

# Justice Watch Newsletter

Spring 2003

OHIO EDITION

A BETTER WAY!

A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.  
WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE, A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD INTO A TERROR-  
IST CAMP.

WITH GOD'S LOVE, THE CHANGE WILL BE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

## NO CONDEMNATION

THE WORLD CAN BE FILLED WITH ITS TRIALS AND SWORDS,  
ITS FAMINES AND PERILS, ITS PEASANTS AND LORDS,  
WITH POWER AND HEIGHTS AND BITTER DESPAIR,  
WITH SORROW AND DEATH AND CROSSES TO BEAR.  
YET WHICH ONE ALONE, OR COMBINED WITH THE REST  
CAN WEDGE OUT GOD'S LOVE AND THE CHRIST HE HAS BLESSED?  
FOR NO! THERE IS NOTHING OF EVIL OR WORTH  
THAT CAN SEPARATE GOD FROM HIS CHILDREN ON EARTH.

### CHILDREN ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know your name is safe in their mouth." (Billy, age 4)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend whom you hate." (Nikka, age 6)

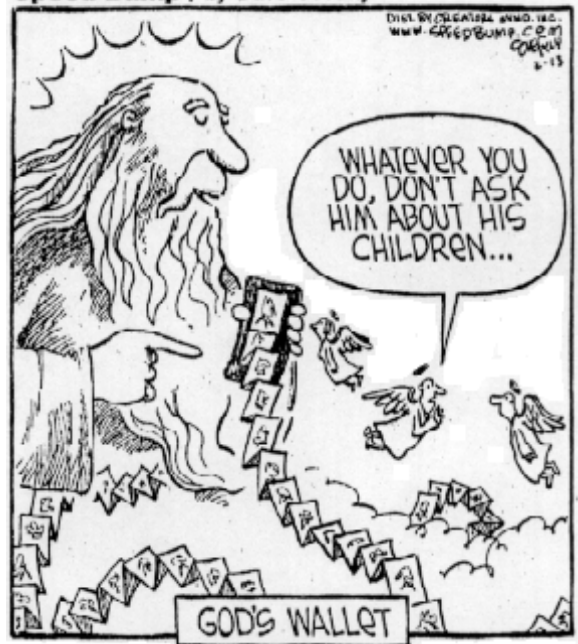
"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." (Jenny, age 4)

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." (Jessica, age 8)

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." (Mary Ann, age 4)

"Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." (Chris, age 8)

Speed Bump / by Dave Coverly



#### Inside this issue:

Justice Watch News	2
Finland, A Better Way	3
Forgiveness	4
Ohio News	5-9
SEROTONIN SYNDROME	10-14
Other Drugs	15

#### GARDEN STREET TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

1120 Garden Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214.

Garden Street Transitional House is operated by Justice Watch for homeless men, recently released from prison. Due to funding as a "homeless shelter", we've changed some intake procedures. For example, our staff must provide those coming to GSTH with a "homeless certification form". This gives our residents access to services available in the Continuum of Care, such as case management services to assist them in going into permanent housing, and remaining out of the criminal justice system. Drug and alcohol treatment and employment services for ex-prisoners are not handled within GSTH (except for testing requirements) but we do provide information and referrals to the appropriate service providers in the Cincinnati area. For admission to GSTH, write for an application, with all appropriate information (date of release, parole status and requirements, and needs you have).

WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT COLLECT PHONE CALLS!

**Justice Watch****1120 Garden Street****Cincinnati, OH 45214**

Tel: (513) 241-0490

Fax: (513) 241-6850

Email: [jstwatch@fuse.net](mailto:jstwatch@fuse.net)Web Sites: [home.fuse.net/jwatch](http://home.fuse.net/jwatch)[www.justicewatchinc.org](http://www.justicewatchinc.org)**JUSTICE WATCH NEWS**

Our annual dinner was a success with a good turn-out for our excellent speaker. Attorney Bill Gallagher gave us a challenge and much information on Ohio's new Innocence Project. For more info see Page 9 of this newsletter.

Six gift baskets were won in our raffle, and our grand prize winner will vacation in Italy! Thanks to all who bought tickets, and sent donations. You helped us raise close to \$2,000 to support our budget. Even after several extremely generous gifts from supporters, we are still in debt. The problems are accumulating due to Garden Street House needing a roof that doesn't leak, rapidly rising insurance costs, and no new grants.

Our outreach is to those in prison and those coming from prison into a hostile world where jobs are scarce and things have changed drastically. With God's help we will continue our work. We have dreams of expanding Garden Street House. So many are coming out of prison, and there are few places that have programs to help them start over. We need your support!

**INFORMATION FOR THOSE REQUESTING OUR NEWSLETTER**

In 2003, due to higher costs and more requests for the newsletter, WE WILL SEND ONLY 3 ISSUES--WINTER/SPRING, SUMMER-July/August and AUTUMN-October/November.

WANT TO STAY ON OUR MAILING LIST? To be sure you stay on the list, SEND \$3.00 TO COVER THE COST OF YOUR 2003 COPIES, if you have not already done so! (Stamps, embossed envelopes accepted)

CANNOT SEND ANY DONATION? Let us know that! We realize many are in no-work, low-pay or max-prison situations, with no funds available. We'll continue to mail to you if we know you want the newsletter, AS LONG AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

PLEASE!! INFORM US OF ADDRESS CHANGES. PAYING FOR RETURNED NEWSLETTERS IS VERY COSTLY. IF YOURS ARRIVES DAMAGED OR WITH MISSING PAGES WE WILL SEND ANOTHER--IF WE HAVE ANY EXTRAS.

PLEASE!! PRINT CLEARLY your correct name, number and address! PRISONERS--INCLUDE PRISON NAME! ONE WRONG OR OMITTED LETTER AND YOUR NEWSLETTER IS RETURNED-TO US!

We appreciate hearing from each of you, but are unable to reply to all. WE HAVE NO LEGAL STAFF TO HELP WITH INDIVIDUAL CASES. FOR A REPLY, SEND AN UNADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. ALL DONATIONS GO TO SUPPORT GARDEN STREET TRANSITIONAL HOUSE, THE NEWSLETTER OR OTHER ADVOCACY PROGRAMS. NONE ARE AVAILABLE FOR REPLIES TO QUESTIONS, OR COMMENTS. WE TRY, BUT TIME AND FUNDS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. WE HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND!

PLEASE!! If you do not read the newsletter, ask to be taken off the list! If you like staying informed and appreciate our work, send whatever you can to pay for your copy and to help us send to those who have no means of paying. \$3.00 WILL PAY FOR YOURS, \$12.00 WILL HELP 3 PRISONERS AND YOURSELF FOR A YEAR.

WE HOPE TO HAVE THE NEXT ISSUE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE SO IT CAN READ OR PRINTED OUT, SAVING US POSTAGE, AND ALLOWING YOU TO SAVE IT. SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. WE WILL EMAIL YOU WHEN "YOUR COPY IS READY".

\*\*\*\*\*

Interested in prison and/or death penalty issues in Ohio? Send a blank e-mail to: [otsesubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:otsesubscribe@yahoogroups.com). Articles from state newspapers, announcements of events, sharing of questions, information and strategies are available on the Web.

