



# STATEVILLE SPEAKS

*Voices from inside. . . .*  
**A Quarterly Newspaper**

**Volume 1**

**Issue#4 (2005)**

## *From the Publisher*

### Stateville Speaks "First Anniversary"

March 2005 marks the first anniversary of Stateville Speaks. the goal of Stateville Speaks is to provide Stateville prisoners an opportunity to express themselves, encourage positive attitudes and contribute to a safe, secure environment within Stateville.

On our first anniversary it is appropriate to review progress toward achieving our goal. First and most importantly, Stateville Speaks is highly valued by the prisoners and has provided an opportunity for about 30 men to submit essays, poems, positive programs, legal analysis, medical advice, editorials and religious reflections. This has been a very, very positive experience for the writer and the reader. Through the continuation of the newspaper and speaking with a positive voice, Stateville Speaks will continue to contribute to a safe, secure environment within Stateville.

The DOC at first refused to deliver the first issue of Stateville Speaks but later agreed to allow the newspaper to be delivered after deleting certain sections; (I filed a Federal lawsuit alleging the DOC by refusing to deliver the first issue violated my First amendment rights. This lawsuit is still pending). The second issue was delivered without any changes. The third issue has not been delivered to the prisoners, but discussions with DOC officials continue and are positive. It should be especially noted the willingness of these officials to discuss issues of mutual concern in a positive fashion is greatly appreciated. Stateville Speaks and the DOC share many common goals, the primary one being creating a safe, positive secure environment for inmates and DOC personnel. It is through mutual respect and open, candid, honest discussions that continuing progress toward achieving our common goals can be achieved.

## **Name Our Newspaper**

Submit your name for our newspaper and in the next issue Stateville prisoners will have an opportunity to vote for their choice.

Send to:

**Bill Ryan, 2237 Sunnyside, Westchester, IL 60154**

Renaldo Hudson, the first editor and whose idea it was to publish Stateville Speaks has been transferred from Stateville. We wish Renaldo the best in the medium security prison. replacing Renaldo as editor are Donald McDonald and Vincent Galloway. It is our expectation to rotate editorship among several of the prisoners so many can share the experience.

As we begin our second year of operation we should recognize the people who have been so generous and supportive of Stateville Speaks. First to our pro bono attorneys, Sam Fifer, Terry Norton, Stephanie Horten, Suzarah Maguigad, Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal, Russell Ainsworth, Loevy and Loevy Law Firm and Alan Mills, Uptown People's Law Center. Excellent lawyers who have spent a year working to insure First amendment rights are protected. Thanks to all!!!

Also want to thank some people without whose support there would be no Stateville Speaks. A special thaks goes to Abby Mann, Hollywood, CA.; Jeff Fleischer, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., Harrisburg, PA.; Katy Ryan and Tony Christini, West Virginia University and the West Virginia students; Clare Faherty, Pat and Char McAnany, Ken Sive, Harrisburg, PA., James Chapman and C.I. Print, Westchester, IL..

As I mentioned in our last issue, donations are needed to maintain Stateville Speaks. Since the last issue I have received \$210.00 and have several more pledges. Our

*(Continued on Back Page)*

2005

\*\*\*\*\*

## STATEVILLE SPEAKS SPORTS

\*\*\*\*\*

By: Angel Torres

### Note:

Everyone is welcome to share their personal opinion on the "New Stateville Speaks Sports Section!" Please, feel free to express your respectful voice. We are looking forward for your knowledge and expertise on all sport matters. Give us your insight. Don't talk about it. Just write about it!!

---

### Chicago Cubs=

What is going on with all the trades?

Slammin Sammy Sosa? It's become a favorite pastime in Chicago, where disillusionment with slugger forced the Cubs to all but give him away.

Truth is, Sosa iconic 13-year run as a Cub finally ended. The Cubs agreed to give the Baltimore Orioles \$12 million to take Sosa off their hands (Baltimore will pay the remaining \$ 9.5 million of his 2005 salary).

In return the Cubs accepted Jerry Hairston Jr., a 28 year old multiposition player who does nothing exceptionally well, and two minor leaguers. Sosa was just as eager to get the deal done: He waived his no trade clause as well as a guaranteed \$18 million salary for 2006 and got nothing in return.

