

Justice Matters

Newsletter of the Western Prison Project

Fall 2001

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A Few Words From WPP

CRUELTY

As we recover from the horrible events of September 11th, I think one of the hardest parts to comprehend is that kind of cruelty. How can someone turn a plane full of people into a weapon and reduce so many lives into targets?

Unfortunately, cruelty is not uncommon in the U.S. It happens every day in the form of crime, violence against communities, and personal violence. Many of us look away rather than see cruelty, and the possibility that it could reach out for us next.

For some of us, the threat of the cruelty of prison is an effective deterrent to committing crimes. We know that bad things happen to people in prison, so we try to avoid it. And unfortunately, too many people stop right there. We figure since we're not in prison, we don't need to worry about it.

But here is the other factor that keeps us from responding. We have bought into the notion that someone in prison deserves *whatever* happens to them. To too many people, "prisoner" equals "villain", and almost any harm to them becomes "justice." So, issues of mistreatment, torture, sexual violence, and other threats to prisoners are ignored. And because we don't think that villains can also be victims, we don't concern ourselves with what happens to them. Few people are willing to argue for a drug addict's right to a new liver, or a murderer's right to a life free of rape. As a community, we haven't been very good at advocating for prisoners because it means admitting that we have to be kind to people even after we have decided they have been unkind to others.

It is easy to spot the depravity in flying a plane full of people into a building, but harder to look at malice in all its forms. We cannot just say that crimes are horrible when they are committed



Kathleen Pequeño, WPP

guilty. That includes prisoners, and at this moment, also the people of Afghanistan. Our cries against cruelty lose some of their power if they are inconsistent. That's why some of the most effective groups in researching and exposing human rights abuses are not particularly popular: because they stand up for people whether they are "innocents" or "villains". They have been crucial in providing information for the articles in this issue, and advocated for prisoners when no one else will. They have saved lives.

Every person who manages to read some part of this difficult issue and pass on the information in some form will be making a difference. I'm sure that many of you will not be able to read it cover to cover in one sitting. In fact, I discourage it. Some of the facts and stories included are even more devastating than usual. Allow yourself time to read it, to take it in. Very much like the news footage of September 11th, you will be looking directly at the worst of how we have dealt with each other. And yet, I will remind you that people find incredible strength and courage to resist cruelty everyday. We know that as human beings, we repeatedly show that we can be far greater than the worst thing ever done to us.

Kathleen Pequeño

against individuals who are innocent. We have to be willing to stand up for people that we or others have "judged"

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The Western Prison Project is a project of the Western States Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Portland, OR. We exist to build and strengthen the prison activist and criminal justice reform movement in OR, WA, ID, MT, WY, UT, and NV.

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

National Correctional Population Reaches New High

During the last six months of 2000, the nation's state prison population declined by more than 6,200 inmates, the first measured decline since 1972. That's the good news. The bad news is that the nation's combined federal, state and local adult correctional population reached a new high of almost 6.5 million people in 2000. Break down those statistics and we have a country where one in every 32 adults is either on probation or parole or some other type of court ordered supervision.

Source: Justice Department/Bureau of Justice Statistics

Louisiana Prisoners Raise \$11,000 for Red Cross

Horrified by the destruction of September 11th, prisoners at Angola State Prison, Louisiana began a fund raising drive to raise money to send to the Red Cross. Most inmates in Angola earn between 4 and 20 cents an hour working in the fields or in prison industries. Money raised at the annual Prison Rodeo will also be donated to the Red Cross.

Source: Reuters New Service

Ex-Guard's Prison Term Doubles after he Appeals his Sentence

A former Nassau County, NY jail guard who pled guilty to federal civil rights charges in the 1999 beating death of an unarmed inmate was resented to 27

more than double his original sentence. Originally convicted of voluntary manslaughter, Patrick Regnier appealed his sentence of 11 years and 3 months. The Federal District Court in New York heard his appeal, affirmed the decision but directed the trial judge to clarify whether Regnier was guilty of 2nd degree murder instead of voluntary manslaughter. The judge ruled that, in fact, he was guilty of 2nd degree murder. Source: *New York Times*

Another Amusement Park for America

Ossining, NY city officials are planning to turn part of Sing Sing Prison into a tourist attraction. They hope it will become as popular as Alcatraz.

Source AP

Important Information

Notice to Prisoners:

The News-Register, a general interest newspaper in McMinnville, Oregon, is interested in hearing from FCI Sheridan inmates and employees. Strict confidentiality guaranteed. Send us your stories and/or concerns about prison life to:

The News-Register
P.O. Box 727
McMinnville, OR 97128
Attn: Prison Life.



CHRISTIAN PARENTI IN PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 1

Christian Parenti, author of *Lockdown America, Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis*, will be speaking in Portland Nov. 1, 2001 at a benefit and open house at Portland State University and

other local universities.

The Portland Alliance monthly newspaper and KBOO radio, the event's sponsors, want to use the events to promote public knowledge of Portland region organizations challenging the criminal justice system. Groups are being invited to set up tables and the public will be invited to enter the hall one hour before Parenti's talk to examine materials and meet representatives. An information sheet will be given to each attendee listing the groups, their purpose, and how to make contact.

The entire program is planned for Portland State, both at noon in a talk free to students and at 7:00 or so in a \$5+ benefit inviting the community.

Please contact the Western Prison Project if your group wishes to participate in any way, and we will connect you with the event organizers.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Western Prison Project invites incarcerated artists to submit their work for possible inclusion in Justice Matters. Cover art, cartoons and other graphics needed. Anyone whose work we use receives a free subscription to Justice Matters for themselves and two others. Upcoming special issue themes include: Mind/Body Health; Transition & Re-Entry. Please submit work to: Justice Matters, Western Prison Project, P.O. Box 40085, Portland, OR 97240.



Regional News

NV: Prison Mismanagement Caused Inmate Uprising

The June, 2001 uprising by youth incarcerated at the Summit View Youth Correctional Center was a direct result of appalling conditions and prison mismanagement, according to a study by the *Las Vegas Sun*. The youth prison, which opened in June, 2000, was plagued with severe problems including the sexual and physical abuse of youth prisoners by staff; numerous suicide attempts by incarcerated youth; a lack of programming for prisoners and training for staff; and an 80% staff turnover rate.

In June, 2001 youth prisoners scaled a fence and climbed onto a roof where for hours they refused to come down. The youths told their defense attorneys they were upset about conditions in the youth prison. Among the more serious incidents was a report of a staff person slamming a youth's head against a wall several times. Three additional staff members were suspended last spring after allegations that they were physically abusing teens. Two employees were arrested in August on charges of having sex with teen inmates.

The *Sun's* report also detailed the near complete lack of training or qualifications for staff at the facility. Many of the employees were between 20 and 25 years old, and the facility required only a high school diploma of its guards. Wages for guards were \$10 to \$12 per hour, far below the \$18 to \$25 the county paid for juvenile probation officers in its Spring Mountain Youth Camp.

Source: Las Vegas Sun

NV: State to Buy Private Prison

The state of Nevada has agreed to purchase a privately run women's prison in North Las Vegas that is owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America for \$24.2 million. The state already had a 20-year contract to pay CCA to operate the prison. At the end of the 20 years the state would have ended up owner of the facility. The newly approved purchase, financed through a bond sale, will allow the state to acquire the facility earlier.

Source: Las Vegas Sun

ID: Death Row Inmate Freed after Nearly 18 Years

After almost 18 years on death row for the rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl, Charles Fain was released from prison because of DNA evidence exonerating him of the crime. Fain was convicted of the 1982 kidnapping, rape and murder of Daralyn Johnson after a forensics expert from the FBI said microscopic examination showed three hairs found on the victim's body were *probably* Mr. Fain's.

Mr. Fain maintained his innocence from the beginning. He said the day the crime happened, he was 360 miles away at his father's house in Oregon. A Vietnam veteran who had served with the 101st Airborne, Mr. Fain bounced back and forth between Oregon and Idaho after his honorable discharge. At the time of his questioning, he had an address one block from the girl's house. His address, and his light-brown hair, were the reasons he was called in for questioning. He passed a polygraph test, but prosecutors successfully blocked the introduction of the polygraph results at trial. The most damning evidence against

Mr. Fain was the testimony of two jailhouse informers.

Even though the new DNA evidence exonerated him, and a state judge ordered the charges against him dismissed, the original prosecutor and judge in the case insist that Fain is guilty. D. Fredrick Hoopes, an Idaho lawyer who worked on the case for many years, said such reactions pointed out problems with the death penalty. "We just can't kill people who we are sure are guilty," Mr. Hoopes said. At least 96 people have been exonerated and freed from death rows in 22 states since the death penalty was reinstated in 1973. Six death-row inmates have been exonerated in the first six months of this year.

Source: New York Times

ID: Local Republicans Fight Work Release Center

In August, the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee voted overwhelmingly in favor of fighting a state plan to build a work-release center in North Idaho. Corrections officials have been considering a property near the Coeur d'Alene Airport for a 100-bed, co-ed facility. Prisoners would live at the center as they near parole, and work at local jobs during the day before being released back into the community.

