

Justice Watch

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2001

Winter 2001

"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things....do you think you will escape God's judgment?"

Romans 2:1-3

"I urge that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

I Timothy 2: 1,2, 8

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Garden Street News

Shown at the Annual Justice Watch dinner was the new video, "THIS CALL ORIGINATES", exposing hidden tragedies in the recent economic boom of The Prison Industrial Complex. Call us for a free showing, or to purchase a copy for \$20.00. College classrooms and other organizations have ordered this excellent video crafted by Videographer Barbara Wolfe.

Justice Watch is exploring the possibility of expanding our services to parolees by adding a step-up house, a place Garden Street residents could move to when they are able to support themselves. Many apartment managers refuse to rent to parolees, and the Parole Authority won't allow them to share residences without supervision. This would provide minimum supervision and continuing support services, making a move out of Garden St. House possible. GSH rooms would be available sooner for those waiting to be released to us. If we undertake this project we will need more donations and volunteers to help. If you are interested, please write or call us. VOLUNTEER!

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Our newsletter is free, BUT we are extremely grateful for your donations. Prisoners may send information, envelopes or stamps. (Thanks Wayne, Gregory and Harvey!) Also, help by keeping us updated on any address changes. When sending them, PLEASE include your OLD address, especially zip code. We sort by zip and state, to 44 states, 286 state and private prisons, 23 federal prisons, and 750 supporters. More requests come daily. We need the new address and ALSO must delete the old address. (IF your newsletter is returned it costs double our bulk mailing rate. You will be dropped from our mailing if we do not have your current address.)

Some prisons help by returning newsletters with forwarding addresses. Most mark over or put a hard to remove sticker over the names making it impossible to know whose mail it was. Mail is returned with notes of Temporarily Away, Escaped!, Refused, Unknown, or (happily) Paroled! If you are heading for freedom—tell us. We'll send your newsletter to the new address.

Suggestions, poems, art, stories and information will be considered for use. We are considering putting together a book of poems and art

by prisoners and families (not necessarily about prison life) to offer as a fundraiser by donation. Please submit your work.



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Death comes in many ways. We dedicate this issue to some who died in 2000.

DEDICATION TO VERNON ETTER

Vernon Etter wrote to Justice Watch over the years. Justice Watch founder, Rev. Maurice McCrackin, visited him, before Mac was refused entrance into Ohio prisons. Vern mentioned in several letters the wonderful influence Mac had on his life, saying Mac was the one who taught him how to live in prison conditions, and be content with the life he had. Vern was locked up in 1975. In early 2000 he was in Medium Security at Chillicothe C.I. Then he wrote from Max Security at OSP where he was held in his cell 23 hours a day. 5 days a week, as a Trustee, he was out for an hour to mop the floors and showers on his unit. His last letter to us said in part,

"...after 4 months here, locked up nearly 24 hours most days, I must say, this is the worst I've ever been incarcerated in. I don't think most of the guys here belong here, but some argue with anyone who will respond at all. A year or two of being locked-up in a cell 23 or more hours a day is enough to make anyone bitter and defensive. We are all in the same boat, but Administration expects us to not get along with them or each other. I hardly see anyone, anytime. I read my Bible and try to work-out but because of the heat here I get worried about heat stroke. No one would know if I passed out."

Vern's last newsletter was returned to us. We wrote to the Warden and ODRC asking about him. They kindly replied that Mr. Etter collapsed in a shower pod while performing his duties as a porter. He died of a massive heart attack. He was sent to OSP because he was recommended for maximum status after careful consideration by departmental staff. He was accused of a heinous crime and "admitted" to it, according to a prison spokesperson. He was sent to OSP after 25 years in prison.

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DEDICATION TO MICHAEL LEE PLUMMER

Michael died at Corrections Medical Center, January 30, 2000. Michael was not told of his HIV positive condition until he had lost a significant amount of weight after being locked in the Hole for many weeks over some horseplay in the kitchen where he worked. He was transferred to Orient C.I. When he became too weak to work he was sent to Corrections Medical Center. He wanted to be sent home so he could have a few weeks with his mother whom he had not seen for many years due to her poor health and living out of state. He died in prison, his most dreaded fear.

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DEDICATION TO THOSE ON DEATH ROW

President Clinton refused to grant clemency to the first Federal prisoner scheduled to be executed by "OUR" government since 1936. He granted a stay of six months, leaving the fate of this man and others, and the continuation of the federal Death Penalty to his successor, George W. Bush.

As of August, 2000, 657 people have been executed in the US since 1976; 533 of these in the South, 227 of them in Texas. From 1976 through 1983, 11 people were executed. In 1995 56 people were killed by the state; 98 were executed last year and 59 have been executed by August of 2000--28 of them in Texas. More than 3,600 people are on death row in the US, 568 of them are in California. (Death Penalty Information Center)

DEDICATION TO CAROL ANN BELL

Carol Ann arrived in prison at age 16, young and afraid, sentenced to 16-50 years. Within a year, while in lock-up, she tried to hang herself. In 1998 she attempted escape but was caught and threatened she would be shot. She didn't care, asked the guard to shoot her. She had nothing to live for. She was again placed in solitary lock-up with no psych evaluations. She began hearing voices and finally was placed in Residential Treatment Unit Program and heavily medicated. Another 4 years was added for the Escape attempt. After 60 days and release to population she slit her wrists and was put back in Lock-up. An officer informed Carol Ann, now 18 years old, that he would personally see to it that she did 3-5 years, in her cell, for the escape. The taunting caused her more grief. She was again placed on suicide watch. At this time male officers repeatedly asked her to expose herself to them. If not, they would make sure she did years in the isolation hole! When released into general population in 1999 she was sent to maximum security which houses the most notorious women in Ohio. Carol Ann, now 19, was sent there after 13 months of solitary confinement with no adjustment program back to population. She worked hard to change her status, trying to get through cosmetology school, completing numerous groups to help herself and be transferred. When told she had to wait another 9 months for a security upgrade Carol Ann snapped. She repeatedly said she could "not do another year living like this". She tried to get help. She burned her forearm several times with a cigarette from her wrist to her elbow, burns as deep as the tip of a finger! She was told that was "normal" behavior for her, though she had never done it before. At 3:30 on the day of her death Carol Ann begged an officer for psych help. He told her to go sleep. After 4 PM count she refused to go to dinner. No one checked her locked cell, in spite of her banging on the door several times and requests from other inmates for help for her. At 8:55 PM she was found hanging from her bed sheets, with her wrists slit. Carol Ann was a child pushed through the cracks and forgotten. Society may feel she was just a convict, but she too is one of God's children. The very system that was set up to help and rehabilitate her destroyed her life. The true story of Carol Ann Bell needs to be told to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again. (Carol Ann's story was submitted to JW by her friends who tried to help her during her struggle. They were there, but of course they cannot prove their observations. We only report what they saw happening.)

