

NETWORK NEWS



OPENING THE PRISON DOORS

Sarah Quinn, Madison

A prison is not a happy place. But for many of the incarcerated men I meet through my volunteer work with Community Connections, an all-volunteer organization focused on prison-related issues, it is their community. Within that community at Oakhill Correctional Institution (OCI) our volunteers make contributions that fulfill some of the needs that prisons cannot.

The Community Connections Family Center is a drop-in space that serves as a central hub for programming, much like a family resource center you would find in the community. It is located within the prison's school building and open three times a week. The following anecdotes characterize the Family Center environment.

A man recently entered the Family Center with anxieties about going back to his Milwaukee community. A volun-



Sarah Quinn, Recipient of the Peacemaker of the Year Award 2007, for her work with Prison Justice.

teer connected him to some resources, including a brochure for Project Return - an organization that helps returning prisoners transition into the community. Two weeks later he came into the family center brimming with excitement: "Thank you so much for giving me that brochure. I sent a letter to Project Return and they've already sent me a letter about connecting with them when I get out. And the woman I talked to will write a letter to the judge about my plans to participate in the program." A simple brochure gave this man a promising connection to the outside world that appeared his anxiety about his release from prison.

See **Prison Doors**, page 3

LOCALS JOIN THOUSANDS IN CHICAGO MARCH FOR PEACE

Carol Sommers, Muscoda, WI

Seventeen busloads of Wisconsinites traveled to Chicago on Saturday, October 27, for a national day of action protesting the war in Iraq. Regional demonstrations organized by United for Peace and Justice, an national anti-war coalition, were held in Boston, Jonesborough (Tennessee), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle. Well over 100,000 people demonstrated overall.

The Southwest Wisconsin coach delivered residents from Muscoda, Boscobel, Platteville, Dodgeville, Avoca, and Mt. Horeb to Chicago's day of ac-

tion. The group Grassroots Citizens for Peace, based in Dodgeville, had organized the day for us local participants. Things ran smoothly from morning to night.

Only minutes after the last pickup en route to Chicago, the families, seniors, and young people on board the bus began to bond. The individual riders explained the influences in their lives that had led them to this huge public protest against the war policy of the U.S. Wisdom and humor prevailed.

Some were veteran marchers and activists; some were new to the experience.

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From the Editor

Tell me what your prisons are like, and I will tell you how your society rates in terms of ethics and the support of basic human rights. In this issue on prisons we asked people most affected by our U.S. prison system to rate our society. It does not speak well for us. A prisoner and an advocate for prisoners' rights describe the prison conditions in Wisconsin; an ex-prisoner tells of the difficulties after being released and the contradictions in correctional policies. We at WNPJ encourage action to overcome injustice; first by creating awareness, then by reviewing our own humanity that is so tarnished by violence, war and cruelty, and finally by reaching out to help or to join the ranks of those who are advocates. This issue has a prison quiz with answers and source material - which may surprise you - and an article on how to extend a helping hand to those in need. hd

The following WNPJ member organizations are resources on prison issues, and they invite your participation: American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, Benedict Center, Code Pink – Boscobel, Madison Infoshop, WI Books for Prisoners Project, Madison-area Urban Ministry, Mary House, Money, Education and Prisons (MEP) Task Force, and Waukesha Catholic Worker. Contact the WNPJ office for more information on these groups - or see www.wnpj.org/orgs.

Calendar

1/18 Fri 4:30 pm The 21st Annual Free Community Dinner – Madison. Gordon Commons, 717 W. Johnson Street. MLK King Coalition-sponsored event. Drop in for a free meal and some great fellowship! For more info: Mona Adams Winston, 239-7707, or Edward Lee, 213-7907.

1/18 Fri Iraq Moratorium Events – statewide. Share the events from your community – send them to info@wnpj.org. Learn more about this monthly anti-war mobilization at <http://www.iraqmoratorium.org/>.

1/21 Mon Federal Holiday to Honor the Work of Dr. Martin Luther King – check your community announcements and celebrate his work.

1/21 Mon 6 pm Madison/Dane County's 23rd annual City-County observance of Martin Luther King Day – Madison. Overture Center Capitol Theater, 201 State Street. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the MLK Coalition. Keynote address will be delivered by Rev. Joseph Lowery, true history maker of the American Civil Rights Movement. Contacts: Mona Adams Winston, 239-7707, or Edward Lee, 213-7907.

1/22 Tues 6:30 pm "When the Warrior Returns Home," with Karen Carnabucci and Bill Sklba - Racine. Siena Center, 5635 Erie St. Info: Sr. Miriam Brown, 262/639-4100.

2/4 Mon 7 pm "The War on Terror: Who Wins? Who Loses?," presentation by Simon Harak, SJ – Racine. Gateway Technical College. Info: Dick Kinch, 262/638-0204.

2/5 Tues 6:30 pm "Immigration Complexities," with Sr. Bernadine Karge and Sr. Joyce Quintana - Racine. Siena Center, 5635 Erie St. Info: Sr. Miriam Brown, 262/639-4100.

2/9 Sat 7 pm "Ceili for Peace," benefit for WAVE Educational Fund and Casa Maria - Milwaukee. Irish Cultural Heritage Center. Contact: hrose@waveedfund.org.

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The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice facilitates activities, cooperation and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a world free from violence and injustice.

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Prison Doors from front page

Another man came into the Family Center and was engaged by one of our volunteers. He revealed that he had just earned his High School Equivalency Diploma. The volunteer mentioned that he must be excited for the commencement ceremony later that week, but the man said he would not be attending. The volunteer expressed that she felt it was an important occasion and he should celebrate his success. The man seemed uncomfortable, but admitted that he had decided not to go because he felt embarrassed that "it was the only thing" he had ever accomplished. He was also embarrassed that he didn't have any family members that were going to attend. The volunteer let the man know that she would be there, in the back row, to support him. At any point when he was feeling apprehensive he would find her smiling face. Later that week, he attended his graduation, and she was there smiling for him. By his own account this support was the point in his life when he began to feel worthy of believing in himself.