The opposition of local Republicans is not based on security concerns. They don't want prisoners competing against local citizens for jobs in an area where unemployment is among the highest in the state. "To me it's not even negotiable," said Kootenai County Commissioner Ron Rankin. "Once they're going to have them up here, it's going to take jobs from our locals." Department of Corrections

Regional News

Interim Director Tom Beauclair said the prisoners sent to a work-release center in Kootenai County would be people who are from the area. "We like people to return to the community where they came from," he said. But to those who committed crimes in Kootenai County, Sheriff Rocky Watson said: "We don't want them back."

Source: Spokane Spokesman-Review

OR: Respected Activist Arrested After Confrontation at Federal Prison

Mariah Taylor, the nationally recognized medical clinic proprietor known as "the Mother Theresa of Northeast Portland," was arrested in August at Sheridan Correctional Facility, a federal prison, after a run-in with the prison's controversial electronic drug-detection device. The device, called an "ion tracker," measures the residue of controlled substances on the skin in quantities as small as a billionth of a gram. Refused permission to visit her son after the drug device indicated she was "positive" for drug exposure, Ms. Taylor refused to leave the prison and was cited for criminal trespass. Upon returning to Portland, she immediately obtained a comprehensive drug exam at Emanuel Hospital, which showed no drugs present. Ms. Taylor, who was originally scheduled for a September court date, had all charges against her dropped after the intercession of Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Ms. Taylor was only the most well known of a number of visitors who have been turned away from the prison since the installation of the device. The Oregon ACLU is currently looking into the matter. "The problem

is that all the reports we've been getting in Oregon and across the country indicate these machines simply are not accurate," said David Fidanque, ACLU of Oregon Executive Director. Fidanque said another troubling aspect of the machines involves the way federal prison officials are using them to limit visitors at the prison without any recourse for those who trigger its "positive" readings. "Really, what they (officials) care about is what the machine says. In their eyes, number 1, the machine is never wrong, and number 2, they don't care if it is ever wrong. In their view, no one has the right to visit someone in prison."

Source: The Skanner; McMinnville News-Register

OR: DOC Proposes to Hire Out Prisoners to Private Companies

On August 20th, the Oregon Department of Corrections adopted a temporary, proposed rule relating to inmate work crews. The rule would eliminate the restriction that allows only government agencies to use inmate work crews, and make it possible for private non-profit as well as private for-profit businesses to hire inmate work crews. **The proposed rule is open for public comment until October 23rd, 2001.** Any group of 10 people (or organization with at least 10 members) may demand a public hearing by contacting Dave Schumacher, Rules Coordinator, ODOC, 2575 Center St. N.E., Salem, OR 97310-0470. The new rule did not mention the wage scale for prisoners, or the cost to businesses hiring a work crew of prisoners.

Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

Save the Date!

**Washington Summit on
Criminal Justice Reform
November 10th & 11th, 2001
Seattle University**

(call number below to confirm location)

Are you a grassroots activist interested in criminal justice reform in Washington state? Then come to the first community summit on criminal justice reform. Over thirty diverse organizations have been working together to present this opportunity for building the movement for criminal justice reform.

Workshops • Speak-Outs •
Presentations • Strategy Sessions

Topics include:
Policing & Power
Community Resources for Helping
People Grow (including prison
programs and re-entry programs)
Alternatives to Incarceration
Poverty, Race, Class & Prosecution
Victims' Needs
Organizing for Change

**FREE! Online registration
available at:
www.reformnetwork.org**

For More Info:
WA Summit on Criminal Justice
Reform
9594 1st Ave. N.E.
PMB 303
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 695-3176

**Western Prison Project is proud to
be a sponsor of this conference.**

State Report

Oregon Coalition Moves Forward

Following its victory last spring in successfully advocating for the return of \$9 million for programs for prisoners, the Oregon Criminal Justice Reform Coalition is moving forward. At an August strategy meeting, member organizations of the Coalition unanimously agreed to continue the Coalition on a permanent basis.

Coalition members discussed priorities for work between fall, 2001 and the next legislative session in 2003. After much discussion and several rounds of voting, the Coalition established the following priorities:

Public Education: Coalition members consider it a high priority to educate Oregonians about the criminal justice system and the need for reform. A plan will be developed for statewide public education activities.

Sentencing Reform: Reform of Measure 11 (mandatory sentencing) and the death penalty continue to be top priorities for the Coalition. After much discussion, there was consensus that a ballot initiative campaign to reform Measure 11 would not be launched in 2002, but that the Coalition would focus on public education regarding the need for sentencing reform and consider an initiative campaign at a future time.

Prison & Transition Services and Programs: The Coalition is making it a priority to continue to advocate for effective and accessible education and treatment programs for prisoners, and improved transition programs (e.g. housing, employment, treatment) for people returning to our communities from prison.

System Oversight: The Coalition will make it a priority to advocate for improved system oversight that includes more citizen involvement in



Brigette Sarabi presents Ralph Taylor with a certificate of appreciation for his work on behalf of the Oregon Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, at the Coalition's summer victory celebration.

decision-making about criminal justice policy including sentencing, the parole process, and the operation of Oregon's prisons.

The Western Prison Project will continue to provide administrative support to the Coalition. *For more information about the Coalition, call (503) 335-8449.*

Police Accountability Campaign Gains Momentum

By Greg Cluster

The Portland Police Accountability Campaign 2002 (PAC-2002) is a grassroots, community-based campaign working to end police misconduct - from harassment to the unlawful use of deadly force - by creating an effective system of community oversight of the Portland Police Bureau. The PAC-2002 initiative, expected to appear on the May, 2002 ballot, would establish an independent civilian review board with the power to take and investigate complaints about police misconduct and review investigations of police shootings and

deaths in custody. The independent board would also be charged with the responsibility to hold public hearings on police policy and would have the power to mandate changes to policy. These changes would make the process of filing complaints safe and effective for victims of police abuse.

Along with a petitioning effort to qualify the initiative for next May's ballot, the campaign has organized a number of "Speak-outs" against police abuse. PAC-2002 has been endorsed by the Portland Green Party, The Multnomah County Democrats, and the Portland New Party, as well as Jobs with Justice and the Pacific Northwest Publisher's Association representing The Scanner, The Asian Reporter and El Hispanic News.

Adrienne Ratner, campaign manager explained, "We realize that street level police misconduct represents only one of the many facets of injustice in our criminal 'justice' system. Our work complements the Life for a Life Campaign to abolish the death penalty, and the movement to end mandatory sentencing. We believe that establishing an independent civilian review board will limit the absolute power the police and criminal justice system have over our communities."

The campaign is well beyond the half-way point in its signature gathering effort, and now needs help to finish in time to qualify for the ballot.

Anyone interested in volunteering or making a contribution should contact the campaign at (503) 287-2255, or write to them at P.O. Box 11176, Portland, OR, 97211. For more information about the campaign go to www.pac-2002.org.

Perpetual Prisoner Machine

Of “Ghost Prisoners” and Shell Games

By Julia Lutsky

During the past decade Mississippi, like most other jurisdictions, engaged in massive prison building to accommodate the influx of prisoners brought about by “get tough” legislation. Now that prison populations have begun to decline nationwide, there are more beds than prisoners and a federal judge has returned \$1.3 million the state was fined for overcrowding. The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) presently houses approximately 19,000 prisoners and had, at the beginning of September, a surplus of approximately 2,145 prison beds.

Prisons, however, are big business. They provide jobs in construction, service and maintenance as well as markets for service companies. Private prisons provide even more: a neat profit to those who can care for prisoners more cheaply. Consequently, the state legislature passed legislation on July 1st of this year mandating payment to ten regional jails and two private prisons for a minimum of 230 beds per regional facility and 900 in each private prison, whether or not there are prisoners actually occupying those beds.

Wayne Calabrese is president and CEO of the Florida-based Wackenhut Corrections Corporation which runs the Marshall County Facility, one of the private prisons considered in the legislation. Wackenhut also runs the Lauderdale County Correctional Facility. Calabrese commented that “We want to be sure that the price we gave the state, which was based on full or nearly full occupancy, is in fact what we receive.” The second private prison to which the legislation applies is the Delta Correctional Facility in Green-

wood; it is run by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), based in Nashville.

Both these companies actively campaigned to obtain the authorization and funding to run the prisons. Wackenhut’s local lobbyist, Al Sage, joined Calabrese and the two went from office to office at the statehouse cornering crucial legislators. Not to be outdone, CCA sent its local lobbyist,

...“you can call it ‘ghost inmates.’ You can call it anything that you want to, the fact remains that we’re paying for something we don’t need.”

Mississippi Commissioner of Corrections Robert Johnson

Spencer Medlin, to explain the needs of its facility to legislators.

Both state Commissioner of Corrections Robert Johnson and Governor Ronnie Musgrove opposed the legislation; Musgrove vetoed it when it crossed his desk earlier this year. The money should be better spent on classroom supplies, he contended. Senate Correction Committee Chairman Robert Smith also criticized the legislation as wasteful agreeing that the money would be better spent on education. Musgrove’s veto was overridden at the end of March in both House and Senate by substantial majorities. Opponents of the legislation say it means moving prisoners from Parchman Penitentiary and other prisons to reach the required minimum. Johnson called funding private

prisons when there are empty beds in state institutions a waste of taxpayers’ dollars and accused the legislature of playing a “shell game” that misuses state resources. “You can call it ‘ghost inmates.’ You can call it anything that you want to,” he told the legislators. “The fact remains that we’re paying for something we don’t need.”