Also, join the ohio-prisonact group providing a similar forum for information and ideas on the Ohio prison system. Send a blank e-mail to: [ohio-prisonact-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ohio-prisonact-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

### FINLAND HAS FOUND THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

There are 3 levels of crime control. (1) self-control (2) social control and (3) officer control. "In Finland we try to intervene at this first level so people won't get to the other two. Rather than retribution, we believe in the moral-creating and value-shaping effect of punishment," says Prison service director in Finland, Mr. Markku Salminen.

The Finnish police force is the smallest in per capita terms in Europe, with a corruption-free reputation, solving 90% of its serious crimes. The director says, "I know this system sounds like a curiosity, but if you visit our prisons and walk our streets, you will see that this very mild version of law enforcement works. I don't blame other countries for having harsher systems because they have different histories and politics, but this model works for us."

Finns credit their press and their politicians with keeping the law-and-order debate civil and not strident. "Our newspapers are not full of sex and crime, and there is no pressure on me to get tough on criminals from populist-issue politicians like there would be in a lot of other countries," said Salminen.

Thirty years ago, Finland had a rigid model, inherited from Russia, and one of the highest rates of imprisonment in Europe. But then academics provoked a thoroughgoing re-thinking of penal policy, with their argument that it ought to reflect the region's liberal theories of social organization.

One reason why the Finnish public may tolerate their policy of limited punishment is that victims receive compensation payments from the governments. "My feeling is that victims wouldn't feel that justice is better done by giving very severe punishment, stated Mrs. Tammi-Moilanen. "We don't believe in an eye for an eye, we are a bit more civilized than that, I hope." Finland is a relatively classless culture with a Scandinavian belief in the benevolence of the state and a trust in its civic institutions, a good laboratory for gentle justice. The kinds of economic and social disparities that can produce violence don't exist in Finland's welfare state society, street crime is low, and law enforcement officials can count on support from an uncynical public.

Finnish courts mete out four general punishments--a fine, a conditional sentence, which amounts to probation, community service and an unconditional sentence. Even this last category is made less harsh by a practice of letting prisoners out after only half their term is served. There are no walls or fences (replaced by unobtrusive camera surveillance and electronic alert networks. Instead of clanging iron gates, metal halls and grim cells, there are living spaces that resemble dormitory rooms. Generous home leaves are available, particularly as the end of a sentence nears. Like the rest of the countries of the European Union, Finland has no death penalty.

Prison officials can give up to 20 days solitary confinement to inmates as punishment for infractions like fighting or possessing drugs, though the usual term is from three to five days. They try to avoid even that by first talking out the problem with the offending inmates.

One inmate is quoted as saying, "Before, I wanted to be like those drug dealers in the States. I was a gangster wannabe. I used to think the most important thing was to stand up

<b>Number of prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants:</b>	
<b>USA</b>	<b>702</b>
<b>Russia</b>	<b>664</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Britain</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>52</b>

Source: Dept of Criminal Policy

IN CINCINNATI WE BID A SAD FAREWELL TO A YOUNG MOTHER CLAIMED BY VIOLENCE BETWEEN MEN. Seventeen year old Janeen Roseberry, affectionately called 'Punkin' by her family, riding in a car and holding her baby, was shot and killed by a young man aiming for the car's driver. Anti-violence volunteers, church groups, police and other parties have joined in a 5 year collaborative agreement calling for respect for every child, every mother and father. A good basic educational foundation, solid homes and decent paying jobs are needed. Employers don't hire people just out of respect; they hire people for their skills. We must stop the killing, but also the drop-outs and bleak expectations.

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY

## THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS

Marietta Jaeger Lane's seven-year old daughter was kidnapped and murdered. Instead of revenge she looked for a better way to live. She worked toward forgiveness of her child's killer and has visited prisons speaking about her experience and offering inspiring words to those she sees. She is a member of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation. In an interview with her published in Compassion Newsletter she was asked: "Have you ever visited a prison that housed women?" Her reply: "Yes, I have. My experience with women inmates is that they're always poor, usually Black or Hispanic, were raped before they were 10, and in the deepest part of their spirit, believe they've never meant anything to anyone in this world. They often have a strong faith in God. Surprisingly, though they've had so little in their lifetimes, they are very generous. Almost always, the women I've seen have been beautiful people, caring though wounded, hopeful though violated, and usually committed their crimes out of desperation. I admired their strength but my heart ached for the violent betrayal of their lives."

Her advice to incarcerated women is "Be an emotional support to your sister-inmates, be flexible and forgiving, do all that you can to educate yourself further, read helpful and uplifting books as much as you can, believe that God is crazy about you. Praise God for what He is doing for you, even if you cannot see, feel or hear it. Shalom, Salaam! Special blessings."

ACCORDING TO JESUS, THERE IS A BETTER WAY: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you....do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Luke 6:27-31

The League of Women Voters of Texas has endorsed a moratorium on executions, a state review of Texas' use of the death penalty, and other reforms. Their findings came after a two year study and a consensus of its members.

"No other state carries out executions at such a relentless pace as Texas. This headlong dash occurs in spite of controversies at virtually every step in the process. It is a broken system that risks executing the innocent," said Steve Hall, Director of the StandDown Texas Project.

The International Court of Justice ordered the U.S. not to execute 3 Mexicans, until it can rule in Mexico's suit on behalf of more than 50 Mexicans on death row in the U.S. With several executions looming, the response will say much about our respect for the international rule of law. At a time when Washington threatens war over Iraq's violation of the U.N. resolutions, we can hardly be seen to flout a clear, legally binding World Court Order.

**A QUESTION!** Have you ever asked yourself why anyone would be dumb enough to try to smuggle drugs into a prison? For romance, for pity, for money? Here's a new reason--or maybe it's an old one. An Ohio father in Ohio whose juvenile son is incarcerated with adult prisoners fell victim to the prison-industrial-complex. The father got word through the prison grapevine that his son was being extorted. He called the Warden, but was not allowed to speak to him. He feared daily for the boy's safety. He saw dark bruise marks on his son's throat, and learned that his son's ribs were bruised also. He hired an Attorney to get his son transferred and was bilked out of over \$3,600. Having tried everything he could think of to get his son transferred, the father gave in and took drugs into his son to pay the extortionist. He was caught transporting pot into the prison and now faces trial himself, facing a 1 to 5 year sentence for trying to protect his son with absolutely no help from the system. Support Jack Patterson and his son.

Send a protest to: Reginald Wilkinson, Director ODRC, 1050 Freeway Drive, North, Columbus, OH 43229, or to Gov. Taft, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-6117. (Request from Pan-Ohio)

GREATER TOLEDO FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION. Contact: Nancy Graumlich (419) 882-2480

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS UNITED FOR JUSTICE. Call: (419) 843-7707.