A final anecdote concerns two men who visited the Family Center, both of whom had suffered unbelievable tragedies.

One man had landed an 18-month prison sentence after having his probation revoked for failing to show up for consecutive meetings with his probation officer. This man has two young children who he lived with prior to his incarceration, along with their mother, his fiancé. One day, on their way to pay him a visit in prison, his fiancé, mother, and grandmother were in a tragic accident. His fiancé and grandmother were killed, and his mother was paralyzed from the waist down. After the accident, prison staff transferred him to OCI where he could take advantage of the parenting classes offered by Community Connections. He immediately signed up for a parenting class and has become a regular member.

The second man had been living in Texas with his two young children and girlfriend before he was arrested for failing to pay child support for his 13-year-old daughter living in Wisconsin. At the time, if a single mother wanted to get assistance from the state, it was required that she name the father of her child so that the state could collect child support. He was not able to pay, and so was brought to Wisconsin where he received a 16-year sentence. While incarcerated, his girlfriend and children moved to the state so that they could visit him. His girlfriend died a few months later, and the children were put into foster care and eventually adopted. The man suffered a mild stroke while going through custody battles over his children.

A volunteer in our Family Center, recognizing the grief these men were coping with introduced them to each other. Since then, these men have forged a bond where they've been able to share their anxiety over the care of their young children. Without our volunteers, it is unlikely that these men would have ever met.

I hope these stories will give you an idea of how much the work volunteers do in prisons is appreciated by those incarcerated. The information, informal counseling, and concern that volunteers offer contribute to the personal growth of these men, providing a positive foundation for their return to our communities. All of us have experienced human connections that contribute to our growth and understanding of others. Prisoners are people just like us, have the same anxieties about life, about the health and well-being of their families and children as we do, and are as eager as we would be (in these repressive conditions) for information and skills that will improve their ability to be good fathers, sons, friends and neighbors. And this growth is always reciprocal.

For more information about Community Connections or volunteering inside a prison, please contact me at sarah@communityconnectionswi.org.



AN ORCHID TO

The Dane County Board for voting 24 to 11 to end the practice of overcharging jail inmates and their families for phone, commissary and other services. The ordinance represents a victory for a grassroots coalition of advocates for prisoners and their families, including WNPJ member group **Madison-Area Urban Ministry**, which campaigned strongly for the change.

Students and parents at Morton High School in Berwyn, Illinois. Several dozen Morton students took part in a nonviolent peace protest in the school's cafeteria, and more than a dozen students were threatened with expulsion by the School Principal. After their story gained national attention and they collected more than 8,000 signatures on a petition of support, the school dropped its plan to expel the students.



AN ONION TO

The Mainstream Press for systematically ignoring small and major demonstrations throughout the country, calling for an end an end of the occupation of Iraq.

University and School Administrators who do not recognize peace as a legitimate alternative to the military and war.

AN INMATE'S VIEW FROM WITHIN: THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Anonymous submission – to avoid reprisal

I should start out by stating that I have been incarcerated now for twenty-seven years and some months, and I strongly feel that there should be something said about the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DoC) no matter how minute my opinion may be to those in a free society. It all starts out with comments from those I like to call I.S.'s ("Immature Staff" or Irksome Staff"), comments such as "You can't be too F__ smart, you got caught!" or "if you were so damn smart you wouldn't be standing here!" And I trust you can think of others expressions yourself. I often wonder just how many times I have heard those lines and ones like them over the years.

I have found that most DoC staff members have their own preconceived notions about you and every other inmate that is incarcerated within the prison system the very minute they see you and read the first page of your file.

Let me tell you first that all the things I've done to place myself in this small space within these prison walls are not who I am today. One must understand that it is what I have done in the past that put me here. I believe that is only common sense. Of course, my crime does speak for itself, as well as my past behaviors and character. The only real bearing that it has on the present or the future is a profile of the unchanged continual criminal. However, a continual criminal I am not. As the DoC is blinded by the first five pages of your inmate file, they are also incapable of understanding that people change over the years. They forget the fact that the inmate before them entered the prison system twenty-seven years ago and is no longer a twenty-four year old punk with a sixth grade education, but a fifty-one year old man with health problems and just trying to get by.

The Program Review Committee (P.R.C.) determines my classification and what institution or center I will go to. I have been trying my best to be moved to WCC (Winnebago Correctional Center) in order to be closer to my seventy-three year old mother. Since 1998 the WDoC has kept me pretty much away from any of my family members. They sent me to Tennessee first and then to New Lisbon, and then to Oakhill Correctional Institution. My mother drives once a year 3 to 3 ½ hours one way for a two-hour visit. In asking the P.R.C. to be transferred closer to my Mother, I even quoted the DoC Mission Statement to them, which states that the department will promote family ties. I was told by the P.R.C. at Oshkosh Correctional Institution that "we are not here to make it convenient for your family to come and see you." Then more recently I spoke with the head of Social Services here at the prison. I told her of my problem and how I would even be willing to go back to a medium security prison to be closer to my mother. She told me that doing so would be like swimming up stream and I was the one that put myself in prison.



