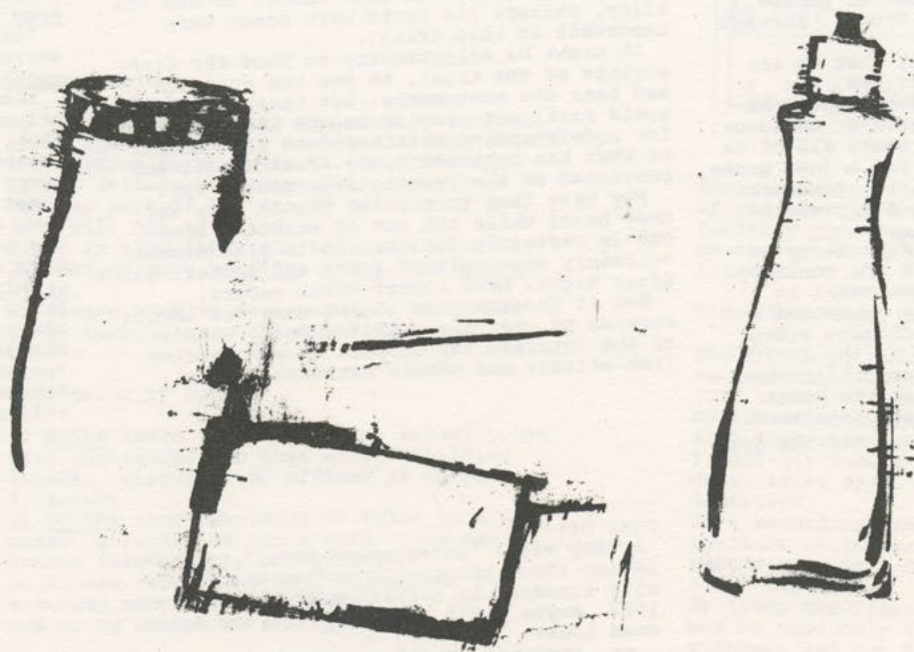


An experiment in Controlled Randomness



by R. Mutt

In a letter to Norman Mailer, Jack Henry Abbott pointed out that; "Books are dangerous where there is injustice." This observation has been proved in the case of Abbott's own book, *In The Belly of The Beast*, which first appeared in late spring of last year.

Ostensibly, this book is a collection of letters from Abbott to author Norman Mailer. It is far more than that. Abbott, in his letters displays not only an intelligence that refused to be suffocated by prison, but, more unique, compelling thought and insight into the workings of this society that travels under the pseudonym "democracy."

Abbott is self-taught in everything he examines. The product of foster homes, juvenile penal institutions and prisons; Abbott had, until he recieved a parole last summer, spent a total of nine and one half months out from behind bars, since the age of twelve. During the five years spent in Maximum Security, Abbott read with the intensity of a man whose sight had just been restored. Hegel, Whitehead, Russel, Marx, Lenin, Kierkegaard, Sartre...when Abbott speaks of Mao Tsetung or Albert Camus, he knows what he is talking about.

His book is an edited version of what it is like to correspond on every topic relevant to freedom; liberation of the body, but especially liberation of the mind and soul. We are presented with views on solitary confinement, racism in and out of prison, the legal system, "Gods and Drugs", foreign affairs and Marxism.

"When Dostoevsky pointed out that we are not generalized men, abstract men, the "Ideal" man, he did not mean to imply the opposite; that we are all ignoble, sensuous, weak, full of shit, etc. He meant all of us...are all capable of dying for a just cause, a "beautiful idea", a principle. In short, we are all capable of honor, not just the "noble classes."

"He meant that the human heart is by no means a human weakness. Quite the contrary. Nothing that touches the human heart is absurd, because the Absurd is at bottom a contradiction and the heart chooses sides, defends a term, if you will, to the exclusion of others. A insoluable contradiction is a paradox. A paradox titilates the human heart, does not burden it with despair of absurd, meaningless existence. Half the pro-

A letter from the paper: to the humans of the school.

This is a (the) paper (some paper?). And we are trying to be very interesting. Some of you, who do not work on the paper are also probably trying to be very interesting. At least we would like to think so. Those of you who are not, we will still be your friend. We would be very interested in publishing things written and/or drawn and/or whatever by those alleged interesting people.

The paper will be coming out every other Wednesday, and it will be very good. The deadline for any submissions will be Thursday (the Thursday before it comes out) at 12:00 noon. Our mail box is located across from the mail (female) room.