Six of the regional jails hired their own lobbyist, Charles Weissinger, Jr., a lawyer and former state legislator who had helped to plan two of the regional prisons in the early 1990s. Weissinger urged Johnson to restore the full number of 250 prisoners to the regional jails, going so far as to say that the prisoners could be taken from the private prisons. Johnson was not swayed. According to a state legislature’s auditing agency report made in July, Weissinger will receive a minimum of \$332,000 this year.

The cost of the legislation varies according to the source consulted: Johnson estimates it to be \$2 million for the prisons and \$4 million for the regional jails. On the other hand, the state House Appropriations Committee estimates it to be \$5 million in toto. Attorney Ron Welch of Jackson has monitored the state’s prison overcrowding for some years and says that the state should be very careful when it comes to funding private prisons: he called guaranteeing the income of the private prison companies an example of the tail wagging the dog.

When the legislation went into effect the MDOC faced the possibility of moving some 500 prisoners in local jails and county work programs into prisons or regional facilities.



Corporate Connection



Cornell Corrections Targets Alaska

By Julia Lutsky

Editor's Note: Over the past several years, Cornell Corrections, Inc. (CCI) has sought to move their private prison operation into Alaska. They have worked with a handful of Alaskan business interests, lobbyists and politicians. Their initial involvement in Delta Junction thwarted, they are now doing all they can to build and operate a private prison on the Kenai Peninsula. As we go to press, the fate of the proposed private prison rests with Alaska voters. The following article by Julia Lutsky is an anatomy of the prison privatization push in Alaska to date.

Twenty years ago a class action lawsuit in Alaska resulted in a consent decree setting the maximum number of prisoners for the state at 2,786. In 1995, the Alaska Department of Corrections (ADOC) had to ship nearly 800 prisoners to the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) facility in Florence, Arizona, and move another 653 to halfway houses to keep the number at an acceptable 2,656.

Republican state legislators were not happy with sending almost \$19 million a year to another state to house Alaskan prisoners. Eldon Mulder, House Finance Committee Co-Chairman and, since 1996, strong private prison advocate, was particularly upset. In 1999, he sponsored legislation to allow dismissal of the consent decree if there were no ongoing violations. Superior Court Judge Elaine Andrews held there were none the following year. Scott Taylor, attorney for the prisoners who had initiated the class action suit, warned that "[t]he danger ... is that the Legislature not get the idea ... that they can shut down the contract in Arizona and bring everybody back." Ergo, Alaska needed another prison.

Then in 1998, the federal government announced it would close Fort

Greely outside Delta Junction in 2001. This location had drawn the attention of the private prison industry and of state and local legislators. A new prison on its facilities would provide construction, maintenance and service jobs, replacing jobs lost with the proposed closure of the army base. Delta Corrections, the local operation of the corporation Allvest, Inc., sold the idea of a private prison at Fort Greely to the Delta Junction city

company sued. Unless the federal government pays the reimbursement Allvest seeks, Delta Junction stands to lose as much as \$1.1 million.

Since the state wanted to open a prison by the summer of 2003, and a private one still seemed possible, Weimar - who had sold the Alaskan operations of Allvest to the national corporation, Cornell Corrections, Inc. (CCI) for \$21 million - would have to turn his eyes elsewhere. And the 1998 legislation, which had authorized that the prison be built only on the military facilities at Delta Junction, would have to be amended or replaced.

Further south, on the Kenai peninsula, officials had been considering the problem of a parcel of land next to the Wildwood Pre-Trial Facility, home to 250 prisoners. The Wildwood site had originally been an Air Force Base and it had evidently been transferred to the Kenai Natives Association (KNA) when the military left some years back. It was later purchased by the state and the Wildwood Pre-Trial Facility constructed. The parcel of land next to it, however, still belonged to the KNA. Since developers had been reticent to build because of its location next to Wildwood the Kenai Natives Association made feasibility studies to determine the best use to which the land could be put. Not surprisingly, one of the leading suggestions was another prison. This piece of KNA land - and its facilities - might therefore be the solution for the prison Alaska sought to build. The state, however, would not deal directly with the KNA; the land and facilities would have to be acquired by the



Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

government. Bill Weimar, a former manager of state halfway houses and president of Allvest, took charge of efforts to obtain necessary funding.

Governor Tony Knowles' administration had originally urged the expansion of existing regional jails rather than the construction of a large prison. In 1998, however, the legislature approved and he signed a bill authorizing an 800-bed medium security private prison in Delta Junction. Two years later, the federal government altered its plans: Fort Greely would remain open and become the site for a missile defense system. Elections in the fall of 1999 changed the balance of power in the Delta City Council and it voted to rescind the contract with Allvest. The



Corporate Connection



Kenai Peninsula Borough.

During the summer of 2000, the KNA had begun discussions with Weimar and Cornell Corrections on the possibility of constructing an 800 - 1,000 bed prison on the land. Together they presented the idea to the Kenai Peninsula Borough City Council last September. Though no assurances had come from the state to that effect, one of the arguments used to convince the borough was that the facilities could be shared with the Wildwood Complex. And the KNA land is also adjacent to the airport which would simplify the transferring of prisoners.

The Kenai Natives Association lobbied native organizations throughout the state for support for the private prison. Rick Segura, KNA's president and CEO, argued that while native American males make up seven percent of Alaska's population, native men make up 37 percent of the prison population. Three hundred of them are in Arizona and should be brought home to Alaska if for no other reason than that family visits, so necessary to rehabilitation, are nearly impossible with the men so far away. The KNA would also like to establish rehabilitation programs specifically directed to Native American prisoners.

Cornell Corrections had, along with the KNA, been a part of Corrections Group North (CGN), a "limited liability" partnership originally made up of Cornell and Weimar Investments who were - as Delta Corrections - behind the plan for a private prison at Fort Greely. CGN had submitted a response to a "request for qualification" issued early this year by the Kenai Peninsula Borough City

Council seeking a group of companies to work with the borough on the planning and construction of a private prison. Its response was rejected because the Borough Council was uncomfortable with CGN's "limited liability" status. Cornell then agreed to be the prime contractor in a letter written in mid-February, 2001, to the Council by Cornell's president and CEO, Steve Logan. According to Jeff



Alaskan voters will decide if a prison will be built on the Kenai Peninsula

Sinz, Kenai borough financial director, CGN then ceased to play any part in the Kenai prison project; it had been replaced by Cornell Corrections.

Prisons, even private prisons, are an expensive proposition. In this case, costs were to be financed through the issuance of public bonds. If the public refuses to vote the bond measure, said Sinz, and "the bonds are not issued to pay for capital costs associated with the project, then the costs will be treated as an operating expenditure of the borough's general fund." How much these costs might amount to has never been specified.

The Kenai Borough Assembly subsequently approved 8 to 1 the negotiation of a contract with Cornell Corrections. This vote was in spite of a letter from three of Kenai's five member legislative delegation questioning the fact that only one contractor was seriously considered and that

public funds would be used without defining the costs of the prison. These were also the reasons cited by Pete Sprague of Soldotna, when he cast the sole opposing vote.

So the choice of Cornell Corrections was made in the absence of any competitive bidding. Sinz, one of those on the five member panel rating the interested corporations, said that primary among the considerations had been Cornell's choice of location on the land near the existing facility at Wildwood. There was also Cornell's promise of an undisclosed "promotional" package.

This "promotional" package was discussed behind the closed doors of state legislative committees. Both the House and Senate approved a measure for the design, construction and operation of a private prison on Kenai peninsula. An amendment requiring competitive bids for the contract was voted down. In its final form, it authorized the Dept. of Corrections to enter into a five-year lease agreement with Kenai Borough for construction of the 800 - 1,000 bed prison at a cost of \$80 to \$100 million.

In May, the measure enabling the DOC to enter the lease agreement was signed by Governor Knowles. The Kenai Borough, in turn, entered a partnership with Cornell to construct the prison, which would belong to the borough, be financed by the state and operated by Cornell. It is still unclear whether the land would actually be purchased or leased from the KNA. That will have to be decided once plans are finalized.

Relationships between political and corporate players, as well as political contributions, have been present throughout Cornell's efforts to expand



Corporate Connection



Cont. from Pg. 10

their business in Alaska. The wife of House Finance Committee Co-Chairman, and privatization advocate Eldon Mulder, Wendy, is an aide to Cornell lobbyist Joe Hayes. "I don't deal with clients," she said; the only reason she took the position was to keep the family together during the legislative sessions. She does not lobby but goes to her husband's office in the Capitol "to pick up the mail," she says. She did however run her own lobbying business back in 1995. And for her non-lobbying assistance, in 1999 Hayes paid her \$65,000 and in 2000 she received a twenty percent increase, according to Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC). Mulder himself received \$2,600 from Allvest in the '96 elections and \$2,500 toward the '98 elections.

According to the *National Institute on Money in State Politics*, Cornell gave a total of \$50,275 in political contributions in 1998, the major part of which went to Republican candidates. Of the total, \$6,375, however, had gone to Democratic Governor Knowles, who later signed the legislation authorizing the private prison.

Jerry Ward, Republican State Senator, former corrections official and private prison promoter from Anchorage, owns a company that manages real estate for the Kenai Natives Association. Neeser Construction, part of the Corrections Group North consortium, is presently constructing a \$50 million jail in Anchorage. Neeser and the engineering firm VECO (also part of CGN) are heavy campaign contributors to Alaska politicians.