DEDICATION TO VICTIMS

A.J. JOHNSON, who at age 16 was diagnosed with acute leukemia, but survived another 16 years--before he was struck down by a drinking driver with a suspended license.

CASSANDRA BETTS AND HER 6 WEEK OLD FETUS, shot to death by someone while her 7 year old daughter was with her.

UNKNOWN VICTIM, 25-30 years old, Hispanic, wrapped in a sheet and throw rug, put in a trash bin and set afire.

OFFICER AUBREY HAWKINS AND THE MORE THAN 150 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, who died in the line of duty in 2000.

ODE TO LT. DRAUGN

July 16, 1998

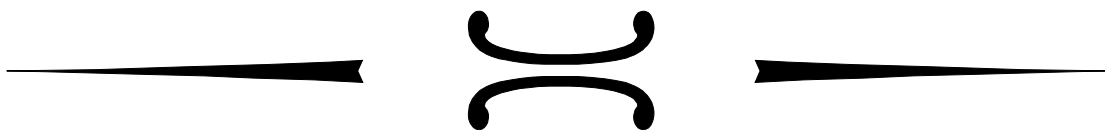
A towering man
 Smiling, knowing eyes gleaming.
 A man of honor, in a sea of honorlessness.
 A man with a full heart,
 Who had room for the whole universe.
 A no-nonsense man, who had a sense of humor
 About the human condition.
 Not just a man, a Just Man.

by Nikolai Zarick

PRISON

Dawn's light comes to begin a new day
 I look out my window, but all I see
 Is the razor wire shine and gleam
 My world is cold and lonely
 My soul filled with pain
 I've lost the simplest joys of life
 I'm now a number without a name
 Prison has seen me
 From a boy to a man
 I used to have dreams
 I used to have plans
 All I have now is my heart in my hand

By Wesley W. Moore



MEDICAL NEWS

HEPATITIS C--The Silent Killer

There are few early symptoms except tiredness. 85% of the people who contract it go on to have serious liver damage. It is the leading cause of liver cancer and very prevalent in prisoners, as it is contracted by direct blood contact, i.e. drug use, tattooing, and the sharing of hygiene articles. Those in close contact with an infected person are at high risk of infection. Ohio does not screen prisoners for Hepatitis C. California has begun to, and found over 50% of their prisoners tested positive. Texas and Colorado are not far behind. When an inmate in Ohio is diagnosed with it, the prisons do not educate him about it, or tell how to take care of their liver. If you have Hep C and then contract Hepatitis A or B it is a quick and deadly situation. Medications which are available outside of prisons (Interferon & Rebetron) are not given to prisoners. The cost is \$20,000 a year, for two years. With medication (and early detection) this treatment is the key to a longer life. One specialist is warning that the prison systems across the U.S. will soon experience a rash of deaths due to Hepatitis C complications.

An Ohio prisoner is researching Hep C. He hopes to file a class action lawsuit. Please send him information on any testing, test results, how long you've been positive, and if you received any treatment at all. Be precise as to the type of treatment, and include your name, number and location. Write to: Wesley Moore #229-584, PO Box 57, Marion C.I., (M-29) Marion, OH 43302.

On December 7, 2000 the news reported the test of modified form of interferon, called PEGASYS, against standard interferon. The finding show the new version to be significantly better at eliminating Hep C. All signs of the virus disappeared in 39% of the Pegasys group and it was tolerated better, with fewer side effects. Because it is longer lasting, it requires only one injection a week instead of three. WILL PRISONS USE THIS NEW METHOD?

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A prisoner tells us of the problem of Environmental Tobacco Smoke for non-smokers locked in a room with many chain smokers. All Institutional grievance procedures have ended as they did at Belmont C.I.--NO HELP. Pleas to Heart, Lung, Cancer Assn.'s, Director of ODRC, and others go unanswered. Prisons remain one of the few places which encourage tobacco caused illnesses. All the buildings at Lake Erie C.I. are supposed to be non-smoking, therefore none can be set aside for Non-Smokers. Cigarettes and matches are sold. There is no supervision of smokers.

Butler County Commissioners and two physician's organizations urged Sheriff Gabbard to ban smoking in the new jail. This policy would promote the good health of its staff and the imprisoned, and there are health and economic benefits to a smoke-free jail, including lower maintenance costs. The Sheriff says he'll try to cooperate. He doesn't know if it's feasible to prohibit inmates AND staff from smoking there. He's concerned that depriving nicotine-dependent inmates could spark violence and spur lawsuits. (Aren't drugs, alcohol and sex forbidden in the jail, as well as any freedom. Why are cigarettes allowed, but not pot, booze, and sex?)

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The Marine Corps is trying to notify the parents of an estimated 10,000 children born at Camp Lejeune, NC between 1968 and 1985 that they may have consumed water contaminated with compounds that have been linked to birth defects and childhood cancers. The substances, thought to have come from a dry cleaning business, were found in 1982 in drinking water systems that supplied houses on Camp Lejeune. Wells were not capped until 1985. For information call 1-800-639-4270, or see the Marines' Web site at <http://www.usmc.mil>

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At least 22 people have suffered serious side effects, including liver failure, from taking an AIDS drug intended to prevent HIV infection after accidental exposure to the virus. The drug, Nevirapine, is marketed by Columbus, Ohio-based Roxane Laboratories under the name Viramune. The problems occurred after people took Nevirapine, a widely used anti-AIDS drug, after accidental exposures to HIV, such as jabbing themselves with needles or being splashed with infected blood. The most common reported side effects were liver damage and skin rashes. Reporting to the FDA is voluntary, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that there undoubtedly have been other cases. (Associated Press)

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REPORTED PRISONER MEDICAL COSTS:

- California--\$5.00 per doctor or dental visit.
- Wisconsin--\$2.50 for any contact with medical staff, even to get an over the counter medication via written request.
- Texas--\$3.00 per medical contact.

WE HEAR FROM AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL'S PRISONERS

Making State I.D.'s available to inmates before they leave prison is better than "a good idea". Many prisoners don't have anyone to help get a birth certificate or social security update card. Without them, finding jobs, housing, etc. is virtually impossible. The green card given to prisoners gets only abuse and scorn. S.S. cards, and birth certificates are often unavailable for a prisoner. The state could help immensely by cutting through the red tape and helping in this matter before a person's release. (Southeastern C.I. prisoner response to our earlier question)

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Native American prisoners in New Mexico prisons ask you to contact officials concerning the indignities and injustice of the racism in regard to ancient ceremonial and cultural lifeways. To support their efforts write to Robert Perry, Secretary of Corrections, or Jerry Mondragon, Indian Programs Co-ordinator, (both at) PO Box 27116, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-0016.

