THE CALL

THE MAINE PRISONER ADVOCACY COALITION NEWSLETTER

Volume II

APRIL 2010

Edition IV

REVISED LD 1611 ADOPTED

An Act to Ensure Humane Treatment of Special Management Prisoners arrived through the Committee Hearing process of the Joint Legislative Committee on Criminal Justice, and Public Safety to the Maine State House of Representatives with a divided report. Four members of the Committee opted for a report calling for reissuing the bill as a resolve directing the Department of Corrections in consultation with the mental health and substance abuse focus group of the State Board of Corrections to review due process procedures and other policies related to the placement of Special Management prisoners. A report to the Committee shall be provided by January 15th, 2011 with any suggested policy changes, recommendations to be proposed into a bill for the 125th legislative session. This amendment is sponsored by Senator Gerzofsky of Cumberland, originally a fellow co-sponsor of the bill, and Representative Haskell of Portland with support from Rep. Magnan of Stockton Springs and Rep. Wheeler of Kittery.

Continued on page 2

THE FATE OF LD 1611: “WATCHING THE BEE WATCHERS”

by Stan Moody

LD 1611, the bill that would have restricted the isolation of mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement/segregation, eventually passed as a resolve, asking the Maine Department of Corrections to study the problem and report back. What surprised me, as a former legislator and prison Chaplain, was the rousing chorus of support from the press and interested parties. While useful for raising public awareness, this was no substantive win. The legislative landscape is littered with good ideas that have been diluted by timid legislators into resolves.

Meanwhile, the Department has accumulated one more golden opportunity to study itself, a familiar job security measure. Were I the Commissioner, I would have called a busman’s holiday to celebrate by performance of neglected duties the victory over one more attempt at transparency and accountability. Take off the protest stickers; retreat from lobbying in the halls of the Maine State Legislature; get back to work.

In June, 2009, OPEGA, the legislative Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability, issued its report on a study it had conducted on the systemic cultural staff problems within Maine State Prison. The conclusion was that staff was unwilling to report abuses because of a history of, or perception of, intimidation, retaliation, harassment, discrimination, distrust, lack of respect and the prevalence of a ‘good old

Continued on page 4

CELL EXTRACTION

An all too common sight of a prisoner being removed from population to the Solitary Confinement Unit at the Maine State Prison.

Continued on page 8
Representative James Schatz of Blue Hill, the initiator of the legislation, has been joined by Senator Nutting of Androscoggin with an amended version of the original legislation that eliminates reference to the contentious issue of "Restraints". It is his hope that floor democrats who support his position will most likely rally around a combined version of both amendments which Rep. Haskell appears inclined to support. This would strengthen the chances of getting something passed this session which will keep the decision of techniques of punishment squarely at the hands of the legislators and not simply left to the Corrections Administration.

It speaks clearly that the Criminal Justice Committee majority report reads "Ought Not to Pass." Those signing were Senator Davis of Cumberland; Rep. Burns of Whiting; Rep. Greely of Levant; Rep. Hanley of Gardiner; Rep. Plummer of Windham; Rep. Sykes of Harrison; and Rep. Lajoie of Lewiston. Lajoie had originally been one of the bills co-sponsors.

After much wrangling and revision, Rep. Schatz attempted an amendment comprising stronger language and a more independent review committee to be linked with The Office of Program Evaluation and Accountability to convene a working group of members consisting of psychologists, attorneys and a representative of an inmate advocacy group along with the Corrections Commissioner and staff, and union representatives seeking to establish review and enact humane policy. This received varied support on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Representative Sean Flaherty, D Scarborough most eloquently quoted from Supreme Court rulings of 1972 Furman vs. Georgia which outlined 4 principles that constitute Eighth amendment "Cruel and Unusual Punishment":

1; severe punishment that is inflicted in wholly arbitrary fashion
2; a severe punishment that is patently unnecessary
3; the essential predicate of a punishment must not by its severity be degrading to human dignity, and
4; a severe punishment that is clearly and totally rejected throughout society.

Rep. Flaherty stated that the practices of the use of Solitary Confinement, segregation, are in clear violation of at least 2 of these Constitutional provisions. Further quoting from Trott vs. Dulles, the Supreme Court ruled that Eighth Amendment Protections re: Cruel and Unusual Punishments were to be based in "the evolving standards and decency of a maturing society."

