

# Prison or Criminal University

by: ABE Fromen

The first thing I was taught when I got to prison was: if I am to ever throw hot oil at a correction officer (CO) mix it with honey.

I asked why? "So it sticks to their skin"!

Really?!! Is this what you really want to teach a 19 year old kid? I then learned how to hide contraband inside my rectal cavity; this was not by choice.

Isn't prison the place where you come, when you can't live by Society's laws; Yes! Then why do people come here and get worse!

Prisons are filled with people who made mistakes; people who are full of promise, people who have such aspirations. But we are not given the chance.

When I arrived at my current facility; I tried to work in the mess hall; denied. I then tried to work in the "O.M." (Officers mess hall)-denied.

Don't these people realize that I have a background in the Culinary arts and that's where my dreams are! Nope, they don't care! Now, I have a great deal of patients; and I've always wanted to learn how to weld; So I tried that one to; denied!

Here's the funny/sad part; I was told that I can't do the welding vocational program because I already have a vocational satisfaction in Carpentry; in other words; if I wanted to better myself by learning another trade; Sorry denied! I see it every day, day after day. People

They do not care! People don't come to prison to get better, we come here to get worse! I'm not in prison for drugs, but was forced to take a drug program; I learned more about drugs in that program than in 19 yrs. on the outside.

When I've finally had enough and start my letters and complaints; that's when the threats start, the harassment, the urine-drug testing, the cell-searches!

So far I've been incarcerated for 19 yrs, 2-days, and 8-hours; Everything that I set to accomplish when I came to prison has been met with resistance.

The fears that we know- that prison is a revolving door; I've seen it too many times; and so has the public; just watch the news.

The headlines are unacceptable; "parolee back behind bars"; "parolee kills again"; How do you think that looks for us; those of us who want to go home, those of us who have families to go home to; those of us who have dreams and would like to fulfill them; those of us who will never come back to this hell-hole!

Prisons need better programming, more programming, more therapy/therapeutic programs; real world work experiences; we have been kept in the stone ages.

Yeah, I know- why I'm in here; and I regret ~~it every~~ it every single day; for these 19 years; I've been kept from my family, from my loved ones; and I have no one to blame but myself; The least they can do; is help us to help ourselves.