Are the Cubs in better shape with all these trades? Including Moses Alou?

What about the pitching? Do the Cubs have a big hole at the end of their bullpen?

Dusty Baker, will be left with this choice: an untested Dempster or a tested Hawkins who failed down the stretch last season. That kind of choice usually leads to three of the harshest words in Baseball: Closer by Committe. Is it true the Cubs 2004 playoff chances were fading down the stretch and their closers would help decide their destiny, Hawkins proved his critics right by blowing three saves in five opportunities before the Cubs were eliminated from contention.

Would it be a good idea to convert Kerry Wood into a closer? Due to poor mechanics that will lead to more injuries as a starter. Wood history shows injuries have kept him from reaching his potentials.

### WNBA has a home in Chicago=

But who are the league's Marquee Players?

The WNBA features every member of the gold medal winning 2004 U.S. Olympic Team, including international veterans Lisa Leslie (Los Angeles), Dawn Staley (Charlotte) and Sheryl Swoops (Houston), the first player the league signed in 1996. The star of Australia's silver-medal team Lauren Jackson, plays for reigning WNBA Champion Seattle. Players with Chicago connection include former carver standout Yolanda Griffith (Sacramento), former Steven-son star Tamika Catchings (Indiana) and Washington Alum, Tamika Smith (Sacramento). Stars from recent college powers include Diana Taurasi (Phoenix), Sue Bird (Seattle), and Swin Cash (Detroit) of Connecticut, Catchings of Tennessee, Ruth Riley (Detroit) of Notre Dame and Slana Beard (Washington) of Duke.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Illini Streaking Through

Illini Coach Bruce Weber takes pride in that they've been No. 1 most of the year and so far have stayed undefeated, while everyone else has gone down. Dee Brown, while happy to be on the last team standing, he knows the undefeated road remains perilous.

Do they have enough energy to pull it all off?

### Super Bowl XXXIX

What Happen? Was Tom Brady and Deion Branch to much for the Eagles? Or was McNabb so ill in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl that one of his teammates called one play in the huddle? Or did he fight to the very end, and gave it his all? The rumor was he couldn't hardly call plays-thats how exhausted he was trying to give it his all McNabb was shaky at times. He passed for 357 yards at the game and three interceptions. He also misfired on several passes early held the ball to long at other times and made several poor decisions. One of the best scramblers in the NFL, McNabb had zero rushing yards on just one carry and was sacked four times.

What Happen to Mr. McNabb?

\*\*\*\*\*

### Chicago Young Bulls

Hinrich, Curry not upset by All-Star snub. Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich and center Eddy Curry saw their long-shot dreams of being named to their first All-Star team disappear when they were not among the seven Eastern Conference reserves selected by NBA coaches. Hinrich, said he was expecting he's not surprised. Curry, said that although he thinks he could outplay Cleveland Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilganskas eight out of ten times, he's not upset the 7-3 veteran was chosen ahead of him.

The Bulls plan to work hard to go into the All-Star break on a positive note.

What do you think of the young Bulls? Are they improving? Do they have a chance for the play-off? What about the rest of the rookies?

---

*All sport articles should be submitted to the  
Publisher. Thank you for your cooperation  
and participation.*



LONG LIVE

## STATEVILLE SPEAKS

Co-Editor Donald L. McDonald

By now most of us have heard that our Editor, Renaldo Hudson was transferred to another facility. While I was sad to lose a friend and mentor like Renaldo, I was also concerned that the newsletter must continue.

Stateville Speaks must continue to insure our collective right and human need to speak. The right to freedom of speech granted through the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is the foundation, corner stone, of justice.

Justice in that no society can protect it self against wrongs done unless the wrongs can be addressed. Speech is the only way to inform the government that wrongs are being committed. Our society is a government of the people by the people.

Stateville Speaks is our written form of speech that expresses our hopes, needs and addresses the wrongs that inmates experience in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The United States Supreme Court has consistently held that inmates have a right to address their grievances and speak in any form they choose, as long as that speech does not create harm.

In other words, you may not like what I have to say, but it is my right to say it as long as I am not creating any risk to harm or security.

Stateville Speaks attempts to voice our concerns to the public and encourages us to do better with the time that we have. As we say, "let our time serve us."

