

# Justice Watch

## Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2004

Spring 2004

*SCRIPTURE: "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."*

*Leviticus 19: 15, 18*

"Many years ago, an axiom of American Justice was: It is better for 100 guilty persons to go free, than to unjustly punish 1 innocent person. In the 1970's this self-evident truth began to change. The current Judicial & Legislative standards are that it is better to incarcerate or even execute 100 innocent persons than to let one guilty person go unpunished." (Jacob F)

**LISTEN CLOSELY TO THE ELECTION YEAR RHETORIC!**

**TAKE CARE WHO YOU VOTE FOR!**

**WAKE UP AMERICANS!**

### "JUSTICE WITHHELD"

Columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr., speaks to his people, African-Americans, quoting a Miami Herald article, which details abuse of a legal procedure called "withholding of adjudication". FL judges use it to allow felony offenders to avoid a conviction. Receiving a 'withhold' allows you to say you've never been convicted of a crime, even though a court found you guilty. The benefits: You retain the right to vote, hold office, & don't have to put the crime on job or student loan applications. In theory, the few given, only go to deserving people, in extenuating circumstances. In practice, they are handed out like Halloween candy. Rapists, forgers, thieves & drug dealers get withholds.

Guess who doesn't! Black offenders! Even with the same crime & the same record, a white offender is almost 50% more likely to get a withhold than a black one. The Herald report shows that, even when adjusted for cost of a private attorney, rather than the poor who rely on overburdened, underpaid public defenders, black defendants are still much less likely to receive "withholds".

Mr. Pitts concludes: "the injustice system sees no value in blacks, is comfortable throwing us away like so much used tissue. It doesn't give a damn about us. But our children do, our women, mothers & fathers do. So let us love them--and ourselves--enough to stay as far from that system as humanly possible. Because once you're in it, you're like a dinosaur in a tar pit. Dragged down. You see, when you discover that a game is rigged against you, you have every right to complain that you're being cheated. But a smart man does one thing more: A smart man stops playing that game. I'm weary of the truth in that old Richard Pryor line about how he went to court looking for justice and that's what he found. Just us! Can we please stop being such good customers of the American injustice system? We don't get second chances, don't have the same margin for error a white guy would. One strike, and you're out. We need to recognize this. Need to make sure our sons and brothers recognize this."

### WHO WOULD THINK?

BY JOHN BELL AND GRAHAM MAULE, SCOTLAND, 1990  
(ISAIAH 11: 1-6, MATTHEW 2: 1-11, LUKE 2: 8-14)

WHO WOULD THINK THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED  
TO TRANSFORM AND SAVE THE EARTH  
MIGHT NOT BE A PLAN OR ARMY  
PROUD IN PURPOSE, PROVED IN WORTH?  
WHO WOULD THINK DESPITE DERISION,  
THAT A CHILD SHOULD LEAD THE WAY?  
GOD SURPRISES EARTH WITH HEAVEN,  
COMING HERE ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

SHEPHERDS WATCH AND SAGES WONDER,  
MONARCHS SCORN AND ANGELS SING;  
SUCH A PLACE AS NONE WOULD RECKON  
HOSTS A HOLY, HELPLESS THING;  
STABLED BEASTS AND PASSING STRANGERS  
WATCH A BABY LAID IN HAY:  
GOD SURPRISES EARTH WITH HEAVEN,  
COMING HERE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

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**HEAR YE, HEAR YE! JUSTICE WATCH NEWSLETTER WEBSITE!**

[justicewatchinc.org](http://justicewatchinc.org)

Thanks to the many, many of you who sent Holiday greetings to the Justice Watch Board and Newsletter staff. Your appreciation keeps us energized and believing in the worth of the struggle for Justice!

Also, a special thanks to the Sisters of Charity for a grant, and to ALL OF YOU who help keep the Newsletter going. With your help we'll make it through 2004!

**JUSTICE WATCH NEWSLETTER INFO!**

WANT THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER? SEND A DONATION OF \$1.00 PER ISSUE (\$3 A YEAR) TO HELP PAY FOR PRINTING AND MAILING. (stamps, envelopes accepted. Ignore this request IF you sent \$3 after July 2003).

"Interested, But Indigent"? TELL US! We'll add you to the "IBI" list. Some donors send extra \$\$\$, to send free copies. You may be blessed by their generosity for now and can send your own donation later. Remember: SHARE YOUR COPY WITH OTHERS! PASS IT ON!

DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEB SITE? Send your email address. We'll notify you when the new issue is on-line, for FREE.

A FRIEND SUGGESTS EACH ONE WHO DOWNLOADS COULD PRINT AN EXTRA COPY AND MAIL IT TO A PRISONER. WE CAN SUPPLY THE ADDRESS OF ONE ON OUR "IBI" LIST. ASK FOR MALE, OR FEMALE, WITH YOUR FIRST OR LAST NAME, OR FROM YOUR HOME STATE. A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP ANOTHER, AND BEGIN A FRIENDSHIP. Want to try this? Send your email address--we'll send you a name and address. Not sure about using your return address on mail to prison? Use JW Watch return address. If a thank you is sent, we'll pass it on!

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! KEEP YOUR ADDRESS UPDATED! If you move, ANYWHERE, or are released, send OLD & NEW ADDRESS to Justice Watch. You'll get your copy, we'll save return postage. THIS COPY IS BEING "TABBED"--to keep inside from falling out. We hope mail staffs allows 1 tab. If there are problems, please inform us immediately.

HELP: We can't find ROBERT PERIU, PA, & ED COUCH, TX 78538-need #, address! Donations sent for them!

NOTE: WE HAVE NO LEGAL STAFF! DO NOT SEND US YOUR LEGAL PAPERS. We do accept short articles, info & "Originals". We print all we can. Thanks!

HAVE YOU HEARD? Justice Watch needs help! Garden Street Transitional House is operated on City and HUD homeless grants & donations from charitable organizations and friends. Grants & donations have decreased, while insurance rates doubled, utilities, & other costs increased. We'll exhaust all reserve funds by the end of 2004! We're committed to helping homeless ex-prisoners, & to sending our newsletter to prisoners, and supporters of Justice. That takes commitment. JUSTICE WATCH NEEDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS. WE NEED YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT. WILLING TO HELP? CALL 241-0490, LEAVE NAME AND NUMBER. WE'LL CALL YOU BACK, ASAP!

*KIDS ADVICE TO KIDS*

Never trust a dog to watch your food.

If your dad is mad and says, "Do I look stupid?"  
don't answer!

Don't pick on your sister if she's holding a baseball bat.  
Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick.

**FREE TO PRISONERS!** READ "99 Days and A Get Up" by Ned Rollo, published by Open INC., PO Box 472223, Garland TX 75047-2223. Wm. J of VA says: "This is, by far, the best book on preparing for release. Do's & Don'ts on release. Easy reading, covering the entire spectrum on getting out and staying out. A can't miss roadmap on avoiding those stupid mistakes that bring so many back to prison."

**ALERT!**

LISTEN UP PRISONERS, FAMILIES AND ACTIVISTS! FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PRISONERS!  
HERE'S A CHANCE TO BAND TOGETHER, TO LET AMERICA KNOW,  
TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON LEGISLATORS!  
GET OUT PENS & PAPER!

