

Correctional Officers Dealing Dope on Behalf of the State (Part 3)

essay

by: Ennis F. Patterson

March 20th, 2021

It was approximately 4:00 p.m. on December 29th, 2021, when a captain at Belmont Correctional Institution stormed into 3 House flanked by quite-a-few grey shirt COs. "Everybody on your racks" he yelled as he walked the aisles of the bud area. The grey shirts approached particular cubicles and cuffed particular inmates. It didn't take long before those of us who looked-on realized all whom were being fettered were ones who worked in the institutional laundry room. These laundry workers were extradited to the day room which is in front of the dorm as they awaited to be transported to TPU (the hole).

Belongings of these workers were all gathered up and taken to the T.V. sports room (TVSR) where it is assumed they were sifted through methodically. All windows of the TVSR were covered with paper effectively disabling anyone from witnessing what exactly was happening. It is worth noting that during normal operations this TVSR is a favorite place to do drugs and can be viewed by way of its windows directly from the CO's desk.

Of the countless shake-downs I've seen since being housed at Belmont, never have I witnessed officers take precautions to ensure no one could easily view their doings as they rambled through an inmates personal possessions.

Several hours later rumors began to circulate: "Man — they found a huge cache of drugs and phones in the laundry room." And since drugs and phones are so prevalent here at Belmont, no one seen such revelations, though technically a rumor, as far fetched.

All laundry workers (7 in all; all of 3 House) were held in TPU for 13 days. On

the day of their release, which was one day before inspectors from Columbus, Ohio arrived to conduct a 3 day inspection/audit, they would all learn they were terminated from the laundry room (Note: inspectors from Columbus always announce the date they're coming to this institution to conduct an inspection. This is very suspicious as Columbus officials are cognizant of the fact that announcing themselves will allow prison officials time to get criminal and other questionable goings-on in a particular order. Is State officials and prison staff one in the same with regards to ensuring perverted prison conditions are never made public? I know most certainly).

I sent the following e-kite to the Belmont inspector on January 14th, 2021, and to the Belmont investigator on January 31st, 2021:

On Dec. 29th, 2021, all laundry workers (at least 7 persons of 3 house) were taken to the hole and held there until Jan 11th, 2021 — one day before inspectors from Columbus arrived — after a package was found containing narcotics and/or phones. There has been a large amount of drugs of all kinds here at Belmont since visits were curtailed in late March of 2020. Are these things being investigated, as it is dangerous for such a plethora of drugs on a prison compound? (All laundry workers whom were rounded up on Dec. 29th have been fired)

The inspector responded on January 14th saying "No need to respond to this. BECI follows policy... see your unit staff. This is not the job of the inspector." The investigator responded on February 8th saying "you will be passed". Neither of these departments rebuted the claims of drugs/phones being discovered. The mere fact that all laundry workers were fired after being in isolation for 13 days speaks volumes as to something being seriously amiss pertaining to the operations of said segment of the compound; and as of this date (March 16th, 2021) I have not been issued a pass to see the investigator.

Two ex-laundry workers revealed to me that they were not made aware of the reasons they were in the hole until the day they were being released. They both contend they were asked questions such as "who had access to the boiler room" and "did you see anyone in the laundry room whom didn't belong".

Though the laundry room debacle is unique in regards to the huge amount of narcotics and/or other contraband discovered in one area, drugs on the Belmont compound is far from being something out of the ordinary. And as mentioned in parts 1 and 2 of this piece, the State of Ohio is well aware of the massive amount of drugs here and even allow drugs to be done in front of surveillance cameras regularly in the TVOR here in 3 House.

We are constantly told by COs that the cameras are being watched by authority in Columbus, Ohio (for those whom may not know, Columbus is the center of government / the Capitol of Ohio). They assert this as means to get us to wear our masks and to follow other protocol related to COVID. Also, if one is out on the yard and happen to venture into a restricted area, as I did by mistake when I first arrived here, COs come running to assess the matter. This suggest cameras are watched vigorously as they ought be in a prison. However, drugs are being done with impunity in certain areas where there's cameras. One would have to sit in the TVOR all day to accurately keep up with how often such is occurring. One can then only conclude it's being allowed by those in administrative positions here and in Columbus.