LAKESIDE PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES. Contact: Warren Tropf (419) 798-5361

## OHIO NEWS! WE NEED A BETTER WAY!!

Come to the next Ohio Criminal Justice Activist Conference? For information write to Steve Bright, AFSC, 915 Salem Ave., Dayton, OH 45406, call 937-278-4225 or email, sbright@afsc.org

### **5K RUN AND WALK TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2003**

A cooperative fund raising event for non-profit organizations, family-focused to improve the well being of the entire Cincinnati community, is sponsored by the Alcohol Council of the Cincinnati area. Participating non-profits keep 75% of funds raised! To customize a program for your organization, or to walk to help Justice Watch raise funds, contact Dean Poole, coordinator at: 2828 Vernon Pl., Cincinnati OH 45219--(513) 281-7880, extension 102.

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A JUSTICE WATCH VOLUNTEER TO HELP ORGANIZE FUND RAISING THIS WAY. CALL 241-0490 TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP US JOIN THIS EFFORT!!**

**Ten Thousand Villages** is a nonprofit, self-supporting alternative trading organization (ATO). ATO'S are non-governmental organizations designed to benefit artisans, not to maximize profits. They market products from handicraft and agricultural organizations based in low-income countries, providing consumers with products that have been fairly purchased from sustainable sources. A new Ten Thousand Villages store has opened at 2011 Madison Ave., in O'Bryonville in Cincinnati. Phone # 871-0035.

### **UPDATE ON THE WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT OF WILLIAM J. MAYO**

William, a young man from Cincinnati, received 2 life sentences for armed robbery, 2 twenty year sentences for aggravated assault and 20 years of probation for a burglary charge--despite the fact that there was NO serious injury in the case. William had never been in any trouble with the law. He was 3 credits from graduation at Morehouse College, in Atlanta, GA. His co-defendants, kids from Chicago that he was showing around the college, robbed two people when he was not with them. They lied about his involvement in order to receive a lighter sentence. Since 1993 the co-defendants have told Georgia courts that William is innocent and that they lied only to get a sentence reduction. There was absolutely no evidence of William's being involved with the robbery in 1992. Yet Georgia refuses to change his conviction or his outrageous sentence. He has been in Georgia prisons for over 10 years--an innocent man--for no reason. PLEASE CHECK WEB-SITE [www.freemayo.com](http://www.freemayo.com) for more information and to sign an on-line petition requesting his freedom! PLEASE WRITE :,The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor, State of Georgia, 203 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

REQUEST JUSTICE FOR WILLIAM JONATHAN MAYO.

### **THERE IS A BETTER WAY!!!**

### **THE JOURNEY OF HOPE..FROM VIOLENCE TO HEALING IS COMING TO OHIO!**

September 26th to October 12, 2003

Join the Journey of this organization led by murder victim family members who oppose the death penalty, sharing a message of hope and reconciliation. We teach that vengeance is never the answer. We call for the abolition of Ohio's death penalty. Whatever you can offer is welcome: help as a speaker, activist, supporter or host an event. Contact: Jana Schroeder, 915 Salem Ave. Dayton, OH 45406, (937) 278-4225, [jschroeder@afsc.org](mailto:jschroeder@afsc.org), or the Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center, 215 East 14th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45210; (513) 579-8547

### **FLIP THE SCRIPT!**

Don't let other people transfer their negative energy to you. According to Sir Isaac Newton, thermodynamic energy is neither lost nor destroyed, but is transferred. Have you ever been feeling good, then someone walks into the room with negative energy and just sucks all the positive energy out of the room? Don't let that happen. **FLIP THE SCRIPT!** Transfer your positive energy to them, and don't allow them to transfer their negative energy to you. Two can play that game! (From The Black

**OHIO IS WAY BEHIND!!** University of Cincinnati law students were shocked to find out that Ohio is the only state NOT to have ratified the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution! The amendment, passed after the Civil War to protect citizens' rights guarantees that all people born or naturalized in the U.S. are citizens. They cannot be deprived of due process and are promised equal protection, under the law. It gave African-Americans citizenship, allowing them to vote. It is still valid because 3/4ths of the states ratified it. Ohio ratified it in 1867, but rescinded it a year later.

"What concerned the students is that it was the last word from the government," said UC law Professor, Gabriel J. Chin. "It's symbolic, but it's a pretty important symbol." Dr. Chin oversees the Urban Justice Institute, which offers students interested in public policy research related work outside the classroom. The Ohio Innocence Project will be part of the work of this group, helping prisoners who claim innocence to prove it, **IF THERE IS ANY DNA EVIDENCE AVAILABLE.** (Enquirer, 02/01/03)

#### **WHAT CAN YOUR FAITH AND ITS PEOPLE DO?**

Besides immediate family and 2 friends, OH prisoners can have a "clergy of record" on the visit list. Rules vary but a request must be initiated by the prisoner, asking for a certain person to be his "clergy of record." **DOES YOUR PASTOR, PRIEST OR MINISTER VISIT YOU? HAVE YOU EVER ASKED HIM TO?**

An original member of Justice Watch told us of Reverend MacCrackin's comment on the years it took to change Coney Island Park into an integrated park where families of all races could play. Mac said, **"WE SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED TO DO MARCHES AROUND CONEY ISLAND. WE SHOULD HAVE MARCHED AROUND OUR CHURCHES WHICH ALLOWED SUCH OUTRAGIOUS DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES TO CONTINUE WITHOUT PROTEST!"** That's in "our-memories-time" people! It wasn't that long ago that racial discrimination was right out there in the faces of all our church and community leaders to see--if they cared to! Maybe if enough pastors were asked to visit the prisons they would begin to understand the tragedy of "tough on crime" politics.

**INVITE YOUR CLERGY TO HELP YOU--  
FIND A BETTER WAY!**

**WRITE TO CURE-Ohio** about your prison phone problems. If you are a TeleNet customer who has been struggling with the problem of numbers blocked by ODRC please call Richard Owen (who owns Telenet),

at 1-888-925-1400 to see if he can re-start your service. ODRC and MCI started blocking remote call forwarded numbers (from Telenet) about a year ago. They even changed their AR's (rules) to state specifically that remote call forwarding is not allowed. Thus people who had remote call forwarded numbers (RCF'S) have lost them and some prisoners have been punished (put in the Hole) or harassed for calling these numbers. Another ploy the prison system has used is to just "block" all local phone calls, so that people who lived in the town where the prison is located could not receive calls.

A law firm in Washington DC (Shook, Hardy and Bacon- [www.shb.com](http://www.shb.com);) has filed a complaint with the FCC on this issue. (CC Docket No.96-128 (Ex Parte Filing). The FCC will base their ruling on RCF'S based on what they feel is best for the public interest. The FCC believes in opening up competition. The attorneys' case is based on the fact that blocking of remote call forwarded numbers is a restraint of trade and an effective way for MCI and the prison system to end competition. The attorneys need letters from the public explaining how the DRC'S new policy on RCF calls has harmed them or eliminated their right to have a choice in phone service. **EXAMPLES OF HARM COULD BE:** blocking of a remote call forwarding number, blocking of a local number that was NOT an RCF, posting threatening notices about remote call numbers in the prison phone room (as happened in several Ohio prisons) or a prisoner being threatened by guards for using RCF numbers, or put in the Hole for using them.

CURE-Ohio will collect your "short" letters documenting examples of such harm and forward them to attorneys working on the case. Address letters to: Federal Communications Commission, make sure to include your name and address on the letters. Send to: CURE-Ohio, PO Box 25, Bellbrook, OH 45305.