Part of the contract between Kenai and Cornell provides for a feasibility study to be done after Phase One (promotion and planning of the prison) is complete but before Phase

Two (construction and operation) is actually decided. Phase One was essentially completed by the end of summer, 2001. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have gone out to independent firms to conduct the feasibility study but it is highly unlikely that the study will be completed any time soon. Such an arrangement means, of course, that the amounts of money involved, and the cost to Alaska taxpayers, have not yet been determined. At least not publicly.

In Alaska groups formed to campaign for candidates or ballot measures are required to register with the state. By mid-May a Kenai group called *Citizens for a Private Prison free Peninsula* had formed and registered in order to place a petition on the October ballot for an ordinance "prohibit[ing] the private for-profit operation of a prison or correctional institution within the Kenai Peninsula Borough." James Price, principal sponsor of the petition and contact person for the group, said he wanted to "get a ruling by the people, which [will be] a binding law by the people. And the people's voice will have been heard." Two days before Price filed the initiative application, Assembly member Sprague of Soldotna said it was his intention to put the issue of the prison on the ballot. Had his bill been successful, however, the resulting vote would have been only advisory.

Advocates of the private prison, not to be outdone, formed *Concerned*

Citizens for Responsible Economic Development (CCFRED), led by Kenai attorney Blaine Gilman. His group has "been having meetings with lots of volunteers," he says, "We're trying to do a grass-roots campaign with as many volunteers involved as possible."

By mid-June of this year, so much controversy had been generated with respect to the planned prison that the entire nine member Kenai Peninsula

Borough Assembly co-sponsored an ordinance to let borough voters decide whether or not a private prison should be built on Kenai. A 'yes' vote will allow the borough to contract with Cornell to proceed with Phase Two (the construction and operation of the prison) once the feasibility study

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had been completed; allow the borough to decide on whether it will purchase or lease the KNA land; and for the final Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to be signed with the state. A 'no' vote will prohibit the construction of *any* private prison on the peninsula for at least two years (the two year proviso is part of the municipal code).

The ordinance thus combines Sprague's advisory vote and Price's voters' initiative. The October vote has strong advocates on both sides: Bill Popp, a Kenai Borough Assembly member, and an original sponsor of the ordinance, could see no reason why anyone would object since it gives voters the final say. He is a supporter of the private prison because of the



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250 to 300 jobs he estimates it would create: “I think there’s a lot of potential for [another] component to the economy of the Kenai peninsula.” Although the ordinance surprised Sprague, he said it “makes [the public vote] binding and ... even preferable to what I was asking.” Soldotna Mayor Dave Carey and the City Council have gone on record as opposing the construction of any private prison on the peninsula. The Council has, however, supported the construction of a publicly owned prison.

Even if the vote okays the prison, the borough could still decline to proceed to Phase Two. Cornell is actively working to see that this doesn’t happen: in addition to promising jobs they have, for example, been the main sponsors of a Red Cross golf tournament held recently on Kenai peninsula; they have met with the Kenai and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce and the Soldotna Rotary. They have also held a working session with the Soldotna City Council; the Council, however, made it clear that it would not support a private prison unless the builders could meet the same staffing, training and security measures that obtain at state operated facilities. At the end of the session, “I heard nothing here tonight that changed my mind regarding our resolution, did any of you?” [Vice Mayor Jim] Stogsdill asked of his fellow council members. No one indicated that they had.” [*Peninsula Clarion*, 8/10/01]

Michael Gilliland, retired from the federal prison system and formerly a warden for Cornell, is the company’s business development southwest coordinator and conducted some of these meetings. He noted that he was

“here to get information out about the company - how we operate across the country with our values, how we would plan to become good neighbors and be active in the community as this prison project goes through.” He added that Cornell would support the pro-private prison CCFRED’s activities.

By early September, according to state records, CCFRED had collected \$39,000, of which Cornell had contributed \$16,000; Gilman \$8,100; the Kenai Natives Association \$5,000; Neeser Corporation \$5,000; and *Teamsters ALIVE* \$5,000. By contrast, Price’s group, *Peninsula Citizens Against Private Prisons*, had raised only \$2,000: \$1,500 from *Public Safety Employees Association*, \$451 from Price and \$225 from three individual donations each of which was less than \$100.

By that time, too, a new anti-prison group, *Public Safety Yes - Private Prison No*, had formed. And Cornell had begun to run ads promoting the prison which say they are paid for by Cornell. While the state requires groups campaigning to register, as of this writing (mid-September) Cornell has not registered.

As we go to press the Kenai City Council announced it had voted 4-2 to support the prison, but only with very strong reservations: arrangements would have to be made for connecting the prison to the city’s water and sewage systems; the feasibility study be would have to be completed, studied and approved by the City Council and be made available to the general public; and agreement would need to be reached between the city of Kenai and the borough with respect to the operation of the facility and its effect on the city.

The public, though it still has no information on the amount of public money involved, may have the last word in the matter; it remains to be seen how it will decide on October 2nd.

Justice Matters expects to follow the Kenai vote and its aftermath and will report the outcome in a future issue. Sources: *Kenai Peninsula Clarion*, *Anchorage Daily News*. *The Prison Payoff: “The Role of Politics and Private Prisons in the Incarceration Boom,”* November 2000. With especial thanks to *Peninsula Clarion* reporter McKibben Jackinsky who supplied us with a great deal of information on these very convoluted negotiations.



Volunteers Needed for HIV Education at OSP in Salem, OR

Outside volunteers are needed on Thursday evenings (5:00—8:30) at Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem to facilitate HIV/AIDS peer education classes for HAAP (HIV/AIDS Awareness Program). These classes are presented through the prison education department. They are led by prisoners, but **MUST** have an outside sponsor/volunteer present. These classes are always on Thursday evenings, but you can set your own schedule/frequency for volunteering (occasional, once per month, every other week, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, contact: HAAP Program/ Oregon State Penitentiary, 503-378-4207 (this is a voice mail, leave your name and phone number and let them know that you would like to volunteer, and someone will call you back).

Special Section

Torture in Our Prisons

By Julia Lutsky

By the end of May, 2001, twenty-three Turkish prisoners and their supporters had died protesting the threat of isolation and torture. The Turkish government had initiated a plan the previous October to transfer prisoners to isolation cells in F-type prisons where they would be housed one to three per cell. They had previously been held in ward-like dormitories which, according to the government, are controlled by different gangs and therefore unsafe for administrative personnel. The government had tried to put the same policy in place in 1996 but desisted after twelve prisoners had died in protest fasts. This time, however, it appears determined at all costs to implement the policy. Four F-type Turkish prisons are already operational and more are planned.

What does this have to do with prisons in the United States, you wonder? A great deal, considering that both things feared by the Turkish prisoners, isolation and torture, are openly practiced here. Turkey's F-type prisons are modeled on U.S. maximum security prisons. While Turkey has a total prison population of about 72,000, prison activists here estimate that between 40,000 and 200,000 prisoners (i.e., 2—10% of all U.S. prisoners) are housed in isolation units.

According to Morton Sklar, director of the *World Organization Against Torture*, super maximum (isolation or control unit) prisons all share certain characteristics:

"1. Prisoners ... are kept in solitary confinement in tiny cells (six by eight feet is usual) for between twenty two and twenty three hours a day. There is

no congregate dining, no congregate exercise, no work opportunities and no congregate religious services. Access to facilities or social services is severely limited.

"2. These conditions exist permanently (as opposed to temporary lockdowns ...) as official policy."

Now, because US prisons are filled over capacity, two and even three prisoners may be confined in these cells, built to house only one.

"[T]he term 'torture' means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person ... when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity."

From the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Other Degrading Treatment or Punishment, June, 1987.

No federal law defines torture as a crime, but its presence can readily be testified to by prisoners here. All the testimonies below were made by prisoners confined to control unit cells in the Western Prison Project's region; prisoners throughout the country report similar treatment.

From Utah, "Suffice [it] to say that control units are cruel, inhuman places where prisoners are grossly abused and mistreated ... [The Maximum Facility Intensive Management Control Unit] houses only 12 prisoners and most of them suffer from chronic genuine mental disorders. [It] is cold, dark, dirty, and noisy. Steel plates on hinges ... cover the cell doors and windows. The guards open and slam shut these plates throughout the night ... They never clean the unit. [It] is very unsanitary coated with old

food, dirt and human waste.

"Prisoners ... are given one hour of out-of-cell recreation, three times per week. That ... time consists of going to a small smelly courtyard ... with a concrete floor and no roof. Other than for showers and three hours of courtyard weekly, we are never let out of our bare cells. Sensory deprivation is a severe problem. After awhile many of us hear voices.

"Whenever we leave our cells, even to the shower, they employ full restraints on us, which means being handcuffed behind the back and guided by a 'dog leash' attached to the handcuffs."

From Oregon's IMU in a Salem prison, "Here we are handcuffed at the back with a leash and escorted by two officers to and from the rec[reation] rooms and shower, one at a time.

"I [have] seen it all, people have literally gone insane, too much stress or depression or too much medication or go wild over frustration and get beat up or decide to [commit suicide. ...[W]e are practically underground, no sun, no air, no night..." [Lights are controlled by guards outside and cells are constantly illuminated.]