One may induce too that what's happening with the prison drug epidemic is bigger than inmates dealing narcotics. Take this for instance. During a interview with prosecutors from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and FBI agents (July, 2019), former warden of Cuyahoga County Jail conveys he floated the ideal of bringing in drug sniffing dogs to catch officers bringing in narcotics for inmates. The ideal was not accepted by the jail director as

the director felt such means would "have opened the county to lawsuits" (Plain Dealer; Nov. 28th, 2020). Obviously the then county jail director would rather take his chances with a jail flooded with narcotics rather than deal with lawsuits. This proves unequivocally ~~scrutinization~~ ^{scrutinization} of what ~~officers~~ ^{officers} are transporting to inmates is unimportant.

But it's likely more than fear of lawsuits. If 'State Dope Dealers' are placed in a position where they are facing prison time, they may expose how far reaching the prison dope game is. In turn State politicians may find themselves in the hot seat in regards to being unable to control what's going on in these facilities.

The ex-director of Cuyahoga County Jail likely echoes the theme of Belmont and other Ohio Prisons. State politicians have been aware for decades of the drug problems in penitentiaries. Obviously, making any moves to deaden these extreme money making activities is not in the interest of political figures for specific reasons. Meanwhile the image is projected to the public that drastic measures are being taken by the State to ensure prison compounds are drug free. These measures include classes conducted by inmates, and a constant barrage of emails to inmates telling of the dangers of drugs, and help one may be able to find once released — they get a gang of nerve. As tax paying people we ought be outraged at such skull duggery maneuvers by the State.

Readers of this essay ought be clear as to exact specifics — those specifics are that the average prison employees knows the users and dealers in this prison; I'm telling you, this is the truth. There's no wondering for those of us whom understand what's going on. We are clear as to why particular inmates are never shook-down or otherwise bothered by prison staff. These same inmates almost openly use their phones all night. These same inmates frolic and follick about with almost all COs they come in contact with; they have

absolutely no worries of shakedowns. It's obvious for anyone whom have the slightest amount of acumen that certain inmates are being protected by the State (officers, administrators). (Note: In general COs are designed to perform shakedowns most of the times, or otherwise cursory in conducting those shakedowns).

Again, these things are occurring while the State relay that inmates here (you, brothers, sons, fathers, uncles, husbands, etc.) are being protected from the dangers associated with establishments where drug use is high. In fact, tax payers are being fooled into believing drugs here are minimal or non-existent while the State ensure prisons remain deluged with narcotics of all kinds. If this were not so, the State would have no problem with acquiring drug sniffing dogs or other measures to ensure all persons entering incarceration facilities are thoroughly checked regularly.

In all fairness I'd be remiss in my writings without mentioning contraband/drug sweeps do occur by specially trained officers known as SRTs. The sweeps have been conducted at least once a year since my tenure here with the exception of maybe one of those four years. Usually SRTs enter dorms through back doors at odd hours. They specifically target certain inmates... inmates, if serious contraband is found, are likely to be transported to a different prison after these sweeps.

However, other inmates expeditiously fill these voids because what's at the heart of the matter — the way drugs are brought into incarceration facilities — is left totally intact. Furthermore, these sweeps most times yields nothing but cell phones which are often in the possession of prison dope dealers. Could it be these sweeps are strategically designed to focus on phones and not disrupt narcotic dealings likely to be untraced? Thus there's the appearance drugs are not such a big problem; and it's less likely prison staff will be exposed?

And yes — though it looks bad for prison staff when phones are found, does it not make sense for prison authority to manage the degrees of bad looks? If the media is informed, one bad look for the prison is better than two or more.

Just to reiterate, visits have been cut off for about a year during which the amount of drugs here have greatly increased. The use of synthetic drugs have increased drastically also; and too many inmates have experienced 'episodes', after indulging in synthetic drug use, to keep up with. Here's a few:

- On Nov. 28th, 2020, an inmate suddenly starts yelling out loud "get off me! leave me alone!" while threatening COs.
- On Dec. 20th, 2020, an inmate takes off running, seemingly for the gate (outside). It took a while for COs to catch and subdue him.
- On Jan. 23rd, 2021, an inmate begin to yell out very loudly from his cubicle while totally naked and masturbating.
- On Feb. 1st, 2021, an inmate suddenly takes off running up and down the aisles of 3 House base block while yelling "my dude, my dude!"