MCI HAS SET UP A TOLL-FREE INMATE COLLECT CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER TO CALL TO VERIFY WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PHONE NUMBER IS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES FOR ACCEPTING COLLECT CALLS FROM PRISONS. The toll-free number is 866-770-4896.

## **NEWS FROM PRISON REFORM ADVOCACY CENTER**

PRAC IS LOOKING INTO THE LACK OF DENTAL CARE IN PRISONS! They need cases or specific examples. If you have possible litigation on this or other issues contact PRAC at: Prison Reform Advocacy Center; 617 Vine St., Suite 1301, Cincinnati, OH 45202

PRAC's Litigation Project brought a suit to end Ohio's practice of housing vulnerable minimum-security inmates with violent maximum-security prisoners. The Women's Project addresses the needs of imprisoned women through legal advocacy, education, empowerment seminars, and community outreach.

To honor the memory of former PRAC director Rich Arnold, a new project will advocate on behalf of prisoners with serious unmet medical needs, an area where Rich endeavored to make a difference. **THE GOAL IN TAKING MEDICAL NEGLECT CASES IS TO EFFECT SYSTEMIC REFORM OF OHIO'S PRISON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

## **OHIO PAROLE "GUIDELINES"--A MORE SENSIBLE WAY?**

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled 12/18/02, ordering the Ohio Parole Board to halt a practice of calculating hearing dates based on the offenses for which prisoners were indicted, instead of offenses for which they were convicted. A preliminary report indicates that 5,214 prisoners may have been misclassified based on indictments, not convictions. The Board has identified 172 inmates who have filed lawsuits as "priority" cases. Hearings begin in March but it could take up to a year to complete the hearings on a case by case basis.

ACTUAL DOCUMENTS SHOW AN INMATE HAS SERVED HIS PRE-1996 MINIMUM SENTENCE, PLUS 2 YEARS DEFINITE SENTENCE. HIS PAROLE PAPER STATES THAT HE "HAS PROGRAMMED EXTREMELY WELL AND SHOULD BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR OUTSTANDING PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AT HIS NEXT HEARING." HE HAS 18 MONTHS OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE, IS A GED TUTOR, A JAYCEES VICE-PRESIDENT, TUTORS A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM AND IS A FACILITATOR FOR "SCARED STRAIGHT". Was he granted parole or a lower security status? NO, just flopped another time. With Ohio's busted budget, and the recommendation given on his paperwork, we wonder how Ohio can afford to keep him locked up. We hear that the only prisoners to be released are those sure to return to keep the prison-industrial-complex in business. We are reluctant to believe this, but we have to wonder!!!

## **DEATH PENALTY--LEGAL, PRE-MEDITATED MURDER!!**

The Illinois Death Penalty Commission created an 85 step blueprint for reform. Our Newsletter does not have enough pages to list all of them, but we highly recommend the work of the Angolite Prison News Magazine. The May/June 2002 issue gave much information on these recommendations. A subscription to the bi-monthly magazine is \$20.00. Request yours today by sending payment to The Angolite, c/o Cashier's Office, Louisiana State Prison, Angola, LA 70712

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

OHIO HAS SET THE EXECUTION DATE FOR SIDDIQUE ABDULLAH HASSAN, EDITOR OF COMPASSION NEWSLETTER FOR DEATH ROW PRISONERS. THE SCHEDULED DATE FOR THE STATE TO COMMIT THIS PRE-MEDITATED STATE MURDER IS MAY 13. PLEASE PRAY FOR HIM, PRAY FOR THE MURDERERS AND FOR ALL OF US IN THIS COUNTRY.

COMPASSION: a newsletter written by Death Row prisoners may be subscribed to at 140 W. South Boundary Street, Perrysburg, OH 43551, or e-mail: [seekcompassion@hotmail.com](mailto:seekcompassion@hotmail.com) ~~Half of all subscriptions and donations are given in college scholarship form to family members of murder victims. Contribute now so they can maintain free distribution to all 3700 death row prisoners.~~

"There are many people on death row for the crime of having a poor lawyer!" "The death penalty in the U.S. is in desperate need of repair, or it must be repealed. If we really want a death penalty we have to be willing to pay for the repairs, and I don't think we can afford that." (Scott Turow, heard on NPR on the Diane Rehm show. Mr. Turow is the author of "Reversible Error", an attorney who worked a death row case in Chicago, and was a member of the Illinois Commission to study the Death Penalty in the state.)

**ONCE A FELON-ALWAYS A FELON?**

You've heard of ex-felons? There are none. All prisoners want to start over, to do it right this time! Do they have a chance? Cincinnati Enquirer reporter Gregory Korte found at least 17 City employees who managed to hold city jobs over the past two years, despite felony convictions. Why? NOT because the city believed they needed jobs, or wanted to give them a chance to work because they had paid their debt to society or needed to support their families.

NO! According to the Enquirer article (12/31/02) they were hired because Supervisors were lax in their hiring standards for "sanitation workers"! OH State law prohibits people convicted of "certain" felonies from holding public employment. Supposedly not every felony disqualifies a felon. But there is NO limit on the length of time a person is determined to be a felon. Convicted at 21, serve 10 years, finish parole time, go back to school--at 35 you still are a FELON! (Even if you didn't murder, rape, steal or harm anyone--you're still a felon!) No one asks what the felony was or why it happened, or how you've changed. Everyone (almost) refuses to hire a Felon, if you admit to a conviction. If you lie on an application and do get a job, even if it is only collecting garbage for two years, you can be punished or fired if anyone finds out you WERE a felon, even if it was years ago. The state you live in refuses second chances.

**LIFETIME SENTENCES!!**

Under a little-noticed provision of federal law, anyone convicted of a crime is barred from public housing! If a mother takes in a paroled son she could be evicted from such housing. Most of the sanctions on "criminals" were passed by Congress and state legislatures in the 1990's to get tough on crime. Now, as the record number of men and women who filled prisons are finishing their terms, the consequences of the penalties are being felt.

Penalties also include a life-time ban on receiving welfare or food stamps for those convicted of drug felonies. In NY there are more than 100 prohibited job categories. In PA if you are convicted of crimes (including theft of 2 library books) you will be prohibited from working in nursing homes or home health care for the elderly. Felons in 13 states lose the right to vote. (FL has 600,000 banned from voting for life!) Felons with drug convictions are barred from receiving federal student loans and women who serve more than 15 months in prison may be forced to give up their children to foster care. (NY TIMES, 12/19/02)

**HELP BRING ABOUT A BETTER WAY--YOU! YES, YOU!!**

"Prison Reform: A New Beginning" is the topic of a free symposium to be held April 26, 2003 at Mather Mansion, 2605 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, OH from 9 AM to 3 PM, sponsored by Ohio S.O.R.T., The Restorative Justice Mission Group, and Cleveland State's College of Urban Affairs. Any non-profit group is welcome to set up tables in the literature room. All Ohio legislators, and Common Pleas and Appellate Judges are invited to attend. Speakers names to be announced soon. (info via Cindy Mollick of SORT--<ohiosort@hotmail.com>

The Restorative Justice Mission Group, 5 years old, holds symposiums, teach classes on restorative justice to Cleveland congregations, help sponsor community events promoting restorative justice, study legislation and respond appropriately in support or against bills. They connect with other groups for mutual support, referrals and sharing. There are members from all faith groups in the greater Cleveland area. For info: Ms. Christa Acker at cncacker@aol.com

**RACISIM: THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY**

Like all blacks in the U.S. Navy, Dorrie Miller was a messman in 1941 while assigned to the battleship Arizona at Pearl Harbor. When the Japanese struck, he leapt into a gunner's seat and fired at the planes above. His heroism lead to Naval policy revision to allow African-Americans to be officers. (from Black History for Beginners, by Denise Dennis)

THINK ABOUT IT! (From November 2002 Reader's Digest)

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?...Dam!