Floor debate brought out other great supporters such as the impassioned words of Rep. Benjamin Pratt, D Eddington; arguing for the recognition of prisoners as citizens who 95% of will be joining society upon release and deserve the respect and resources provided all. Quoting his fellow musicians "The source of my pain is also the source of my hope in the vision of what this world could be."

Jon Hinck, D of Portland showed compassion detailing the statements of Prisoner's sufferings of sleep deprivation and the exacerbation of mental illness. He was joined by Rep. Diane Russell, D. Munjoy Hill, who spoke from her background as a mental health worker saying these conditions could only cause greater harm. Rep. Bruce MacDonald, D. Boothbay, Rep. Patricia Jones, D. of Mount Vernon and Rep. Richard Wagner, D. Lewiston all spoke in favor of the Schatz amendment to urge more in-depth review of the issue.

Opposition was led by former state trooper David C. Burns, R. Whiting along with Richard M. Sykes, R. Harrison, Rep. Michel A. Lajoie, D. Lewiston and Stephen P. Hanley, D Gardiner. Burns went so far as to malign representatives of prisoners by attempting to reprosecute their criminal activities, only to be stymied by redirect of the chair to keep the issue germane to the subject. Still the virtues of the Department of Corrections and all their hard work and "Professionalism" was widely given acclaim and the "Hands Off" attitude prevailed. Never before had Management and the Unions been in such cohesive agreement to pursue the same legislative goals as was witnessed by the marriage of the Department of Corrections and A.F.S.C.M.E. This support of the extremes of Segregation by the same union that was first to oppose the Viet-Nam War decades earlier.

The Schatz amendment for a more thorough committee to be established to review the issue was defeated. The Haskell amendment is a simple resolve to direct the Department of Corrections to review their policy regarding usage of Solitary Confinement/Segregation and to report to the committee and have addressed the issues raised to the committee in public hearing.

The activism that was inspired around this issue brought great focus to the plight of prisoners. Many of the supporters came for the crucial floor debates and provided a comparable presence to the Guard and DOC contingent that was there. It is necessary for these people, prisoners, families and their supporters, to maintain on-going communications and continue to develop an influence as a force for progressive change under the burgeoning totalitarian state. We must continue to focus upon the Legislative Criminal Justice Committee by writing directly to them of prisoners' issues and the continual denial of basic human rights. The Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition seeks to grow and develop its organization with active participation of other groups and families of prisoners and ex-prisoners to build a movement for supportive services and social change. People are encouraged to contact the MCLU at 774-5444, Emily Posner at 930-5232, and MPAC coordinators Robert Bothen @ 776-4695 and Pat Finn @ 807-3733. R.W.B.
The Hornet’s Nest
By Larry Parks

The hornet’s nest is the administration at the Maine State Prison. There are those who throw rocks at the hornet’s nest to see if they can get a reaction about an issue, complaint, or a rights violation, and you know what happens when you throw rocks at the hornet's nest. They use all their strength to attack you. I have thrown many rocks over the years and continue to do so even as I'm almost ready to leave this sorry place that is full of favoritism, jealousy, and hypocrisy on both sides of the fence.

There are those who ask, why do you care, your almost out of here! Because it's people like me who will always fight for prisoners' rights and tell it like it is. Prisoners rights are won by those who file law suits and take a stand. Some take a stand with the hornets nest so they can get certain privileges because they feel they are better than others. When they break a rule or do something wrong, the hornets nest always comes up with an excuse as to why they got out of it. We all know why and how they got out of it, and they know we know. A lot of people tend to shrug their shoulders and say, what can you do! What you can do is start making a difference. Start throwing a few rocks at the hornets nest when they throw our mail away because our family or friends forgot to put their name and address on the envelope, when it takes three weeks to see a doctor, or seven to ten days to get your KOP medications, when they mace inmates in segregation for no just reason such as Victor Valdez who was elderly and in poor health whose recent death is now being investigated by the Attorney General's Office since the Department of Corrections failed to do so after numerous complaints of how Victor was constantly provoked, harassed and abused by certain officers, when they tell your family and friends they can't visit you because they were over fifteen minutes late getting here, when you get food poisoning from the food or salad dressing because it was not properly handled or kept cold or when they tell you there will no longer be pork items because a handful of inmates didn't want pork over the majority, of inmates who did.