From Walla Walla Washington, "The CO [corrections officer] ... entered my room, put my bedding on the floor and walked over it ... As soon as I started to voice my displeasure the trash-talking guard twisted my wrist and slammed me against the wall. The only thing I could do was turn to my right to relieve the pain ... which the guard took [to be] resisting. I was then thrown to the ground and [held] by six other guards who applied pain to my body's pressure points which made me

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yell out in extreme pain. I was then lifted up by my four limbs and put face down in my cell ...

“I was ordered to stand and put my hands out my cuff port to have my cuffs removed. After my cuffs were off I left my right hand out ... and demanded to talk to the lieutenant. The sergeant ... took that as a “threat” and ordered the cuff port shut on my arm. Before I could pull my arm in a CO on each side ... slammed the hatch shut trapping my arm. They then, with the sergeant and two more COs, started to punch [and] beat my arm and bend my fingers back. While I’m still trying to pull my arm in the sergeant thinks it’s a good idea to give the hatch a good kick. He gives it a good eight kicks before he allows me to retrieve my bruised and cut arm.”

From Utah maximum security, “Until four years ago Utah used a form of torture called ‘the Chair.’ The chair was/is a chair made of steel that was bolted to the floor. The prisoner was strapped down to each leg and the armrest and placed inside a bare dark cell. The room temperature of this cell was *always* at least 60 degrees and of course the prisoner was always naked. [In 1997] the gestapo troops got a little too zealous and a prisoner [Michael Valent] was killed. ... His mom filed a lawsuit and ... the gestapo was cleared of all wrong doing”

Speaking of another prisoner, “[He] was directed to leave the strip cell and a urine soaked pillow case was placed over his head... He was then walked shackled and hooded to a different cell where he was placed in a device called the ‘chair.’ The chair is a restraint device designed for mentally ill persons who pose a significant danger of harming themselves or others. The inmate is stripped nude, placed in the

chair, with [his] buttocks several inches below the knees. The arms and legs are then cuffed or shackled to the legs of the chair to prevent the inmate from moving. The design of the chair forces the inmate back against the chair. Mobility is almost non-existent.

“The inmate cannot relieve himself without soiling himself. He is left uncovered and unprotected, in pain and shackled. [The prisoner] was kept in the chair for over thirty hours. This resulted in extreme physical and emotional suffering.”

The chair to which Michael Valent - who heard voices and had been diagnosed schizophrenic - was strapped was one in which Utah prisoners have been strapped for as long as four days running. Prolonged immobilization in a sitting position can cause blood to clot and block major arteries resulting in death. Valent spent 16 hours in the chair after which, when he was taken to the shower, he collapsed and died.

Since his death, “Utah has adopted a ... kinder gentler form of torture. It’s called ‘the Board’. Basically ‘the Board’ is a piece of board three feet wide [and] six feet long that is covered with towels. The prisoner is stripped and shackled spread eagle to the board. The board is then inclined from the wall. ... Three times a day a guard comes in with chow (always cold) and a bedpan. If you have to use the bathroom you do it in the bedpan. You are not unshackled. The guard holds the pan under you!! They give you *Ensure* which is a protein drink so you don’t have to eat solid food. This eliminates defecation.”

From Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, “I was extracted from my cell by the prison’s tactical

squad. They used pepper-based gas, spraying my cell with a large dose from a canister. ... I was taken to a [recreation] yard where my clothes were cut from my person. ... This was done in the presence of female staff. I was then placed back in my cell, which was still full of gas.

“The pain induced by the gas was excruciating. The gas didn’t abate for about two or three hours. I believe this caused permanent damage to my eyesight. Prior to the gassing I had 20/20 vision; thereafter I couldn’t see five feet in front of me and required prescription eyeglasses to see.

“To compound matters they stripped my cell, leaving it completely empty. No mattress, no bedding, no toilet paper, no clothes - nothing. The next day they gave me undershorts and a T-shirt but nothing else. I was left [in the] strip-cell for 14 days. I was told this was done to teach me a lesson.”

At a capital trial in Las Vegas, Nevada, the prisoner was obliged to wear a stun belt capable of delivering up to 50,000 volts to the kidney area for several seconds. It is controlled remotely and can be activated at will by the person holding the remote switch. The resulting shock is extremely painful and can cause the wearer to be apprehensive lest any move he make be misinterpreted. At one point during the trial, the stun belt was activated causing the prisoner to “shake uncontrollably” and to fall writhing to the floor. The belt has been known to be activated accidentally and this is precisely what happened: an officer inadvertently activated the stun belt when he touched the remote control as he leaned across a desk. The jury subsequently sentenced the defendant to

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Cont. from Pg. 13

death for the murder of his wife. *Amnesty International* noted that “It is not clear why the authorities felt it necessary to put a stun belt on [him] as he was a cooperative defendant to the point of his own self destruction. He had represented himself during the proceedings and had urged the jurors to give him the death penalty.”

Recently, because of overcrowding, Wyoming transferred 72 prisoners to Wallens Ridge State Prison in Big Stone, Virginia, one of the most infamous control unit prisons in the country. It is currently under federal investigation; prisoners transferred there from New Mexico allege that they have been beaten by guards, shocked with stun guns and denied necessary medical care. The ACLU’s National Prison Project has filed suit against the prison charging that prisoners are routinely subjected to the use of stun guns or to being strapped down for up to two days for minor transgressions of prison regulations. The prison has suspended (but not stopped) the use of one type of stun gun because a prisoner died after it had been fired at him.

Defending his decision to transfer them, Governor Jim Geringer remarked that prisoners “gave up their own rights by their own choice when they committed a crime.” It is true they are forcibly removed from their homes and loved ones and must give up their right to freedom of movement. They have not, however, given up their basic right to be respected as human beings. The protection of society does not require that those who must be forcefully separated from it be further punished.

In the words of a Utah prisoner, “I have seen inmates that have cut their wrists and throats trying to get away

from [four pointing, beatings and the restraint chair]. I was sentenced to one to 15 years ... for possession of stolen property. I was not sentenced to punishment that will cause me problems for the rest of my life.” [Prisoner had already served 16 years.]

Sources other than those cited above: *American Friends Service Committee*, Criminal Justice Program, *Salt Lake Tribunal*, Salt Lake City, Utah, *World Organization Against Torture, USA*, *Cruelty in Control?* “The Stun Belt and other Electro-Shock equipment in Law Enforcement,” *Amnesty International* report, June 1999



The Survivors Manual

The *Survivors Manual* is a book written for and by control unit prisoners and published by the American Friends Service Committee (see page 19 for contact information). The following excerpt was written by California prisoner, Paul Redd, and published with permission of AFSC.

“I have now been in prison 20 years and 18 of them have been spent in various SHU’s...I have many years of experience in these hell holes and have witnessed a great deal in terms of seeing individuals giving up their inner strength and beliefs because in their minds they could no longer deal with the mental torture, isolation, the materialistic restrictions, etc...”

I have been asked over the years: ‘How have you been able to survive all this and still be mentally intact?’ My answers are very simple: I know who I am and where I am going; I don’t let

time do me, I do the time; and my mind and thinking are far from prison walls.

Now I would like to share with those who are new to this or/and those who have not yet developed the inner consciousness that give them the power to survive, my pointers on how to survive and use isolation to your advantage:

- Regrowth: begin with studying your history, culture and yourself.
- Make a real commitment to your inner consciousness.
- Think of ways you can make positive contributions to our peoples in the communities.
- Write letters with your ideas and input to unify yourselves with the young and old. Send your letters to family, friends, churches, publications, progressive newspapers, radio deejays, artists, college students, lawyers, etc., etc. Keep writing, don’t stop. You may not get responses from every one you write to, but you will get some...Constantly writing these letters reinforces your inner consciousness to solidify your internal change beyond mere words. Your focus is no longer your immediate isolation, therefore your thinking is not controlled.

The pointers I have shared with those reading this document have worked for me well, have kept me focused and, most importantly, they have kept me real and above prison.”



Cruel but not Unusual

Activists in a Strange Land: the Seattle Control Unit Conference

By Brigette Sarabi

As this issue of *Justice Matters* goes to press, I have just returned from “Best Practices & Human Rights in Supermax Prisons: A Dialogue,” a conference put on by the University of Washington. Picture it: a handful of prison and human rights activists, a sprinkling of academic researchers, and dozens of prison personnel working in, or responsible for managing, control units.

The conference was intended to bring together corrections personnel from several states who work in or manage control units with human rights advocates and academic researchers to talk about “best practices” in these units. The assumption seemed to be that supermax prisons, or control units (also called Intensive Management Units, Disciplinary Segregation Units, Administrative Segregation Units, and many other terms) were here to stay, but we could make them better.

I think it’s fair to say that all of the activists involved think the best way to improve control units is to tear them down. *Now*. I think it’s also fair to say that, with a few encouraging exceptions, the corrections personnel are committed to not only keeping control units, but expanding them.

It’s important to remember that control units are a new phenomenon. According to Craig Haney (a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz), control units and “supermax” prisons came into being in the 1980s and to fruition in the 1990s. Once the first units were built, prison systems all over the country wanted their own. Haney believes it is no accident that these units have developed. He believes they are a direct consequence of the explosion in incarceration rates, and the abandonment of any focus on rehabilitation. They are, essentially, the toughest of the “tough on crime” proposals.

Most importantly, Professor Haney stressed that there is absolutely no evidence of a “new strain” of more violent, more dangerous prisoners that would justify the creation of harsh “prisons within prisons.”

