

Editor's Note
Bob Gaucher

We would like to welcome two new members to our editorial board, Robert "Rosie" Rowbotham and Jon Marc Taylor. While still serving his sentence Robert hosted **CON TACT TV** on Kingston Community Television. Since being paroled and reunited with his family, Rosie has been working as a reporter for **CBC Radio** (in Toronto; ph. (416) 205-2191) and has been a regular contributor to **This Morning** which is broadcast nationally. His sensitivity to justice issues, honed by more than twenty years inside, is apparent and his work provides rare insights into the life and death issues of carceral life, and the inequities of current criminal justice practices. I encourage our contributors and readership to keep him posted on vital events and issues. Jon Marc is a longtime contributor to the **JPP** and over his nineteen years inside has had his work published in numerous, noted academic journals and news publications. His writing on the elimination of Pell Grants in the USA constituted a serious intrusion into that national debate (on education); not without repercussions. Jon Marc was kidnapped and transferred as far from Jefferson City as the Missouri DOC could send him, to the new maximum security Crossroads Correctional Center in Cameron, MO 64429. After spending 220 days in "the hole", on the basis of trumped up charges, which he continues to defend himself against in outside court, Jon Marc has returned to the fray.

The Canadian **Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs** deserves applause for providing a "sober second thought" in their consideration of **Bill C-220**. This proposed Canadian version of the "Son of Sam" legislation, promised to be even more restrictive and unworkable than the myriad of U.S. laws on which it was poorly modeled. In face of the political agitation the Senate was facing at that time, their willingness to stick to the issues and reject the Bill is laudable. Thanks.

The International Committee on Penal Abolition will be hosting **ICOPA IX** in Toronto, Canada in May 2000. This international conference will focus on the connections between political economy and punitive justice ideology and practices. For detailed information contact ICOPA via E-Mail: ritten@interlog.com.