OUR THANKS TO FEDERAL CURE FOR THIS BEGINNING AND OPPORTUNITY!  
FEDERAL CURE, INC. PO Box 15667, Plantation, FL 33317-1731,  
www.FedCURE.orgINFORMATION@FedCure.org

A Federal Cure member, by email, told of their massive media campaign to take the message of prisoners to American legislators. They are doing radio talk shows and appearing on MSNBC, CNBC and Fox and other television, committed to insuring that lawmakers and the public realize that it is time for America to get Smart on Crime, and vote for Restorative Justice. They asked many to write by Valentines Day to Senators and Congresspersons about prisoners concerns.

We read, "One thing I hear repeatedly when talking to members of Congress is that they didn't know about the problems in the federal (or other) prison systems, because they never hear from their constituents! By far the most effective letters are those containing your stories and talking about the reality of incarceration. If reform efforts fail it will be because prisoners (and their families) have not done their part by writing letters to lawmakers. Change will take many, many letters, faxes, emails and phone calls."

Many prisoners don't know what to write. Fed-Cure has sample letters to give you ideas on how to write. They suggest writing to support the Literacy, Education, and Rehabilitation Act of 2003. This mentions Federal prisoners, BUT, if the Feds change, states will change.

Stand up for all prisoners! The same problems are in all prisons. What helps one helps another. Too many focus on what is hurtful to their race, their religion, their own case. If change is going to happen, we all have to pull together and get help for all. Instead of blaming lawmakers we must let them, and the public, know the problems and what must be done to make it better!

Anyone who wants more info on the Literacy, Education and Rehabilitation Act, sample letters, or more ideas of ways to help, may contact JW or Federal Cure. For names and addresses of your Senators and Representatives, write home, check local papers, etc. If you want to write, but don't know the appropriate politician, JW will try to help.

- KEEP LETTERS SHORT, AND TO THE POINT! Tell what you need help with (innocence, appeals, release plans, education, job training, abuse, lock-down, max conditions, food shortages, over-priced commissary items & phone calls, visits, medical service, etc., etc.)
- ALWAYS BE POLITE. NO RHETORIC, NO "POOR-ME", NO LEGAL JARGON! Be sure to write neatly, clearly, and send a clear prison name, your name and # and address. Your editor reads many letters from prisoners! 99 percent are helpful, polite and a blessing. YOU CAN DO IT!
- WRITE A LETTER A WEEK, OR TWO A MONTH! Don't stop because Valentine's Day is past! Write about how prison has affected your parents--write for Mother's Day, for Father's Day, for the Fourth of July, and often. Tell of your problems, and other's needs!
- THANK THEM FOR LISTENING! BE CREATIVE VOICES FROM BEHIND BARS!
- FAMILIES AND FRIENDS! You can vote! Write asking legislators why they vote tough on crime and make new laws, & longer sentences. Ask them to support education and rehabilitation, good time, addiction programs and help instead of just maxing human beings in steel warehouses!

***LAST LINE OF ALL SENATORS ADDRESSES IS: WASHINGTON DC 20510***

AZ Sen. John McCain, 241 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
CO Sen. Ben Campbell, 380 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
GA Sen. Zell Miller, 257 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
IL Sen. Richard Durbin, 332 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
IN Sen. Richard Lugar, 306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
KY Sen. Jim Bunning, 316 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
LA Sen. Mary Landrieu, 724 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
MI Sen. Debbie Stabenow, 702 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

NC Sen. John Edwards, 225 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
NY Sen. Hillary Clinton, 476 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
OR Sen. Ron Wyden, 516 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
PA Sen. Rick Santorum, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
TN Sen. Lamar Alexander, 302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
VA Sen. George Allen, 204 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
WA Sen. Maria Cantwell, 717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
WI Sen. Herb Kohl, 330 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

## **GO TO PRISON, SEE THE STATES!**

Exporting inmates, is a low-cost alternative to building prisons. Private prisons, housing most out-of-state inmates, charge less per inmate than a state pays to imprison them in-state.

CT authorizes the transfer of 2,500 inmates to save \$ and relieve over-crowding so severe that some inmates sleep on cots in cafeterias. VT has over 500 inmates in VA but is going to place up to 700 inmates in KY and TN private prisons run by CCA. HI prisoners go to AZ or OK; IN moves some to KY; WA has prisoners in NV; Alaska sends prisoners to AZ. WI is building 2 new prisons to bring back 276 men from MN and OK. WY sends inmates to CO and NV; 5,800 District of Columbia inmates are in Fed. prisons. For inmates and families, out of state transfers add anguish to the hardships of incarceration. (David Crary, Assoc. Press)

## **SEX SLAVES!**

IN THE News! Two prisoners at Buckeye, AZ took two guards hostage! What's NOT IN THE NEWS are pleas from prisoners about the horror of prisoner rape and sexual slavery there. Nothing is done to stop it. Society pretends these acts of violence don't happen--crimes, mainly perpetrated by heterosexuals against anyone perceived to be homosexual, trans-sexual, young or vulnerable are ignored. Authorities should consider the effects of such constant threats of violence where there is no chance to escape. The horrors increase and continue to ensnare many lives. No protective custody is given even when proof is shown of the abuse. Due to AIDS and Hep-C those who are trapped in the prison rape and sex slave trade are given a death sentence no matter what the original sentence ordered by a court, and live with depression, loss of self esteem and perpetual terror.

We are told such violence has been curtailed for years in San Francisco by keeping vulnerable prisoners separated from those known to be violent. The "San Francisco protocol" of 1979 is said to have drastically reduced rape and sex slavery. Isn't this possible in every prison?

A footnote: The guard who was released at ASPC-Lewis, in Buckeye, commended the Administration for not attacking the two prisoners holding her. She was released after officials guaranteed the 2 men would be transferred out of Arizona to another state. Guess they were desperate. Why? (see above article) WAKE UP AMERICANS!

## **HARD QUESTIONS!**

- Should a non-violent, American veteran, die in prison for attempting to shoplift over-counter pain medication?
- Should citizens die in prison for possessing small amounts of marijuana?
- Should non-violent people spend their lives in prison for traffic violations?
- Should crucial programs and services for all Americans end, to pay to warehouse non-violent people for 25-to-life?

Twenty-six states have 3-Strikes laws, none as harsh as California's in allowing minor, nonviolent conduct to trigger life sentences. In a nation that prides itself on basic human decency, mandatory minimum sentences of 25-to-life for misdemeanor conduct do not serve any purpose, from either an economical or moral viewpoint.

The cost of incarcerating a non-violent "2nd" and "3<sup>rd</sup> strike" prisoner is nearly \$30,000 a year. CA has 30,000+ prisoners. By the time these "3rd strikers" serve their sentence, in a max-security cell, each will cost nearly a million dollars, for a total of \$2-3 BILLION.

TO HELP CHANGE CA'S 3-STRIKES LAW CONTACT: CAVC (Citizens Against Violent Crime) (714) 780-8901, 12922 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92840; and FACTS (Families to Amend CA'S Three Strikes) (213) 746-4844.

*Quote from a CA traffic officer's testimony as to why a man was arrested:* "I think there was a headlight or a taillight out on the vehicle. We were going to stop him for it, because that day our squad was having a little contest to see who could rack up the most contacts that night, and there had to have been a violation there." *The driver is now serving 25 years to life!* (see above article!) WAKE UP AMERICANS!

## WHO ARE THE BAD GUYS IN THE SUPERMAX? One Prisoner's Testimony

After a minor altercation at a CT Medium Security prison "John Doe" (real person, name changed) was 'identified' as a Security Risk Group (SRG) affiliate (gang member) by a 'confidential informant'. Based solely on this man's testimony, (no corroborating evidence or proof) Doe was found guilty of being an SRG member and transferred to the Supermax prison. Doe strongly denied being an SRG member but his phone, mail and visiting privileges were suspended for 6 months. He was "allowed access to attorneys", but knew little about such. He had no legal resources.

