

Malcolm J. Campbell # 135847
Oshkosh Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 3310
Oshkosh, WI. 54903-3310

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To The Editor:

First off, I respectfully request that you please give me a subscription to your Bridge Of Voices newsletter. Also, if you have an e-mail address and are registered with Corrlinks please send it to me and I'd be more than happy to keep you aware of happening events at this Institution. I have been imprisoned for over 30 years and have witnessed the system fall apart since the Department Of Corrections (DOC) gained a foothold over the Department Of Health And Human Services. I recently read your article on long term segregation. Granted, it is tragic, but it affects only a small percentage to the total inmate population. Tragic events happen within the system because the general public fails to see the full picture.

ALL Federal prisons have a unified system of order. So too do most State and privately funded prison systems. It is very unfortunate that such is not the case in Wisconsin.

Within the Department Of Corrections each Warden is allowed to operate it's prison by his or her own personal agenda and set of rules. While the D.O.C. has a governing set of rules and regulations each Warden is free to disregard or modify them as he or she pleases. And, when one is given such power over the lives of others one will usually abuse such power when angered.

Warden, Judy Smith for example. Recently there has been an out-break of drug overdoses. Did she call together her

security staff and officers and inform them to stop sitting around and start conducting random pat searches on the yards; learn which inmates have a history of drug sales or usage and keep better tabs on them? Did she start doing more random drug tests? NO... That would have been the logical thing to do!

Warden, Judy Smith resolves the drug problem like this:

- (1) She orders that the visiting tables' legs be cut down to below knee level.
- (2) She orders all vending machine food items be removed.
- (3) She orders that the childrens' play areas be closed.

When this brilliant plan accomplished nothing, she really took charge:

- (1) She locked down the entire Institution which resulted in a vegetables gardens dying as well as horticulture plants as there were no inmates to care for them.
- (2) Once inmates were allowed out of their cells again, they discovered she had ordered that the laundry room employees cut all pockets, buttons and belt loops off of all inmate clothing.
- (3) She then ordered that inmates can no longer get their photos taken with their family members.

So, did any of these brain storm ideas resolve the problem? Of course not! They only served to anger the majority of the inmate population and re-enforce the mind-set by which inmates see no reason what so ever to respect any laws set forth by people in authority. Yes, indeed... A ~~kind~~ way to teach rehabilitation lessons.
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However, a non unified system just doesn't allow for stupid decisions. It creates major problems as inmates move from one

institution to another. With each and every move an inmate makes he loses personal belongings and property. Why? The D.O.C. has an approved property list. The D.O.C. put out a rule saying that all Wisconsin inmates ~~be~~ the under the same security status are to be afforded the same rights, property and liberties and informed the inmate population that this was their justification that we only be allowed to purchased items from four approved vender catalogs. Well, guess what?

Each Warden is allowed to decide what rights, property and liberties that inmates shall have. Although all other medium security inmates are afforded such things as decent tv channels, video movies, microwave ovens and food items, holiday packages, extension cords, etc... Warden Judy Smith deemed such things as non allowable items.

Be forewarned inmates who do legal work, transferring to O.S.C.I. Our law library is so messed up and outdated we still use Windows XP computers and CDs. The computers are so butchered they are not even capable of doing what a memory typewriter can do. The LexisNexis system is in the same shape. And you have to leave one station in order to access the other. As for library time... Both the regular library and the law library are in the same area. So, when the librarian or staff does not come in.... Well a number of inmates complained and were told that the library is a leisure time activity. If you have a Court deadline you can get extra law time, if the library is open.

The reason I am explaining this to you is that you'd accomplish ~~for~~ ^{FAR} greater things if you'd litigate for the "Equal Protection" of all inmates, based upon their security status and placement. This would enforce a policy under which no inmate would "rot away in segregation" as ~~there~~ ^{THERE} are already

established laws, rules and regulations in place within both the State Constitution and the D.O.C. statutes. The problem is each Warden is free to disregard what he or she chooses. This includes the right to be treated as a human being! And, if you step back and take a clear look at the system you'll see that those serving long term segregation status are doing so because they tired of being treated as something less than human....

Respectfully,

Malcolm J. Campbell

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P.S. Sorry about the spelling, I was constantly being bothered.

If you decide to publish this don't include my ~~name~~ name. These people retaliate against anyone who does speak out about their actions. If you respond in writing please include your name and address on the letter. Warden Judy Smith also ordered that all in-coming envelopes be destroyed, including return addresses.