Prison officials are using control units as a management tool for a variety of prisoners – not just those who have proved to be a danger to other prisoners



Mara Tanb, from New Mexico's Coalition for Prisoners Rights, and Kwame Lackey from Atlanta were two of the prison activists who stood up for prisoners at the Control Unit conference.

and staff, but also those who irritate the administration for some reason: jailhouse lawyers, political prisoners, demanding prisoners, mentally ill prisoners, and prisoners who simply belong to a target group (e.g. a gang).

While too many prison administrations seek to lock-down more and more prisoners, some of them are at the same time obsessed with keeping out the people who have a real need for protective custody – which is essentially only available in these isolation units. Prison personnel howled about those few prisoners who will do anything to get into protective custody in a control unit. They feared they were being taken advantage of and that prisoners were

just trying to escape over-crowding and get into a single cell (“they think it’s the Hilton Hotel!” said one. Having just toured an IMU as part of the conference, and seen what the conditions are in one of the best of these facilities, I say if a prisoner is willing to risk desperate measures to get into one of these cells, he must have a good reason. Nobody would choose such isolation unless they were in desperate mental or physical circumstances. Of course, in Colorado, they have solved the problem of prisoners “manipulating” staff for protective custody: they simply eliminated it.

I left the conference wondering why I’d even attended. What possible common ground could there be with these particular prison personnel? But then I looked at my notes and remembered some of the words eloquently spoken by Corey Weinstein, from California Prison Focus, to everyone at the conference:

“What is the common ground among us? It is deprivation – that is where we find our common ground. The deprivation in the general prison population due to too much idleness, and too few programs that lead to rules infractions and gang involvement; the deprivation of social justice that led to a race and class based criminal justice system; the deprivation of resources in communities that leads to poverty and misery.” And then Corey gave the corrections people some unsolicited advice: “Don’t ever come to community groups and say supermax causes no harm. We *know* better. We see it, we see people disappear before our eyes. Don’t ever insult us like this again.” Amen.

Special Section

Prison Rape: A Silent Epidemic

By "K"

So taboo a subject is prisoner on prisoner rape, that the systemic crime of male rape in U.S. prisons is nowhere even officially acknowledged, let alone included in any official rape statistics by any reporting agency, governmental or private. Male sexual assault in U.S. prisons is a silent and deadly subject "inside" and a taboo subject "outside." Urged by prison activists like the late Stephen Donaldson, Human Rights Watch began a study of male sexual abuse in US prisons in 1996.

Although faced with shame and self-contempt, well over 1000 inmates in 37 state prisons responded to a 1996 Human Rights Watch announcement posted in Prison Legal News and in Prison Life Magazine. No Escape, Male Rape in US Prisons (published by Human Rights Watch, April 2001), is a report informed throughout by these male rape survivors' compelling first-hand descriptions. Besides letters and interviews with prisoners, Human Rights Watch obtained information from prison officials, prison experts, prisoners' attorneys, prisoner's rights organizations and prisoner's families "Fight, fuck or pay protection" is the age-old advice given male inmates faced with rape and sexual coercion in U.S. prisons. With a prison and jail population now over 2 million it is conservatively estimated that over 300,000 males are sexually abused each year in U.S. prisons, compared to an estimated 135,000 female sexual assaults occurring annually in the U.S. (from "Sexual Assault in Prison, the Numbers are Far From Funny" published in *Touchstone Vol IX, No 5, Nov/Dec 1999*). In addition, while female sexual assaults occurring in the free world are most commonly single

occurrences that end and then are frequently reported, each of the estimated 300,000 male prisoners who are sexually assaulted usually remain accessible to their attacker/s. Because they have no escape from their attacker/s many are re-assaulted numerous times and, due to the nature of male rape in prisons, the assaults are almost never prosecuted.

While a woman who is raped is no longer routinely blamed for having "asked for it," rape jokes about "Big Bubba," (a supposedly sex-starved inmate who, tradition says, preys upon weak young "cellies") remain all too common. In the jokes, the terrified cellie's "fate worse than death" is made a cause for derision, seen as proof he lost his "manhood" by not standing up to Big Bubba like a "man." Since both rapist and victim may share the same internalized beliefs about "manhood," the fact of being physically raped may introduce in the victim devastating shame and self doubt as to whether he was ever, *really*, a man. This can cause tremendous anxiety. Male rape victims are not only demeaned by popular culture but doubt their "manhood" because, on a purely mechanical level, male rape victims may experience *physiological* arousal during rape. Not understanding that it is a wholly involuntary, mechanical reaction caused not by desire but by the physical assault itself, and that it is a normal physical reaction for males in the situation, the victim may believe his reaction "proves" he was always (unbeknownst even to himself) one of a stigmatized group he himself always thought of as "less than."

As one Colorado inmate told Human Rights Watch: "If truth be known, it shames me to even talk of this. I fear it

places a stigma on me being homosexual or being an easy target for others," JD, Colorado.

"I was too embarrassed to tell . . . the government acts as if a man is supposed to come right out and boldly say 'I've been raped.' You know if that is degrading for a woman, how much more for a man," RB, Kansas.

For gay men, this prejudice that homosexuality is in and of itself a "spoiled identity" (and not a legitimate sexual orientation), makes imprisonment especially difficult, since: "Gays are targeted . . . the general assumption is that since we are gay, we don't mind being raped, the staff pretty much thinks the same thing," PE, Illinois.

"The memory I have of my arrival is yells, mating calls and whistling at me as I walked to my cell at 2:30 a.m." ES, Mississippi.

"Money will buy anything here and I do mean anything . . . All open homosexuals are preyed upon and if they don't choose up, they get chosen," MP, Mississippi.

And, again, a letter to Human Right's Watch from a sexual assault survivor: "I was brutally attacked by staff and taken to segregation though I had only wanted to avoid the same and worse by locking up with my cell mate. There is no supervision after lock down. I was given a conduct report. I explained to the hearing officer what the issue was. He told me that off the record he suggests I find a man I would/could willingly have sex with to prevent these things from happening. I've requested protective custody only to be denied. It is not available here. He said there was nowhere to run to, and it would be best for me to accept things . . . I probably have AIDS now. I have great difficulty raising food to my mouth from sbaking after nightmares or thinking too hard on all this...I've laid down without a physical fight to be sodomized. To prevent so much damage in struggles, ripping and

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tearing. Though in not fighting, it caused my heart and spirit to be raped as well. Something I don't know if I'll ever forgive myself for," AH, Indiana.

Due to his own internalized beliefs regarding manhood, the heterosexual inmate who is raped may be more ready to blame himself and think that the fact that he "didn't prevent" his assault meant that he secretly wanted it. As a result of this the victim (in addition to being physically injured by the rape), is shamed at the natural reactions of his own body, mentally traumatized and often marked as the object of further sexual abuse by the whole prison population. By the same token, the rapist/s are absolved because, as the old sexist "joke" goes, "you can't rape the willing."

"Sometimes I feel that it was my fault and it drives me crazy to think about it . . . I am mostly scared of what I might do when I get out of here. Very suicidal. I just mean that I wish I was dead at times and most of the times...these incidents are not turned in by the inmates who are raped or assaulted. They are afraid of retaliation from both the inmates, and the prison system," CB, Washington.

With male rape especially, in or out of prison, not only the rapist/s but society perpetuates the belief that it is the victim's fault. According to myth, a real man should never forgive himself for laying down. Just as, before, according to myth, a real woman should have died rather than let herself be raped.

The prison rape victim may or may not contract AIDS but he will probably self mutilate, attempt suicide, fear sleep, experience night terrors, have panic attacks or flashbacks, feel overwhelming anger, have "the shakes," be unable to swallow food, etc. All are perfectly *normal* reactions usually experienced by male rape trauma survivors.

And while the sexual preferences of the male victim are supposedly revealed and his new "female" identity and status established by the rape; the attacker/s' heterosexuality is also considered established and re-enforced by the attack: *"It's fixed where if you're raped the only way (you can escape being a punk is if) you rape someone else. Yes I know that's fully screwed, but that's how your head is twisted. After it's over you may be disgusted with yourself, but you realize you're not powerless and that you can deliver as well as receive pain. Then it's up to you to decide whether you enjoy it or not. Most do, I don't. It's sick and depraved,"* WM, Texas.

The communities and wives and children to which these inmate brothers, sons, husbands and fathers return can expect to have to deal with an increase in domestic violence, preemptive anger and other signs of post traumatic stress. They can also expect to deal with increased levels of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Just as the sexual assault of women has little to do with sex, and everything to do with power, so male sexual assault in prison has little to do with sex but has long been an integral part of every prison's power structure.

"It seem that young men, gays, first-timers, are used as sacrificial lambs. The reason is to use (them) as a way to keep the gangs and killers from turning on the system which created prison the Hell that it is. These (lambs) are turning into everything their abusers are," RG, California.

One of the most tragic and violent cases to come to the attention of Human Rights watch was that of Randy Payne, a twenty three year old incarcerated in a Texas maximum security prison. Within a week of entering the prison in August 1994, Payne was attacked by a group of

some twenty inmates. The inmates demanded sex and money, but Payne refused. He was beaten for almost two hours; guards later said they had not noticed anything until they found his bloody body in the day room. He died of head injuries a few days later. Thus, healthy fear of retaliation *necessitates* inmate silence on the subject of rape in US Prisons. This same fear creates an atmosphere that forms prisoners into men able to survive almost anything—except their own return to freedom.