What do you get from a pampered cow?...Spoiled milk.

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?...Nacho cheese.

What do you call four bullfighters in quicksand?...Quatro sinko

**OHIO'S NEW INNOCENCE PROJECT!!**

Innocence Project founder Barry Scheck spoke in Cincinnati at a fundraiser for Ohio's new Innocence Project. He spoke of the urgency of getting started on cases before DNA evidence is routinely destroyed. **THE EFFORT TO FREE THE INNOCENT IS ALSO ABOUT APPREHENDING THE GUILTY. IT'S ALSO ABOUT PROTECTING THE PUBLIC, AND GOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT. EVERYTIME YOU CONVICT THE INNOCENT PERSON, THE REAL CRIMINAL IS OUT THERE COMMITTING MORE CRIME.** The project will be run by the University of Cincinnati's Urban Justice Institute. Law students will receive college credit for screening requests, reviewing cases and tracking down evidence for DNA testing. Licensed attorneys will donate any legal work, but the cost of DNA testing would have to be paid by an inmate's family or others. (Sheila McLaughlin, Cincinnati Enquirer, 11/23/02)

(Justice Watch asks: If the inmate is found innocent, shouldn't the prosecutors, and the city police department have to repay the cost of the DNA test? Or would that make it harder for investigators to find the original DNA tests?)

Hamilton County, OH officials agreed January 31, 2003 to settle a lawsuit over the county's practice of charging prisoners a fee to stay in its jails. The county agreed to pay back all of the money it seized, an amount that could exceed \$1 million collected from jail inmates since it began its "pay to stay" program in 1998. The county also promised to spend \$150,000 over the next three years on an educational program for inmates.

Lima C.I. will be Ohio's second prison to close due to budget cuts by the state and inmates will be transferred to other facilities. Other facilities which may be affected by state budget cuts are North Coast C.F., a 560 bed prison in Grafton which houses mainly drunken-driving offenders, and Lake Erie C.I. in Conneaut, a minimum-security prison with 1,369 prisoners. The latter two are privately operated by Management and Training Corp. of Ogden Utah. Ohio's prison population shrank from more than 49,000 in 1999 to the current number of 45,044. (Columbus Dispatch, 1/30/03)

**A QUESTION: Is there an Ohio Prison Lawyers Manual? Or anything comparable focusing on Ohio Law? If not, could we interest any University Law Schools to compile one? Let us know what you think? (thanks to C M of Mansfield OH)**

**ACTIVIST GROUPS ARE SPONSORING DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF OHIO PRISONS TO PROTEST THE FOLLOWING:**

Exploitation of prisoners as slave labor; visiting conditions and policies; inadequate medical treatment; grievance procedures; brutality to prisoners; and duty staff abuses.

**SPONSORS INCLUDE:** CURE-Ohio, OhPRUP (Ohio Prison Reform Unity Project, toll free number 1-877-352-0164; email ohprup@justice.com), AFSC (American Friends Service Committee), SAD (Students for Sensible Drug Policies), PAN-Ohio Prisoner Advocate Network, Backpack 4 Friends, COCA (Community Organization Center), Write Words Prison Ministry, Zanesville Hepatitis C Support Group, Kenny Richey Campaign.

To help support prison reform or for more info contact: CURE at 233 S. High St., Columbus, OH 432115 or call CURE-Ohio (614) 224-3466; or write to PAN-OHIO, PO Box 14162, Columbus, OH. Tell them if the demonstrations are effective.

The Turtle Creek Center, 5232 Ohio 63, Lebanon, 45065, a halfway house for low-level felons in SW Ohio is an alternative to other prisons. It is a vocation-based program with evening clinical classes, and will focus on re-integrating clients into the community. DRC Director Wilkinson says the center provides sentencing options for adult felons, and focuses on rehabilitating recently-sentenced or released offenders.

Extensive information on psychiatric abuse and "psych" meds can be obtained from CITIZEN'S COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, 6362 HOLLYWOOD BLVD., SUITE B, LOS ANGELES, CA 90028, or [www.cchr.org](http://www.cchr.org) Anyone who has been sexually abused by a psychiatrist or psychologist or any child on ADD/AHDD medication needs to know the information from CCHR available upon request, well documented and researched. (Info from D, NY prisoner)

**INFORMATION YOU ASKED FOR!!!****SERETONIN SYNDROME, PAXIL, PROZAC, ZOLOFT, ET AL.**

In July, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, released a report entitled "Drug Companies and Their Role in Aiding Executions." For a copy, contact NCADP, 920 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington DC 20003 (www.ncadp.org)

PLEASE NOTE: Although prisoners are the ones asking for the following information we believe that ANYONE who MIGHT be called to Jury duty, who MIGHT have anti-depressant medications prescribed to them, or MIGHT have contact with anyone who is on such Rx's will be interested in reading the following closely.

Many requested help explaining the damage done by legally prescribed drugs and sent envelopes of research regarding the questions raised by these "medicines". The following information has been previously aired or published. Some of the following material is from the internet or library books. We hope to help those looking for answers. We apologize for the length of this article but it seems that this is a question of great concern to many. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED, especially David and Kurt!

PLEASE NOTE: Several wrote blaming medication bought on the street, without prescriptions, and mixed with illegal drugs and/or alcohol. It is not rational to blame a legal medicine, when purchased illegally, abused or overdosed, and/or mixed with other drugs or alcohol for any bad reaction, or crime. COCAINE, POT, HEROIN; OTHER STREET DRUGS; ALCOHOL OR ANY LIQUOR SHOULD NEVER BE MIXED WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUGS! THEY MUST BE CAREFULLY USED AND MONITORED BY COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS.

The  
m o n

c o m -  
t h r e a d

in the crimes committed while on prescription medication is that the offender, with no previous history of violence, but on certain medications, quite suddenly, violently killed someone close to them, for no explainable reason. Granted, we have not researched these cases, but the theme is one of people desperate with grief asking what caused them to do such a terrible crime to someone close to them. We list examples of cases furnished by one who has personally corresponded with the following persons:

- TX-a man on Adderal, Risperidal, & Zoloft stabbed a friend's mother 42 times.
- ME-a man on Prozac, Trazadone, & Zoloft murdered his wife.
- TX-a man on Prozac for murder.
- CA-a 16 year old on Paxil murdered a family friend.
- TX-a man on Paxil & Elavil beat his father-in-law to death.
- MO-a man on Prozac shot and murdered his father.
- TX-a woman on Depakote & Zoloft murdered her husband.

