

4/3/14

The APWA Editors;

Dear Sirs, First I would like to thank you, for this opportunity to be apart, of what I consider to be a groundbreaking endeavor. I am pleased and blessed to be apart of such an movement. I hope this ~~is~~ the first of many letters to this organization.

Secondly let me apologize for my penmanship I know it leave something to be desire. But as I write this I am currently serving my time in the S.H.U. (Special Housing Unit) better known as the hole, and I am writing with a rubber pen (security issue) so my writing lack the proper definition. I only ask that you bare with me!

Now to this edition, I don't have any one particular issue to discuss, for I feel all that you mention in your introduction letter are extremely important, so I will simply give you a glimpse into my life as it has unfolded in my years in American prison system both state (Illinois) and Federal. I first became a convict in 1955 in the state of Illinois my first penitentiary was the famous Joliet Correctional Institution, famous for it's placement in the movie Blues Brothers, from there I have spent the last 29 years in and out of different prisons. I first came into the Federal system in 1998. Since that time, I have personally witness the system turn from serious attempts of rehabilitation to now merely warehousing inmates for money and political gains. Here in the federal system, you have a lot of these ~~off~~ correctional officers, who are ex-military, now working in prisons, and they see us as enemies not human —

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Beings, they are all-equipped to deal with the needs of inmates, because they can't see them as humans. Simply put, and it set the stage for failure. The B.O.P. (Bureau of Prisons) has a \$6 Billion dollar Budget for approx. 300,000 inmates. Let that sink in. America leads the world in 3 things: (1) the amount of money spent on its military (2) the number of ~~thirst~~ ^{is} and (3) the number of people it locks up. That's what the U.S. leads the world in. And the way in which it deals with its prison population is appalling. I personally see, how the mentally ill are ignored and filled with medication, how the health care system is unprofessional, uncaring and ill-equipped. Think about it who goes to medical school to work in a prison? Most of the medical staff are society's rejects, and they act as if they are here by ~~choice~~ choice.

I want to briefly talk about the most important book I have read in my 29 yrs dealing with the systems. The new Jim Crow (mass incarceration) by Michelle Alexander is a must read for anyone who is serious about prison reform, and understanding how the system has gotten to where you have to have a prison archive. I have read many books including the official History of Prison, and many others, none come close to the new Jim Crow. The current prison system especially federal is really aimed at men of color, and it was a plan; never was there a war on drugs. How can you be at war with a ~~inadherent~~ ^{inadherent} object? It was always a war on colored people and now it is being revealed bit, by bit....

until next time thank you for your time & efforts in this matter

