

APA
c/o Hamilton College

Efrain Pedro Morales #180444
984 Norwich New-London Turnpike
Uncasville, CT. 06382

____/____/2017

Dear Editor(s),

Society worries about crime and recidivism. What society isn't aware of is that when humans aren't treated like humans it can have a destabilizing effect that sometimes carries over into society. In my approximately ~~400~~ word essay I touch on the cage-rattling tactics in which the D.O.C. curtails creativity, complaints, and rehabilitation.

I'm a 2003 alumnus of the Writer's Digest School that has been published in some newsletters, newspapers, and magazines - currently am a contributing writer for Spotlight on Recovery (Brooklyn, NY).

Upon reading the enclosed essay, you'll understand why this is hand-written. Thank you.

Sincerely, Efrain Morales, Jr

PS: Enclosed See "NOTICE" of Osborn CI's typewriter restriction.

PSS: Enclosed essay mailed the day following my transfer to a different facility. Still request it be used.

984 Norwich New-London TurnpikeUncasville, CT 06382

"D.O.C's Counter-Rehabilitation Disfunctions"

By: Pedro Morales, Jr.

Inmates are sentenced to a term of incarceration, wherein they're expected to reform and rehabilitate. Some of this comes by way of prison programs, which may garner inmates that successfully complete them Risk Reduction Earned Credits (in CT) and/or early release onto parole - also contingent on inmate conduct, of course. But there are other options that are likewise meaningful and rehabilitational - such as becoming a peer-mentor, in a program, or simply taking up a craft: art and writing.

It is fact that when inmates learn how to effectively portray their vision (via art) or articulate their frustrations (via writing) onto canvas and paper it serves as more than mere cathartic release. For inmates whom have lost much in life - which are a greater majority - these forms of expression helps them begin to define their lives, bolster self-esteem, and gives them a voice when feeling voiceless inside.

But unlike art - that's less descriptive and often subject to interpretation (for which art supplies are allowed; even through commissary purchase) - writing can easily be viewed by D.O.C and subordinates as pure propaganda when used as a tool for addressing D.O.C malfunctions via publications.

In the month of July alone there have been reports of CT inmates taking legal action against the Dept. of Corrections - D.O.C (aired on NBC 30 and Fox 61 News). It's no secret

that things such as Cruel-and-Unusual Punishment, Deliberate Indifference, Departmental Retaliation, Disproportionate Housing, and Selective Enforcement still occurs on the watch of the rank-and-file of D.O.C's finest.

But what free-world society doesn't know is that some CT facilities have eliminated the in-prison legal libraries and writing workshops. Moreover, a rule that restricts non-legal typewriter usage has recently been posted on all typewriters in Osborn CI's library. This leaves incarcerated writers - like myself - and those lacking legal skills at a disadvantage. Our only recourse is in exercising a form of checks-and-balances through articulating complaints outside of the D.O.C system for lack of relief within; mostly for fear of forms of departmental retaliation.

Inmates count on the forums media outlets provide to alert citizenry of counter-rehabilitational disfunctions that could - if unchecked - ultimately affect society when inmates are eventually released / disgruntled ex-felons.

One would think that, besides incarcerating criminals, the D.O.C would incentivise rehabilitation alternatives like other states have in allowing writing workshops and use and/or sale of word processors.

To the contrary, and the timing reeks of by-design. Some writers understandably wonder if the typewriter restriction is byproduct of CT's financial mismanagement (to ration paper and ink), or a likely means by which to curtail the slew of TYPED grievances that make their way into publication and other venues.

Perhaps in this way the D.O.C's interests don't entirely depend on protecting the public after all.

#