No questions asked, no answers given... Brendan Blevig, Mary Luxille, Brain Guy Marky (on drums), Kevin Koffee, Nancy

absurd, meaningless existence. Half the problem with Sartre and Camus and their ilk is that the bourgeoisie have forgotten how to laugh from the heart but not the belly..."

When *In the Belly of the Beast* appeared last year, it was met by some praise in literary quarters, but there was certainly no big fanfare in the press or the rest of the media. It was probably a case where the powers that be preferred to render it harmless with silence. That did not work, as the book found its way onto best seller lists.

It wasn't until July, when Abbott was involved in a stabbing outside a New York all-night restaurant that the media turned its attention, not so much on the book, but the man who wrote it, and we began to hear stories about Jack Abbott, a "deranged Man", a "killer", an unreformable ghoul who had spent his life in prison. Abbott was finally addressed in the press, in much the same way a lynch mob eulogizes its intended victim.

Now, Abbott has been found guilty of stabbing a man in New York last July, and still the details of the incident are confused and presented by the media in the same way demagogues always present their case; relying on the ignorance of their audience. Perhaps it is common in New York to refuse people the use of a washroom in a public restaurant,

perhaps the witer did tell Abbott to use the alley, perhaps the facts were never very important in this trial.

It might be enlightening to read the transcripts of the trial, to see the evidence and hear the statements, but that in itself would still not provide enough information for understanding what happened last summer or what has happened since. Jack Abbott was convicted on the evening news months ago.

Why have they gone after Abbott they way they have? While the act of stabbing someone is certainly serious, it is also almost certainly never placed front and center, night after night, news report after report.

Was it necessary to "take care" of Abbott because of what his book is about? Because of the interest and support he was getting from writers and others nationally? Yes.

Dear Us;

A very vital "underground level" conversation about relevant computer use for/with students is unfolding toward next year 1982. Maybe you'd like to print the attached idea?

ps. students should pay attention when 30-50 thousand of their tuition dollars are going to be spent on something new.

--Phil Morton



MAR K. V (on DRUMS)

In The Belly of The Beast is not just an account of prison life, it is a screaming condemnation of the society that maintains prisons, just as it maintains dictators in Latin America, air bases in the Phillipines, or napalm attacks on Lebanon. *In the Belly of the Beast* presents in the most vivid way the connections, mainly hidden from the "mainstream" on the "outside", that are revealed daily, in a concentrated way, on the "inside."

"Free will; this is the doctrine of the American judiciary when it insists prisoners are to blame for whatever harm is inflicted upon them by prisons..."

"In San Quentin, and many other prisons, if a guard on a gun-rail or in a gun tower sees you touch another prisoner, he will shoot you down with his rifle. If he sees you run in the exercise yard, he will shoot you down with his rifle. In the process, "stray" bullets always strike down other prisoners."

"If the guards come to your cell to search it and before they can enter your cell you make a move toward your toilet, you will be shot down in your cell. They are afraid you will flush contraband down the toilet."

"That is why San Quentin has the very best hospital for traumatic medicine in America. Army docyors even come there to learn."

"Now, you just tell me who the fuck deserves to be subjected to all this as a matter of justice?"

Abbott examines the conditions in US prisons well beyond the surface phenomenon, into the ideological and political reasons and connections that determine every aspect of "normal life" in this "best of all possible worlds".

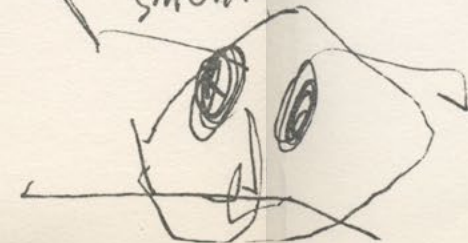
No one who reads this book can escape the question of why society exists as it does or what should be done about it.

This, at bottom, is why Jack Abbott was tried and convicted before he set foot in the courthouse. This is why the picture was presented of Abbott the "killer", the "psycho", the convict. Those who stood by Abbott haven't escaped this wrath of the ruling class either. There has been no end

SHRIEKING SHRIEKING LITTLE DUCK
CAUGHT BENEATH THE LAUNDRY TROUGH
YOUR LITTLE DUCK GUY ARE SPITIN VAIN
FOR AWAY THEY WASH WHEN HERE IT RUNS
THROUGH BEVELY GLADE AND WOODEN FOLD
THROUGH RAPID RIVERS WHIRL AND COLD
ALL UP WITH BLOOD AND GREEN WINDFACE
OH LITTLE DUCK - STAY IN YOUR CAGE!