Finally his family got a lawyer to challenge the SRG status in state court. The Judge ruled the affiliation was a "Classification Decision" internal to DOC so they can classify him any way they want. There were no legal remedies.

By the time the case was adjudicated Doe had been "maxed" for 18 months in conditions so abusive that he was desperate to do anything to change them, so he signed "Renunciation papers" ("copped a plea"). The papers made him admit to being a gang member and renounce the gang. He lied, but the lie allowed him to start a year-long 'program'. Successful completion got him a transfer back to a 'normal' prison. The gang that he was told he was a member of had one other member and had long been defunct.

When asked what living at the Supermax is like Doe said it is full of staff assaults on prisoners, many perpetrated by Lt's & Capt's. If force is used it is supposed to be videotaped with a Lt. present. He orders "Off Camera" and the inmate is beaten. (2+ times a day, usually).

Worst Max classification is Ad Seg meaning no TV, no radio, nothing in the cell. Some are there for years, driving them completely insane. Next classification is Chronic Discipline, a block for people with too many tickets. They have only a radio. Phases 2 and 3 of the gang program got incrementally better and lasted 6 months. If you had a minor infraction (such as not making your bed) you had to start all over. More screw ups means Ad Seg, AGAIN!

Psychological evaluations in this environment are done by walking by the cells asking "Are you alright?" Restraints are used as punishment. Some people are in 4 point restraints for weeks. One hand is released so he can feed himself. Soiling during toileting is common.

Doe saw stun shields used by the 'goon squad'. Once they repeatedly shocked a 17 year old kid who weighed about 90 lbs. He was knocked off his feet so the huge guard carried the kid off by his hair while the boy screamed.

Chemical sprays (Mace, Capstun) are used any time a cell is entered--spray first at the inmate--don't allow him to wash it off. Some officers give extra food trays as payment for one convict assaulting other inmates they chain up before he begins.

Medical treatment does not happen, but nail clippers are "community used" spreading nail fungus and Hep C. Doe saw men forced into cells where the other occupant was so mentally ill he was naked and smeared with his own feces.

LIFE IS GOOD FOR THE FEW AND THE FREE: "If you woke up this morning, you're ahead of 1 million people who didn't survive the week. If you can sit down, read the paper and drink a cup of coffee, you're better off than 500 million men, women and children around the world who experience the horrors of loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation and homelessness. If you attend church without threat, you've a freedom envied by 2 billion others who've never been inside one. If you have food, clothes, and a shelter, you're richer than 75% of the earth's people. If you've money in the bank, you're among the world's top 8%. If you can read this, you're ahead of 1/3 of the people on the planet who are illiterate. (THANKS, DAVID H, IN)

From an OH Parolee OH: "Things are going very slowly for me, but I love being "free". I'm on minimum parole supervision, but my parole officer has set requirements which limit my ability to make a living in my former profession. After years in OH prisons I'm severely handicapped-can't do much physical work. I could do consultant work in Columbus, but I'm not allowed to go there. There are no jobs locally I'm qualified for. Advice to those coming out is: "Officials will act as stumbling blocks. They try to make you lose control, so you can be sent back. Don't lose control, even if you must swallow your pride. Be strong, follow the rules. Make the law work for, not against you.

## PRISON INFORMATION

Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati sponsors an Adult Basic Reading Program at Lebanon CI. The program begins by teaching sounds of letters, building from there. Focus is on writing, spelling, listening, etc. According to Stephanie Graves, Director, 70% of OH inmates read at or below 3rd grade level, due to undiagnosed and untreated reading disabilities. Lebanon CI has long-term prisoners and was willing to accommodate an on-site class.

(The people who write to Justice Watch and enjoy reading our Newsletter are not poor readers. We receive many letters, all very sane and well written from prisoners across the USA)

**MAYBE IT'S TIME TO FUND OUR SCHOOLS?** Could we save money by teaching BEFORE PRISON, rather than IN PRISON? If 70% of prisoners are "reading disabled" maybe we should have more than 1 class of 14 inmates!

PA'S DOC budgeted \$33,000 per inmate in 2001-02. Philadelphia Public Schools spent \$7,000 per student per year. In PA, in the last 20 years, spending for prisons increased 452%! Educational spending increased only 86%.

**WAKE UP AMERICANS!**

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From most states: Many complaints about lack of exercise/recreation for men held in cells 24/7. Rules say they have a chance to exercise several times a week. In many doesn't happen. Meals are cut back, medical conditions are worsening.

**WAKE UP AMERICA! THESE ARE HUMAN BEINGS!**

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**VA SLEEP DEPRIVATION!** A VA prison allows gambling/cards, etc. during POD-REC until 11:30 PM week nights, until 1:00 AM on Friday & Saturday. Then janitors with loud floor buffers work until 3 AM. At 4:15 AM the kitchen crew comes through. Thus, no quiet time to sleep! Gambling has become the major support for gangs which have taken over most of the prison. Many Staff participate, ignoring the illegal debts run up by indigent prisoners who slam cards and dominos on the metal tables 18 hours a day.

Lack of sleep causes many health and personality problems and does not help prepare prisoners for release back into society. Who made this policy? How widespread is it? Why? To keep the Prison-Industrial Complex in business?

**WAKE UP, LET THEM GET SOME REST!**

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From **TX**: Is Common Law Marriage recognized in the prison system? What must a person do to be allowed visits by a common-law wife? Any info?

**IN** inmates filed a complaint saying Madison Co. Jail is infested with maggots. They want the county to hold inspections and pay for an exterminator. Others report that toilet paper is being rationed, 2 small rolls a week instead of 4 (per man? per cell?). State supplied envelopes are cut back. The only meat served is chicken (processed turkey), once a week. Similar reports come from **OH**, **LCI** regarding food, maggots, birds and filthy food areas.

From **ME**: YOU WORK A FULL 40 QUARTERS DURING YOUR LIFE, HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY DEDUCTED REGULARLY, THEN GO TO PRISON AT AGE 66. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY YOU PUT INTO SOCIAL SECURITY? IN PRISON, ARE YOU NOT ENTITLED TO IT? ARE THERE WAYS TO FILE TO HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR DEPENDENTS, OR TO A BANK ACCOUNT TO PAY AN ATTORNEY? ANSWERS? (R. A., ME prisoner)

From **PA**: Act 35, put into effect 1990, required DNA testing for sex-offenders. Now, many who were in before 1990, for other than sex-offenses are now being forced to give DNA samples. Why? Also: Why are ex-prisoners required to pay \$25.00 every time they are ordered see a Parole Agent? How can they ever "get ahead" when they must pay for mandated programs, court costs, and parole visits?

**MAKE THE POOR EVEN POORER--AND KEEP THEM THAT WAY! WAKE UP AMERICANS!**

**AR** prisoners report litigating a class action law suit against Correctional Medical Services. At their unit there are numerous "spider bites" (as reported in Ohio where there was an MRSA outbreak and a prisoner died). CMC ignores the problems and blames DOC for "not containing the vermin". (which vermin? ? Spiders? Prisoners?)