These and many more issues have been brought to the attention of our new warden, Patricia Barnhart who asked me to please give her time to look into these issues and correct the most important ones first. Hopefully, Patty will not be like the last warden who seemed to keep taking our rights and privileges away from us year by year. Then again, maybe Patty will join the "good old boys" the "good old girls" and not make this the best prison in the United States as she stated she would do in the newspaper article.

Before I leave, is the title of an article I intend to write before I leave here to show whether Patty is making a difference or if she is now just one of the "good old girls". I truly hope she will step up to the plate on the first four issues I mentioned since they are the most important to everybody. Everyone here at MSP knows the pitfalls we've had on these issues with certain groups in the past. Always remember this, it feels good to tell it like it is when your right and its the truth.

For those of you who don't know much about my struggles for prisoner's rights, I mention a few. I was one of the first inmates to file a civil suit against the supermax when it first opened. I took the DOC to Small Claims Court twice and won. In November, 2004 I wrote to the Governor's Office to get the green razors back when they were issuing us the white defective ones that would cut your face as soon as you started shaving with them. I had asked certain members of the NAACP and Longtimers Group to help me on this but they didn't want to. At that time the President of the NAACP Chapter here said no way would the governor do anything. I told him that I would show him what a person can do with paper and an ink pen when they're right.

Our last warden tried to say that it was one batch of razors that were defective. That was not true because the next batch of razors they brought in were defective also, and I told this to the governor because it was the truth. Governor Baldacci contacted the Commissioner of the DOC and requested a review of the information that I provided and asked their office to respond directly to me with any helpful information and or recommendations for recourse and hope that this matter will soon be resolved to your satisfaction.

Then, I received a letter from Wesley Andreynak, Chief Advocate of the DOC, stating that he checked with the advocate Anne Rourke at the prison regarding what the scope of the issue was and any corrective action that might have been taken in the meantime. He stated that Anne informed him that she brought the issue up at the staff meeting this week and as a result, on December 7, the warden issued a memo to prisoners and staff that authorizes the return of any defective or questionable razors and the process for doing this. When I went to Anne Rourke with this letter and what the chief Advocate said, she was dumbfounded because she knew nothing about it and she wasn't happy that they used her name. I told her all the razors were defective and not just the one batch like the warden said. Anne left her office for a few minutes than came back and got on the telephone. She called the warehouse and asked if they had the green razors out there. They said they did, whereas Anne told them to get the green razors to the close unit today and take all the white ones out. Our last warden did not give a damn about the inmates or our rights.

There are those in here who try to help us solve some of the issues; Ester Riley did it years ago until she moved on to Augusta. Anne did with the razors and a few issues involving the poorly run medical department. Karen Carroll is trying to make a difference in us getting hot toast again, more nourishing food and making sure the refrigerator section to the salad bar is kept on so the salad dressing and vegetables do not go back to where you get salmonella poisoning which has happened to many inmates. To get things solved, you have to start speaking up and telling it like it is.

Someday, I hope I can look at the Maine newspapers and see the headlines; "Warden Patricia Barnhart Makes Maine State Prison the best prison in the United States."
THE FATE OF LD1611  Continued from page 1

boys network. The Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety thanked them for their good work and palmed the report off to its newly-created Board of Corrections. The Board of Corrections then palmed the report off to the Department of Corrections, directing them to continue the cultural change they had previously initiated and report back by January, 2010. Naturally, as in the customary course of events, January, 2010 came and went, witnessing the Department circling the wagons to turn LD1611 into mush.

I was reminded of a popular Dr. Suess book, Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are? It is the story of a worker bee in Hawch-Hawch that is suspected of not working very hard. A Bee Watcher is hired to keep an eye on the lazy worker bee under the assumption that a watched bee will work harder. Despite his being watched, the worker bee did not seem to work any harder, so it was decided to employ a Bee Watcher-Watcher to make certain that the Bee Watcher was doing his job.

Time and bureaucracy lumbered on, leading to a whole line of Bee Watcher-Watchers, boosting the employment rolls and assuring that nothing would ever be done to upset the status quo. We might conjecture that, when challenged, the Bee Watcher-Watchers retorted, ‘You don’t know what we are up against.’ They would be right! They are up against each other.

