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Although prisons at times get a lot of negative attention when instances of abuse are discovered and exposed, it's still nonetheless difficult for advocates of change to get any traction because the horrible unspoken truth is, the so-called "victims" of the abuse or mistreatment are those deemed unwanted in society.

Most people who navigate through life with the benefit of a moral compass and are as a whole kindhearted, may indeed cringe at the sight or reading of circumstances of abuse but still, at the discovery the victim is a "felon" .. its quite often the opinion, even if its not actually literally spoken, that the felon is in a way deserving of such abuse due to their misdeeds. "If you would not of broken the law in the first place, then you would not be exposed to the abuse your experiencing in a place that is designed to hold the dregs of society."

But, if one analyzes the situation with an open mind and applies logic, then I am of the belief they too will come to the conclusion that the evidence supports the staff, not all of them but for sure a majority of them, are the true dregs and its the lack of oversight as well as the stereotypical negative opinion of inmates in general that allows the staff to act daily with impunity.

For the most part the average inmate commits crimes to either support a extensive drug habit or to simply in an effort to survive financially because an honest

Job is not something they are capable of or interested in. Eventually though, the odds being against them and coupled with the fact most criminals do not put extensive planning into their ill thought up capers and getting caught is a unavoidable ending.

Yet once the guy becomes incarcerated then the facts will support the guy becomes an inmate who follows the rules and a lot of times understands the errors of his ways and decides to not endanger his precious freedom again once he is released.

The staff on the other hand, quickly after becoming employed they find out that it's a well established quasi-brotherhood where staff cover for one another and they can pretty much do whatever they choose to the inmate population for whose word is gonna be more legitimate, an inmate, or a upstanding member of society and certified official?

Every staff member on the compound knows exactly where the camera "blind spots" are at. How to properly word a disciplinary report to ensure the inmate is unable to get it overturned on appeal etc... So it becomes a way of life for the staff, covering for one another, falsifying reports daily, passing a couple smokes off to an inmate to beat up another inmate because they have an issue with them... These are the people society has bestowed with the lofty responsibility of being the caretakers of the disadvantaged and those so-called "professionals" turn

around and mistreat those who they are in charge of.

A lot of times these staff members realize what has become "Normal" as well as accepted behavior, is not truly actions that their friends and family will condone or view highly, so their "peers" begin to alter to other prison employees for its only amongst them that they can relate to and truly be themselves.

I may not myself have any college degree but on experience, I have a PhD in prisonology for not only was I several times shot in the back by the police but also, as a result of my actions, have spent literally decades in prison and at the mercy of my captors. The events and instances I narrate are not ones I "heard" but rather witnessed and experienced myself.

In all fairness these staff members do indeed have a very difficult as well as dangerous job at times. Yet I believe it was Winston Churchill who one time opined that... "A country's civility can be determined by the way they treat their prisoners." I personally do not subscribe to the belief a select amoral few

represent a society as a whole.. but I do believe these individuals unchecked have the potential to derail the trust and respect this quintessential occupation is expected of.

Years ago I believe it was the

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Stanford University students attempted a project where certain students were "Inmates" and other students were the "prison guards". As the story was relayed to me, both times this exercise was attempted the entire program had to be abandoned because the so-called "prison guards" were abusing the "Inmates", and this gave a synopsis of the overall prison corruption or compromised integrity ratios.

For myself, I've witnessed staff who become adept at manipulating the system. Knowing there are cameras but no audio in the lock down units, the staff will stand in front of a inmates locked cell moving his lips as if talking but in reality its all for the cameras benefit to justify and enable the staff to claim it was with proper procedures in order to gas the inmate with whatever reason they want.

A lot of times inmates are with the Albatross of a extensive drug habit which has resulted in the person prior to incarceration becoming estranged from their friends and family, so once incarcerated for the most part they are on their own with no community or support group. This unfortunately works to the benefit of the corrupt staff for it diminishes the chances of the inmate from exposing the abuse or mistreatment and this in turn just emboldens the staff to continue their actions on more and more inmates for more creative and petty reasons.

The policy and procedure for a inmate on lock down in a cell is the staff opening the "slot" on the cell door that the food trays goes into and sliding in a tray that has a cover on it, what type of professional or human being can knowing the inmate will only get 3 sparse meals a day, has the cold heartedness to knowingly pass a tray through the "slot" that upon removing the lid the guy will see the tray is completely empty... these are commonly called "Air-Trays" for there is no food on the trays, just air. Of course the camera, if viewed, will show the staff passing a tray into the cell, it can't see whats on the tray, and if asked the staff will simply claim there was food on the tray and the inmate is lying.

This is a common occurrence in the confinement units. A weapon the staff will quickly threaten an inmate with for even the most trivial of offenses. A lot of times, being staff members are human too, its simply a matter of staff arriving at work burdened with their personal issues which naturally influences their demeanor and attitude. This is of course complicated by the fact a lot of the times the personal issues they experience involve other staff members because other staff, who can by working at the facility as well, can relate to one another, have become their new peers upon employment.

Generally a caveat of the agreement for a community to allow a prison to be

built in their County, is the Assurance that the prison will hire locally therefore expanding employment for the locals. For the most part, for potential security purposes, these prisons are built in rural areas which is more or less where typically the so called "Country Residents" live so that is what eventually becomes generational employees.

These Country employees are usually of the ilk of AVID hunters, 4x4 truck driving gun owners who are as a whole far from compassionate or empathetic bunch and instead, more of the intellectually challenged type simply with the benefit of no criminal record.