## PRISON INFORMATION

**TX Dinner Loaf:** "the last time I ate a `dinner loaf' I was unable to urinate. Urine was coming out of my pores. I had to take antibiotics to cure the problem. The staff refused to admit the cause was the loaf. I swore to never eat one again. I'm back in segregation because I spit on a Sgt. after she gassed me with a Mace substance (she said because I looked at her). Next she cuffed my hands behind my back, and asked for my ID. It was in my front pocket. With cuffs I couldn't reach it. She kept after me to give it to her, so I spit. Now I'll starve for 7 days."

A **TX** prisoner asks how to find what job categories are prohibited to felons. Last Spring's issue said 100 job categories are not open to released felons, but we had no information on what those are--can anyone help? Another good question is: Can a felon **WITHOUT** a drug conviction obtain a student loan? (The government forbids such loans to persons convicted of drug charges). What **IS** available to help parolees?

**PRIORITIES!** **TX** cut daily calories from 2,700 to 2,500. Others serve 2 meals a day on weekends. CA just spent \$220 million on a new Death Chamber! **WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO SPEND TAX DOLLARS FOR?**

### **HUNGER STRIKE IN A WING OF FLORIDA STATE PRISON! WHY?**

Because arbitrary and capricious conditions are maliciously forced on inmates without penological justification. Examples:

- 1) Confinement to a 63 sq. ft cell, 24/7, 29 days a month.
- 2) No TV's, radio's, papers, books--nothing for the mind.
- 3) Visitation and phone calls denied for months/years.
- 4) Canteen/Commissary denied. Not enough food/clothing.
- 5) Shampoo, mouthwash & deodorant denied.

Chapter 33-601.820 of the Maximum Management Florida Administrative Codes states that this is to be a temporary status for an inmate who through a current/recent incident requires an immediate level of control. Record's reveal that most of the inmates held under this rule have been Disciplinary Report free for months or years, yet are still deprived of all rights. Section (4)C of the rule says that upon positive adjustment the inmates conditions will be extended to that of Close Management 1. It doesn't happen!

Inmates request a Directive for Release to be added to this rule to end manipulation of it & to end its use as a continuous punitive isolation. They want exercise (even in a small cage), adequate clothing/ food, reading materials & radios, & the restoration of canteen & commissary privileges to the level of CM1 or death row status. They ask for phone and visitation rights and no denials of the above without procedural due process being afforded.

### **WARNING FROM A FORMER POLICEMAN--BEWARE OF PROZAC!**

"In 1989 I was very depressed having lost my job. My father was terminally ill and my marriage was falling apart. So, I did the right thing. I looked for help. The help I got from a psychiatrist (now in Federal Prison for Medicare Fraud) was a Rx for **PROZAC**. Soon after being put on the drug I was sitting in jail charged with Capital Murder. I am now doing a life sentence. Thank you so much Eli Lilly Company. I had no prior violent behavior and none after going off Prozac. When will someone realize we too are victims.

**DRUGS FOR CHILDREN?** Doctors may prescribe a drug approved for one condition--say, depression, in adults, to any patient, of any age, for any reason. The FDA is now reviewing such drugs as Prozac, Paxil, Zoloft and other anti-depressants to see if they are safe for children. 15 studies designed to test the effectiveness of these drugs in treating depression in children. 3 came back positive, 2 were inconclusive and 10 were negative. For more info see:

[www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/Paxil/paxilQ&A.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/Paxil/paxilQ&A.htm)

[www.mhra.gov.uk/news/ssri\\_101203.htm](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/news/ssri_101203.htm) (Britain)

[www.hc-sc.gcc.ca/english/protection/warnings/2004/2004\\_02.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gcc.ca/english/protection/warnings/2004/2004_02.htm) (Canada)

CA Sen. Dianne Feinstein, 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

CA Sen. Barbara Boxer, 112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

FL Sen. Bob Graham, 524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

FL Sen. Bill Nelson, 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

TX Sen. John Coryn, 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

TX Sen. Kay Hutchison, 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

All above, final line is: WASHINGTON DC 20510

OK Sen. Don Nickles, 133 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

NM Sen. Jeff Bingham, 703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

NJ Sen. Jon Corzine, 502 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

NE Sen. Ben Nelson, 720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

IA Sen. Tom Harkin, 731 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

DE Sen. Joe Biden, 201 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

## LEGAL ISSUES

### **WAKE UP AMERICANS! SAVE TAX DOLLARS, SAVE A LIFE, FREE THE INNOCENT!**

#### WRONGFUL CONVICTION FACTS

Statistics show that over 2 million people are incarcerated in the USA. Of those 3-4% are actually innocent; that's 70,000-80,000 people being held captive for crimes they did not commit in the "Land of the Free".

For info, visit [www.freemayo.com](http://www.freemayo.com)

Send letters of courage to: Wm. Mayo 693216, Central State Prison - E1, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd, Macon GA 31208

FL has released 23 innocent men from death row, with \$100 and a 1 way bus ticket. They must sue to get compensation for wrongful imprisonment. Freddie Pitts and Wilbert Lee, after 9 years on death row, petitioned the state 19 times before they received \$500,000 each. CA gives such inmates \$100 a day for each day of wrongful incarceration. Texas caps compensation at \$500,000. Iowa offers up to \$25,000 a year. 15 states, the Feds and DC offer some compensation if convictions are reversed and innocence proved.

The Americans with Disabilities Act says it is unlawful for public facilities to deny access to people with disabilities. The state of TN says that's a federal law and the state is not obliged to honor it. If you are supposed to be in court, and have a disability, TN says it's OK to make you crawl up the stairs. This brings a case to the Supreme Court. If the Court finds in favor of TN in this case it will put citizens with disabilities right back to 1990 when the ADA was passed, making it illegal to discriminate against disabled persons. (Deborah Kendrick, Cincinnati Enquirer, email [dkkendrick@earthlink.net](mailto:dkkendrick@earthlink.net))

#### MORE CRIMES ARE NOW FEDERAL CASES

Many crimes once handled by states--including rape, drug trafficking, and murder--now come under federal authority. Congress has created so many national crimes in so many sections of legal code that no one has an exact count, maybe 3,500 by some legal surveys. More than 45% have come on the books since 1970. Over 30 federal agencies now have authority to make arrests. The justice work force has doubled since 1982, to 194,000, handling 67,000 new criminal cases in 2002--more than twice the number 20 years before. Such cases "clog the federal courts and utilize federal resources in matters being prosecuted very well by local authorities," says former U.S. Atty. General Ed Meese.

"The historical fear against federalizing crime has always been 'we don't want a national police power' and we're very near that", said Gerry Moohr, law professor, U. of Houston. John Baker Jr., a prosecutor who teaches law at LA State University says, "...the feds are just way out of control. They're alcoholics; you can't stop them."

There's hardly a type of crime that Congress hasn't targeted in past decades, often by overwhelming votes with little debate. "It's politically tempting," says retired Sen. Fred Thompson. "You'll get very little push back from people who oppose it." (Jeff Donn, Assoc. Press)

The US Supreme Court will review a MO Supreme Court ruling that execution for youthful crime offends the Constitution's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. MO's ruling is based on the fact that most states have quit the practice in moral revulsion. Of the 38 states that execute, 17 bar the death penalty for offenders under 18. Most states that retain the option shun it. ONLY OK, VA AND TX HAVE KILLED A JUVENILE IN THE LAST DECADE. TX KILLED 13 OF THE 22 JUVENILES EXECUTED SINCE 1976. TX HOLDS 1/3 OF THE JUVENILES ON THE NATION'S DEATH ROWS.