The lies that they try to pass off amaze me. I shall put it to you in a factual manner. I saw the parole board in 2004 and was given an eleven-month deferment, with an endorsement for minimum placement and then I saw the P.R.C. at New Lisbon Correctional Institution. The P.R.C. there told me that they would

send me to the Oakhill Correctional Institution and I would have to get a job and work that job for six months before being allowed out for work release. I thought great! I got to Oakhill and worked the six months and then started to put interview request slips in for jobs outside the fence which would lead to some sort of work release I had hoped for. My requests soon came back as LIFER STATUS. It took me three more months to get them to tell me what LIFER STATUS was. Then I saw the parole once more and received another eleven-month deferment, with an endorsement for community custody. I then saw the Oakhill P.R.C. and they recommended community custody, placement at Oregon Correctional Center or Marshall E. Sherrer Correctional Center, both of which are about as far up north as you can get. (An even farther drive for my Mother) and this says nothing about the blatant lie they told to me during that P.R.C. hearing as the medication and my doctor appointments alone would keep me from going to either of those camps. So Oakhill lied to me and allowed the Madison Office to shoot me down.

My most recent parole hearing went over like a lead balloon. I state this because of the way in which they have been doing parole hearings. The Law under which I was sentenced requires that I do eleven years three months before I see the parole board for the first time. What this means is the Judge sentenced me to my punishment and my punishment phase of my sentence ran from my sentencing date to the day that I became eligible for parole. I have a statutory right to a meaningful parole hearing. That means an objective hearing which is controlled by the criteria approved by the Wisconsin State Legislature and embodied in Chapter PAC 1, at 1.06(7)(A-E).

THE ROAD HOME: INCARCERATE TO PRODUCTIVE NEIGHBOR & THE POTHOLES ALONG THE WAY

By Tamra Oman, Madison

Why would anyone be concerned about justice as it relates to people who committed a crime and are coming back after prison? After all, aren't they "bad people"? We don't want "those people" in our neighborhood, do we? We don't want "them" working in our stores or our backyard, do we?

Over 90% of "those people" will be released from prison. They will be in your neighborhood or a neighborhood close to you. They will pass you by on the street. They will sit next to your children on a bus or in the park.

The real questions I think we should be asking are: Do we want them to come back from prison better prepared than before? Do we want them to be able to live in our communities after they have gotten a little healthier? Do we want them to be accountable and productive just as the rest of our community? Do we want them to be the neighbor you would feel comfortable living next to? If you answered yes to any of the last four questions, there is much work to be done and it simply makes no sense to deny, avoid, or wish away the problem...we need to become part of the solution.

Today people are being released from prison without a safe place to go, limited by no money, addicted to drugs and alcohol, no support, no work history, a box with all their belongings in it, and no hope! The likelihood of an individual who did not have the skills to manage successfully prior to prison succeeding after a long "time out" is very small. The recidivism rate for people returning from prison to the 2 largest areas of Wisconsin (Milwaukee County & Dane County) is 75-80%. That means people will return to prisons at a rate of 75-80% within 3 years. Why should we care?

It cost \$28,000 a year to incarcerate one person for one year. That is just the basic cost; daily food and shelter. This is the same price a four-year undergraduate

degree from the University of Wisconsin. The Department of Corrections has the largest budget in the State of Wisconsin over 1.1 billion dollars a year. This budget exceeds all others including education. There are well over 22,000 people or "problems" in the prison system. What is our solution in face of an increase in the recidivism and incarceration rate?

We have sent people out of the County or State and paid them to take care of our overflow. That removes them from most or all support they may have still had. After much research four major categories have been identified to increase the success for a person: 1) Treatment, 2) Housing, 3) Employment, and 4) Support. As 80% of the individuals in prison committed their crime under the influence of alcohol or drugs OR related to drugs, would treatment not be the most reasonable strategy? Treatment may cost anywhere from \$1600-\$4500 a month. Yet meanwhile, people in treatment are developing support networks, finding employment, securing safe housing, and becoming more productive, tax paying, accountable, honest citizens and neighbors.

I am by no means suggesting that these individuals should not be held accountable and have some sort of "price to pay." Yet it seems to be somewhat of a myth that once a person "does their time" then their "time" is complete. I have yet to see how that is so. Every time a person fills out an alleged "equal opportunity" application for employment or housing they are asked if they have ever been convicted of anything other than a traffic offense. It says very nicely that "this does not necessarily bar you from..." however, they rarely get a call back. Maybe a letter that says "thank you for your application but we have chosen someone else" or "can you please give me the last two years of rental history"...It does not count that a person paid "rent" at an institution (if they were

fortunate enough to have work release). They may be given the opportunity for 30 days of housing upon release but they are expected to get a job, meet with their PO, maybe attend treatment, be on electronic monitoring with limited time out, secure first, last months rent, and security deposit within 30 days, the list goes on and on...and if you cannot meet the conditions you're out.

See **Road Home**, page 11

Action Alert



Is your county profiting off prisoners and their families? Many Wisconsin county prisons overcharge prisoners for phone use, commissary items, even uniforms, using some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society as a source of profit.

The Dane County Board has now passed Wisconsin's first "no prison profiteering" ordinance, and WNPJ is eager to help you get a similar ordinance passed in your county. Contact the WNPJ office or Dane County Supervisor Ashok Kumar (kumar@co.dane.us, 608-843-0615) to find out how you can end prison profiteering in your county.

INSTITUTIONALIZED INSANITY

F. Van den Bosch, Montfort

Not long ago, a pen pal friend of mine was released from the Boscobel Supermax (now renamed). He was what the staff and prison monitor called a chronic non-complier. As a non-complier, he spent his entire two years in Boscobel, bouncing between Levels 1 and 2, the lowest, meanest levels of a cruel and ineffective 5 step system. At those levels, he was denied many basic canteen items, he could not get library books, magazines or newspapers, he never had direct visual contact with a visitor, and his television viewing was restricted to a few channels and hours only. That is, until he smashed his TV out of frustration with the guards "messin' with my food." I had gotten many barely coherent letters from him. He was obviously hallucinating in his tiny cell. You see, the Supermax has no windows or direct outside ventilation to the cells, it has no outdoor recreation area (even though it was ordered by a federal judge 2 years ago), it has an indoor recreation area which consists of a 10x20 ft. concrete cubicle with no recreation equipment in it. Few inmates ever use the rec. area because of the shackling and strip-searching entailed in leaving their cell, so my friend never left the confines of his tiny cell for two years. Never saw the sky, a tree, a bird, never felt the wind or a rain drop or the warm sun on his skin, for two years! My friend was one of those guys who beat on his stainless steel toilet or solid steel door with his shoes, day and night.