We do this through this newsletter by informing ourselves of different thoughts and philosophy,

Through our shared experiences and different levels of education. The most fundamental aspect of African culture was community speaking; learning from the

---

## WE NEED A NEW-EDUCATION

By: Vincent "Leggs" Galloway

The Stateville Speaks News letter is a News letter written entirely by Us, Inmates housed at the Stateville Correctional center.

We've been blessed to have a publisher like Bill Ryan, he gave us a Form to express ourselves. We need a new education to stop the recidivism rate of us being incarcerated.

A New Education because our old one has not worked. We have Men and Women coming into these Prisons who can't read or write. Why? because the schools are in the business of getting inter-city young men and women ready for prison life.

Na'im Akbar Ph,D in his book " Know Thy Self" Said " Each generation has the responsibility of maintaining the level of consciousness attained by previous generations, and of advancing the community to even higher levels by the development of their own consciousness"

The term that has come to be used to characterize this process is " Education ". The word is derived from the Latin verb "educare" that means "to bring forth or bring up". This meaning is much broader.

We must read, study and teach what we know to the younger brothers and sisters so they can bring forth or bring up what they have inside of them.

We have to show our young brothers and sisters it's nothing wrong with learning and getting good grades in school. We must start by controlling our own ideas. Our concepts of what's beautiful, what's important, what's news, style etc. are determined by the environment of ideas and thought.

Whoever controls ideas, and thoughts can actually manipulate the physical resources of the world. Advertisers know this and pay millions to run ads on T.V. these companies actually create "want" and then offer the product. If a Rapper, or Movie star has it you want it.

Our young people don't see Doctors or Lawyers living in the "Hood". Before the end of segregation we were forced to have our own schools, stores, banks and hospitals. all the people lived together in our "Hood". When integration gave our people another option our communities and young people paid dearly.

Now we only see drug dealers, pimps and crooks with the money and big cars living the good life in our "Hood". Other than then the poor working families that are many times headed by females.

We have developed faulty ideas about ourselves and do not fully appreciate our capability and human potential. Wake-up! Read! study and then teach someone... Each one teach one.

We are more than drug dealers, pimps, killers and inmates. Once we ruled advancing the community to higher levels.

---

elders stories of old. American culture is also based on these same factors.

So now that we have lost one of our elders, Renaldo Hudson, another opportunity for other elders not known to step forward and help fill some very big shoes and support Stateville Speaks. We will continue to need everyone's

support through writing articles, poems drawings and spreading the word to our family and friends.

We must continue to address our wrongs, to educate our selves about the law and correct social standards.

Bill Ryan and Renaldo Hudson gave us a start, let us continue on our own.

---

**Submit your Article, Poem, Cartoon, Story or Issue to the Publisher of "STATEVILLE SPEAKS" for consideration to be included.**

---

## HELPING THE YOUTH

by Anthony Jennings

I wanted to write this article to inspire people, namely my fellow convicts, to help the youth who are in trouble. Our little brothers and sisters are in need of our help. We all know how it is to grow up in the places we use to call home. Where we had not one to turn to but the streets and crime.

I myself have been incarcerated since I was sixteen years old. I believe that if I had had someone to talk to me that had the experience of trial and tribulation such as me, I would have stayed clear of crime.

But our so called friends who helped us into trouble have no conscience of our well being. They mostly are our friends for what and only what we can get or do for them.

The youngsters need someone to talk to them to let them know that crime really doesn't pay, cause the only thing crime knows is pain! So why can't we give some much needed help and guidance to the youth and help them not make the mistakes we have made.

Let us be real friends to them and try to keep them from the path that we have taken.

Finally, I would like to intimate that a program be started to save the youth. Let us speak to them to let them know what it all is really about.

## SCRIPTURES TO REMEMBER

In the name of God, Most Gracious,  
Most Merciful.

Nay I do swear by this City;  
And, thou art an inhabitant of  
this City;

And the begetter and that he  
begot;

Verily We have created man into  
toil and struggle.

Thinketh he, that none hath power  
over him?

Have We not made for him a pair  
of eyes?

And a tongue, and a pair of lips?  
And shown him the two highways?

But he hath made not haste on the  
path that is steep.

And what will explain to the the  
path that is steep?

(It is) freeing the bondman;

Or the giving of food in a day of  
privation

To the orphan with claims of  
relationship.