The Supreme Court review says something about us—and it is not pretty--that the USA is the only nation that rejects the U.N.'s Convention on the Rights of the Child and that we do so just because we want to keep killing children. (Tom Teepen, Cox Newspapers, a 1953 graduate of Greenhills-now Winton Woods-High School. Write him c/o The Atlanta Constitution, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta GA 30302)

Alabama Death Row population has doubled to 190 people. 300 more face capital murder trials.

Send help to: Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty, PO Box 1362, Lanett Alabama 36863

WRITE TO:

AL Sen. Jeff Sessions, 335 Russell Senate Off. Bldg.

AL Sen. Richard Shelby, 110 Hart Senate Off. Bldg.

All are at WASHINGTON DC 20510

MS Sen. Thad Cochran, 113 Dirksen Senate Off. Bldg.

MO Sen. James Talent, 493 Russell Senate Off. Bldg.

## DEATH PENALTY NEWS

The Illinois Supreme Court ruled that former Gov. George Ryan had the power to commute the sentences of everyone on the state's death row before he left office. The Justices found that a governor's pardon power is essentially unreviewable. Ryan was nominated for the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for his actions on the death penalty. (Assoc. Press, Ryan Keith)

Austin and Houston Counties in Texas hold the country's record for having the most executions, accounting for 1/3 of the executions in the USA, but still have the highest murder rate in the country.

THE DEATH PENALTY DOES NOT ACT AS A DETERRENT TO MURDER. (Scott Turow, author)

Utah Protocol for executions by firing squad:

The prisoner wears dark clothes so the blood isn't as obvious. The chair has channels on the side and a pan underneath to collect blood and body fluids. A white circle is fixed over the heart with Velcro.

Thick sandbags are placed behind the chair to absorb the bullets and keep them from bouncing around the execution chamber. The victim is restrained in a chair by arms, legs, head and chest.

The head is covered with a thick black hood. There are 5 gun ports in front of the chair, containing 5 identical .30 caliber rifles--one holds a blank so each executioner can rationalize that he wasn't complicit in this well planned murder: (Duh, it wasn't me!)

**News Flash!** UT is debating whether to change to lethal injection, or to allow those on death row to choose firing squads (to "go out in a blaze of glory"). Sen. Dave Thomas (R) says "media circuses are exactly what we want--we don't want these carried out in the dead of night! Lethal injection is painless, an easy way out." WAKE UP UTAH!

WRITE TO: Sen. Robert Bennett, 431 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510

Lucasville, OH--Mr. Lewis Williams struggled with guards and shouted for God's help before the state killed him. The killers forcibly lifted Lewis Williams from his knees and forced his hand off the edge of a table next door to the crime scene. Professing his innocence even as he was carried into the killing field, Lewis cried out, "I'm not guilty, God, please help me." His 66 year old mother watched as her son was killed. (Associated Press, Andrew Welsh-Huggins) Ohio has killed another man, and another pre-meditated murder is planned in March.

Austin, TX--Due to the US Supreme Court ruling against execution of mentally retarded persons, more than 40 death row cases were reviewed in TX. Death Row supporters & critics both agree: change is needed to decide mental retardation earlier in death cases to reduce the burden on federal and state appeals courts. "Texas has no system in place and what we have is chaos," said Steve Hall, director of StandDown Texas, which opposes the death penalty. Most states have followed nationally accepted guidelines that define retardation as significantly below-average intellect combines with low "adaptive" skills at such things as communicating and taking care of oneself. (Jim Vertune, Assoc. Press)

## MEDICAL DEATH NEWS

A AZ prisoner asks about prison deaths caused by medical malpractice. EXAMPLES: Two nurses at a juvenile jail are now charged with murder because they skipped exams and falsified medical records on 17 year old Omar Paisley, who spent his last days "in agony lying on a concrete bed." He died of a burst appendix. The women face charges of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree murder and aggravated manslaughter of a child.

A 62 year old man with epilepsy, arthritis, spinal and nerve damage and stroke-related problems who cannot move without a wheelchair is ordered to walk to the cell door to be cuffed with hands behind him. Upon his refusal, due to his condition, he's zapped with a laser gun, gassed and pepper sprayed in the eyes. Is this NECESSARY?

Are 3 deaths in a single AZ unit from medical neglect and abuse not enough to make officials look for reasons, for better care for humans?

## WAR ON TERROR IN PERSPECTIVE

EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING YOU DON'T GET UNTIL JUST AFTER YOU NEED IT."

-Steven Wright

### AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON PRISONS AND THE WAR ON TERROR

(from an article by Pierre Tristam, News-Journal editorial writer. Reach him at: [ptristam@att.net](mailto:ptristam@att.net) <<mailto:ptristam!att.net>>.)

"In retrospect, building a \$76 million federal prison in Appalachia a decade ago made sense, in its own senseless way. It was a kind of boost, encouraging people to buy into the idea of security through Razor Wire, an easy opportunity to foster a culture of punishment and an industry to go with it regardless of the cost to society or the evidence that whips and chains aren't the answer to crime instead of balanced laws, strong safety nets and strong economies. The result is a nation spending over \$50 billion a year on prisons, close to \$70 per inmate per day.

The prison industry is `bigger than major league baseball, bigger than the porn industry' according to Wall Street Journal reporter John Hallinan's book on prisons. Companies from AT & T to Procter & Gamble are cashing in, so are state governments (Florida made \$13.8 million off of inmate phone calls in 1997). Close to half a million people earn their living from prison jobs, double the proportion in 1980. What goes in must come out. A reverse exodus of inmates is flooding back to society. They'll be hardened, disadvantaged and disenfranchised.

In Tamms, IL, a sign says "WELCOME TO TAMMS/THE HOME OF THE SUPERMAX", as if hosting one of the nation's harshest prisons were an honor. A diner there sells the "Supermax Burger." The prison hub at Florence, CO counts one prisoner for every three citizens and T-shirts boast it is the "Corrections Capital of the World."

The same thing has been happening for the last couple of years to justify the war on terror and its destructive collaterals (newfound scorn for immigrants, old allies, the Bill of Rights, turning the globe into a game of Risk). The buy-in this time, the method to madness, is unquestioning patriotism with a good dose of messianic entitlement—God bless this, God bless that, and damn the consequences. The buy-in is complete. The prisoners, in this case, are us." PEOPLE, WAKE UP!

\*\*\*\*\*

The United States recently blocked a United Nations vote on a plan to enforce the International Convention on Torture because it allows international and independent visits to US prisons as well as to detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba by the U.S. military. Officials say that when the issue comes to a vote they will oppose it.

The only way that the conditions described above can exist is if the courts, the legislatures, and the public willingly close their eyes to it. This in itself is a crime and perhaps our nations greatest shame. WAKE UP AMERICANS!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **SECURITY???**

All airline passengers will be assigned a color code to assess their security risk as part of a sweeping overhaul of the federal government's computer background screening system. The color codes will be based on checks of commercial data bases and law enforcement watch lists after passengers provide their names, addresses, phone #'s, and dates of birth when booking a flight. "We're looking for anyone who is a threat to aviation," said Mark Hatfield, spokesman for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. Color codes can be in use by summer. The measure is known officially as the Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System II.

"CAPPS II is illusory security on the cheap," says Barry Steinhardt, director of the ACLU's technology and liberty project. "Instead of zeroing in on suspects based on real evidence it sweeps every airline passenger through a dragnet. Hatfield's rebuttal was that the TSA program does not discriminate because it will be "equally applied to every passenger." (Ron Marsico, NJ Star-Ledger Staff)

ENGLISH: "Never allow errors to change your attitude. Be positive, your attitude makes a difference."