He was one of those guys who screamed and howled, all day, making life miserable for all the others nearby. Some guys throw feces at the guards, or wipe it on the walls, or beat off in front of the camera built into the wall of their cell. Some run full steam, head first into the wall, or dive off of their concrete slab of a bed, trying to end it, or maybe just to feel something, anything. This last June, my friend hit his mandatory release date. Two weeks before his MR, they hauled him over to Racine, for a "mustering out" process. I sent him some clothes, a couple of shirts and pants from the thrift store and a new pair of sneakers from K-Mart. He asked that I hide a bit of cash in the shoes, so that he would have bus fare to Chicago, but I told him that I would rather wire some cash to Western Union, because I didn't want to jeopardize my standing with the DOC (I visit and write other inmates). Why was my friend without funds? He had litigated against the Supermax in a class action suit to get the outside rec area, among other things. The DOC had drained his release account to pay for that litigation. I got on-line and used my credit card to wire \$75 to the Milwaukee Western Union. Everything was all set. The big day arrived, and I got a phone call from the newly freed citizen. "Hey man, they won't give me the money! I almost got in a fight with the Western Union guy, he was gonna call the cops, so I got outta there!" "Why won't they give you

the money?" "They say I need an ID, and I ain't got one." "Where are you now?" "I got into a cab and went uptown to another Western Union office. I didn't have any money to pay the cab, so I gave him my TV." (That's his personal TV, not the DOC one he smashed in Boscobel.) To make a long story a little shorter, I got him some cash, and he got out of Milwaukee. I got a letter from him a couple of weeks later, postmarked Champaign, Illinois. He was living on a mat in a homeless shelter there, and enjoying every minute of his free life. The shelter, he says, also runs a work training program that he said he was going to get into. I hope he succeeds, despite all the cards stacked against him. I hope he doesn't hurt anyone, despite all the anger built into him at the Supermax. I hope that he will avoid the revolving door of the prison-industrial complex, despite their best efforts to reel him back in, quickly. My friend went from two years of extreme sensory deprivation and total disassociation from normal life to being dumped into Milwaukee with no money, and no identification. What did the "Justice" system expect, and how does this system protect our communities? What they did to my friend and the community was criminal, and dangerous. This story could have ended in tragedy that very day. Maybe the DOJ should be called the criminally insane "justice" system.

Frank at castlerockmo@tds.net

Calendar from page 2

2/19 Tues 6:30 pm "That Which Is Sacred in the Constitution," with John Nichols - Racine. Siena Center, 5635 Erie St., Racine. Info: Sr. Miriam Brown, 262/639-4100.

2/23 Sat 9 am - 3 pm "The Call to Peace," workshop with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton - Racine. Siena Center, 5635 Erie St., Racine. Info: Sr. Rita Lui, 262/639-4100 x 1230.

2/28 - 3/2 Thurs - Sun CPT delegate and SOA Civil Resister, Le Anne Clause, Visits Madison. Various events are planned on the 4-days of her visit. For details, contact Fred Brancel at francl@juno.com.

3/1 Sat WNPJ Celebration for Statewide Vigilans - Madison. Time/place are in the planning phase. Watch for updates. To help plan this event, contact Mary Beth Schlagheck at mbspeace1@charter.net.

Chicago March *from front page*

All were earnest about the need for people to speak out against the war in Iraq, against the plans for war in Iran, and against the related slide in American healthcare, infrastructure, and institutions.

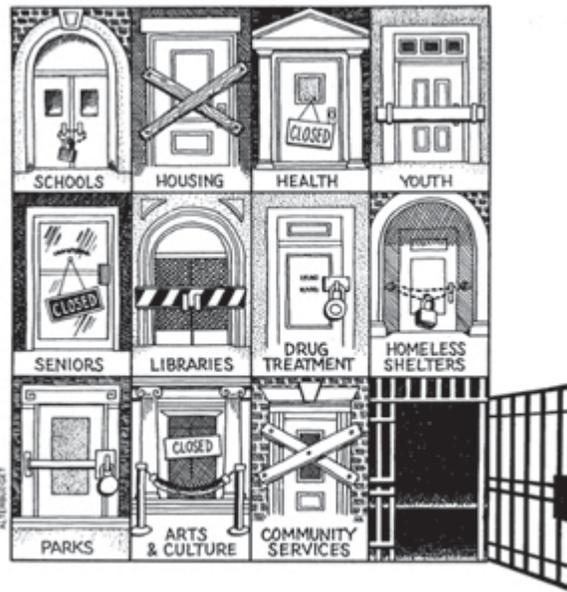
The bus driver listened. At the stop, he addressed the passengers. He was a born-again Christian, he said, and he understood. He explained how his experience transporting returning soldiers home, many wounded, was sobering. Driving new recruits to their deployment saddened him even more.

The bus - purple, literally and at least somewhat politically - dropped the Wisconsin delegation off at Union Park, Chicago. There they rallied with thousands of diverse Midwesterners, first listening to speakers and performers, and then moving on to express their patriotism by foot.

The Wisconsin SW contingent was small in the great, dense crowd, filling the streets of the Loop. The group marched and chanted for nearly two hours. Like the exercise, the route was invigorating - along residential blocks of neat brownstones, over the Chicago River, through canyons of corporate towers, to Federal Plaza. Clouds dissolved and the sun joined the march.