Or to the indigent in the dust.

Then will he be of those who  
believe, and enjoin patience, and  
enjoin deeds of kindness and compassion.

Such are the Companions of the  
Right Hand.

But those who reject Our Signs,  
they are the Companions of the Left  
Hand.

On them will be fire vaulted over  
(all round).

THE HOLY QUR'AN

SURA (CHAPTER) AL-BALAD (90)

HOLY BIBLE  
EPHESIANS 2:1-7

And he has quickened you also who  
were dead because of your sins  
and trespasses;

In which you previously  
walked according to the course of  
this world, and according to the  
will of the supreme ruler of the  
air, the spirit which is active  
in the children of disobedience.

In those very deeds in which  
we were also corrupted from the  
very beginning through the lusts  
of the flesh, fulfilling the  
wills of the flesh and of the  
mind, thereby we became complete-  
ly the children of wrath, even as  
others.

But God, who is rich in  
mercy for his great love with  
which he loved us,

Even when we were dead in  
our sins, has made us live to-  
gether with Christ, by whose  
grace we are saved;

And he has raised us up with  
him, and seated us with him in  
heaven, through Jesus Christ.

In the ages to come he might  
show the exceeding riches of his  
grace in his kindness toward us  
through Jesus Christ.

For it is by grace that you  
are saved through faith; not of  
your doing; it is the gift of  
God:

THE VIEWS IN THIS ARTICLE REFLECT THE WRITERS, NOT THIS NEWSLETTER

## SENTENCING SCHEME PROPOSAL

This proposal is built upon those different systems from different states that work in turning the offender into productive members of society. No system has or will work without involving education. Therefore it is vitally important that offenders be educated and informed about the damage their individual conduct has done to their communities. At the same time relieving over crowding in the prison system.

1. Return of the parole system under the 1982 scheme where an individual can earn his release through completion of programs designed and operated by colleges and non-profit organization to inform the offender of his conduct and the harm they did to their community, family and friends.

(continued)

## Lockdown Prison Heart

Copies of the book Lockdown Prison Heart can be purchased on the internet at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [iuniverse.com](http://iuniverse.com).

The price is \$11.95 with proceeds going to Murder Victims Families. Lockdown Prison Heart is a collection of 40 powerful essays written by men and women incarcerated within Illinois prisons.

# BLACK HISTORY AND NOW

by Marvin Alexis

On February 14, Prison Ministries/Fallen Men & Women of a Village sponsored by Anthony Shannon and Renaldo Hudson in conjunction with The Amer "I" can foundation, put on a Black History program in Stateville's gymnasium. This was a very special event where honored guests such as a representative from The D.C.F.S., Vsen Eugene Perkins, brother Kublai Toure and members from I.D.O.C. attended.

In my opinion, this program was a stepping stone of what I hope will be the beginning of positive programs for the inmates at Stateville.

If you weren't able to attend the program, here's sort of a breakdown of what happened:

Brother Kublai K.M. Toure spoke to the brothers of their duties as men to help save and resurrect ourselves and our families out of the hell that we are in. Brother Eugene Perkins recited 3 up-lifting poems to inspire the consciousness of who we are and our heritage.

There was also a representative from D.C.F.S. that talked to the fathers about the changes that D.C.F.S. are making to fix the broken system that are just taking children from their parent without the hope of helping the situation of these black families.

Inmate David Carter gave a powerful speech of what history means to him. Stating in short, "WAKE UP BLACK MAN" and get into the fight.

Inmate Vincent Galloway gave a profound speech entitled "Black man's perspective" that gave insight to the problems that we've been

(continued)

## SENTENCING SCHEME PROPOSAL

(continued)

a) Every offender must complete one third (1/3) of actual sentence. During that time the offender must renounce any and all gang affiliation with a public declaration testifying to the damage that gangs and his own actions have caused.

1) This action is necessary to show the parole board that the individual truly understands the depths of his actions.

2) This action shows the true intention of the offender's desire to change his conduct and attempt to become an asset to his community.

b) Every offender must demonstrate a goal for his future with concrete plans that must be approved by the parole board.

1) This action is necessary to show real thought an offender has had into his future.