SPANISH: "No deje que los errores cambien tu actitud. Se positivo, tu actitud hace una diferenica."

## SEX! SEX? NOW DO WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?

The MA Supreme Court has ruled same-sex couples must be permitted to marry, with the same benefits and privileges as opposite-sex married couples. In response to this and similar efforts to legalize "gay marriages", OH and 37 other states are writing "DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE" laws. Rowland Nethaway, Senior Editor of the Waco Tribune-Herald explains why this is happening:

"This nation's founders included a full faith and credit clause in the U.S. Constitution. Section One of Article Four requires the reciprocal acknowledgement of each state's actions by other states. It is a wise provision that allows the nation to function effectively as a whole. Without it, individual states could impose taxes or fees on out-of-state visitors. Motorists could be forced to obtain a license to drive in every state. Because of our Constitution, and some states which are beginning to accept the rights of same-sex couples, others states may be required to accept MA, or other state marriage licenses with full faith and credit whether issued to a same-sex couple or an opposite-sex couple. No law, such as the "Defense of Marriage Act", can legally trump the U.S. constitution. OH and others are trying to circumvent the Constitution by passing "Defense of Marriage Laws".

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT FROM AN ALABAMA PRISON

Date: 10/99, Time: 9:30 PM, Place: Prison cell.

Officer B. woke inmate up and asked did he need a haircut. Inmate advised Officer B. that he did not. Officer B. told inmate to get out of bed and come to the cell door and show him his head. Inmate complied. Officer B stated he was going to shake down the inmate's cell and ordered him to put his hands through the tray hole to be handcuffed behind his back. Officer B asked cubicle Officer S to roll the cell door. Officer B entered and told inmate to stand in back of cell under the light. Officer B stepped up to inmates face and asked inmate why he was talking to him in a loud voice and did not need a hair cut. Officer B grabbed inmate by the neck with both hands and slammed his head against the wall, threw him on the bed and choked him to un consciousness. When inmate came to, Officer B knocked inmate down to floor, and repeatedly struck inmate with baton about the head, face, neck and shoulders, causing severe injuries and temporary paralysis on right side. Officer B dragged inmate 25 feet from cell to drop him on the day room floor. Inmate was picked up by Officer N and taken to infirmary to be treated by nurses for serious bleeding left side face, eye, & head. Inmate did not resist Officer B, disobey his orders or offer violence to him.

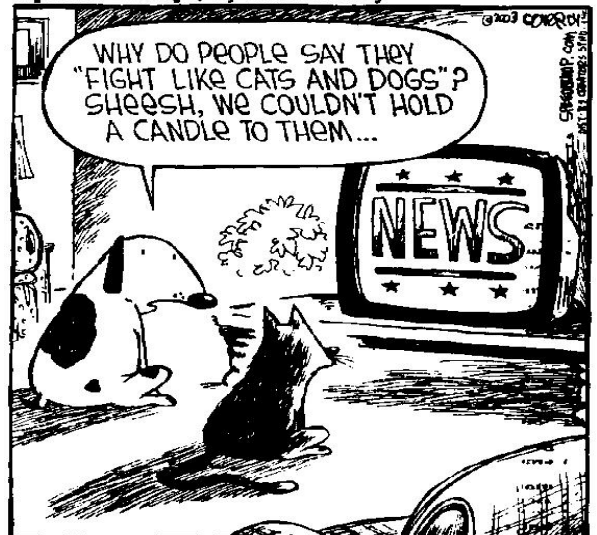
### If you are assaulted by guards, write to:

Albert Moskowitz, Chief Crim. Sec.  
Civil Rights Division  
Department of Justice  
Box 66018  
Washington DC 20035-6400

### Other prison condition complaints, contact:

Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division,  
Department of Justice  
Box 66400  
Washington DC 20035-6400

**Speed Bump** / by Dave Coverly



**HOW TO DIAGNOSE HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS:** There are 2 strains, HSV-1 and HSV-2. HSV-1 often involves mucous membranes (lips, tongue, inner cheeks, etc.) and skin above the waist. HSV-2 is associated with genital infections. The virus enters the body through close contact or a break in the skin, making a cluster of isolated vesicles, small, fluid-filled bumps. These break, leaving small ulcers on mucous membranes. A burning sensation may be felt if exposed to spices or acid juices. Scabs form, but heal in a week. Once exposed to the virus, the body develops antibodies to the virus, which helps decrease symptoms with recurrences and offers some protection against infection with the other type. The treatment of choice is valacyclovir, an oral tablet that converts to acyclovir. As soon as you suspect herpes, you should start acyclovir until the lesions have resolved.

## OHIO NEWS

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

In an average 24 hours in Ohio: ONE person is murdered; FORTY SEVEN robberies occur; SEVENTY EIGHT Ohioans are arrested for DUI; 49,871 gallons of alcohol are consumed. Might there be a connection? WAKE UP OHIO!

\*\*\*\*\*

***DRINKERS, BEWARE!*** The new name for drunk driving is OVI or "operating a vehicle under the influence" meaning it is now illegal to operate any type of vehicle, motorized or not, while under the influence of alcohol or OTHER drugs. It is illegal for a person to be in "physical control" of a vehicle (in the driver's seat with possession of any ignition device.) You can be cited for a physical control violation anywhere while drunk, even on your own property. You are assumed to be under the influence at 0.08% BAC, but if your BAC exceeds 0.169%, penalties increase. Persons guilty of OVI, but allowed limited driving privileges must display a special red lettered license plate on their vehicles, (even first-time offenders.) WHY? FOR THE SAKE OF:

- Debbie Rahn; seriously injured by D. Osborn (BAC .274);
- J.Morrissey 11; injured in a car driven by his DUI mother.
- Raymond & Mary Reynolds, & Pete Miller; killed in a car crash by L. Scott, charged with DUI.
- Paul Seymour and 8 other school bus children injured by J. Burnett, driving under suspension due to prior DUI convictions.
- ETC, ETC! More info? Contact: MADD SOUTHWESTERN OHIO, 4015 Executive Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241-2080; (513) 769-6800, 1-877-721-MADD

\*\*\*\*\*

***YIKES!*** Ohio's prison population is now under 44,000 for the first time since 1995. Andrea Dean, ODRC spokeswoman attributed this to more community programs keeping people out of prison and more liberal parole board policies. (AP, 01/08/04)

### ***THEREFORE, LET'S MAKE NEW LAWS TO BULK UP OHIO PRISONS! WE CAN DO IT!***

State Rep. James Raussen (R-Springdale) proposes a bill adding 5 years to sentences of anyone convicted of an assault if the crime led to a victim's permanent injury. Prosecutor Mike Allen hopes this will make perpetrators "think twice". Current punishment is currently 2-8 years. Will 5 more years make that kind of difference? If one is able to think about harming another person, if that is their intention at the time, will they "think twice?" All this does is assure people stay in prison longer so they would be less able to be restored to society. By the way, WILL THIS LAW APPLY TO DRUNK DRIVERS WHO KILL & INJURE others yet serve only "misdemeanor" time (6 months) for using their car as a weapon? WAKE UP OHIO!

\*\*\*\*\*

OH Reps. Jolivet, Cates and Webster introduced a bill to change the plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity" to "guilty but insane". IF IT PASSES, any mental health treatment ordered will be followed by prison time! (SO WE HELP A PERSON BECOME MENTALLY HEALTHY ENOUGH TO SEND THEM TO PRISON TO BE DRIVEN INSANE ONCE AGAIN! THAT'S JUST PLAIN CRAZY!)