The many peaceful protests against the war that have occurred across the country since the invasion of Iraq have received little media coverage, no matter how many hundreds of thousands show up. It is well worth participating in one or more just to see the possibility and the reality of mass democratic action. As Americans, we can still act in our own interests and in the interests of our troops.

SW-WI Grassroots Citizens for P&J is a WNPJ member group. To learn more contact Jane Hammatt-Kavaloski at jhammatt@mhtc.net



Inmate's View *from page 4*

Those criteria are to determine whether I have served sufficient time so as not to depreciate the seriousness of the offense. To determine whether my conduct and program involvement have been acceptable; whether my parole plan is acceptable; and whether release would present an acceptable risk. (Note: The parole commission knows through substantial studies that men with life sentences are their best parole risks, with less than two percent ever coming back to prison.) With the cited statutory right, there is the clear Federal Right as mandated by *WEAVE vs GRAHAM*, 101 S.Ct. at 960: Prisoners have a right to qualify for and hence to earn parole." This is a direct quote.

However, on the Wisconsin State Parole Commission's action sheet that is given to the inmates listing the reasons of the Commissioners' actions, they seem to have their own criteria. One is and I quote; "2. You (~) have not served sufficient time for punishment." Almost every Lifer that has twenty or more years in the box had "not served sufficient time for punishment" checked when they reached their parole eligibil-

ity dates. They have done their punishment according to the Judge that sentenced them, so why is this even on the form that the Wisconsin parole commission uses?

What I want to say in this article is this. I have seen staff beat inmates without cause; I have seen and heard lies from staff almost weekly. P.R.C. sees you once a year as does your social worker and they think that they know you inside out and play games with your life while pretending to do their job. Prison is nothing more than the industry that Tommy

G. turned it into. Proof of that is in the missive he sent to Michael J. Sullivan, the then Secretary of the Department of Corrections. It reads in part and I quote; "I recently proposed and subsequently signed into law a bill to end mandatory parole for violent offenders in Wisconsin. In enacting that important change, legal counsel advised that any retroactive change in the law would be unconstitutional. Therefore, although I have ended mandatory release of violent offenders, there are some inmates already in prison who are still governed by the old release law. In order to implement this policy as fully as possible, I hereby direct the Department of Corrections to pursue any and all available legal avenues to block the release of violent offenders who have reached their mandatory release date." This was signed by Tommy G. Thompson, Governor. There are too many staff personnel that are still under this line of thought. P.R.C. Boards don't give long term inmates a chance even though they are the best parole risk.

THE 20 QUESTIONS PRISON QUIZ CHALLENGE

brought to you by....

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1. Approximately how many prisoners are there in the world?

- a. 400,000 b. 800,000
c. 9 million d. 17 million

2. Approximately how many prisoners are there in the U.S.?

- a. 500,000 b. 1 million
c. 2 million d. 7 million

3. What is the current ratio of prisoners to "free" adults in the U.S.?

- a. 1 prisoner per 2000 b. 1 per 1000
c. 1 per 100 d. 1 per 50

4. There are now more prisoners in the U.S. than which of the following:

- a. farmers b. police officers
c. lawyers d. all of the aforementioned

5. Between 2003-2005, over 1000 deaths were reported by state and local agencies during arrests. What percentage of those deaths were homicides by law enforcement officers?

- a. 10% b. 35% c. 55% d. 70%

Of the total 300 million U.S. citizens, around 18% are non-whites.

6. What is the percentage of non-white prisoners in the U.S.?

- a. 18% b. 25% c. 40% d. 60%

7. What group below is being incarcerated at the fastest rate in the U.S.?

- a. African-American men
b. Women c. Latin Americans
d. Native Americans

8. Although African-Americans are only 6% of Wisconsin's population, they make up what percentage of the prison population in the state?

- a. 8% b. 13% c. 32% d. 45%

9. Currently, what percentage of prisoners can we expect to be released?

- a. 25% b. 65% c. 70% d. 95%

10. What is the percentage of formerly incarcerated people that are still unemployed after one year?

- a. 25% b. 35% c. 50% d. 60%

11. Approximately what percentage of women in prisons and jails in WI are mothers of minor children?

- a. 5% b. 40% c. 70%

12. What are WI prisoners paid for peeling potatoes?

- a. \$3.50/per hour b. \$1.50/per hour
c. 20¢ per hour d. 5¢ per hour

13. Is the clear space in cells in Supermax larger or smaller than the footprint of a VW van?

- a. larger b. smaller

14. Prisoners at Supermax are confined in their cells for how many hours a day?

- a. 12 hours b. 16 hours c. 23 hours

15. Physical contact only occurs through a security door, when restraints are removed, or the subject is strip-searched. Monitoring is conducted via video cameras and listening devices. Water and lights are provided via remote control. All feeding occurs through tray slots. These conditions are typical in:

- a. factory farms b. research labs
c. solitary confinement

16. In 1854, a plan for a juvenile facility in WI was motivated by what crime?

- a. theft b. drunk driving
c. murder d. crack possession

17. Are dogs used for "cell extraction" i.e. getting unwilling prisoners out of their cells, in domestic U.S. prisons?

- a. no b. yes c. only in federal institutions

18. Which crime will get a stiffer sentence?

- a. embezzling \$5 million dollars
b. shoplifting a donut

19. What was the approximate cost of postage for the first year of operation of Wisconsin Books to Prisoners?

- a. \$500 b. \$1500 c. \$2000 d. \$2500

20. Approximately, how many books have been sent to prisoners in the U.S. this year by book to prisoner projects?

- a. 5000 b. 7500 c. 15,000 d. 100,000



For the answers, see page 10.

