011, myself and a comrade barricaded ourselves in our rooms and refused to come out for a good while. This was part of a larger trajectory of protest of the conditions here at Bertie Correctional Institution.

On March 14th, we both sent a list of demands to prison officials demanding that we not be treated like animals and slaves and that they institute programs that address our basic human rights. Once they received the list of demands, they sent it to the Unit Manager, Asst. Unit Manager, Captain, Captain, and the Intelligence Lieutenant (he deals with prisoners who are labeled as being part of a Security Threat Group) to our doors to speak to us and ask if we had any food traps, but neither of us answered and they left. The captain summoned his “goon squad,” and he came to our cells again, this time accompanied by a guard holding a camera, giving us a direct order to come out of our cells. He received no reply. He stated on the camera that we “had weapons” and that his goons would come and extract us from our cells “to restore order.”

First off, we had no weapons and I didn’t know that refusing to come out of your cell was causing a disturbance. Once they saw we weren’t coming out, they left. When they returned, it was the Captain along with his goons who had an electric shield and a mace canister the size of a fire extinguisher. They came to my cell first and told me “Submit to the cuffs” and come out of my cell. They received no reply. One of the guards opened my food trap and sprayed mace in my cell and closed my trap hoping that would force me to come out willingly. It didn’t work. Next, they did the same thing again and it was unsuccessful too. Then, the Captain called the guard in the control booth to open my door. My door wouldn’t open courtesy of my barricade. I sat back and waited patiently while listening to the guards cough and choke on the mace as they struggled trying to get my door open. After witnessing this for a good while, they finally got my door open and rushed in my cell, tackled me and held me down while I was handcuffed, chained, and shackled. I was then thrown in a shower – with the water on – for about five or six minutes, taken to see the nurse for a check-up and placed in a cage. They also ran my comrade’s cell, but I don’t have the exact details.

We had the chance to speak to the Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, Captain, Intelligence Lieutenant, Unit Manager, and Asst. Unit Manager. In meeting with them, we went down our list of demands and addressed every demand. This is what I was told in response to these demands:

- A new chaplain will be starting on 3/28/11 who will come around and visit the prisoners. Also, they will be making sure there are materials for all religions and no specific religion will be shown favoritism.
- Lack of nurses has been the reason for inadequate medical care and in timely responses to medical emergencies. More nurses are in the process of being hired.
- More dental staff are in the process of being hired as well. The dental floss issue wasn’t discussed.
- The Unit Manager and Asst. Unit Manager were told to make sure we had clothes daily and they promised to contact the warehouse about making sure our clothing was sanitized.
- The food will be served according to the dietary charts in Raleigh. Basically, no change.
- Maintenance would be contacted to make sure the temperatures are correct. We will be directed to continue what we have started and will continue in the struggle. This demo is the beginning and it will not be used against us.

We have made great strides in the right direction. We will definitely continue what we have started and will continue in the struggle. Any supportive tactic will be used against us.

I was told to contact a woman in the Education Department about starting up some educational programs for prisoners in solitary.

I was told to contact Raleigh about the publications ban list.

I was told we would be given toilet brushes during cell clean-up – same clause.

Prisoners’ Demands and Communique:

- Justice for all. Here at Bertie CI certain religions are favored over others. The chaplain only provides religious materials for certain religions and the rest he tells prisoners to “write your leader.”
- Adequate Medical Care. Ibuprofen and aspirin are given out like a cure to all diseases – including vomiting up blood.
- Prompt responses to all medical emergencies. Often it takes hours for medical personnel to respond to a medical emergency. Sometimes it’s ignored altogether.
- Adequate dental care. Prisoners have to wait months to fill out numerous dental requests before being seen by a dentist. Also, prisoners housed in solitary are prohibited from having dental floss even though it’s vital to dental care. The excuse for the denial has been “because you’re on lock-up.”
- Clean clothing. Prisoners are given clothing that has not been washed properly or not at all. Prisoners have received clothing with urine, feces, and semen stains in them with foul odors. Prisoners have caught rashes from wearing these unsanitary clothes.
- Adequate portions and nutritional meals.
- Protection from extreme conditions. In the winter, the air conditioning is blasting. In the summer, the heat is blasting. The extreme temperatures are done for psychological purposes.
- Clean air. The ventilation (air flow) is so poor it undermines sanitation. There’s excessive dust and lint particles in the air in our cells which prisoners in solitary confinement breathe 23 hours a day.
- Educational and self-improvement opportunities. Prisoners on solitary realize that no guard can rehabilitate them. Only we can do that. Problem is, there are no resources for us to utilize.
- The publications ban list be revised. The ban list exemplifies racism, bigotry, and prejudice. It targets Black books, Black publications, and specifically Black genre: urban fiction.
- A toilet brush to properly sanitize our toilets. Prisoners are in a cell for a minimum of 23 hours a day in a cell with a toilet they use daily.

We refuse to come out of our cells in protest of these conditions. We will continue to struggle by various means until these demands are addressed.