2) This action also gives the parole board a real opportunity to evaluate the offender and insure that society is safe and the offender sincerely plans and has a realistic chance to improve their situation, rather than conning the board, and returning to crime.

2. There should be three ways to sentence an offender. One third (1/3) time, which means for every day of time served, an offender can two days of good time credit. One half (1/2), which means for every day of time served, an offender can earn one day of good time credit. And one hundred percent (100%), which means no good time credit. One half and a hundred percent are reserved for those serving time for different murder charges, like mass murder and heinous murder.

Illinois used 20 years to mean a life sentence, which meant the offender served ten years before being eligible for parole. Other state sentence from 25 to life, parole eligibility only after serving 25 years.

a) Any form of assaults automatically makes an individual un-eligible for consideration for parole at least for five years.

b) This is necessary to teach the offender that violence used to resolve conflict is not acceptable.

c) This is also necessary to re-enforce self restraint and self discipline under adverse conditions.

3. Upon release from prison, each offender must attend a work release program and either work or attend school until a high school diploma is achieved and a technical certificate or degree with

(continued)

## BLACK HISTORY AND NOW

(continued)

through and the steps we need to take to change for the better.

I spoke to the brothers about our time to stand up, unite and educate our selves and get into the fight of rebuilding our Black Nation.

Finally, awards were presented to the five winners of the "Search The Scriptures Contest." They were: Marvin Alexis, Vernon Thomas,

Vernal Dowdell, De'iel Reese, Angel Torres.

A humanitarian award was given to warden Dominguez for encouraging rehabilitative programs to inmates.

All in all it was a beautiful experience that should hopefully snow-ball into more positive programs within Stateville.



## UNIVERSAL MIND PART 1

By Leon Robinson-Bey

The Universal Mind contains all knowledge, it is the ultimate potential of all things. To it all things are possible to us. As much is possible as we can conceive. How much can we believe, as much as we can believe will be done unto us.

In our ignorance of the truth, we have misused the highest power we possess; and great is this power. So complete is our freedom in it. So absolute the domain of law through it, that the misuse of this power has brought upon us the very condition from which we suffer. So we suffer not because suffering is imposed upon us, but because we are ignorant of our true nature.

Believe, conceive and we can achieve. We are creator of our selves out of ignorance. Each receives what he/she ask for, according to their ability to embody it full heartedly, have faith you will get it and it shall be yours. Already the door is open and who ever will may enter. This is old science, new science is no more than proven facts which was at one time thought.

(continued)

## SENTENCING SCHEME PROPOSAL

(continued)

employment is achieved. No offender should ever be release back into society whtout at least a high school education.

Illinois should adopt the system from Arizona called the Prisoner Owned and Operated business. In this program, offenders that have skills and ability to own and operate a business. The P.O.O. business pays a percentage of their profit to the institution.

Outside business owners can also employ inmates released and still in custody. This teaches trades that can be used in the real world. Participants must agrre to pay all outstanding dept from prior to their incarceration.

- a) under this system every offender must become a productive member of society.
- b) This system recognizes the need for every serious offender to participate in an after release program and not just non-violent offenders who need the less help.
- c) This system requires the offender to pay for their own room and board, though any school grants or as a result of employment.

(continued)

## I WANT TO SUBSCRIBE

(Sign me up for the next Four Issues)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with check or money order for \$10.00 to:

**Bill Ryan, Publisher**  
2237 Sunnyside  
Westchester, Illinois 60154

UNIVERSAL MIND PART 1  
(continued)

I am a center in the Divine Mind, a point of God conscious life, truth in action. My affairs are Divinely guided and guarded into right action; into correct results, everything I do, say or think is simulated by the truth. There is power in these words I speak, because it is of the truth and it is the truth. There is perfect and continuous right action in my life and my affairs, all belief in wrong action is dispelled and made negative.

Right action alone has power and right action is power and power is of God. The living Spirit Almighty. This Spirit animates everything that I do, say or think, ideas come to me daily and these ideas are Divine Ideas, they direct me and sustain me without effort. I am continuously directed, I am compelled to do the right thing at the right time. To say the right word at the right time. Follow the right course at the right time.