--SAC CASSELL

It wasn't mine,
I didn't do it.
I didn't mean it - uh,
smuh.



of slanders and attacks on Norman Mailer in the press and on TV. The message here is clear enough, "writers, know your place!"

Ironically, Abbott posed a question in one of his letters to Mailer: What if they treated you, as a supposedly "free" person, in the manner the authorities treat a prisoner?

Indeed. What if they beat a man to death, on the subway in Chicago, for smoking a cigarette? What if Nazis and Klansmen murdered five people in public and on national television, and were then acquitted, as happened in Greensboro, N.C. in 1980? What is government troops trained governments in El Salvador and Guatamala in the latest torture methods or "search and destroy" method of eliminating peasant opposition?

Jack Henry Abbott has never maintained he would be able to fit into the mainstream of this society. There are hundreds of years of reasons why his attitude, far from being "psychotic", is this way. In his book, he points out, "Yogis starve their needs to death, I feed mine dreams."

And the truth is, dreams of freedom, and the danger of being lynched, have long accompanied each other in the belly of the beast.

Announcements:

In order to coordinare Mailroom operations, it is again necessary to ask all departments and offices to be aware of the following:

- 1) ALL letters must have your department name as part of the return adress, if not, they will not go out.
- 2) It is also important to separate twenty letters or more by city, state, and Out of State.
- 3) Please pick up your packages immediately by responding to your delivery notices.

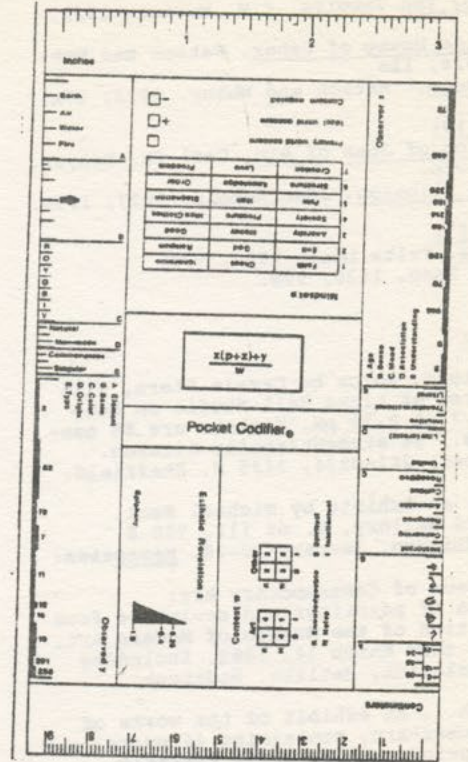
SAIC Security Notes:

- 1) NEVER leave any personal or school property unattended. No area of the building (studio, classroom or office) is completely secure.
- 2) DO NOT store anything of value in a ocker, a locker is not a safe. They can be broken into quickly and quietly.
- 3) Please report ANYTHING suspicious to security (Front Desk) IMMEDIATELY, in person or by phone, if its faster.

Effective immediately, SAIC students and faculty with ID cards may enter the North Wing at 8:00 am via the Goodman Dock. Visitors may not enter until 8:30 am with students. No one may enter the East Entry until the SAIC gate opens.

Elisia Ratazzi has recently assumed responsibility for the day to day operation of the Security Department as the Security Department Coordinator. Among her new responsibilities will be key authorizations (and related business), shift scheduling, theft/accident reports, correspondence and lock change requests. Elisia will work out of the Security Office (just north of the lobby) Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; ex 3945.

We recently had a case before the Student Concern Committee concerning a student who was found guilty of major theft of art work and extortion of another student. This student was expelled and made inelligible for readmission. I would appreciate your making a full announcement in the next issue of the paper. Glen Stroud.



Announcements:

If you need to order a rubber stamp to identify your departmental mail, please contact Sandi in the mail room for assistance.

Video Data Bank notes;

The following guidelines were developed to establish "Fair Use" of videotapes (off the air recordings of TV broadcasts) by educational institutions under the Federal Copyright Act.
1) Off-air recordings may be kept for 45 days; after that, they must be erased or destroyed.
2) A recording may be used once by individual teachers while teaching and may be repeated only once during the first ten days after taping.
3) After the first ten days, recordings may be used only for teacher evaluation purposes and not for teaching.
4) Recordings may be made only at the request of and used by individual teachers and may not regularly be recorded in anticipation of requests.
These guidelines apply to all off-the-air recordings unless special licenses are obtained from the copyright holders. Until such licenses are obtained, the Video Data Bank will not record any TV Broadcasts for inclusion in the Data Bank tape collection.