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A prisoner in Tennessee reports rights violations: a guard who lies and has prisoners locked down, 24 hours at a time, for no reason; who kicks and shakes the cell doors at night; who refuses to give meds or allow showers.

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People who have experienced police misconduct in the Austin, TX area, or nationwide, been falsely accused of crimes and illegally sentenced, or subjected to violations of their rights are seeking people willing to help them, such as Attorneys, law firms, law students or individuals in or out of prison-anyone willing to handle appeals, pro bono post conviction legal matters. Private Investigators, and donations are also needed. Please write to: P.A.I.N. Legal Defense Fund (Parents Against Illegal Narcotics Arrest) c/o Mittie Yarbrough/4610 Sherwyn Drive/Austin, TX 78725.

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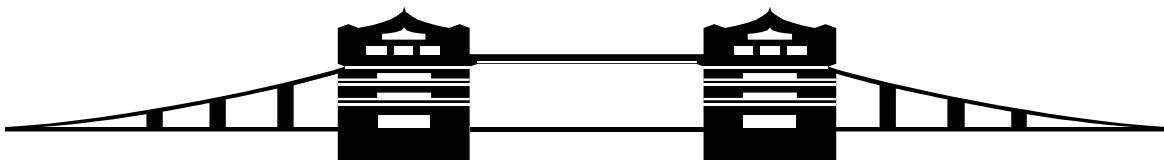
Texas death-row inmates and sympathetic supermax prisoners, are carrying on a long on-and-off hunger strike to protest "inhumane conditions." In Terrell Unit prisoners are confined to solid-front cement cells 23 + hours a day in total isolation. Illinois prisoners at Tamms Supermax staged a hunger strike to bring attention to their plight. Conditions there are said to be not just "Spartan" but horrendous.

Connecticut prison officials are under attack from legislators for refusing to cancel their decision to send 500 prisoners to Virginia's Wallens Ridge supermax prison, after allegations of racially motivated abuses by many sent there. New Mexico prisoners sent to Wallens Ridge have sued prison officials, also alleging abuse. The FBI is investigating.

Amnesty International gave to the UN torture committee documents citing "numerous instances of the torture or ill treatment of men, women and children by US police or corrections officials as well as cruel, inhuman and degrading prison conditions."

Texas has opened a new super-seg in Amarillo. At its opening the Warden said it was built to house society's "toxic waste." Three max. state prisons and one county jail are there, housing 7,000 prisoners, all within a 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone around the US Dept. of Energy's Pantex Nuclear Weapons Plant. Pantex is the final assembly/disassembly plant for US nuclear weapons. It stores approximately 12,000 nuclear weapons "pits"--the stuff that creates a nuclear explosion. It also is said to be the choice enemy missile and terrorist target in the US. (Information from Citizens for a Just Democracy, David Murphrey, Director, PO Box 30551, Amarillo, TX 79120)

In Texas, in 1972, an inmate claimed conditions in the Texas prison system were so brutal that they amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. A federal judge agreed in 1981, and placed the system under his watch. This November, Texas asked a federal appeals court to free the state's prisons from 19 years of oversight by a judge, arguing that the once-hellish conditions behind bars have undergone "amazing" improvement. (Enquirer, Nov. 7, 2000) (Let's hear from you Texas prisoners--tell us about the amazing improvements!)



Prison Advocacy Contacts:

Jubilee 2000

437 Arlington St
Greensboro, NC 27406

A grassroots entity dealing in equality for NC prisoners.

The Williams Report

Nanon Williams #999163
Terrell Unit, 12002 FM 350 South
Livingston, TX 77351

A publication emerging from the minds and pens of Death Row prisoners includes fiction and nonfiction, interviews, poetry and graphics. Write for a free copy.

N'COBRA

PO Box 75437, Baton Rouge, LA 70874

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in Amerika.

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

PO Box 1911
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1911

Published by the Prison Project of Santa Fe, Inc. Free to prisoners and their family members. \$12.00 a year for others. Please order only for yourself. Help by sending stamps.

Human Kindness Foundation

PO Box 61619
Durham, NC 27715

Available to prisoners at our cost--hard-to-find spiritual books and tapes. Any prisoner may request our half-price catalog.

Center for Constitutional Rights

666 Broadway
New York, NY 10012

OR

213 Main Street
Greenville, MS 36701

A non-profit legal/educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change.

More Prison Advocacy Contacts:

Southern Poverty Law Center

PO Box 548, Montgomery AL 36104-0548

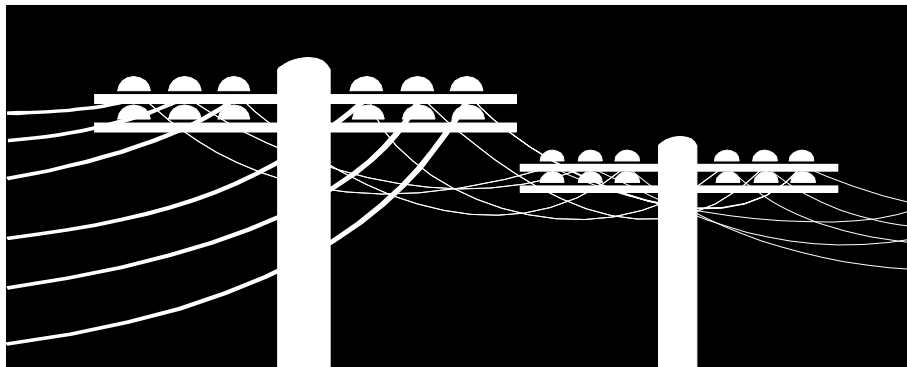
The Intelligence Report, produced by SPLC, has in its Fall 2000 issue an excellent article detailing allegations of racist and violent guards plaguing the correction industry. The Southern Poverty Law Center also sponsors a magazine for teachers titled "Teaching Tolerance". Since its inception in 1997 the Teaching Tolerance Grants program has funded more than 400 innovative classroom projects that promote peace-making, community service, respect for differences and other aspects of tolerance education. Teachers in grades K-12 are invited to apply for grants of up to \$2000 to implement small-scale, resourceful projects that have a direct impact on students. A 40 minute classroom video, to help student audiences recognize and identify with ongoing efforts to win equality features young people like themselves. Recent immigrants, 3rd and 4th generation Americans whose families have been on this continent for thousands of years and those whose ancestors came here in chains will tell how their families have struggled for and found a "place at the table." Included in this teaching package is a student textbook and a Teacher's Guide . TEACHERS--HAVE YOUR PRINCIPAL, DEPARTMENT CHAIR OR DIRECTOR FILL OUT A REQUEST ON SCHOOL LETTERHEAD TO: "A Place at the Table" for details on how to receive this package for free. (limit one package per school). Address your request to: Teaching Tolerance, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104, or visit web site www.teachingtolerance.org. or FAX (334) 264-7310.