**SEROTONIN SYNDROME IN THE COURT ROOM**

(From an article by Amy Marcus, Wall Street Journal reporter.)

Eli Lilly & Co., the maker of Prozac, is assisting prosecutors in criminal cases where defense lawyers are using the "Prozac defense" to absolve their clients of culpability. About a dozen criminal cases, and over 50 civil suits related to violence allegedly induced by Prozac were pending in 1991. Lilly has adopted an aggressive legal strategy to combat the public-relations problems companies face when they are not directly involved in litigation in which the reputation of a product is called into question.

"We will provide technical assistance to any prosecutor who approaches us, and we will approach any prosecutor who has such a case, so they understand that we are available if they choose to call on us," said Edward West, Lilly spokesman. Defense lawyers contend that it is unseemly for a corporation to be involved in cases that could send the defendants to prison or death row. "Not only am I fighting the prosecutor, now I'm fighting the resources of Eli Lilly. That isn't fair when I'm trying to defend someone in a capital case," says Alan Boyack, a lawyer whose client allegedly committed murder while on Prozac.

Legal ethics experts said Lilly's involvement is proper as long as the prosecutors inform the defense about the company's activities. "The defendants put the drug into issue. If they say, "It's not me, it's the drug," then they have to expect that there will be a response," said Michael Kelly, a legal ethics expert who is dean of the University of Maryland School of Law.

### A TRAGIC CASE OF SEROTONIN SYNDROME

A young man of 18, severely depressed over the near death of his sister, was serving time at a Correctional Facility due to an unpaid fine. With no psychological evaluation, a Doctor at the facility (not a Psychiatrist), prescribed Prozac. The youth was not told of any possible side effects. When his fine was worked off he was released, and given 4 Prozac pills to take with him. The next day he assaulted his girl friend and his best friend and crashed his truck into a stone wall. A few days later in a dream-like state he shot and killed the father he'd always loved. He was not on drugs or alcohol, but had taken the Prozac as told to. He became full of uncontrollable energy. His temper was out of control and he cried for no reason. He was a college student, a promising member of society, with no history of violence. He was forced into a plea bargain to avoid the death penalty. His family, once very close, is now in pieces. His father is his first and last thought of the day. He feels he can never forgive himself.

(From The Courier-Journal, LATE KENTUCKY Edition, 10/18/94)

".....in September 1991--when Eli Lilly Co. says it had already submitted 2.5 million pages of documentation about Prozac to the FDA--a special FDA panel held a hearing to ask whether there was reason to believe Prozac caused people to become suicidal or violent. Years later, the lawyers for a man accused of violence tried to prove that Lilly's relationship with the FDA was suspiciously cozy and that Lilly acted at times to obscure concerns regarding Prozac. Lilly's chief scientific officer testified that Prozac is approved for sale in 75 countries and has been used over 15 million people. DR. THOMPSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LILLY'S PUBLIC-RELATIONS STAFF HAD INSTRUCTED HIM ON HOW TO ANSWER REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT PROZAC AND THE STAFF HAD DESCRIBED HIM AS "A MEDIA PRO." THOMPSON SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SHOW COMPASSION, APPEAR FRIENDLY, AND CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT THE UNDERLYING DEPRESSION--NOT PROZAC--IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENT ACTS."

(The Courier-Journal, Louisville KY, Metro edition, News section, Page 03A, 10/19/94)

"Dr. Peter R. Breggin called Prozac "a dangerous drug" with "a built-in potential for tragedy", when he testified at the trial of Joseph Wesbecker. Breggin, a Maryland psychiatrist said Wesbecker took Prozac for about a month before his attack with an AK-47 which killed 8 people. Breggin cited numerous reports in scientific literature linking Prozac to suicide and violence.

Scientists hypothesize that depressed people have abnormally low levels of the chemical Serotonin--which functions as a neurotransmitter in the brain. Prozac apparently increases the Serotonin level in certain parts, resulting in greater stimulation of the nerves. The system becomes "hyperactive" and that patients on Prozac can develop anxiety, agitation, insomnia and become psychotic in EXTREME CASES. Evidence Breggin cited:

(1) Animal testing done by Lilly in the 70's and early 80's found that Prozac sometimes produced aggression and irritability in animals.

(2) Dr. Richard Kapit, a psychiatrist and an FDA investigator, in safety reviews on Prozac, wrote in 1986 that 5 of the first 77 patients put on Prozac in clinical trials developed "serious clinical events"--including one case of paranoid psychosis and one of manic psychosis.

(3) A 1979 memo written by a top Lilly scientist says that, in clinical trials on humans, some patients became agitated within a few days after taking Prozac. So, in guidelines for some clinical tests, Lilly scientists suggested that patients who became agitated be given sedatives or a lower dose.

"This has enormous implication," Breggin said. "Sedatives are addictive...Sedatives impair mental function."

Breggin also presented statistics showing that the FDA's system for tracking adverse reactions to a drug once it's on the market, found 1,889 cases of reported suicide attempts among people on Prozac, including 1,091 deaths.

Dr. Lee Coleman, the last psychiatrist to treat Joseph Wesbecker testified that Prozac had nothing to do with the killings. He ALSO said that when he saw Wesbecker 3 days prior to the killings, he was agitated, angry and weeping--and his condition had deteriorated so badly that Coleman wanted to hospitalize him. He took him off Prozac that day (after 30 days of the medication) because he was concerned that Prozac "most likely" was the cause of the man's decline.

DR. COLEMAN MET PRIVATELY WITH LAWYERS FOR ELI LILLY & CO. AND HOPED TO RECEIVE \$4,000 FROM LILLY FOR HIS TIME.

**FROM A LETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICES OF F. DONALD SOKOL, CA**

Dear Sir:

"...I defended Douglas Ceerle on a murder charge. His wife died from injuries sustained from a beating administered by him. He had never been in trouble before, never abused his wife, and was a shy, retiring man. About 3 weeks after ingesting Prozac prescribed by an osteopath over the phone, his friends testified that he became belligerent and agitated. Directly after receiving an adverse decision in his divorce case he drank two quarts of Colt 45 and then broke in a locked door, grabbed the phone receiver and beat his wife who sustained fatal injuries.

Investigating this case, I found that Prozac was involved. I talked to several "Prozac survivors", people that had not been in trouble with the law before, who had similar ideation as Douglas had, but something intervened before they could act out what they were thinking. ONE THING THAT CONVINCED ME THAT PROZAC WAS THE CAUSATIVE FACTOR IS THAT DOUGLAS TOLD ME EARLY ON, BEFORE THE SUBJECT OF PROZAC HAD ARISEN, THAT HE HAD "NO ALTERNATIVE" TO KILLING HIS WIFE. THIS STRUCK ME AS VERY STRANGE SINCE IT WAS, OF COURSE, THE WORST POSSIBLE THING HE COULD SAY. THEN, IN ALMOST EVERY CONVERSATION I HAD WITH THE PROZAC SURVIVORS, THIS SAME PHRASE WAS USED WHEN THEY DESCRIBED THE BIZARRE IDEATION THEY WERE EXPERIENCING. THEY SAID THEY WERE COMPELLED TO DO BIZARRE ACTS BECAUSE THERE WAS "NO ALTERNATIVE".