LD1611 follows suit behind such initiatives as the Visiting Committee, the Board of Corrections and other councils and committees so enmeshed in the Department of Corrections that you literally cannot find your way to the rest room without an escort. The Bee Watchers and the Bee Watcher-Watchers are now happily watching in mutual collaboration instead of initiating much-needed change. You might refer to this as the Busy Bee Syndrome.

In wondering how to confront the denial that seems entrenched in this system, I have come up with a possible solution. Submit a bevy of bills in the next legislative session that keep the Department of Corrections busy rounding up the troops to circle the wagons and watching each other watch each other. Keep them so busy on defense that the legislators on the committee will eventually come to the inevitable conclusion that the shroud of secrecy around the Department and its entities has to be pierced in order to drag Maine kicking and screaming into the 21st Century.

Are you watching?

MAINE PRISON’S SECRETS
by Reverend Stan Moody, Ph.D.

Having worked in industry, started and operated my own businesses, been a pastor, a state legislator and a prison chaplain and lived from Maine to California, there isn’t much that surprises me anymore. I have to say, however, that I was taken aback when I received a call from a Deputy Ward at Maine State Prison at 9:30 am on Monday, April 27, 2009.

"Stan, the warden wishes to express his appreciation for your report on your conversation with Sheldon Weinstein last Friday."

Weinstein died of a ruptured spleen on Friday, April 24, in cell B117 of Maine State Prison’s Special Management Unit within an hour or so of my request that he be given toilet paper. He had been using his pillow case, but he had no pillow anyway. That was all in my report.

"We are launching an investigation and are asking that you keep your report secret until the investigation is complete." Then, to punctuate the intrigue, she reiterated as a warning shot across my bow the point of her call, "Stan, we have to keep this secret for a long time." To establish a recollection of the conversation, I confirmed it with mutual emails minutes later.

What is it that we have to keep secret? By that time, Weinstein’s death was a matter of public record. I had had a robust conversation with Sheldon before requesting the toilet paper for him. That he could die of “natural causes” within an hour or two of our conversation was puzzling.

That he was found sitting on his bed with his feet on his wheelchair, the exact opposite of his attitude when we talked, was even more puzzling.

The Governor’s Office remains silent. The Department of Corrections has raised a smoke screen in hiring a new warden and marshalling righteous indignation over the language of LD1611, a bill to tighten controls over abuse in segregation.

Continued on page 6
Pain & Tears
I lay here and dwell about the shit in my past
Wondering how time can move so fast
I just don’t understand what went wrong
How I let my feelings build up so long
Then it all starts to flow and then it comes back
My mind off kilter, my memory off whack
it all started when I was about 3
I don’t want to discuss it, let’s say I fell out of a “tree”
I was young I experienced too much
In and out of memory Mr. Hell a little touched
As his friends sit and watch he tells me ten more
My feelings are hurt, my chest really sore
Nothing I could do being 8, I’d obey
Because living in Hell we’d all have to pay
I came downstairs and I told Mr. Hell
That my stomach hurt and I didn’t feel really well
So as a “Doctor” he gave me three beers
When I came to, I see my Mom in tears
It’s not her fault she was asleep on the sofa
The hospital said 1/2 more beer I would have been in a coma
Mind off kilter, my memory is coming back
What I’m trying to forget starts to retrack
It’s just like a movie playing in my head
Three chairs against the wall, my mom crying on the bed
The movie becomes real and we are the cast
I know she’s in trouble, things moving real fast
Mr. Hell sat on my Mom pinning her arms down
I wanted to take the pain for her as that shoe came down
I couldn’t deal with her screams no more
I tried to stop him with a broom so he wouldn’t hurt her anymore
Doors were all nailed shut when the cops finally came
My Mom tried denying it but they knew who to blame
They threw him down the stairs breaking his arm
True satisfaction finally I felt calm
Mr. Hell should be in an electric chair for what he put us through
But we were just kids what could we do
Then the time came when I was finally a man
Mr. Hell was gonna get it, I had the master plan
I was gonna get him and make him pay
God beat me to it, he never woke up that day
My mom’s been sober for 19 years
She’s with a guy who don’t bring fears, pain or tears
As I stare at brick walls dwelling about my past
I can only ask myself for how long I’m gonna last
Arm dripping blood, needles in my vein
Is rehab an option, or is it jail I remain
Mom I call out this isn’t because of you
or what Mr. Hell put us through
I will not deny what he did was wrong
I’m a grown man and I know right from wrong
So sleep peaceful and know we’re never apart
let me be your savior and mend your broken heart