Don't lawmakers have friends and families who have experienced mental illness? Or gay/lesbian/transgender family members? Do they have the only "perfect" families--or are they just rich enough to afford good care for their people? Aren't enough going crazy in the Supermax and Private Prison systems, and with political fights over who can be in a family and who cannot? WAKE UP POLITICIANS!

\*\*\*\*\*

***MUCH MORE HELPFUL ACTION:*** Senator Mark Mallory pushed a law requiring all Ohio inmates to work on a GED or diploma. Those who have one are "encouraged" to learn a skill/trade in prison. Mallory addressed with DOC Director Reginald Wilkinson, the issue of finding a better way to bring prisoners back into their communities so they have a chance to start over, and don't return to crime. Mallory seeks better ways to link rehab programs already in place! GARDEN STREET TRANSITIONAL HOUSE serves 25-30 clients per year, giving them a chance to learn, earn, stabilize, stay free, & gain respect for themselves and for others!

WRITE TO:

OH SEN. MIKE DeWINE, 140 RUSSELL SENATE OFF. BLDG., WASHINGTON DC 20510

OH SEN. GEORGE VOINOVICH, 317 HART SENATE OFF. BLDG., WASHINGTON DC 20510

## OHIO NEWS

A \$1.00 fee is now added to "court costs" in all OH criminal cases. It goes to Crime Stoppers and other programs paying rewards to those who provide info leading to an arrest. Estimated annual collection: \$300,000!

Domestic violence became a crime in OH less than 30 years ago. A 1995 law required police on a domestic violence call to evaluate the primary aggressor and make an arrest if necessary, so victims couldn't be intimidated into dropping charges. Sentences for this were 1 year.

Now Ohio judges may impose stiffer sentences on those convicted of, or pleading guilty to, domestic violence. Judges may sentence repeat offenders for UP TO five years instead of 1 year. The OH Domestic Violence Network reports more than 92,000 domestic violence calls made to police, with over 27,000 arrests, in 2002. (Enquirer 1/09/04)

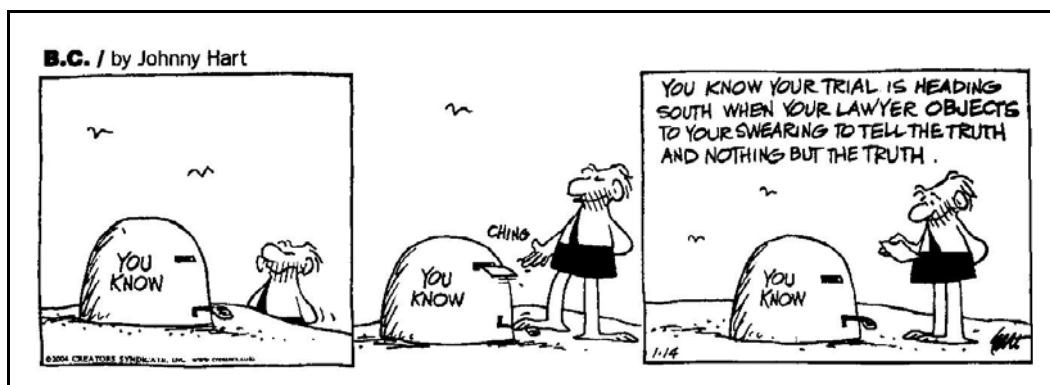
People using camera-equipped cell phones or video cameras taking pictures of movies at theaters may be arrested under anti-piracy laws that include bag searches for people entering movie houses. Theaters may detain people suspected of filming movies just as a department store can hold a suspected shoplifter. CA, MI, WI, and PA have similar laws.

OH's prisons need more medical staff and expansion of some medical facilities to raise standards of care for inmates, says a state report. It found many shortfalls in treatment of prisoners. ODRC Dir. Wilkinson said implementation them would cost millions. ODRC is working with state budget officials to find a way to pay for reforms. (Enquirer 01/01/04)

### SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE? HOMELESS IN THE USA?

A 2003 Mayor's Conference survey showed a 19% increase in need for emergency shelter assistance in 18 of 25 U.S. cities. From 2001 to 2002, community ordinances against urban camping/loitering increased from 87 to 143, but homelessness increased due to fewer jobs and affordable housing, and there aren't enough shelter beds. Other problems: Some don't use shelters due to curfews, some have been homeless too long to qualify, or have medical/mental problems unmanageable in a shelter, & people must take their belongings with them during the day. You can only stay in a shelter at night--hard for families with children!

Five men who lived on the Ohio riverbank will receive \$1,000 each as settlement of a federal lawsuit after Covington, KY workers razed their camp shelters, and removed their belongings without notice. This decision says that cities must notify people that confiscation is going to occur and give them a hearing before it takes place, said Robert Newman, attorney for the men.



We hear the dogs (Labs & Poodles) at ORW were removed. Rumors say they were being mistreated, but several say they never saw any abuse (of dogs) and that the dogs were loved. Greyhounds are still there. Updates?

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously gave Delma Banks, a TX death row inmate, who came within 9 minutes of execution, another chance to appeal his conviction. It said he was denied a fair trial because prosecutors failed to disclose key information that could help his case. "When police or prosecutors conceal significant exculpatory or impeaching material in the state's possession, it is ordinarily incumbent on the state to set the record straight," wrote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for herself and 6 other Justices. Bank's appeal said authorities sat on evidence, paid off a witness and coached another. Ginsburg said Banks was able to document how the state hid key witnesses' links to police through round after round of appeals. Banks had no criminal record when he was arrested more than 2 decades ago. (Anne Gearan, Assoc. Press)

## ADVOCACY INFO

*(We offer no guarantees these will work, but other prisoners/support groups recommend them.)*

**BUT FIRST A WARNING FROM DAVID T:** Beware of "Prisoner Attorney Connection" in Greenville, SC. They claim "free helps", only charging for "affordable Parole Petitions" at \$40-300 each. Money was sent, NO REPLY. Phone calls result in an answering machine. A SCAM? BEWARE!

**PRISONER INFORMATION NETWORK**, PO BOX 165171, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84116  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN INNOCENCE CENTER, 358 SOUTH 700 EAST, B 235, SALT LAKE CITY UT 84102 (THANKS TO JOE W, UT)

**PRISONER SERVICES**, Attn: Jessica, P.O. Box 664, Englishtown NJ 07726-0664. Provides services for personal & legal ads, information guides & reports, publish prisoners' art, writings, etc. in their newsletter & on the internet for free. For free info, send 37 cent stamp with request.