Its my belief that a random staff member would not be able to boast about giving an inmate an "air tray" or how they in the winter time put an inmate on "strip" status, which is when for whatever reason the staff choose to accuse the inmate of some rule infraction to justify the removal of all the inmates clothes except a pair of boxer shorts, and even take out of the cell all the guys personal property, his mattress, all his linen and in the winter force him to sleep on the cold steel for 3 days with no clothes or bed.

These are not episodes staff could relay in a general conversation as to how ones day went at work when talking with ones mother, spouse or friends. So the staff member must actually refrain from being who they really are and describing what their day consisted of

On a given day, for this behavior or actions are not ones that would be condoned, accepted or appreciated by normal balanced and civil human beings. So its only around other fellow staff members when they can be who they really are and thats why friends prior to employment usually become distant friends and other staff become ones immediate peers.

It may very well be below the national average for someone without extended education or a degree, it is still however higher than manual labor jobs, so the salaries offered by the state become very attractive to those whose financial stability will always be in question without the benefit of a college degree. This believed to be hefty salary lures alot of the gun toting rednecks right out of their trailers to sign on with the state by the dozens.

Abuse by the police as well as prison guards has been occurring constantly since biblical times, that is nothing new. What is new though is the amount of video equipped phones now present in society so people are getting to literally see these incidents of abuse such as with George Floyd.. that has been a culture of normalcy in prisons and jails all over the country.

Its this unbalanced conspiracy based group employed in the prison systems which is currently undermining the objective of defeating the virus challenges posed in prisons all over the country, for as a whole the

STAFF continue to be of the collective mind set that the virus is a hoax and they refuse to take the vaccines or even wear a mask solely on principle. As policy when I was in the confinement unit, in order to take me or any other inmate out of the cell to see any staff, take a shower or even see a nurse the staff require us to back up to the slot in the cell door so they can handcuff us behind our backs before they open the door and let us out. So, to them, the staff, this is a tiring activity so when the vaccines became available, being the staff don't want to go through the exhaustive process of cuffing the inmate etc... the staff were telling me and others if we agree to refuse the vaccines then they will give us a extra tray of food the next meal.

In their minds they feel as if they are making an already easy job a lot more tolerable, giving an inmate an extra tray so they do not have to go through the effort of handcuffing the guy. But what escapes them is the undisputable fact that by doing this they are endangering themselves by the creating a work environment that is rich in viruses that have proven to be extremely contagious as well as deadly to a lot of people. By the refusal of staff to adhere to recommended C.D.C. guide lines misinterpreting the lack of visually sick people as a indication of no virus being present, they continue to inspire a toxic work environment that has the potential

to generate medical issues for them as well as their possibly vulnerable family members.

This though, is also a factor in the living conditions of the inmate population that continue to be at the mercy of their captors. We are already subject to other forms of abuse such as the predatory vendors who donated money to campaign accounts for politicians running for various elected public offices.. then upon the politician becoming elected they show their appreciation for the donations by rewarding them with significant contracts, one of which is the supplier of snack and hygiene items sold to the inmate population at severely swollen prices.

Due to the fact these vendors have the monopoly in the prison, being the only "store" on the compound, the inmates have no choice but to spend their money there. When one of the worse aspects of being locked up in prison is to be hungry, sadly, regardless of the prices the inmate population will reluctantly spend their money with these crooks who exploit a literally captive audience... simply because the alternative, to be hungry, is unacceptable.

Yet the real disgusting part of this corrupt sausage of a system, is Florida is one of the very few states that do not pay the inmates for working, but they must all have a job.. so to be able to indulge in the luxury of possession of over priced gas station food along with generic

cosmetics for sale by the charlatans, we must rely on the financial support of our friends and family members. So they by proxy are being penalized and targeted monetarily for our misdeeds.

These peddlers of over priced products are not the only circling scavengers drawing a bead on the bloated & smelly corpse of the flawed prison system. For the longest time the most significant voting block of Florida voters were the older retirees from Northern states who opted to settle within sight of Mickey Mouse and the surrounding beaches, and the politicians circle them like a Mako shark on a bloody wounded tuna. extorting them with the unpleasant options of either providing the state coffers with a few more tax dollars, with which they can in turn build more prisons and dole out lengthier sentences to ensure they decrease the chances these quintessential voters do not become victims of crimes by the savvy Florida natives who prey on tourists and retirees, or don't spit up the extra tax dollars which will result in the prison gates opening and felons spilling out by the hundreds eager to terrorize the states soft targets.

Of course these snowbirds elect to depart with a few more coins, which for the last 20 or 30 years has been the agenda of our elected officials. But during that 30 year time period those same inmates given those lengthy sentences have gotten older. are in need of

extensive health care, which of course is doled out frugally, for a co-payment, from yet another profit obsessed shlock vendor...

There is, I believe, no simple solution to this prison dilemma, but some of us ensnared in this fundamentally flawed circling the drain system are of the belief that a solution can be ascertained.. it will just take a politician with enough courage to ignore criticism and overhaul the hemorrhaging Florida prison system before it reaches its tipping point of no return.

For now though, we witness one cowardly politician after another kick the proverbial can down the road and try to sweep the pressing problems presented by the system under the rug.

Until then, you can rest assured the inmate population as well as myself will continue to suffer, be at the mercy of our draconian captors and pray one day our lingering voices will be heard and the powers that be, will abandon the insane policy of putting band-aids on bullet holes.

Always,

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