The 2000-2001 Prisoner and Prison Activist Resource Guide compiled by Raze the Walls! can be downloaded from website: <http://personal.lig.bellsouth.net/~raze> Do it soon as Raze the Walls is forced to cancel all their projects due to lack of support for their amazing efforts to help prisoners.

Offer of Legal Assistance:

Write to:

Tony A. Kalinski, #31004
Mike Durfee State Prison
Springfield, South Dakota, 57062.



SEX OFFENDER INFORMATION

In South Carolina attorneys say new DNA evidence justifies a new trial for a man who has been on death row for 18 years. They claim he was found guilty based on lies by a jail house informant. Evidence that the state forensics investigator reported lost in 1995 were found in 1998 in a file cabinet. His bid for a new trial was denied. He declares his innocence and says he will appeal to the S.C. Supreme Court. Another suspect, a county councilman who had a 30 year affair with the victim, has since died. (Associated Press)

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In October the Supreme Court debated whether some sex offenders can be locked up after their prison term is over, under Washington state's sexual-predator law. Attorney Robert Boruchowitz, challenges the law, saying the state is not providing treatment required by law. The state's lawyer, Maureen Hart, argued that the remedy for alleged improper treatment is not to release a sex offender but to "go to court and require Washington to provide the treatment and care that it has promised". The client in the case has been held for 10 years under a so-called civil commitment statute but has not received treatment or been released. (Enquirer, Nov. 1, 2000)

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Photos of more than 400 registered sex offenders can now be viewed on-line at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Web site, thus promoting harassment of these men who have served their prison sentences and been released.

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People convicted of "certain" sexually oriented crimes are automatically classified as sexual predators, habitual sex offenders or sexually oriented offenders. But people convicted or sentenced before the law took effect must be given a hearing before being "labeled". In Cleveland, OH, prosecutors won an 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals court order requiring a judge to hold hearings to determine whether 14 inmates should be classified as sexual predators. Judge Burt Griffin refused to have hearings for inmates sentenced before the law took effect. He has said the proceedings would be unconstitutional. He also said it would be a violation of the separation of powers by forcing him to perform duties outside his role as a judge. He believes prison officials--not a judge--should do the back-ground investigations needed to determine whether an inmate should be labeled this way. Several appeals have been filed over the law. The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled the law is constitutional in regard to due process, double jeopardy and invasion of privacy. Timothy Miller, a criminal division chief in the prosecutor's office said sexual offenders often commit sex crimes again. (Associated Press)

U.S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. ruled that inmates who claim they were wrongfully convicted have a

constitutional right to request DNA testing that might prove their innocence. He issued the ruling in the case of James Harvey, convicted of rape in 1990. He did not order testing but said the 14th Amendment allows state prisoners to file federal civil-rights lawsuits seeking DNA testing. (Enquirer, October 1, 2000)

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Under a last-minute bill in the House of Representative in October 2000, rape victims could demand HIV tests of their suspected assailants upon arrest, (within 48 hours of an indictment, with results given to the accuser). Adults could be jailed for 10 years for sending pornography to 17 year olds or younger. (Enquirer, Oct. 3)

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A mentally retarded man who spent a decade on death row for rape and murder received a pardon from Gov. Jim Gilmore of Virginia after DNA tests cleared him of that crime. He will continue to serve a 30 year sentence for attacking an older woman. (Enquirer, Oct. 3, 2000)

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JUSTICE

I would like to believe
That justice always triumphs
But far too often
Justice doesn't exist.

At one state prison
Sits an innocent man!
Guilty of no crime
And constantly perplexed
As to why he is confined.

He is the victim of the justice "game"
In which the prosecutor's only interest
Is to win his case.
As long as he succeeds (at all costs, of course)
Nothing else matters.
He brags to the defense lawyer's aide:
"Your case was stronger than mine — I still won!"

While THE INNOCENT MAN
Cries out in anguish,
Hurt, angry, humiliated, dejected,
Languishing in prison,
For a crime he didn't commit.

By Ellis Chan, M.D.

TRUE FICTION

WITNESS TO AN EXECUTION
"by Jonik"

It's a nice place to live. The staff here are good country folk, quite religious, friendly and polite. Beautiful flowers line the sidewalks, and excellent food is served, considering. If you toe the line, walk the walk, and deserve certain liberties, they are afforded to you. May God bless those who work and live here and other such places. May God bless the victims who suffer silently in the media limelight. May God bless the people who scratch off another day on the calendar waiting to be killed. It's time we join the rest of the civilized world and put an end to this madness.

The second madness day, since I came here, begins for me toward sundown. I notice a white passenger car go past my window, on the road to the Death Chamber building. The mother, the father, of the condemned man come to say goodbye. They look numb, blank, tortured. Most of their day was spent meeting with the International press, and now their son. Somehow they managed to call the local media by phone. The broadcast message was eerie, hard to listen to. As night descends the prison is locked down for the killing to proceed. I watch the windowless death chamber from my narrow office window. At one point I stop to breathe. The phrase "waiting with baited breath" comes to mind. A small pick-up truck, slowly, slowly, slowly patrols the area, stopping now and again, then moves at a snail's pace, creeping forward. More white vans arrive with the witnesses. Minutes pass. The pick-up stops near the Death Chamber. Within 7 minutes the vehicles move out. Another 7 minutes pass before a strange vehicle with an odd darkened window cap on the back comes from the place of death and rolls by. I wait, again forgetting to breathe. Shortly there appears a SWAT like ambulance, dark brown. It carries the work for the night away. One more victim has left us. It took less than one and one-half hours. What is the saying?

"Practice makes perfect?" Number 6 for the year was a "piece of cake" I suppose.

Why bother watching you ask? We heard that the Pope had pleaded for this man's life. His parents cared. His victims did not ask for revenge. Why was the state so set on having another killing? The Death Penalty demoralizes everyone, even the victim's families. One aspect that few people talk about is the effect on the correctional staff. God bless us all, no matter what facade we show our peers, the experience is forever embedded in our souls.

I went to a church service a few days before the "put-down". The Chaplain's sermon was titled, "Being at the End of Your Rope". What gripped me was that this man of God had given the last sermon, the last rites, to the one who was to receive a shot of poison which would kill him. What did he feel knowing he was giving the word of God to a man about to be killed? Such moments are the things that tear-filled nightmares are made of. When I was younger I heard of Nazi war criminals telling that they did not kill the innocent unless they were ordered to, or forced to, or just because they were

doing their job. How do their excuses mesh with today's prison staff that did their jobs? If the point of the Death Penalty is to "send a message", then why do it in a windowless building, behind multi-layers of barbed wire? If the point is the message it might send a potential killer, then take him down to the local mall and hang him. What? You say, "How barbaric, how cruel, how insensitive of me?" Exactly. If you can't conduct governmental business in plain sight, then it shouldn't be done--period. (I always thought you could distinguish child abuse from discipline by how hidden it was). Some killers methodically plan their actions, but the majority of murders are done in the heat of passion or under the influence of legal alcohol or illegal drugs. Some are done by those who are mentally ill, or driven to insanity by a society that didn't help them when they needed help. "The Message" we send is not "Thou shall not murder". It is "We shall murder, and we will call it righteousness and justice."