All suggestion of age, poverty, limitation or unhappiness are up-rooted from my mind and cannot gain entrance to my thought. I am happy, well and filled with perfect life. I live in the Spirit of truth and I am conscious that the Spirit of truth lives in me. My word is the law unto its own manifestation and will bring me or cause me to be brought to its fulfillment. There is no unbelief, no doubt, no uncertainty, I know and I know that I know, let every thought of doubt vanish from my mind.

---

SENTENCING SCHEME PROPOSAL  
(continued)

d) This system calls for counselors to assist offenders in proper use of their funds to pay bill and operate in society as responsible members of society.

FUNDING

Funding of any program must be a major part of any public program. Therefore to pay for this program, incarcerated inmates must work in industrial jobs while incarcerated with a percentage of income going to support their incarceration and/or pay for this program.

Jobs that don't pay much in society, but helps the state keep coast down in administration should be promoted. Clearing roads for construction, demolition of abandoned buildings, any and all reasonable forms of infrastructure.

This jobs also teach valuable trades which an offender can use once released from prison. These same jobs should be duplicated by work release centers and private contractors to provide further employment once the offender has completed his prison sentence.

Offenders with child support payments and over-due traffic finds will have their pay deducted. This includes any and all forms of restitution.

This proposal is only an outline of the different systems that can be used to keep crime down while decreasing the number of people incarcerated.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald L. McDonald*

---

**We Need To Hear Your Voice!**  
**Submit your Article, Poem, Cartoon, Story or Issue to the Publisher of "STATEVILLE SPEAKS" for consideration to be included.**

---

## From the Publisher

(Continued from Cover Page)

cost runs between \$250 and \$450 per issue depending on the pages. So, if you can please get a subscription at \$10 a year or make a donation of any amount it will greatly help. This paper is important to so many who have so few positive programs in Stateville. Without your donation we can not continue.

Lastly, we are organizing a stateville Speaks advisory committee of people who are not prisoners in Stateville. If you would like to be a member of this group, please let me know. We have not applied for a 501c3 status yet and this will be discussed with the advisory committee.

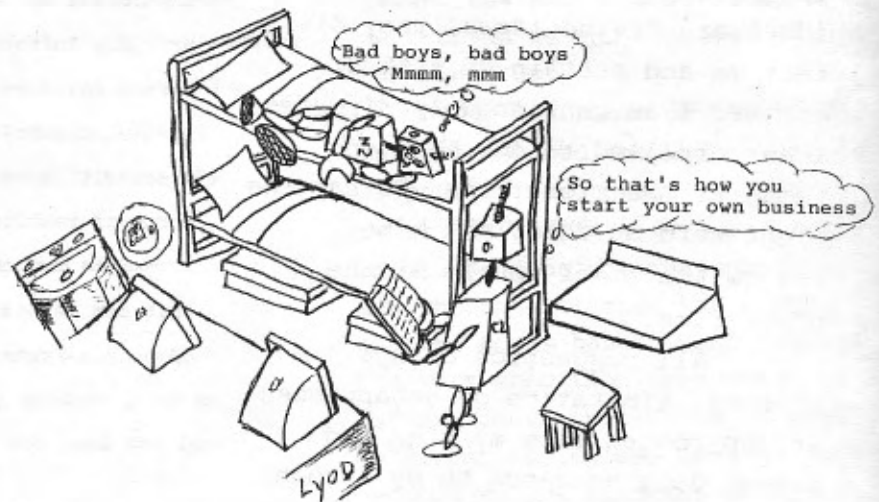
Please send comments, opinions and questions to **Bill Ryan, 2237 Sunnyside, Westchester, IL 60154** or Email [nanatoad@comcast.net](mailto:nanatoad@comcast.net). All checks should be made payable to **Bill Ryan**. Use the subscription form in this issue.

## Lockdown Prison Heart

Copies of the book **Lockdown Prison Heart** can be purchased on the internet at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [iuniverse.com](http://iuniverse.com).

The price is \$11.95 with proceeds going to **Murder Victims Families**. **Lockdown Prison Heart** is a collection of 40 powerful essays written by men and women incarcerated within Illinois prisons.

### ROBBOTVILLE CORRECTIONAL CENTER



## I WANT TO SUBSCRIBE

(Sign me up for the next Four Issues)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with check or money order for \$10.00 to:

**Bill Ryan, Publisher**  
2237 Sunnyside  
Westchester, Illinois 60154