Bits & Peaces

Unreformed Corporations continue to pollute in Wisconsin, Michigan, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Kennecott Mineral Company sought a Certificate of Completion for reclamation at the Flambeau mine site in Ladysmith, WI despite the terrible job they have done according to the vast majority of people who testified against the granting of the Certificate. They are seeking a new permit to operate a metallic sulfide mine in Michigan. Shell Co. and Dow Co. are selling a synthetic agro-toxic chemical to banana plantations in Nicaragua. This insecticide with the name of Nemagon and Fumazone is highly toxic to agricultural workers. In El Salvador, Kimberly Clark Co. is spilling its wastewater into a river on which thousands of families

depend for their basic water needs. (from *JustPeace*, Sept, 2007; Wisconsin Resources Protection Council.)

State and Federal Prisons will swell by more than 192,000 over the next five years, according to the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Charitable Trust. In *Public Safety, Public Spending: Forecasting America's Prison Population 2007-2011*, the authors foresee this 13% jump as tripling the projected growth of the general U.S. population. They predict this will raise the prison census to a total of more than 1.7 million people. The national price tag is staggering. The increase could cost \$27.5 billion in new operating costs and nearly as much in new construction

costs. For the full report: www.pewpublicsafety.org. (from *Mary House News, WI*, Summer 2007)

Instant replay on the part of the Bush Administration on environmental regulations. This time, it was the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that ordered on 11/20/07 a "do-over" to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) ruling that a full Environmental Review of the gas mileage standards must include larger vehicles. Last year, it was the Supreme Court that ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to "do-over" its ruling to include global warming in its consideration of environmental regulations. (*Better World Club*, Nov. 2007)

MADISON-AREA 'RAGING GRANNIES' WERE ON-STAGE AT THE MIDWEST REGIONAL ANTI-WAR MOBILIZATION IN CHICAGO, OCT. 2007

The 'Madison Grannies', a project of the Madison Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), first sang to the crowds of Madison anti-war protesters in the fall of 2003. They now number almost 20 singers – with their main objective to have fun, in the face of the horrors of war and world conflict. They say their biggest accomplishment is learning to interact and perform effectively as a "DIS-organization."

The 'Madison Grannies' were invited to sing their satirical songs for the hundreds of thousands who gathered in Chicago for the Regional anti-war mobilization, Oct 27.



Raging Grannies in Chicago

Internationally recognized, the "Raging Grannies" are everywhere! The first known appearance of Grannies was 1983 in Vancouver Sound where a canoe full of old women all dressed up, sang satirical protests of Trident nuclear submarines endangering their space. Many Granny websites share lyrics and tactics useful to newbies. To learn more about the international work of the 'Raging Grannies', see <http://www.geocities.com/raginggrannies/>. Local contact is WNPJ founder, Nan Cheney at

nancheney@sbcglobal.net.

ANSWERS & SOURCES FOR THE PRISON QUIZ

Books to Prisoners Project • maha@chorus.net • 1019 Williamson St. #B • Madison, WI

1. c. 9 million

Source: [http://www.prisonpolicy.org/research.htm#International Incarceration Comparisons](http://www.prisonpolicy.org/research.htm#International%20Incarceration%20Comparisons)

2. c. 2 million. Not counted are 7 million people were under some form of correctional supervision, 2.2 million prisoners, more than 4.1 million people on probation and nearly 800,000 on parole. Source: *Bureau of Justice Statistics Correctional Surveys 2005*.

Note 1: Not only is the U.S. the world's leader in incarceration, there has been an (unprecedented) 500% increase over the past 30 years. These trends have resulted in prison overcrowding and state governments being overwhelmed by the burden of funding a rapidly expanding penal system, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not the most effective means of achieving public safety.

Note 2: As of January 2005 there were 22,213 prisoners in Wisconsin. Source: *U.S. Census & WI Department of Corrections, 2005*

3. d. Actually it is worse, 1 in every 32 adults is now in prison, or 3% of the U.S. adult population, with more than 700 new inmates joining them weekly. Source: *U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)* <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/priprpr.htm>

4. d. The total of a + b + c = 2.7 million. U.S. prisoners = 2.2 million: see **2**

5. c. 55% (1,095). Drug and alcohol intoxication 13% of all deaths, suicides (12%), accidental injuries (7%), and illness or natural causes (6%). Source: *Bureau of Justice Statistics, 10/07 Deaths in Custody Reporting Program NCJ 219534* <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ardus05.htm>

6. d. More than 60%. For black males in their twenties it is 80%. One in 3 have chance of serving time in prison at some point in their lives. Sources: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html#Econ> & <http://www.sentencingproject.org/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationID=593>

& Pam Oliver's *Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice*, *UW Sociology website: www.ssc.wisc.edu/~oliver*

7. b. By 757% since 1977 mostly due to the war on drugs. Sources: <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/cgi-bin/pp/research/search.cgi?query=women&mh=100&type=keyword&bool=or>

8. d. 45%. Source: *Census & WI DOC* Note: African Americans are incarcerated at 5.6 times the rate of whites, Hispanics 1.8 times the rate of whites.

9. d. 95% Source: *the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics*

10 d. 60% Source: *WI State Journal* Note: 65% of employers would not hire a person with a criminal record, regardless of the offense.

11. c. 67% affecting 167,000 children. Sources: *BJS* & <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/cgi-bin/pp/research/search.cgi?query=women&mh=100&type=keyword&bool=or> Note: Over 60% of parents in State prisons were held more than 100 miles from their last place of residence.

12. c. At that rate, it would take 2 1/2 hours to buy a stamp (OCI charges inmates 51¢ for a first class stamp). Source: *OCI annual report 2007* <http://www.wi-doc.co/index>

13. b. The footprint of a VW bus is approximately 82 sq. ft., the "clear space" square footage of a single-occupancy cell is 45 sq. ft. Source: *Rules of the TN Corrections Institute, Correctional Facilities Inspection, Chapter 1400-1*

14. c. 23 hours. Solitary confinement last, on average more than 5 years. The longest time reported was 20 years. Sources: *The New Abolitionist newsletter* edited by Frank Van den Bosch & *Supermax Prisons: Overview and General Considerations. January 1999/Technical Assistance #98P4002 National Institute of Corrections, USDJ.* Note: Prisoners in WI's Supermax were deprived of sunlight for 6 years.