It's a nice place to live. To live, I say.



QUOTES

Ohio Representative, Joanne Kemmerer (31st District) is quoted as saying "The Death Penalty is necessary because Jesus Christ set the example of submission to secular authority!"

Ohio Representative Mary Lynn Schuster (31st District) is quoted as saying "It should not be a civilized society's role to take a life."

Pope John Paul II said in St. Louis, MO, "A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil...I renew the appeal I've made for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary."

HISTORY OF DEATH ROW

In 1966 only one man was executed in the US. In 1967, only 2. Then executions stopped altogether, pending a definitive US Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of the death penalty which came in 1972. Furman v. Georgia declared the death penalty as it was then practiced, "cruel and unusual punishment." It was over; the death penalty had been abolished. But in 1997, the 25th anniversary of Furman v. Georgia, the US executed 74 men. In 1998, 85% of American's 68 executions were in the South, half of them in two states--Texas and Virginia. Dov Cohen of the University of Illinois, in a 1996 article pointed out: "Acceptance of violence is present in almost all parts of American society...but violence will be most condoned in the South and West because the frontier tradition is strongest there. An important element in this tradition is the acceptance of violence used for self-protection and defense. In addition, the legacy of the dehumanizing and violent institution of slavery makes the South even more approving of violence, specifically when it is used to coerce, punish and maintain social control." Capital punishment historian Walt Espy, has established that from colonial times to now about 55% of all legal executions in the US have taken place in the South. His data does not include the several thousand lynchings or extralegal executions that took place in local communities (estimated at more than 5,000 between the Civil War and World War II.) (The Angolite, Vol. 24; No. 5)

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A lawyer for a death row inmate has stepped forward and admitted sabotaging his client's appeals because he didn't like the man and thought he ought to be executed. A remorseful David B. Smith said he caused his law partner Steven Allen to miss a key state Supreme Court filing one of Russell Tucker's appeals. The 34 year old is scheduled to die Dec. 7. Mr. Allen asked a Superior Court judge to allow the appeal to be heard and to appoint new lawyers. The judge said both questions are up to the Supreme Court. (Enquirer Nov. 5)

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NC Gov. Jim Hunt commuted a convicted killer's death sentence to life without parole, hours before he was to be executed. The Governor had questions about whether the man--who represented himself--got a fair trial. (Enquirer)

THE KKK

A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED Ku Klux Klan leader Jeff Berry to pay \$120,000 to a TV news crew that accused him of holding them hostage in his home. A reporter and camera operator went to Mr. Berry's home to interview him about a rally of the KKK, which Mr. Berry leads. He and several followers locked and blocked the doors, refusing to allow them to leave unless they turned over their tapes, which they did after being threatened with a gun. Mr. Berry alleged that the Southern Poverty Law Center conspired with the crew to deprive him of freedom of religion. The law center tracks hate groups, and they provided attorneys for the reporter and photographer. A criminal case is pending against Mr. Berry, which charges theft, conspiracy to commit intimidation, robbery with a deadly weapon and others. (Associated Press)

BOOKS TO READ

Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing

by Ted Conover, 2000, Random House, New York, \$24.95. The story of a journalist who goes undercover to find out the truth about how men adapt to being Corrections Officers. Throughout he kept his true purpose hidden. (Newjack is slang for a new officer). His ultimate answer to questions that set him on his mission: Prison dehumanizes, over time it can destroys souls.

"If I Should Die: A Death Row Correspondence"

edited by Jane Officer, 1999 U.K. New Clarion Press, U.S. distribution by Bob Paul Publishers Consortium (Concord, MA) (\$10.95, paperback). A journal kept by an inmate on Death Row in Louisiana, it includes photographs showing first, second third and fourth degree burns on the face and head after electrocution of Robert Wayne Williams. "The cell that I'm in is right in front of the light and it stays on 24 hours. Since I been here, I seen men lose their minds. I lost count on how many got executed."

SUPREME COURT CASES

An upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case could affect 185 million licensed drivers, as it asks whether police can arrest people for traffic violations punishable only by a fine. It is brought by a woman who says police arrested, handcuffed and jailed her because she and her children were not wearing seat belts in the family pickup truck.

In another case the justices will decide whether police can set up traffic check-points to stop motorists in hopes of catching people who with illegal drugs. The Court has previously upheld roadblocks aimed at catching drunken drivers, but a lower court ruled that drug checkpoints by police may cause unreasonable seizures if there is no warrant or reason to suspect someone of a crime before detaining them.

Another case asks whether public hospitals can test pregnant patients for drug use and tell police who tested positive. If the results are positive, women have been arrested for endangering the fetus. (Enquirer, October 1, 2000)

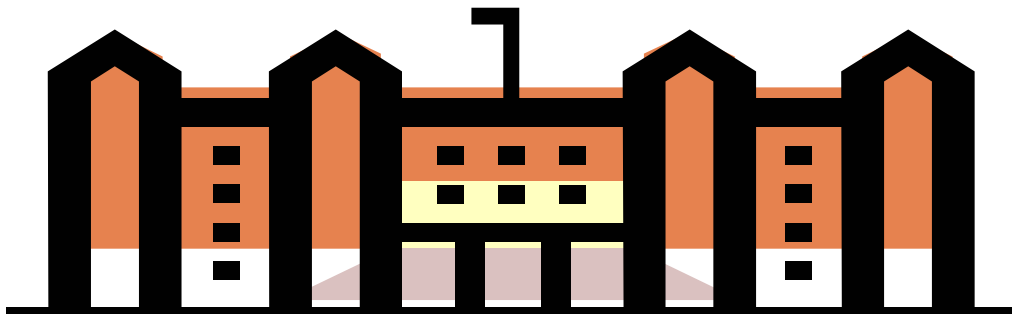
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The U.S. Supreme Court is seeing the effects of last summer's groundbreaking ruling that expands jury-trial rights in certain criminal cases: a pile of appeals by defendants who say their sentences are unfair. The Justices rules that virtually any question that could boost someone's maximum sentence, such as whether a crime was a hate crime, must be taken to a jury trial. Judges no longer can decide such issues on their own during sentencing. IN ESSENCE THE COURT SAID "THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY MEANS WHAT IT SAYS," said Gerald Lefcourt, former president of the National Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "THAT'S BEEN BEDROCK U.S. JUSTICE SINCE THE FOUNDING FATHERS." New appeals citing that decision are rolling into the Supreme Court, and the justices have ordered lower courts to take a new look at a number of cases. Lower courts have decided some defendants are entitled to a new sentencing. Many of those cases involve drugs. Judges have often decided such issues as how much cocaine someone sold: More can lead to a longer sentence. Other appeals say juries must decide such issues as the amount of loss in a fraud case, or a defendant's use of a gun, if that would allow a longer prison term. This issue stems from the Constitution's Sixth Amendment guarantee of a jury trial for defendants. Even with that guarantee, judges have had wide leeway to impose sentences by considering all the defendant's actions, even if they were not charged or proved to the jury. This ruling, based on a NJ case, gives judges discretion in sentencing, as long as they stay within the maximum set by law, but says judges cannot subject someone to a higher maximum sentence without a finding by a jury. (Enquirer, October 30, 2000, by Lauri Asseo, The Assn. Press) Question: What does this do to all the Plea Bargains forced down defendant's throats by prosecutors willing to cut sentences in order to force a guilty plea?