After such episodes an inmate may or may not be placed in purple clothes which is the color one must wear as punishment for drug use. While in purple privileges are diled back. Sufficed to say though not all are placed in purple after being busted for drug activities, there's constantly a very of persons throughout the compound wearing said color.

Page 43 of the inmate handbook at Belmont C.I. 2019-2020, under a segment titled "Drug Conveyance" reads in part: "Drug conveyance and use will not be tolerated... All parties involved will be prosecuted... Drug conveyance is a direct threat to a safe, secure and humane environment for offenders and staff". (Note: handbooks are provided by this institution upon arrival for 14 days. It

books are not returned in that time frame, there will be a charge of \$3.00 and a conduct ticket will be issued. It is strictly emphasized that this handbook is not to be turned in to staff, but instead dropped in the institutional mailbox. These instructions are asserted on the handbook as a "Direct Order". In my view something is peculiar about these instructions.)

Reasonabilities in my consensus ought leave one to wonder the logic in having an inmate population whom have ~~merget~~ access to policies of the institution in which they are held. And by the way — any peculiarities conjured related to the reasons these books are not readily available to inmates are tied to broader ^{mechanisms} ~~efforts~~, I know, pertaining to functionings of several aspects of prison life. More simply put, there's more scummy things going on in prisons and operations thereof than just the drug situation; but without policies readily available it's hard to put two and two together, therefore inmates don't realize violations are common place.

I can't state enough, it is the State of Ohio (including all heads of State and bureaucrats) whom are at fault as they make no substantial effort to ensure prisons are run in a reasonable and humane way.

Ever wonder why you never hear news of drug problems in prison by way of mainstream media? How is it there can be reports of drug busts somewhat regularly in society at large but never in prison societies? [?] A given penitentiary may contain about 3,000 people, while a given city can obtain up to millions. Is it not less tedious to police drug trafficking in a society of 3,000 versus millions? We know massive amounts of drugs are in prisons so that's not a question. What it all boil down to is legislators banking on the tax paying people seeing state prisoners as undesirable. Legislators assume or hope prison authority will keep drug problems under control and within prison walls — who cares if criminals are doing a lot of drugs.

Hence the reasons why the occurrences of December 29th, spoke of early-on in this piece, have been quietly swept under the rug. Prison authority may even be/feel obligated to see to it such occurrences never disturb State law makers... very suspicious.

If and when such things are made public, State Capitol authority impromptu point fingers at prison staff and pretend to be unaware in the most marvelous conniving of ways.

The prison drug pandemic which has raged for decades have been made possible by those whom present laws in the State Capitol while strategically avoiding ever allowing questions related to negatives of prison life to make it to the congressional floor in any meaningful way. So sad for the colon whom hide behind 'capital protection' that the people are now aware of their political games and are ready to stand up.

Correctional Officers Dealing Dope.... (part 3)

by: Ennis R. Patterson

Essay Reprise

Three House, where the author of this essay is housed here at Belmont, is one of the more laid-back dorms of the compound; so just imagine all the things spoke of in terms of drug use and episodes in this unit, including offenders whom masturbate stridently, and others whom I've about dislocated after indulging in mind altering substances. Other houses are likely worst.

And too, as mentioned, or alluded to, in a preceding segment (part I) of this piece, bodies are suspiciously moved around in accord with where an abundance of dope is. It even seems, possibly, inmates of a particular caliber are ~~even~~ moved to certain key areas that may be surveillance blind spots — which is ironic since it appears no one cares if drugs are done in view of cameras.

To the point made in the main body of this piece about the prison dope epidemic being "bigger than inmates dealing narcotics", an article in the Wall Street Journal on the 9th of March, 2021, implies just that. It reads in part investigators "arrested a paralegal who was sending drugs and cellphones into prison...." (Wall Street Journal, March 9th, 2021; pg. A2). This instance which occurred in South Carolina is unlikely to reveal how wide-spread the drug ring it is tied to really is. Thus those of authority tied to this paralegal, whether loosely or overtly, will never have to worry about criminal litigation or the shutdown of this lucrative prison dope game.

Lastly I'd like to add there has been two audits/inspections here in almost as many months — one in January and one in March. One lasted three days, and one lasted about two weeks respectively. What this may mean I'm unsure of, but I've never seen back to back audits. (Note: I did neglect to mention in this piece that SRTs swept the compound in the early morning hours of March 6th, 2021, and found several cellphones.)