**CERTIFIED PARALEGAL**, WILLING TO ASSIST INMATES ON STATE/ FEDERAL CASES. HAS ACCESS TO ALL 50 STATE LAW BOOKS, AND CASE LAW. NO FEE, OTHER THAN NECESSARY SUPPLIES. SEND INFORMATION TO:  
BENJAMIN BIESE, #282786, FED # 05202-090, COLUMBIA CORR INST.  
2925 COLUMBIA DRIVE, P.O. BOX 900 PORTAGE WI 53901-0900

**THE SALVATION ARMY CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**, 10 W ALGONQUIN RD, DES PLAINES, IL 60016

**Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted**, c/o Win Wahrer,  
85 King Street East, Suite 318, Toronto, Ontario M5C 163  
(416) 504-7500 (Rubin Hurricane Carter's organization)

**Innocent!** C/O Douglas J Tjapkes, 533 32nd S.E, Grand Rapids MI 49548 [www.aboutinnocent.org](http://www.aboutinnocent.org)

**NAACP LEGAL ADVICE AND EDUCATION FUND** (sent by Antonio R., NY)  
99 HUDSON STREET, 16TH FLOOR, NY, NY 10013

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE**, Sarah V. Hart, Director  
810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington DC 20531

Its mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice, and public safety. THE INSTITUTE ACTIVELY SOLICITS THE VIEWS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS AND RESEARCHERS TO INFORM ITS SEARCH FOR THE KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO GUIDE POLICY AND PRACTICE. (This info requested due to our Summer 03 article which said "the trail of forensic scandals stretches from the well documented problems in the FBI's crime laboratory to labs in IL, TX and WV" and "Criminal forensics laboratories are a generation behind food, drug, medical and industrial laboratories in their quality assurance systems." Send info to your attorney if there are questions on forensic/scientific evidence in your case.)

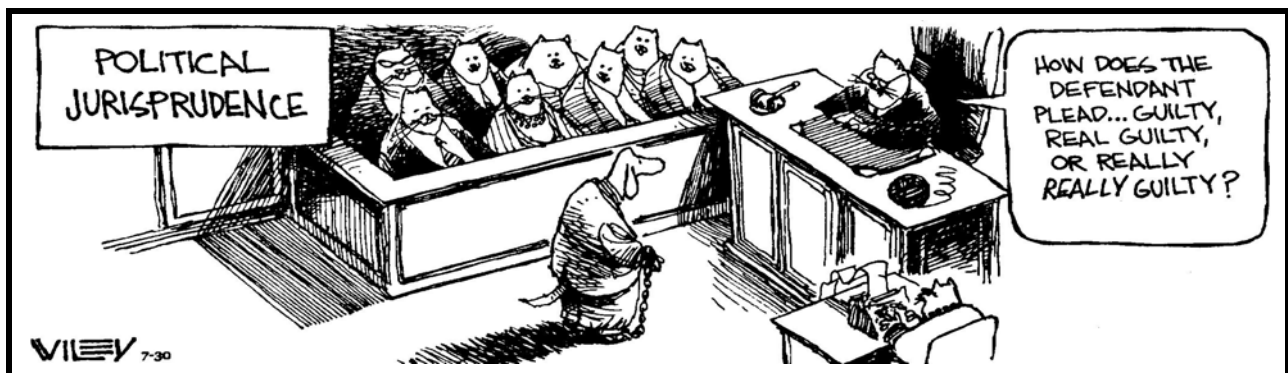
**NATIONAL-CURE**, PO Box 2310, Washington DC 200131.

1. Currently pushing for DC city officials to permit convicted felons to vote. Under DC law, pretrial inmates and those serving sentences for misdemeanors are eligible to vote. Only VT and ME currently allow felons to vote. Interested in helping? Write to above address!

2. Continues to try to get sentence reductions for DC prisoners who participate in drug treatments programs in federal prisons. Other federal prisoners are eligible for this time cut under 18 USC 3621. DC prisoners are not.

3. Refused a visit at a federal prison? Contact: FedCURE, PO Box 15667 Plantation, FL 33317. There are complaints from prisoners and families refused visits because of alleged positive readings for drugs, due to the use of ion machines for screening in some Federal prisons.

**Prisoner's Self-Help Litigation Manual-Revised 3rd Edition** (\$32.95 for prisoners). Order from: Oceana Publications, Inc., 75 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 1052-1601



## ORIGINALS

*Mistakes*

by Little Loc in Ohio

I look out the window-the bars in my face-  
 wanting to be free-of this dread place.  
 The crimes I committed-the time I will do-  
 hating justice and wishing they knew-  
 this time they gave me is no time, but mine.  
 I'm society's mistake-judged by mankind.

Will locking me up-like an animal in a cage-  
 away from all the things I love and used to do-  
 make me aware of my problems  
 or leave me with anger and rage?  
 Why do people make mistakes? I wish I knew!

**NEARLY COMATOSE**

A Rap by Shannon Griffith, MI

Because my character a politician did malign,  
 easily rationalized by his kind,  
 in his social ladder climb,  
 I have to do this time, I'm resigned, admitted,  
 Tho' state records prove no crime I committed,  
 The court was aloof, when my rights went poof,  
 the jury said woof, my sentence hit the roof,  
 with a shred of sanity, I shed all vanity,  
 blithe still, while in isolation after six years,  
 with a will of determination mixed with laughter  
 I nixed the tears, yet it's ironic,  
 they bet by this time I'd be catatonic.  
 Not quite as naive, I hunger for leave,  
 to clear the cold, and the dark,  
 and the lonelies with you.  
 If you'll hear, hold and hark  
 with just a few "onlys" as cues,  
 seeking keenly, friendship correspondence only,  
 speaking freely, so long as you feel comfortable  
 only,  
 deeply sublime, maybe someone will reply this time,  
 if only, Meekly signed only,  
 Sincerely, osmos cosmos

*What Would Jesus Do?*

by Sean Swain, OH

They tell me Ghandi is dead,  
 but I saw him desegregate the lunch counters  
 in the South.  
 They tell me Martin Luther King is dead,  
 but I saw him lead a strike of farm workers  
 in California.  
 They tell me Cesar Chavez is dead,  
 but I saw him run for president to stop  
 the Vietnam War.  
 They tell me Bobby Kennedy is dead,  
 but I saw him sending medicine to Iraq.  
 They tell me Jesus is dead.  
 All those other people tell me different.

What would Jesus do today?  
 Jesus would get marginalized,  
 betrayed and killed at the age of 33.  
 He'd prove too much a threat to politics.  
 He'd get shot in Birmingham,  
 marching with sanitation workers.  
 He'd die in San Salvador,  
 for refusing to fire on civilians.  
 He'd be hung by racists in a Soweto jail cell,  
 He'd be crushed by a tank on the West Bank.

What would Jesus do today?  
 He's in the prison you are in,  
 healing souls, making you whole.  
 Reach out! Jesus is not dead!

**KEEPING TIME**

By Desi Sykes, NJ

Don't nobody keep  
 time and date like we do.  
 Don't nobody count the days  
 passing as we do.  
 Ain't nobody got patience like us,  
 and ain't nobody watching time  
 like we watch time.  
 We are the captured ones;  
 All we do is keep, watch and count,  
 every second that ticks us by.  
 Knowing each minute and hour gone,  
 is another year we get left behind.



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### **FAVORITE QUOTES**

OHIO made it legal to carry a concealed weapon--if one applies for a license at the County sheriffs' office, is fingerprinted for a background check for mental illness or criminal record. AN AMENDMENT PROHIBITS HANDGUNS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP, SCHOOL ZONES, DAY CARE CENTERS, COLLEGES, AND BARS. BUSINESSES MAY BAN HANDGUNS ON THEIR PREMISES BY POSTING AN APPROPRIATE SIGN. While legislators decided the public will be safer by allowing guns in banks, hospitals, malls and soccer fields, they banned guns at their workplace, the statehouse! (Ohio Christian News, 02/04)

After an execution at OK St Penitentiary, the cause of death is listed as "homicide" on the Death Certificate. (OK DOC, 1997 Annual Report)

Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy, sweat will get you change. (sent by William J Mayo, an innocent man locked up in Georgia prisons for over 10 years)

"If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." -Anatole France-  
(submitted by Kris Davis, PA)