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Ohio drivers find that refusing to take a breath, blood or urine test makes it easier to avoid a drunken-driving conviction. An analysis by the Columbus Dispatch shows that drivers who refuse the test often get reduced charges and avoid jail time, fines and higher insurance costs. Defense lawyers say it's wise to refuse taking a test because Ohio Supreme Court rulings make it difficult to challenge the results.

In Ohio, only a third of the 35,259 arrested in 1998 and 1999 for drunk driving, and who refused to be tested, were convicted. Refusing to take a test after such an arrest carries a one year driver's license suspension, but state records show that 40% of those convicted obtained permits allowing them to drive to work. The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission wants lawmakers to deny work-related driving permits and to double the minimum three days in jail for those convicted as have several other states. Many criminal justice experts think the number of test refusals will skyrocket as a result of the state's new "super-drunk" law that took effect in May. The measure doubles the penalties for motorists whose blood-alcohol level is 0.17 or higher. Ohio Senator Richard Finan has vowed to fight the federal law which set the legal blood alcohol limit at 0.08. If Ohio does not go along with this, we will lose many dollars.



THE LEGAL SYSTEM AT WORK

PRISON LITIGATION

The 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act designed to get prisoners out of courts and courts out of prisons, is forcing prisoner-rights lawyers out of the business. It limits a federal judge's authority to order reforms and reduces fees awarded to prisoners' lawyers. It has curtailed the entire field of prisoner-rights litigation and made lawyers much more selective in taking cases. "We have to be careful in deciding which cases to take," says Eric Blaban, an ACLU staffer. If attorneys lose, they get nothing. Rhonda Brownstein, of the Southern Poverty Law Center, says "Nobody ever got rich litigating for prisoners, but at least you could get enough to pay your secretary. Now prison cases are automatic money-losers." Without a lawyer to pursue civil-rights lawsuits, technical errors in those filed by uneducated prisoners are certain to cause them to be thrown out. After three dismissals the prisoner can never file again.

FAMILY COURT CONSIDERED

West Virginia is considering creating a single family court to handle divorces, child abuse, domestic violence and similar matters. It is called a cure for a system that, for victims, can be ineffective and bewildering. No single court has a complete picture of domestic violence, though 11,534 "incidents" were reported to police last year and 44% of all state murders were done by someone the victims knew or loved. About half the states have or are considering family courts that could handle domestic cases. (Enquirer, Nov. 2, 2000)

IF YOU TELL A LIE, YOU WILL GO TO HELL!

Cook County, IL, Circuit Judge James Ryan who once fined a woman for speeding to a hospital after she went into labor, is now accused of telling a two children who were called to testify before him, "You realize if you lie, you will go to hell. You realize what I'm saying? You will go to hell." Their mother was in court to challenge a veterinarian bill. (Enquirer, Nov. 5, 2000)

CITIZENS TERRORIZED

Over the past 1 1/2 years, the FBI has reviewed more than 20 shootings by Prince George, MD police and numerous reports of abuse, including police dogs being used to terrorize citizens. In the last 15 months they have shot 12 people, killing 5. (Enquirer, Nov. 3, 2000)

NOT GUILTY?

A federal jury convicted 5 NJ policemen of civil rights violations in the beating of a man wrongly arrested on suspicion. The man died in custody after an asthma attack. The officers were found guilty of punching and kicking him while he was handcuffed, but they were not charged in his death because medical experts said his death was due to the asthma attack! (Enquirer Wire Services)

FELONY THEFT--GO TO PRISON

Ohio police charged a Kentucky man with Felony Theft saying he accepted \$526.10 for a Sony PlayStation 2 that he never delivered. According to several stores the video game retails for \$299, and they are sold-out.

HATE CRIMES?

Indiana counties are preparing their officers to comply with a new state Hate Crime law. It requires all state police departments to report hate crimes twice a year. The report will be available to the public on a per-request basis. Hate crimes are any crime committed against a person, group or property based on color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion or sexual orientation. Of the 14 counties that didn't participate as part of the original reporting, many sheriffs say it was because there were no such crimes to report. (Enquirer)

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FIREFIGHTERS IN DANGER

Bullet proof vests are being stored next to fire hoses and axes on many fire engines and ambulances, after incidents in which two Tennessee firefighters were shot to death responding to a fire set by a fellow firefighter. "Firefighters are the first responders. That puts them in the line of gun fire," said George Burke, spokesman for the International Assn. of Firefighters. (Enquirer, Nov. 3, 2000)

Good News

THE HEALTH FOUNDATION OF GREATER CINCINNATI plans to pump \$2.3 million over the next four years into improving mental health and substance abuse treatment in Tristate prisons and jails. Vice-president of programs, Patricia O'Connor, says, "In Ohio we have more mentally ill people incarcerated in prisons than we have getting treatment in hospitals. It can be easier to get into trouble with the law than it is to get treatment, especially if you are poor. We believe there are more effective, more humane ways to handle these cases." Among programs proposed are: Mental health courts to keep people out of prison; more substance abuse and mental health services before convicts leave prison; and special programs for female prisoners who suffered sexual abuse. In a recent report the Health Foundation states: "In Ohio prisons, an estimated 23% of male inmates and 39% of female inmates are mentally ill. Nationwide, an estimated 70-85% of state prisoners need substance abuse treatment, but only 12% actually receive it."

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DRUG TREATMENT AND COUNSELING, regular drug tests and the threat of imposing jail sentences is being used in CA and elsewhere. This use stems from a realization by judges and prosecutors that they need a new tool to battle the crush of drug addicts clogging courts and prisons. There are at least 700 courts nationwide and 300 more are planned in 48 of California's 58 counties. (Enquirer Nov. 3, 2000)

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HUMAN KINDNESS FOUNDATION hosted their second annual corrections workers retreat last May, for anyone who works or volunteers in a correctional facility. Many of the participants feel like lone rangers in their jobs, and came for the support of other like-minded people in their field. They got what they were looking for! (Write to Human Kindness Foundation, PO Box 61619, Durham, NC 27715 for information on next year's retreat).