SCHEDULE FOR FACULTY MEETINGS:

Wednesday, January 27, 4:00pm Room 148
Wednesday, February 17, 4:00pm, Room 148
Wednesday, April 14, 4:00pm, Room 148.
These will be important meetings. They will deal with financial conditions in the school, salary increases and guidelines for financial emergencies.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FREE FILMS
in the SAIC Film Department Screening Room, 6:00 pm...
January 27:
City Lights, Charles Chaplin, 1931 90m.
Man with a Movie Camera, Dziga Vertov, 1929, 67m.

February 3:

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Robert Wiene, 1919, 60m.
Nosferatu, The Vampire, F.W. Murnau, 1922, 52m.
Fall of the House of Usher, Watson and Webber, 1928, 12m.
Lot in Sodom, Watson and Webber, 1933, 27m.

February 10:

The Passion of Joan of Arc, Carl Th. Dreyer, 1929, 122m.
The Grand Illusion, Jean Renoir, 1937, 111m.

February 17:

Metropolis, Fritz Lang, 1929, 77m.
M, Fritz Lang, 1930, 99m.

elsewhere:

Dancing Aloud, solos by Carrie Stern, will be presented at Links Hall Studio on February 5,6,7 at 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 general admis., \$4 student/senior citizen. Reservations: 281-0824, 3435 N. Sheffield.

Dreamtime, an exhibit by Michael Beck, at the Ward Gallery, U. of Ill. 750 S. Halsted, Chicago. January 20-28. Reception:

At the Museum of Contemporary Art: A selection of paintings and sculpture from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, January 16 thru March 14, 1982. Including works by Malevich, Matisse, Rodchenko....

also at MCA... an exhibit of the works of Sophie Taeuber-Arp, containing 46 works from all periods of the Swiss artist's career, from approx. 1915 and Zurich Dada until 1943. This selective retrospective will run concurrently with the selection of other work from the MMA...January 16 thru March 14.

At Randolph St. Gallery, an exhibit of the work of five artists, called "Interiors" will run from January 8 thru February 6. The gallery is at 853 W. Randolph St.

at MOMING, "Palimpsest", a dance concert, will be performed at their Dance and Art center, January 29 and 30, 8:30 pm. Admis. is \$6 general, \$4 student/senior citizen. 1034

"Palimpsest", a dance concert, will be performed at MOMING Dance and Arts Center, January 29 and 30, 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$6 general, \$4 student/senior. 1034 W. Barry, Chicago. 472-9894.

February 19,20, 26 &27, MOMING will be presenting an Asian Dance festival, featuring Japanese, Indian and Balinese dancers. call 472-9894 for more info.

Andrea Isaacs presents a dance retrospective; Trace Elements, at MOMING center on February 5,6,12 & 13, at 8:30 pm.

An exhibit of the work of Kathryn Lehar is now showing at the gallery at DePaul University Stuart Center, 2324 N. Seminary. Entitled "Permutations" runs thru Feb. 20.

Arc Gallery is showing a collection of work by their members, "For Members Only" from February 2 to February 27, at 6 W. Hubbard. tuesday-sat. 11-5pm.



The Plugz at the Cathay

On Jan. 2, the (los) Plugz played at the Cathay de Grande in Hollywood. It was a splendid show. The first band was very bad, so my friends and I sat in the first floor restaurant and watched the videos. When the second band played, the Gun Club, we went down to the basement (where the bands play) to see them. The Gun Club recently came into the "public spotlight" when the Cramps stole "Kid" Congo Powers, to join their band, from the Gun Club. They were great, but their lead singer has got to go. I'm sorry, but a big fat pig rolling around on the floor is not visually pleasing to me. The rest of the band is excellent, especially their bass player and guitarist. We went back upstairs after the Gun Club finished to wait for the Plugz. When they came out, the tiny basement (which has to be a fire hazard) was completely packed. The Plugz are a three member Mexican band from East L.A. They have a great sound, kinda Mexican dance music with a maniac electric guitar. Tito Larriva, their lead singer, guitar player, song writer, etc. is a really great guy, even though I've never met him. Their songs are wonderful to dance to, listen to, or whatever. For their second encore they even did their terrific version of "La Bamba". I wanted to ask Tito after the show when they were coming to Chicago, but I didn't get a chance. Mary Iannucci