"The guards just turn their backs. Their mentality is that the tougher, colder, and more cruel and inhuman a place is, the less chance a person will return. This is untrue. The more negative experiences a person goes through, the more he turns into a violent, cruel, mean, heartless individual. I know this to be a fact." RL, New York.

"I believe prison rape occurs because the administration does not care . . . As of this time, I have almost 14 years in prison and have never heard of a prison rape case being prosecuted in court . . . I'm quite sure if a man committed rape in prison and got 5 or 10 years time, prison rape would decline." LL, Ohio.

Clearly, there are steps that can be taken to protect prisoners from assault. A prisoner in Florida offered the following suggestions to Human Rights Watch:

How to eradicate rape?

- 1) A very strict and thorough classifying system that would segregate known predators from potential victims automatically;
- 2) Unrelenting and automatic criminal prosecution with maximum sentences imposed, with no exceptions;
- 3) More security. Rapes occur because the lack of observation make it possible. Prisons have too few guards and too many blind spots;

Special Section

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4) Mandatory classes for known predators with extra gain time upon successful completion;

5) Mandatory training for employees on how to recognize the signs of sexual victimization and how to respond to allegations of rape or threats of rape as well as viewing video tapes of victims classes, to become more sensitive to the matter.

KM, Florida

In a day and age when rape kits are in common use by law enforcement officers everywhere in the free world and when DNA testing is readily used to identify, prosecute and sentence men to long prison terms, one can

only speculate as to why law enforcement is so lax in keeping the peace and securing justice inside of prisons.

As No Escape, Male Rape in US Prisons states: "The question of prisoner upon prisoner sexual abuse can no longer be ignored. Male rape in prison can be vicious and brutal. Some of its' victims contract HIV; all suffer psychological harm. Rape is not an inevitable consequence of prison life, but it is a predictable one if little is done to prevent and punish it."



So You, Too, Were Raped (© Stop Prisoner Rape)

"So you were forced or pressured into a sexual act against your will. You're not alone; far from it...It's happened to me, too, many times, but I've survived it, and so can you.

I didn't believe such a thing could happen to me; it seemed more like a nightmare, the kind where your feet seem glued to the ground and you can't run away from the monsters who are after you. For a long time while I was in p.c., I resisted acknowledging that it had really happened. I thought that if I denied it, maybe it would be like it had never happened...

But it didn't work. The thoughts and the memories kept coming back to haunt me, especially in my dreams. Only after I faced up to them and started dealing with them did the nightmares stop. That's when I began to heal.

I blamed myself at first, because back in population everyone else said I should have been able to keep it from happening or died trying. Later I learned that they were just playing the game of 'blame the victim.' I chose to live and survive, and now I know I don't have to apologize for making that choice. I did what I had to do, and that's it. Those guys who claim they would die before getting 'turned out' say that because they've never had to make the choice. Talk is cheap ahead of time. I know better...

[A]t first, I felt ashamed and humiliated and completely alone. I felt everyone was looking at me and making fun of me. But now I know it happens to lots of prisoners, and it's not our fault. It's the fault of sick guys who try to make up for their own feelings of powerlessness by taking it out on other prisoners and lording it over them. But I've seen through their game, and now they look ridiculous to me.

I thought for a while that I was going crazy, but now I know it was just a normal reaction to a horrible experience. I'm sure glad I didn't give in to the urge to kill myself! I've been badly hurt, but I'm a survivor, not just a victim. I've still got my whole life ahead of me, and I'm not gonna let this be the end...

Now that I'm home again I know people out here, too, who understand what I went through and care about me. I don't have to face it alone. Neither do you! There's even a national group (Stop Prisoner Rape) set up to help you...

We're all brothers, we've been through the same war, and we know what it's like. We're all survivor's together. You've got more strength inside you than you know."

Cruel but not Unusual

Prisoner Rape: Fact Sheet

(excerpted from materials prepared by Stop Prisoner Rape)

- Prisoner rape is torture — the infliction of severe emotional and/or physical pain as punishment and/or coercion. Long after the body has healed, the emotions remain traumatized, shamed and stigmatized.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death behind bars. Sexual assault is the leading cause of suicide in confinement.
- Prisoner rape costs taxpayers dearly in recidivism, health care, and increasing numbers of law suits.
- Overcrowded and understaffed institutions (including mental hospitals) are the chief reasons for rape.
- Various studies have shown the rape rate of male prisoners to be from nine to twenty-two percent. With a national prison population of almost two million in 1999, even at the lowest percentage, this means tens of thousands of male prisoners are raped daily.
- The term “homosexual rape” is misleading since the overwhelming majority of prisoner rape victims and perpetrators are heterosexual.
- Prisoner rape not only violates basic human rights but also the 8th and 13th amendments to the Constitution forbidding cruel and unusual punishment and slavery respectively. Once raped behind bars, the victim is often sexually enslaved and sometimes forced into prostitution.
- All elected officials and the majority of the electorate have long known this barbarism takes place in U.S. correctional institutions and have done little if anything to stop it. “You shut your mind to it,” Judge

Vincent Femia of Prince George’s County, Maryland, told The Washington Post in 1982.

- Not only guards but other members of the criminal justice system use prisoner rape as a “management tool.”
- Prisoner rape can be greatly reduced at no extra cost to taxpayers by separating the obviously vulnerable prisoners from the obviously violent ones and by more vigilant staff.

For more information:
Stop Prisoner Rape
6303 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(323) 653-STOP
www.spr.org



“Not Part of the Penalty”:
Ending Prisoner Rape
National Conference,
October 19-20, 2001
American University,
Washington College of Law
Washington D.C.

The conference will address both prisoner-on-prisoner sexual abuse and custodial sexual misconduct (sexual abuse of prisoners by guards and other custodial staff). Panels consisting of activists, rape survivors, lawyers, academic experts, public health specialists, and others will cover topics ranging from the incidence of prisoner rape, to its effects on survivors, to its impact on the spread of HIV/AIDS. For registration information call (323) 653-STOP

Suggested Reading

Human Rights Watch Reports:

The following reports are available from Human Rights Watch, 350 Fifth Ave., 34th Fl., New York, NY 10118-3299. To order by phone call (503) 212-216-1813. Many are also available online for printing, at www.hrw.org. U.S. orders require \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

- Out of Sight: Super-Maximum Security Confinement in the U.S.***, Feb. 2000, 9 pages, \$3.00
- Red Onion State Prison: Super-Maximum Security Confinement in Virginia***, May, 1999, 24 pgs., \$3.00
- Cold Storage: Super-Maximum Security Confinement in Indiana***, October, 1997, 92 pgs., \$10.00
- No Escape: Male Rape in U.S. Prisons***, 2001, 378 pgs., \$25.00

Survivors Manual, a manual written by and for people living in control units. Available free to prisoners in control units from: Criminal Justice Program, American Friends Service Committee, 972 Broad St., 6th Fl., Newark, NJ 07102

Prison Focus, the newsletter of California Prison Focus, with articles by and about prisoners in California’s control unit prisons. Subscriptions (4 issues per year): \$5.00 for prisoners, \$20 for others. Send to: Prison Focus, 2940 16th St., Rm. 307, San Francisco, CA 94103

Prison Madness: The Mental Health Crisis Behind Bars & What We Must Do About It, by Terry Kupers, M.D., 1999, Jossey-Bass Publishers, 289 pgs., \$25.00

Special Section

Man Down! Suicide in Prison

By "K"

"Observers have noted that several recent developing trends suggest higher [inmate] suicide rates in future. These recent trends (mandatory sentencing laws, dramatic increases in life sentences, AIDS, and the graying of the inmate population) have instilled despair and hopelessness in inmates." from *Prison Suicide: An Overview & Guide to Prevention*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, NIC, 1995

Rapid response to inmate suicide makes all the difference in whether a prisoner lives or dies, especially since most people who do commit suicide in prison hang themselves. In most institutions, less experienced guards pull night and weekend shifts, times when suicides are more likely to be successful. How long will it be before back-up arrives? Will anyone cut down a hanging suicide within the four to six minutes required to save a prisoner's brain function? Given the fear of AIDS, will CPR be attempted? Or, as in some prisons, is the hanging inmate treated as a crime scene with guards standing outside the locked cell, waiting for investigators, cameras, and medical personnel to arrive before they even attempt to cut the man down?

Given prison restrictions, one might think it would be hard to commit suicide in prison, yet suicide ranks 3rd as the cause of death in U.S. state prisons (after "natural causes" and HIV). By comparison, suicide ranks 9th as a leading cause of death in the U.S. as a whole. While no one counts the number of *attempted* suicides occurring in U.S. prisons, one of the few studies of the issue shows that for the period 1984-1993, the national rate of completed prison suicide averaged

20.6 deaths per 100,000 population, a figure virtually double the average rate of 11.4 suicides per 100,000 population in the US as a whole.

Suicide rates for prisons in the seven states served by the Western Prison Project were considerably higher than the national average for prison suicide and astronomically higher than suicide rates in the general U.S. population during this time period. In Western prisons, suicide rates (per 100,000) were as follows: Idaho (41.8); Montana (82.8); Nevada (42.0); Oregon (25.2); Utah (59.5); Washington (30.4); Wyoming (68.0). Only Alaska (87.2) and North Dakota (101.7) averaged higher rates of prison suicide (source: *Prison Suicide: An Overview & Guide to Prevention*).