15. c. Exercise in most extended control facilities is limited to 3 to 7 hours (in one-hour intervals) per week, in an indoor space or small, secure, attached outdoor space on a one inmate at a time basis. Sources: *Supermax Prisons: Overview and General Considerations, January 1999/Technical Assistance #98P4002 National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice & Kevin Pyle. Lab USA Illuminated documents. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia, 2001*

16. a. The thief was 9 years old. He was sentenced to Waupun State Prison for larceny. Source: *WI Department of Corrections (DOC)* For more history (and trivia, e.g., what year did they start making license plates in WI?): http://www.wi-doc.com/DOC_History.htm

17. b. Policies in Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, South Dakota and Utah allow guards to use "aggressive, unmuzzled" dogs that may be ordered to bite prisoners if they resist. Source: *Human Rights Watch. October 2006.* <http://www.hrs.org/reports/2006/us1006/index.htm>

18. b. Steal a 52¢ donut, get 15+ years, steal millions and you get about 4 yrs. Source #1: *St. Louis Post dispatch 10/07/2007.* Scott A. Masters, the "doughnut man," was accused of shoplifting the pastry and pushing a store worker who tried to stop him. The worker was unhurt. But with that shove, his shoplifting turned into strong-arm robbery. With 5 to 15 years in prison. Source #2: *Houston Chronicle, Sept. 28, 2006 Kristen Hays and Tom Fowler* Andrew Fastow, who had conspired to help Enron manipulate earnings while skimming millions of dollars for himself, after pleading guilty to two counts of conspiracy, got 6 years, with possibly 2 years off for good behavior.

19. c. With printing, clear packing tape and educational outreach up to \$2500.

20. d. Over 100,000 books in 2007 Source: *National Conference on Books to Prisoner projects. November 2007*

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Contact Person for Organization Membership _____
 The main focus for my/our peace and justice effort is: _____

Type of Membership (Check one)

- Individual \$35/yr
 Family \$45/yr
 Fixed Income/War Tax Resister \$15/yr
 Sustaining \$52/yr (\$1/wk)
 A-dollar-a-day for peace \$365/yr
 Benefactor \$_____/yr***
 Organization without paid staff \$50/yr
 Organization with paid staff \$75/yr

***You can pay monthly with PayPal online, see www.wnpj.org "Join Us" to see how.

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122 State Street, #402
Madison, WI 53703

Phone 608-250-9240; E-Mail info@wnpj.org; Website www.wnpj.org. WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

REPORT FROM THE WNPJ OFFICE

From Judy Miner, Office Coordinator

WNPJ welcomes Todd Dennis, working as a UW-work study intern in the office every Friday, supervised by Steve Burns. Todd is currently active in Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Campus Anti-war Network – Madison, as well as studying in the UW-Madison engineering department. Steve and Todd are coordinating speakers to reach out to high school and college campuses. If your community is interested, Todd can be reached at todd@ivaw.org

Volunteers make this Network work! Bobfest volunteers: Karin, Kathy D., Sheila, Mark Becker. Fall Assembly in Racine; Judith Detert-Moriarty, Phil Biebl, the Farleys, the crew from the Racine Peace and Justice group, Barb Boehme, and all who participated in the program. Thanks to Chuck Baynton for outreach. And thanks to all of you who organized buses to Chicago Oct. 27th - and those who rode on the buses, too. (Mary Beth, Jane, Carl, Dan, Carol, Drew, Ron, Chris, Julie, Dick, Donna, Todd, Connie, and more). Peace-wreath

makers; Janet, Walt, Arely, Caroline, Juan, Karin, Susan, Miguel, Seth, Bonnie, Mary, Stefania, Christy and kids, Diane Farsetta, Tim Cordon and Kids, Terry, Mike, Kate, Phyllis & Bob, and Seth!

Are you a WNPJ member and **would you like to receive the weekly E-Calendar of WNPJ Events** across the state/region? Send us your e-mail address, and you'll get this valuable resource each week. Also, check out new photos and action alerts at www.wnpj.org!

Road Home from page 5

So what could we or should we be asking to be a part of the greater solution for all? How do we do this more wisely so that everyone wins?

- ❖ Treat the issue not warehouse the problem.
- ❖ Provide alternatives to incarceration through proven successful community based treatment.
- ❖ Establish policies that allow individuals an opportunity to be employed, have a place to live, and to become productive.

- ❖ Create a system that increases public safety, reduces recidivism, allows for successful reintegration, and healthier communities for all!
- ❖ Support agencies that provide these services already.
- ❖ Challenge our government to be proactive in using resources effectively and not do the same thing over and over again expecting different results (*that is the definition of insanity*).