---

S.M.U. Drip
Gotta laugh sometimes
Just to keep from cryin
Pick myself back up
And keep on climbin
Shinin, grindin, aint got no time for dyin
But if I said it was all love, then I’d be lyin... so I’m rhymin,
Tryin to mind mine
Findin wayz to occupy
My time, time, time
Dayz fade into night
In the hushed sublime.
The question is crime
I said... the question is CR-I-M-E.
The answer is mine,
And mine “not” alone
Cause I got five lill souls
Biddin my sentence @ home
So fuck “All this prison ish”
I’m gone!

Submitted by Calvin Wiggins

---

Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis: “The government is the potent omnipresent teacher. For good or ill it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the government becomes the lawbraker, it breeds contempt for the law, it invites every man to become a law unto himself, it invites anarchy. To declare that the end justifies the means--to declare that the government may commit crimes--would bring terrible retribution.”
Prison Secrets continued from page 4

What's the secret here? Was it lack of toilet paper or the implication of foul play or medical and security neglect? Why would prison administration make a point of sending me a message that I was to keep quiet about this for "a long time"?

Here it is, eleven months later, and all we have heard from this investigation is that in mid-June it was officially ruled by the Maine State Police as a homicide. The Attorney General's office remains silent. The Governor's office remains silent. The Department of Corrections has raised a smoke screen in hiring a new warden and marshaling righteous indignation over the language of LD 1611, a bill that tightens controls over abuse in segregation. What are they trying to keep secret?

It is really not that complicated.

Everything in prison is a secret. Prisons operate under a shroud of secrecy. Maine State Prison is particularly easy to keep secret because it is an antiseptic environment that exudes the feeling of openness while protecting a veneer over the human element of incarceration - of both staff and prisoners.

The biggest secrets, however, are buried within the folds of personnel reports. To become an administrator at the prison, you have to have put in your time in the trenches. While you must carry out the dictates of a myriad of written policies handed down by the Department of Corrections, you cannot be caught operating strictly by the book. "Get the job done, but don't tell us how you did it." In other words, do what you can to maintain control and keep everything secret, including what you do and how you do it, for "a long time" - long enough, hopefully, for the problem to go away. The unwritten rule is CYA and ours. The avalanche of prisoner lawsuits piling up in the AG's office is testimony that not everyone is fooled by the facade of transparency.

Prison administrators lock into the 3-monkey defense - "see no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil." Prison guards are left with their heinies hanging out in the breeze. The Department of Corrections, safely lodged far away in Augusta, can continue to churn out policies to cover every circumstance and feign surprise when something goes awry and talk about bad apples in the barrel. Guards, meanwhile, being the lowest on the food chain, always take the heat when something happens - usually with paid administrative leave and return to duty after a respectable period of unavailability for comment.

The "long blue line" of secrecy is amazingly impenetrable even among those who have left for greener pastures.

Sheldon Weinstein would have been 65 years old on Friday, March 26, exactly 4 weeks to the day from when he was found deceased in his cell, efficiently processed and bureaucratically dispatched. How do I know that? I must keep that secret for "a long time."

"The number of laws is constantly growing in all countries and, owing to this, what is called crime is very often not a crime at all, for it contains no element of violence or harm."

Quote from P. D. Ouspensky

The brain processes loneliness in the same area as physical pain. Being cut off from others can hurt so much, that people will go to extremes in order to connect. People are willing to do negative things so that others respond to them when they feel lonely. Being ignored is so painful, it's better to be treated badly by someone than to be ignored by someone.

"Explorer" National Geographic April 2010
Prison Stories:
(Thank you for your continued contributions)
InsidePrison.com, 10/17/2008

"I have been employed as a corrections officer for the past 17 years. I am appalled at what I just read regarding the guards abusing the inmates in ERC. There is no excuse for abuse of power. I have never sworn at, nor have I ever called any inmates names. I would never even think of assaulting an inmate. I was hired to do a job which includes care and custody. I, as an employee of the prison system, was assaulted and off work for a very long time. I returned to work and I still maintained a positive attitude and I treated all inmates with respect. I do have empathy for people, and in my opinion no one is above the law. At any given time anyone of us could be in the wrong place at the wrong time and end up in prison.