Despite these alarming statistics, corrections departments throughout the country do not track suicides in their prisons. But thanks to the tireless advocacy work of Charles Sullivan from National CURE (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants), the Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (Public Law No. 106-297), sponsored by Rep. Asa Hutchinson, became law in October, 2000. This law now requires that *all* deaths occurring in both state and federal correctional facilities be reported in detail to the federal government on a quarterly basis. Prison systems will be required to report: 1) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased; 2) the date, time, and location of death; and 3) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death.

When the law was passed, U.S. Rep. Hutchinson commented. "In any other atmosphere, unnatural deaths under questionable circumstances

would not only be reported but would raise serious concerns. State and local jails and lockups should be no different." The law, while an improvement, still leaves large areas unexamined. It only requires counting "completed" suicides, not self-mutilation, not attempted suicides, not the "threats" of suicide so often contemptuously dismissed as "attention-seeking." If we really want to lower the rate of prison suicides, these red flags must also be noted and a rational caring response initiated. When it comes to suicide, organized prevention is the only method that saves lives. But it takes attention, motivation, training, and on-going commitment.

With or without an official prison death count, effective suicide prevention programs depend upon priorities set by individual prison administrators. Warden C.M. Lensing (Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, St. Gabriel, LA) says of the program he initiated, "When you put suicide prevention kits in each housing unit, place social workers in the cell blocks to assess suicidal inmates each day, and schedule suicide prevention training every Friday, you symbolize to all staff the commitment we have to suicide prevention."

Successful Prison Suicide

Prevention Programs Include:

- Formal Identification of an inmate's potential suicide risk both upon entrance and during "high risk" periods of incarceration, for example, after receiving bad news regarding self or family, or after suffering some type of humiliation or rejection. Long term prisoners may attempt suicide 5 years into their sentence; or with additional legal problems, or when all legal appeals are exhausted.

Cruel but not Unusual

- Training must be provided for all staff members to recognize verbal and behavioral cues that may indicate the potential for suicide.
 - There must be assessment by a qualified mental health professional who can designate the level of risk.
 - Staff must monitor an inmate at intervals appropriate to the level of assessed risk.
 - A suicidal inmate should not be isolated (and isolation should not be substituted for monitoring). At minimum, the room or cell should be without protrusions of any kind, (loose vent plates, etc.) that would enable the inmate to hang him/herself since hanging is the usual means of suicide in prison.
 - Suicidal prisoners should be referred to mental health providers, and mental health and correctional personnel should share clear and current information regarding the continuing status of the inmate. Notification procedures need to be established for notifying prison administrators, outside authorities, and *family members* of potential, attempted or completed suicides.
 - Documentation of activities with regard to potential and attempted suicides should be detailed, as well as completed suicides.
 - A comprehensive plan should be developed that specifies procedures for medical and administrative review if suicides occur in order to identify causes and correct weaknesses.
- Prison suicide sometimes seems fueled by conditions beyond the power of any individual. Conditions such as chronic noise and overcrowding, mandatory minimums, dramatic increases in life sentences, frustration/exhaustion of all legal remedy, AIDS, Hep-C, jailing instead of treatment of

the Mentally Ill, punitive Protective Custody/Ad Seg /Control Unit confinement, loss of outside relationships, marital difficulties, sexual assault or victimization all wear down coping skills and create intolerable, seemingly inescapable psychological pain.

Suicide as a process of deepening despair typically displays observable signs: loss of hope; feelings of shame or humiliation; all-or- nothing thinking; talk of suicide as the solution to “all this foolishness”; perhaps a previous suicide attempt or increasing mental problems; withdrawal, isolation, substance abuse or self medication; a suicide “plan” or demonstrated means of committing suicide.

If identified in time, suicide can be prevented. The acute period of danger is usually of short duration and if an inmate can be protected and talked through the crisis, the likelihood of a “successful” suicide is greatly reduced. The antidote for suicide is often as simple as competent, sympathetic attention during a time of acute personal distress, as simple as holding back the darkness for a fellow human being long enough for hope to renew itself in him tomorrow.



Suicide: What You Can Do to Help

Do you have a friend, cellmate or family member that may be suicidal? If so, there are things you can do to help. The following suggestions are taken from sources including San Francisco Suicide Prevention. They do not take the place of qualified mental health assistance – but since this can be hard to come by in prison, it may provide some guidance for self-help.

If you think someone is considering suicide, talk to them. Ask them if they are considering suicide. Raising the question of suicide shows that you are taking the person seriously and responding to the potential of her or his distress.

If The Answer Is: “Yes. I do think of suicide.” You must take it seriously And follow it through. Ask the following questions: “Have you thought how you’d do it?” “Have you decided when you would do it?” “Have you ever tried suicide before?” “What happened then?”

If the person has a definite plan, if the means are easily available, if the method is a lethal one and the time is set, the risk of suicide is very high.

If you ascertain that the risk of suicide is high (i.e., a strong possibility exists that the person will commit suicide in the near future), try to make a verbal agreement with the person to talk to you before he or she follows through with suicidal intentions.

Pitfalls to Avoid:

Avoid Moralizing (e.g. telling the suicidal person that suicide is a sin). The person already bears a heavy load of guilt. Moralizing will not help.

Do Not Be Aggressive. Suicidal people can make us feel hopeless or powerless, and we may respond by being aggressively helpful. Listen, be compassionate, but don’t force yourself on the person.

Do Not Try Too Hard to Reassure the Person. The suicidal person does not like her/himself at that moment. Telling her/him that they are a great person and that there is hope is worse than useless.

And finally, advocate for your friend or family member with prison staff, and try to get them adequate mental health care immediately.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness, in a descending spiral of destruction. The chain reaction of evil must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.”

Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

Perpetual Prisoner Machine

Cont. from Pg. 7

Upon receiving word of the proposed transfers from county programs, many of the 61 sheriffs whose jails would be affected were furious; they complained loudly to the MDOC and to Attorney General Michael Moore's office. Sheriffs in Mississippi wield a great deal of influence in local and county politics and sizeable income is provided by the county work programs that would have to be sacrificed if prisoners are moved elsewhere. Last year, for example, prisoners performed work worth more than \$1.9 million for Harrison County; they do such things as cleaning, painting and maintaining buildings and grounds; they cut grass, pick up litter and repair automobiles. They also work for non-profit agencies like *Habitat for Humanity* or the *Humane Society*. Harrison stands to lose 46 of its 72 prisoners. The income they provide the county would be lost if

they are moved to make private prisons and regional facilities "cost effective" (read: *profitable*).

Perhaps fearing a retaliation from home district voters, a legislative report released in mid-June indicated that the MDOC did not need to remove prisoners currently in sheriffs' work programs. It is unclear, however, from precisely where the prisoners will be taken to fill the newly created slots. Johnson remains of the opinion that some 250 prisoners must still be found to meet the numbers stipulated in the legislation.

That same legislative report also showed that it would be possible to set a far smaller minimum number of prisoners and that prisoners could be housed for considerably less than the amounts previously specified. AG Moore estimates that these new figures ought to save Mississippi taxpayers some \$6 million annually.

This is a difficult figure to believe, considering the original cost of the legislation was estimated to be between \$5 and \$6 million. What is evident, however, is that figures are being juggled to justify huge expenditures on items necessary to the pockets and political futures of individual legislators. Such legislators create machines designed primarily to perpetuate themselves in office. And in this case, by considering local economies and contributions to their own political coffers first and foremost, they are clearly putting the prison before the prisoner and laying the groundwork for a permanent "perpetual prisoner machine."

Sources: *Prison Policy News*, Colorado Springs, Colorado; *Associated Press*; *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Mississippi; *The Sun Herald Online*, Mississippi, *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*.

Join Us!

Yes, I want to be a member of the Western Prison Project!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Memberships: \$15.00 basic membership, \$7.00 prisoner membership

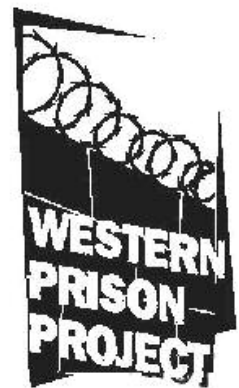
____ I want to become a member. Enclosed is my membership donation of: \$ ____

____ As a new member, I want a free prisoner membership to be given to ____ WPP choice, or:

Name & ID #: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



The Western Prison Project depends upon memberships and donations to operate. Thank you for your support! Send memberships and contributions to: Western Prison Project, P.O. Box 40085, Portland, OR 97240-0085.

Take Action! 5 Things You Can Do:

Write to a Prisoner. Lack of contact with the outside world is hard on prisoners. Contact Western Prison Project for a list of prisoner pen-pal organizations.

Educate yourself on the issue of prison conditions. Read one of the reports or newsletters highlighted in this issue (see page 19).

Attend upcoming prison activist events: Nov. 1st see author Christian Parenti in Portland (see page 3); Nov. 10th – 11th attend the first Washington Summit on Criminal Justice Reform in Seattle (see page 5).

Volunteer for the HIV Education Program at the Oregon State Penitentiary. (See page 11)

Join the Western Prison Project. Keep informed on the issues as a subscriber to *Justice Matters* and help keep WPP afloat. Each new or renewing member also receives a free membership for a prisoner of their choice (see page 23).

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