How do I know? I am one of "those people" who was given the gift of be-

coming a productive member of society. I am one of "those people" who was Blessed to become the neighbor someone would be glad to have. I am one of "those people" who believes that the greatest gift I can give is to be an example to an offender who doesn't believe they can be a great neighbor, or a community member, who doesn't believe an offender can be a great neighbor. We are all in this together and we can shape it. Thanks for your time. Tamra Contact: e-mail - to1vbb@yahoo.com



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WNPJ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
(New Members in bold)

Alliance for Animals–Madison
ACLU - Madison
Anathoth Community Farm–Luck
Artha Sustainable Living Center, LLC - Amherst
Beloit Monthly Meeting of Friends
Benedict Center–Milwaukee
Benedictine Women of Madison
Bread for the World – Appleton
Cable United Church of Christ
Campus Anti-war Network – Madison
Candlelight Coalition–Wauwatosa
Casa Maria–Milwaukee
Center Advocates–Milwaukee
Church Women United of Wisconsin
Churches Center for Land and People–
Citizens Energy Co-op of
Wisconsin–Green Bay
Citizens for Global Solutions–Madison
& Whitewater
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger–
Merrimac
Coalition for Wisconsin Health–
Madison
Code Pink–Boscobel
Colombia Support Network–Madison
Community Action on Latin America–
Concerned Citizens of Newport, Inc.–
Wisconsin Dells
Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point
Congregation of St Agnes, Justice Peace
& Ecology Office–Fond du Lac
Coulee Progressives–LaCrosse
Dale Heights Presbyterian Church
Outreach Committee–Madison
DeKalbIL Interfaith Network for P&J
Dells Country Progressive Voices
Democratic Socialists of America–
Madison Area
Driftless Community Radio–Viroqua
East Timor Action Network–Madison
ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod–Peace
and Justice Committee
Families and Friends for Social
Responsibility - Madison
Family Farm Defenders–Madison
Fellowship of Reconciliation–Fox
Valley Chapter
First Cong Church, UCC–Menomonie
First United Methodist Church, Church
and Society Committee–Madison
Fox Valley Peace Coalition–Menasha
Franciscan Sisters of Mary–Madison

Global Connections Team:ELCA
GLSEN–South Central Wisconsin
Grandmothers for Peace–Superior
Great Lakes Region Social Concerns
Network
Habiba Foundation–Janesville
Hill Connections–Chaseburg
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice -
Madison
Interfaith Justice and Peace Group–La
Crosse
International Committee for the Peace
Council–Madison
**Iraq Veterans Against the War -
Madison**
Juneau County Peace Committee–
Mauston
Kickapoo Peace Circle–Viroqua
Lakeshore Peacemakers–Manitowoc
Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker–
Duluth
**Lutheran Human Relations
Association - Milwaukee**
Lutheran Office of Justice and Peace–
LaCrosse
Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
Madison Area Peace Coalition
Madison Area War Tax Resistance
Madison Buddhist Peace Fellowship
Madison East Students for Peace and
Freedom
Madison Fair Trade Action Alliance
Madison Friends of International
Students
Madison Friends Meeting–Peace &
Social Concerns Committee
Madison Hours Co-op
Madison Infoshop
Madison Mennonite Church
Madison/Rafah Sister City Project
Madison Unitarian YouthMUUYACM
Madison-area Urban Ministry
Madison Women for Peace:CODEPink
Madtown Liberty Players
**Marquette University Center for
Peacemaking - Milwaukee**
Mary House–Wisconsin Dells
Midwest Renewable Energy Association–
Money, Education and Prisons–Madison
National Campaign for Nonviolent
Resistance–Madison
National Peace Foundation–Eau Claire
North Country Fair Trade–St.Paul

Northwoods Peace Fellowship–Wausau
Nukewatch–Luck
PAX Christi–Madison
Peace Action Wisconsin–Milwaukee
Peace Economics–Madison
Peace North–Hayward
Peace Seekers of Washington County
People for Peace–Waupaca
Peregrine Productions–Madison
Physicians for Social Responsibility–
Madison
Plowshare Center–Waukesha
Portage Area Peace Seekers
Preserve Our Climate–Madison
Progressive Forum–Washington Island
Progressive Voices–Baraboo
Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice
Racine Dominicans Justice Outreach
Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative–
Madison
Rapids Citizens for Peace - Wisconsin
Rapids
Red Cedar Peace Initiative–Menomonie
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of
Wisconsin–Madison
Rock County Citizens for Peace–
Janesville
Rockford Peace and Justice Action–IL
Rock Ridge Community–Dodgeville
Rock Valley Fellowship of
Reconciliation–Janesville
Saint Bede Monastery–Eau Claire
St. Norbert Abbey Justice and Peace
Committee–DePere
St. Norbert College, Peace & Justice
Center–DePere
Sauk Prairie Area Peace Council
School of Americas Watch–Madison
School Sisters of Notre Dame–Elm
Grove
SEIU District 1199W–Madison
Sinsinawa Dominicans–River Falls, IL
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi–
Milwaukee
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross–
Green Bay
Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF
Sisters of the Divine Savior–Milwaukee
Social Justice Council, First Unitarian
Society–Madison
Social Justice Center - Madison
Socialist Party of Wisconsin–Milw.
Socialist Party of WI–So. Central Local
–Madison

SOS Senior Council–Madison
South Central Federation of Labor,
AFL-CIO–Madison
Southern Lakes Citizens for Peace–
Elkhorn
SW Grassroots Citizens for Peace–
Dodgeville
The Madison Institute
Union de la Trabajadores Inmigrantes -
Madison
United Methodist Federation for Social
Action, WI Chapter
United Nations Association–Dane Co &
Milwaukee Chapters & Wisconsin
Division
UW-Milwaukee Peace Studies Program
UW-Platteville Students for Peace and
Justice
University United Methodist Church–
Madison
Veterans for Peace–Chapter 25, Madison
& Chapter 80, Lake Superior Area
Watertown Peace and Democracy
Waukesha Catholic Worker
WAVE Educational Fund–Milwaukee
Waysmeet Quaker Center–Richland
Center
Winds of Peace–Projects in Vietnam
Winnebago Peace and Justice Center–
Oshkosh
Wisconsin Books to Prisoners Project
Wisconsin Citizen Action
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize
Relations with Cuba–Milwaukee
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WI Impeachment/Bring Our Troops
Home–Madison
Wisconsin Resources Protection
Council–LaCrosse
Wisconsin Women's Network
Women's International League for Peace
and Freedom–Madison
Workers' Rights Center Board - Madison
Yahara Friends Meeting–Monona
YWCA GALAXY/RAY–La Crosse