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THIRTY YEARS AFTER ATTICA, The Center for Constitutional Rights is honoring 7 individuals for their part in seeing justice served for survivors of the Attica prison riots and the assault on D Yard, and for seeing the truth brought to light regarding culpability for the lives lost at Attica. Nearly 30 years after state troopers opened fire on 1281 inmates and 38 hostages, an \$8 million class action settlement was approved for prisoners maimed and tortured during and after the assault. Insufficient as the monetary damages are, they stand as the largest settlement in the history of litigation on behalf of inmates and close the door on the lies the government told in the immediate aftermath of Attica. Tribute goes to: Liz Fink, Frank "Big Black" Smith, Dennis Cunningham, Michael Deutsch, Joe Heath, Danny Meyers, and Ellen Yacknin for their tenacity, consistency and remarkable lifetime of work.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY BILL PASSES!

After more than 2 years of debate both Houses finally passed the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act on July 27. It guarantees prisoners' religious liberty rights and protects churches and ministries in matters pertaining to zoning-law restrictions. This measure enjoys the support of a diverse coalition including the ACLU, American Jewish Congress, Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Family Research Council and National Council of Catholic Bishops. Before the vote, Pat Nolan of Justice Fellowship spoke about the importance of religious liberty for prisoners. As an eight-term legislator in CA and a former inmate in a federal prison he gave a unique perspective to the issue. Using personal examples of how he and other prisoners were limited in their worship, he explained that unlike most people, prisoners have access to religion only at the deference of prison officials. And many times access is denied. "As a prisoner, I found my access to religious worship services severely restricted. As a legislator, I would have presumed that the authorities in prison, even atheist wardens, would do all they could do to encourage prisoners to participate in religious activities. I was completely wrong," Nolan said. "Religious freedom should be dealt with on its own merits, because if you strip away the religious freedom of prisoners, you are denying them access to the one thing that can truly change their lives." (Jubilee Extra, September, 2000)

ORIGINALS

CRACKS IN THE PAVEMENT

By Desi R. Sykes

Day after day I walk upon this concrete pavement,
 counting every new crack in the armor of my sidewalk.
 Crack-vials, broken syringe needles, spent shell casings
 and bottles drained of poisonous spirits litter my passage way.
 I step over the fallen, move around the deranged,
 slip past angry, confused predators--
 wondering what happened to our roads
 once paved with the people's gold!
 What happened to the elders sitting on their stoops?
 Adolescents ruffin' in the streets?
 Sharp-eyed mothers watching their play?
 Fathers who walked this path before me?

Fallen through the cracks....

Elders hide behind iron bars
 decorated with silk curtains.
 Adolescents afraid to play on their own porches.
 Single mothers struggle along.
 Fathers are lost; caught in the world's madness
 or locked in a barbaric time-zone.

More cracks in the pavement...

I mourn the absence of our village's soul,
 sound of beauty wishing me well along this walk.
 Sacrifices of labor used for the whole; eight hours of work
 my sanctuary from a war-zone.
 Gun shots ring out, sirens zoom by
 while dealers and junkies set their traps.
 A dethroned queen turns tricks,
 children pack gats and knives.
 Reputations steal young lives.
 Dark vans kidnap warriors in the middle of the night
 and a prince or princess receives
 nineteen blue bullets in the back!

Way too many cracks in the pavement...

"Step on a crack, break your mother's back!"
 As a child it was just a game.
 As a man its become far too real.
 So consciously--I watch where each foot is placed,
 knowing if I stumble, step on a crack, I break not only
 my mother's back, but the whole village's back.

Cracks in the pavement...

WORKING HANDS

By Nikolai Zarick

The hands that built civilization
 are tired beyond holding a smile.
 Sure, yet they work on.
 Strong, yet making a fist hurts.
 Attempts at tenderness scratch softer skin.
 Cracked and bleeding, crying for lotion.
 If they're lucky, they're gloved.
 If they're blessed, they've good tools to grasp.
 There is no mistaking a working hand.
 It's a beautiful thing
 to be honored,
 respected, and loved.

UNTITLED

By Rick Elson

I greet each morning, hoping and yearning;
 Another lost day, just another illusion...
 I curse each night, raging and burning;
 Can't hide the tears, pain and confusion...
 Loneliness grows as my existence unfolds;
 With no one to hold, I have nowhere to turn...
 My days, my years, my future uncertain;
 I'm consumed in the emptiness
 Of desolation's burn.

THOUGHTS

By Israel Jiminez

Unbearable to carry and embrace is the sting of pain, but
 It drags along behind itself, strength, for those who endure it.

Unbearable to hold and welcome is the sting of loneliness, but
 It drags along expectation to those who have hope.

Unbearable to control and face is the sting of fate, but
 It drags along purpose and wholeness to those who accept it.

MY CRIME

by Israel Jiminez

A pause in breath...A stop in time:
 Light turns into darkness...I committed a crime.
 The last beat, the last look...
 His soul rose from his body, and in God's hands was put.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

In Georgia an 11 year old, 6th grade girl was suspended from school for 10 days, the maximum sentence, because the 10 inch chain on her Tweety bird wallet violates the school district's zero-tolerance weapons policy. The chain connects her wallet to her key rings. "It's only a little chain, and I don't think it can really hurt anyone," she said. School officials said her parent knew chains were banned at school. (Enquirer, Oct. 3, 2000)

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"Zero tolerance has become a full-blown war on children. Instead of being targeted for reform, students are targeted for expulsion. School districts have a duty to find children with special problems and address their needs before it's too late. Instead, they're engaged in a 'child (witch) hunt'," says Ruth Zweifel, executive director of Michigan's Student Advocacy Center. In 1995, a new law mandating permanent expulsion for various school violations went into effect, undermining the state's commitment to preventive/rehabilitative school discipline. Before the law's enactment, schools in Michigan reached out to troubled, "at-risk" youth, while still upholding the safety of the school. The zero tolerance law has created an "outlaw class" of young people. Students have been expelled at an alarming rate, abandoned by the education system, left on the street unsupervised. A large body of research has found, almost without exception, that African American students are suspended at a rate of 2 to 3 times that of other students. Actions resulting from rhetoric after Columbine have been rigid, self-righteous, sanctimonious and destructive.