When I am at work I like to treat the inmates the same way I would like to be treated if positions were reversed. NO ONE should ever be allowed to abuse their position of authority to assault another human being. These people need to be held accountable for their actions and be criminally charged. Prison officials should not turn a blind eye to all the abuse that goes on in prisons, i.e.: offenders being verbally, physically and emotionally assaulted by prison guards.

I am also very concerned for inmates with a mental illness, who are just lost in the system as by far they receive the most abuse from staff due to their inability to function in a prison setting. I was assaulted by an inmate with a mental illness who did not understand the prison system. I promised myself if I ever got to the point where I was so negative in my position as a corrections officer that I did not believe in the rehabilitation of people then I would resign. I am still employed after all these years. All human beings, regardless of who they are, where they come from, what they have done should be treated with respect and dignity. No individual has the right to judge others. Prison guards should always perform their duties in a professional manner, if they are not capable of being professional and positive role models they should find employment elsewhere."

A Maine tramp chair amuses the vacationers at the Samoset Resort.

Maine, like other states, has tortured people for years. Tramps were locked into “tramp chairs.”

Cartoon by Larry Parks
The Editorial Collective
Pat Finn
R.W. Bothen
Production Assistance
Wendy Copson-Higgins
Contributors
R. W. Bothen
Rev. Stan Moody
Jason Bridges
Lance Tapley
Larry Parks
Calvin Williams
Pat Finn
Un-named Guard
Many thanks to those who contributed to our postage:
Church of Our Father, Hulls Cove, Maine
Larry Parks
Donald Robichaude

Please send any submissions for the May 2010 issue to:
Liberty News Service
P. O. Box 10962
Portland, ME 04104-0962
The Call is also available in electronic format. You can access it by checking out our website at mainepac.org or by sending an email to pat6finn@gmail.com.

National Religious Campaign Against Torture
316 F. St. NE, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20002
Email: campaign@nrcat.org
Phone: 202-547-1920 Fax: 202-547-1921
Website: www.tortureismoralissue.org

PRISON BOOK PROGRAM
LUCY PARSON’S CENTER & BOOKSTORE
1306 HANCOCK ST, STE 100
QUINCY, MA 02106
Free books to prisoners. Dictionaries, Reference Educational, Novels, Foreign Language, Health, Poetry
All requests answered. Write them and use this program!

UPCOMING EVENT: JOHNNY CASH NIGHT
To Benefit Hancock County Jail Volunteers and the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition: A Benefit for the Prison Literacy program: http://www.space538.org/event_details.php?id=387 at the
Space Gallery in Portland, 538 Congress Street, Wednesday, April 28, 2010. $5-$15 donation. Doors open 8 pm. Starts at 8:30 p.m. fmi 207-878-5600.
The Nave Gallery, Band in Boston, Rhode Island School of Design, and Space Gallery have organized a series of Johnny Cash tributes New England-wide to benefit prison book programs and celebrate the Man in Black. Portland Musicians Christopher Terez, Jess Pilgrim and the Bonfire (with many special guests!) and Caleb Aaron and the Thrill Pills, spanning the entirety of Cash’s discography from Sun Records-era barn burners to gospel tearjerkers.

Cont’d from Page One, Editorial,
word is Balacci will sign off on the much-revised bill. As soon as we know, you will. Please write us personally or if you can, discuss it with fellow travelers and send us your reactions.

An important thing that has arisen lately, is communication from inmates that they have not received the The Call. Please let us know, either by telling your visitors to contact us if you have not received a copy, or contacting us personally. We have found first hand that some mail to some inmates simply is not being delivered, so let’s make this a collective effort to get The Call to all of our people inside the prison walls.

At the end of February, many of us were able to see and hear Angela Davis, author of Are Prison Obsolete? and countless other publications that logically and rationally explore her theory of prison obsolescence and practical and economic methods in which to implement them. Once we can secure books from various booksellers, we will be sending in copies of Davis’ works including the one mentioned.

We continually receive art, poetry and prose and please keep it coming. We try to get it all published so hang in there and yours too will be published. We are working on post release possibilities through various methods but mostly grant based. The encouraging news is that post release monies are being considered as a priority for this year’s funding proposals. That is one of the reasons it is so important to stay in touch with us and gives us some information that will help you in post release.

Until the May issue (I know, can you believe that!) signing off with a relatively successful month for inmate advocacy.
P. F.