At the trial, I attempted to get the Trial Judge to admit testimony from Prozac survivors about their experiences with the drug. In the final analysis, the Court held FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED STATES that there was a causal connection between homicide and Prozac. This drew nationwide attention. It appeared in the Wall Street Journal and Newsweek Magazine. However, I know of no case in which the Prozac defense (Serotonin Syndrome defense) has been successful to date.

THE KEY I BELIEVE TO SUCCESSFUL USE OF PROZAC LIES IN CAREFUL MONITORING BY A \*\*COMPETENT PHYSICIAN\*\*ESPECIALLY DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF USE. THIS WAS NOT PRESENT IN THE CECRLE CASE. ALSO IN THE CECRLE CASE THERE WAS THE INVOLVEMENT OF LIQUOR. THE ADVERSE REACTION IS APPARENTLY EXACERBATED BY ALCOHOL INGESTION PARTICULARLY DURING THE FIRST 3 WEEKS OF USE."

JUSTICE WATCH NOTE: \*\*COMPETENT PHYSICIAN\*\* The prisoner the above letter was written to had been put on a total of 11 medications in 18 days including Paxil, Trazodone, Ambien, Valium # 5, Tylenol #3, Prozac, Zantac, Librium, Donnatal, and Toradol. When his psychiatrist gave him the medications his only instructions were "MORNINGS". He says he complained of his medications several times and told doctors of various side effects. He had bouts of stomach bleeding and severe pain, would get lost when driving and was usually "in a fog". One day in a 4-6 hour rage he was unaware of he threatened his wife for no reason. He voluntarily admitted himself to the hospital and told doctors "I need to stop these meds". The result was that he was given more. Later he fatally stabbed his wife to death while in a psychotic episode he does not remember. He asks, "How can I ever accept that I killed my beloved wife of 24 years?"

**BOOKS:**

"TALKING BACK TO PROZAC" and "THE ANTIDEPRESSANT FACT BOOK", both by Peter Breggin M.D.

"PROZAC BACKLASH" by Joseph Glenmullen

"THE PROZAC PANDORA", by Ann Blake Tracy

"THE ANTI-DEPRESSANT ERA", By David Healy, publisher-Harvard

"THE POWER TO HARM-Mind, Medicine and Murder on Trial. The Westbecker Prozac Case, By John Cornwell,

"PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER: THE HIDDEN DANGERS IN YOUR MEDICINE CABINET" By Thomas J. Moore

"BEYOND PROZAC", By Michael Norden, M.D.

### SEROTONIN SYNDROME (SS)--MEDICAL INFORMATION

(From an article by Kirk C. Mills, M.D. Univ. of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, in AMERICAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN)

"Serotonin Syndrome (hereafter written as SS) is a potentially life-threatening complication of psychopharmacologic drug therapy. The syndrome is produced most often by the concurrent use of two or more drugs that increase brainstem Serotonin activity. It is often unrecognized because of the varied and nonspecific nature of its symptoms.

Serotonin syndrome is characterized by changes in awareness and judgement, behavior, autonomic nervous system function and neuromuscular activity. Patients usually respond to discontinuation of drug therapy and supportive care alone, but they may require treatment with a specific antiserotonergic drug such as cyproheptadine, methysergide and/or propranolol.

Serotonin Syndrome only occurs in the setting of drug therapy. It most commonly occurs when two or more serotonergic drugs are given at the same time, but has also been reported with single drug exposure. Commonly, the earliest symptoms of SS are misinterpreted as a worsening of the patient's underlying psychiatric condition. This mistake may then lead to either inappropriate continuation of drug therapy or even an increased dosage of the offending medication.

Antidepressants are the most common class of drugs to produce SS. Among the antidepressants, the monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI's) and selective Serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's) are equally likely to contribute to SS. Other medications have also been reported to contribute to SS.

Because SS most commonly occurs when two or more drugs are used in combination, it is imperative to recognize and avoid potential interactions, and to understand safe drug therapy alternatives. DEMEROL and DEXTROMETHORPHAN are potent inhibitors of Serotonin uptake and are notorious for starting acute SS, especially in those taking MAOI's. Other drugs that inhibit Serotonin uptake are ELDEPRYL, EFFEXOR, SERZONE and LUVOX. Until proven otherwise, these drugs should be viewed as having the potential to produce SS.

Drugs that increase central nervous system dopamine concentrations, such as SINMET, PARLODEL and SELEGILINE, have the potential to precipitate SS and should be used cautiously, if at all, with other Serotonin agonists.

(From an editorial in the American Family Physician, October 1995, page 1263, by Ronald D. Reynolds, M.D. Dr. Reynolds is instructor of family medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and in private practice at New Richmond Family Practice in New Richmond, OH. He teaches primary care physicians how to recognize and treat the somatic presentation of depressive illness).

"Serotonin Syndrome manifests as mental status changes, changes in vital signs caused by autonomic instability, muscular rigidity, fever, and ultimately coma and death. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL DOCTORS WHO USE SEROTONERGIC DRUGS TO RECOGNIZE THIS SYNDROME, GIVEN THAT WE ARE ALWAYS THE CAUSE OF IT.

Undoubtedly, most cases of SS go unrecognized, because physicians consider unusual symptoms that develop after the addition of fluoxetine to be caused by the original problem, and are unaware of the interaction between drugs. AVOIDANCE OF DRUG INTERACTIONS REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE. SEROTONERGIC DRUGS ARE GREAT ADVANCES BUT MANY CLINICIANS HAVE ENCOUNTERED SS BUT NOT RECOGNIZED IT. THIS IMPORTANT, POTENTIALLY FATAL, IATROGENIC DRUG INTERACTION WILL CONTINUE TO HARM PATIENTS IF THEIR PHYSICIANS REMAIN IGNORANT OF THE CAUSE.

Prozac Survivors Support Group, Inc (USA) is a nonprofit support and information organization. Address: PO Box 1727, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; [www.pssg.org](http://www.pssg.org)

"P.S.S.G., Inc. is not opposed to the use of Prozac or any other drug used to treat mental illness, as long as these drugs are prescribed responsibly and the person taking this medication has full understanding of the possible adverse reactions. It is the position of our group to provide information and education...not moral or ethical judgments."

Statement made by a Justice Watch friend: "Oh yeah, I was put on Paxil but I got off of it almost immediately--I got so confused I was wandering around Wal-Mart crying and upset for no reason other than what the medication was doing to my mind."

### OHIO LAW REGARDING MENTAL CONDITIONS

From 1998-1-The Ohio Criminal Law Handbook, page 373-374: 2945.37.1--Evaluations of defendant's mental condition at relevant time; separate mental retardation evaluation.

(A) If the issue of a defendant's competence to stand trial is raised or if a defendant enters a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, the court may order one or more evaluations of the defendant's PRESENT mental condition or, in the case of a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, of the defendant's mental condition AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE CHARGED.

(B) If the court orders more than one evaluation under division (A) of this section, the prosecutor and the defendant may recommend to the court an examiner whom each prefers to perform one of the evaluations. If a defendant enters a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity and if the court does not designate an examiner, recommended by the defendant, the court shall inform the defendant that the defendant may have independent expert evaluation and that, if the defendant is unable to obtain independent expert evaluation, it will be obtained for the defendant at public expense if the defendant is indigent.