Pam Carter, a counselor in Louisville, KY, is the coordinator of the Assessment Center for Jefferson County in Louisville, a district that has bucked the national trend toward exclusionary disciplinary policies. Their network of preventive and support services reflects the community's inclusiveness--a philosophy bolstered by planning and foresight rather than punitive, politically expedient actions such as permanent expulsion. "These are the kids that may be in a world of hurt, often suicidal. They don't call attention to themselves, and yet they could be a ticking time bomb," says Carter. School officials there believe that excluding children from educational services while providing short term relief for some schools, actually creates long-lasting, adverse consequences for at-risk youth and the community. Accordingly, the district hasn't permanently expelled a student in more than 30 years. Director of the County's Dep. of Student Relations and Safety, says "Many of these kids' nervous systems are shot by the time they get to their teens. They've seen things in their homes and neighborhoods that you and I can't possibly imagine. Our message to them is that we will not tolerate drugs and weapons. We want you here, but you have to do the right thing. We'll help show you the way. But we're not going to permanently exclude a child from school, banish them from the community." (from an article "Catch Them Before They Fall" in Teaching Tolerance Mag.)

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"Returning Justice to the Community: The Indianapolis Juvenile Restorative Justice Experiment", should be read by anyone interested in reducing juvenile crime. It is a study of the impact of "conferencing" (otherwise known as Mediation) on young, first-time offenders. It brings victims, offenders and everyone impacted by a crime face-to-face to discuss the impact of the crime, and to develop meaningful ways the offender can be held accountable. A restitution agreement is drawn up describing how the offender will make amends to the victim and the community. The results were good for preventing re-arrests of offenders, and the victims were satisfied with how the case was handled. For a free copy; <http://www.husdon.org/crime2/public.html>. You may also write to Herman Kahn Center, 5395 Emerson Way, Indianapolis, IN 46226.

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Alabama's Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women allows "The Storybook Project" sponsored by Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM). The project allows mothers to record bedtime stories for their children. These and accompanying books are sent to their children. This allow the women to overcome the distance and to give something tangible to their kids. AIM provides a variety of services to Alabama's women and their children, including visit transportation, parenting classes and education services.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 7 in 10 female offenders have at least one child under the age of 18. A majority of these mothers are single parents. Imprisonment of the primary caregiver exposes children to a host of emotional, social and economic stresses. Mothers with AIDS, or who are HIV positive are segregated from the rest of the prison population, treated as outcasts, and prohibited from any contact with other inmates. AIM'S Storybook Project is one of the few programs in which HIV-positive inmates can participate. For more information on the Storybook Project or on Aid to Inmate Mothers, call (800) 679-0246 or visit www.inmatemoms.org.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CONTINUED)

Speech and language problems for children are not rare. Left untreated, most do not go away. Nearly 60% of the juveniles in Ohio's correctional facilities fail basic speech-language screening tests! (Krista Ramsey, Enquirer, Oct. 1, 2000)

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WHITE TEACHERS AT THE CROSSROADS: Approximately 90% of the K-12 teachers in the U.S. are white, while 35% of the national school population are students of color. This contrast underscores the critical role of white teachers in challenging racial bias in the curriculum and in school culture. A prerequisite for effectiveness in this effort is a willingness to confront one's own attitudes and privileges.

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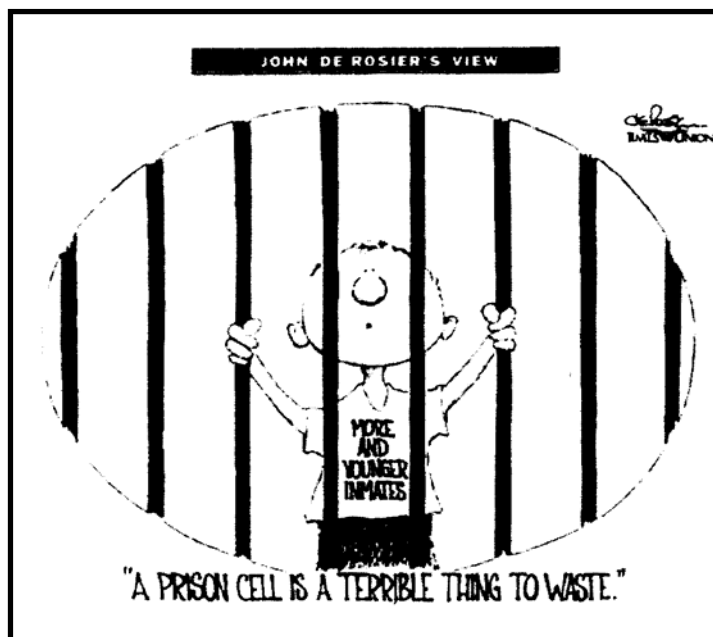
"No single group of American toddlers and teens is more at risk of abuse and neglect, educational failure, illiteracy, chronic joblessness, welfare dependency, drug or alcohol addiction, out-of-wedlock births, crime and delinquency, incarceration and premature death than the children of incarcerated adults. Yet, no single group of America's youth goes more unseen, unheard and unhelped. And the children of inner-city black inmates are the most severely at-risk youth in America." John Dilulio, criminologist, about how, in the frenzy to lock up criminals, their families and children are forgotten (Associated Press)

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Project Angel Tree provided Christmas toys, clothes and a party for over 700 children of prisoners from Hamilton County last Christmas. Sharon McCray, of Corinthian Baptist Church, 722 Whittier, Cincinnati, OH directed this local effort. For local information, contact her at (513) 561-5413, or write to Prison Fellowship Ministries, PO Box 450722, Cleveland, OH 44145, or call 1-888-837-4177. Prisoners must sign their children up if they want them included in next years program.

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At an October dinner the Ohio ACLU honored Barbara Turner, an incarcerated woman who fought state corrections officials in order to have her husband present during the birth of their baby in prison. After the baby was born she fought the same officials to be allowed to breast-feed her child. Because of her efforts, ODRC officials have looked at creating parenting programs for both male and female prisoners. Mrs. Turner, a nurse hurt her back lifting patient, and was put on pain medication. She became addicted and took prescription medication from the hospital for her pain. She served 32 months in prison as a result.





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Favorite Quotes

“When you make a mistake, make amends immediately. It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.” Unknown

“So many gods, so many creeds, so many paths that wind and wind while just the art of being kind is all the sad world needs.” Ella Wheeler Wilcox, American poet, 1896

“We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through hell comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms--to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.” Victor E. Frankl, from "Man's Search for Meaning" quoted by the Human Kindness Foundation, Summer/Fall 2000.

“Sometimes we wonder why a cop doesn't treat us better in a traffic stop. What we don't understand is that they know that every minute they are doing their jobs could be their last.” Craig W. Floyd, chairman National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

“The council of ancient Athens sat in judgement and found citizens guilty of all sorts of crimes, including ‘extravagance’ and ‘insolence’.” (quoted in the Hawaiian Advertiser by Lou Boyd, 10/7/00)