(F) IN CONDUCTING AN EVALUATION OF A DEFENDANT'S MENTAL CONDITION AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE CHARGED, THE EXAMINER SHALL CONSIDER ALL RELEVANT EVIDENCE. IF the offense charged involves the use of force against another person, the relevant evidence to be considered includes, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, any evidence that the defendant suffered, at the time of the commission of the offense, from the "battered woman syndrome."

(G) (4) If the evaluation was ordered to determine the defendant's mental condition AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE charged, the examiner's findings as to whether the defendant, at the time of the offense charged, DID NOT KNOW, AS A RESULT OF A SEVERE MENTAL DISEASE OR DEFECT, THE WRONGFULNESS OF THE DEFENDANT'S ACTS CHARGED."

#### CONCLUSIONS:

Ohio law does not seem to allow the possibility of a defense based on a TEMPORARY mental dysfunction, or "INSANITY BY MEDICATION(S)" at the time of the crime. Serotonin Syndrome, which is hard to diagnose, is the effect of medication on some people. It is caused by a prescribed medication which is not well understood by physicians. It is relatively new, and extreme reactions to the medication(s) are rare. SS is not defined as ONGOING mental illness, OR as mental retardation.

Getting off the medication that is causing the problem seems to be the basic method of treatment and works--if it is caught in time and recognized for what it is.

Meanwhile, just as sometimes people with Diabetic problems of low blood sugar may be thrown in jail because they APPEAR to be drunk rather than ill, so it seems that people who have been given medications which cause extreme problems and violence are allowed to go undiagnosed, or their symptoms worsened by more medication, until violence against themselves or others happens. Instead of helping and recognizing the real problem behind their violence, they are prosecuted, evidence is ignored, and they are locked up for years, or sent to death row.

We suggest the physicians, prosecutors and defense attorneys look at the documentation available concerning Serotonin Syndrome. If prisoners can find this much information, and more, surely those people can find it.

We strongly suggest that the public be aware of the possible consequences of these medications. Many people take them with no apparent problems, but as with other medications, great caution should be used, and IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD PRESCRIBED DRUGS BE MIXED WITH ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. THAT IS A SURE RECIPE FOR TRAGEDY. THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY!!!

#### **WEB SITES TO FIND OUT MORE:**

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR DRUG AWARENESS  
[www.drugawareness.org](http://www.drugawareness.org)

PETER BREGGIN M.D.  
[www.breggin.com](http://www.breggin.com)

**NEWS NOTE FROM 60 MINUTES II, FEBRUARY 19, 2003:**

PROZAC WEEKLY is now being marketed. Eli Lilly Company recently tried a scheme to send "samples" of Prozac Weekly to Florida patients whose names were lifted from their doctor's computers, urging them to switch to the new medication!

**METHADONE**

Methadone, a drug long valued for treating heroin addiction and for soothing chronic pain, is being abused by "recreational drug users", causing an alarming increase in overdoses and deaths. Officials say it is the fastest rising killer drug. The increase in overdoses and deaths has astounded experts because methadone does not provide a quick or potent high and it works more like a sedative than a stimulant. (New York Times)

**OTHER POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS MEDICATIONS**

Information from a January television program on the malarial drug, LARIAM, produced by Roche Laboratories:

Although Lariam is "good" at preventing malaria, it may also cause hallucinations and psychotic episodes. Roche supposedly had reports from only 1 in 10,000 people on such side-effects, but in a study by a Dr. Clark the findings showed closed to 1 in 140 had severe side-effects. 3,000 reports of aggression, paranoia, confusion, etc. were mentioned. Soldiers given the drug routinely began calling days of the week by nicknames for the days shots were given (Maniac Mondays and Wild Wednesdays) due to the side effects, such as negative, aggressive yelling, screaming, panic attacks, etc. There have been complaints since 1996 about Lariam.

Side effects listed on the drug label mention depression, hallucinations, psychotic episodes, etc., but nothing about suicide or deep psychiatric problems, but the show said that Roche knew of 7 suicides and 13 attempts made outside the U.S. and one in the U.S. more recently.

A Cincinnati Enquirer article tells of a Bethel widow, Linda Perry, whose husband committed suicide after taking Lariam. She says, "I saw what Lariam can do. It took a perfectly healthy man at the prime of his life and destroyed him. It was complete madness, like rabies or encephalitis." Her husband was an administrator for Tennessee-based Quorum Health Resources' for Greater Cincinnati.

Mrs. Perry applauds the Army's decision to investigate whether the anti-malaria drug was behind the actions of four servicemen who are accused of killing their wives. Two committed the murders after returning home from Afghanistan. The Army is investigating whether the use of Lariam--which affects the brain and can trigger vivid dreams, hallucinations, tinnitus, anxiety and depression--is the common thread linking the killings.

**STATES CAN MAKE INMATES SANE ENOUGH TO EXECUTE**

The federal appeals court in St. Louis ruled on 02/10/03, that officials in Arkansas can force a prisoner on death row to take antipsychotic medication to make him sane enough to execute. Without the drugs, the prisoner, Charles Singleton, could not be put to death under a US Supreme Court decision that prohibits the execution of the insane. The appeals court's 6-5 decision allows such an execution. Judge Wollman of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals said "Eligibility for execution is the only unwanted consequence of the medication." Judge Gerald W. Heaney, in his dissent, said there was a 3rd choice. He would have allowed Mr. Singleton to be medicated without fear of execution. "I believe that to execute a man who is severely deranged without treatment, and arguably incompetent when treated, is the pinnacle of what Justice Marshall called 'the barbarity of exacting mindless vengeance.'" (In 1986 the US Supreme Court held in an opinion by Justice Thurgood Marshall, that the execution of the insane was barred by the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.)

Judge Heaney added that the majority's holding presented doctors with an impossible ethical choice. The American Medical Association's ethical guidelines prohibit giving medical treatment that would make people competent to be executed. Dr. Howard Zonana, who teaches psychiatry and law at Yale said, "YOU CAN'T TREAT SOMEONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING THEM." (New York Times, by Adam Liptak)

**THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY**



1120 Garden Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214 (513) 241-0490

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Permit No. 486

Address Service Requested

### FAVORITE QUOTES

Re: the looming war with Iraq: "it's like taking a baseball bat to a hornet's nest!"  
(Jerry Springer, former Cincinnati Mayor)

"Paxil is not good. You can't get off it. It made me think I was too old for sex, then I committed a sex crime. After 5 years I am trying to get off. The withdrawal is bad, but God is giving me the peace I long for. Please pray for me." (WM, NC prisoner)

"I kept telling the police, 'I don't know who killed my mother, I don't know anything.' They said if I didn't quit saying that they'd put me in a Nut House forever. Then they gave me my Zanax bottle and said, 'You'll need these'--so I started taking more of them--this went on for 12 hours. I finally gave up and said I did it, just to get them to leave me alone!" (DP, OK prisoner)

"I am allergic to alcohol and narcotics. I break out in handcuffs." (Robert Downey Jr.)