

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

VOICES FROM THE INSIDE • FALL 2015

NEW GOVERNOR, NEW COMMISSION, NEW HOPE FOR JUSTICE & SENTENCING REFORM

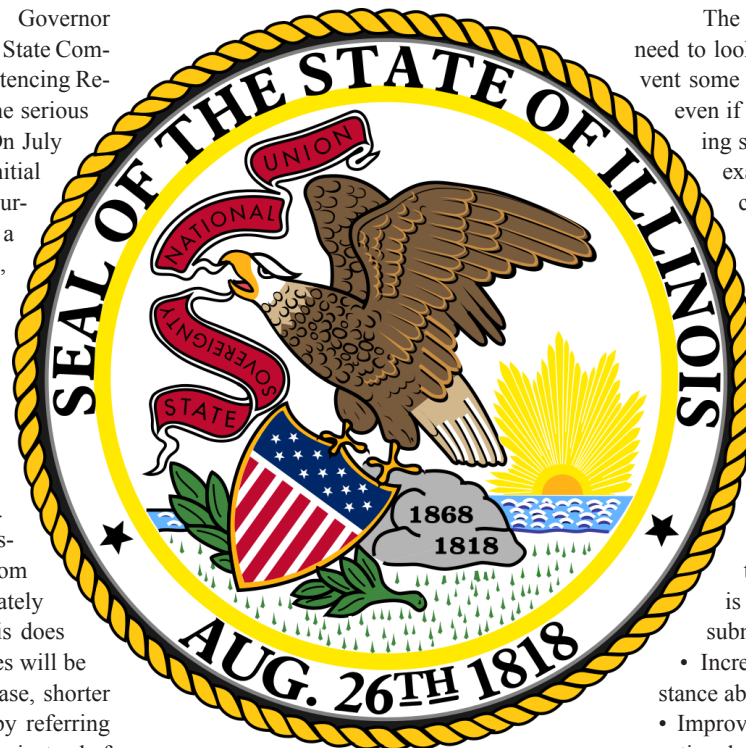
By Gayle D. Tulipano

Early in his administration Governor Bruce Rauner assembled the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform (or Commission) to address the serious overcrowding in Illinois prisons. On July 1st the Commission released its initial report in which they discussed the current state of corrections, including a ballooning population, recidivism, extreme sentencing and the unsustainable cost it takes to operate the prisons.

Of the many objectives discussed by the Commission, the goal to “safely” reduce the overall prison population by 25% by the year 2025 is the most ambitious. This would mean that the current prisoner population would decrease from approximately 48,000 to approximately 36,000 over the next 10 years. This does not mean that 12,000 current inmates will be released, but a combination of release, shorter sentences, or no sentences at all, by referring people to community based programs instead of incarceration.

There were many possible approaches discussed in achieving this goal, such as using evidence based practices of risk-assessment to decide who is really at risk for reoffending, addressing and meeting their criminogenic (dynamic factors that can mitigate recidivism) needs, and responding accordingly.

Other factors contributing to or, not reducing the recidivism rate and prison population are lack of programming, such as education, job skills, and substance abuse programs. While the Commission admitted having very little information on the effects of training/education on recidivism rates, the RAND Corporation, a research organization that helps find solutions for difficult public policies, did enlighten the Com-



mission on the merits of programming. What is known is that very little of the programming that is offered does not even reach those who would benefit the most from it.

There were many other topics, such as the need to overhaul sentencing, from diverting non-violent Class 3 and 4 felons from prison altogether via community based support/treatment programs, especially first time, low level drug offenders. Also discussed was the potential for reinstating some form of good time credits, to allow qualifying prisoners a chance to earn their way out of prison. Currently the ability for many prisoners to do this is stymied by the denial of programming that would allow them to work towards a successful reentry back into society.

The Commission also acknowledged the need to look at legislative restrictions that prevent some prisoners from attending programs, even if they would benefit greatly from doing so. They also recognized the need to examine the effects of other legislative constraints such as truth-in-sentencing and mandatory minimum sentences. A way to “earn your way out,” either through programming, good behavior, or a combination of both, also needs to be revisited.

Many individuals and organizations have weighed in over the last few months with ideas and suggestions as to what the Commission should do to overhaul the criminal justice system. Below is a sample from the many that were submitted:

- Increase access to mental health, substance abuse and other treatments.
- Improve/increase both traditional and vocational education programs so those leaving prison can have better success in finding a job.
- Reduce number of offenses dictated by Truth-in-Sentencing.
- Increase revenues to community programs that reduce incarceration and/or recidivism.
- Increase funding/training for peer-to-peer training.
- Increase the use of electronic monitoring and transition homes.
- Provide a parole hearing for all prisoners who have served at least 10 years.
- Allow for early release for elderly prisoners and compassionate release for the infirm.

While budget constraints and partisan posturing will make it more difficult to implement

SEE SENTENCING PAGE 6

UPDATE ON HB 218

By Dawn Larsen

Illinois HB 218, is a bill intended to amend the Cannabis Control Act and bring uniformity to the many local and state ordinances that currently exist, as well as a small measure of



relief to the heavily crowded prisons in Illinois. Although the bill passed both the House and Senate, Governor Rauner ultimately returned the bill with an amendatory veto.

While it is noted that Rauner supports the “fundamental purposes” of keeping people out of jail and cutting court costs, such a significant change in drug laws “must be made carefully and incrementally.” Sponsors of the bill pushed back, saying the changes are “low-hanging fruit” when it comes to reforming the criminal justice system and contending the governor is “working against his own goal of reducing the number of prison inmates.” Governor Rauner’s amended version of HB 218 would make possession of up to 10 grams of marijuana a civil law violation, punishable by a fine of up to \$200, with no possibility of jail time. Additionally, the civil offense would be automati-

cally expunged in order to prevent a permanent criminal record.

According to the Marijuana Policy Project, “More than 100 cities and towns — including Chicago — provide relief to Illinois’ high penalties by giving officers the option to cite offenders and punish possession of small amounts with a fine only. Unfortunately, those local measures are still unequally applied. HB 218 would ensure that a person’s treatment for marijuana possession would be equal and proportional, “regardless of the person’s zip code or race.” But until all parties can agree, people can and will continue to be charged, fined, prosecuted, convicted and incarcerated for marijuana possession. We will continue to follow this story and keep you updated when new information becomes available. ■

RAUNER NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

By Gayle D. Tulipano

After losing his first Director after only 2 months, Rauner named John R. Baldwin as his choice as the new Director of Corrections.

Prior to this appointment, Baldwin, who began working for the Iowa Department of Corrections in 1983, was their Director for 8 years, before retiring in January of 2015. He also worked as the Deputy Director of Administration.

Baldwin earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Iowa and his master’s in political science from Iowa State University.

It was during his tenure as Director that the department partnered with the Pew and MacArthur to create the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative (Results First) in which a state-specific cost-benefit analysis model was created. The goal was to compare the programs based on their effectiveness, costs, and projected bene-

fits, relying more on evidenced based practices. The results showed that some programs were extremely effective (both in practice and in cost), while others, such as a domestic violence program were not, and therefore replaced.

According to Baldwin, “Results First gave us the missing piece. We followed evidence-based principles, and we evaluated fidelity to program models. But now we can put dollars and cents to the costs and benefits. The governor and legislature have maintained their commitment to us, even in a time of cutbacks, because they have data showing we are producing results.”

This summer the Illinois Sentencing and Advisory Committee has just released results from a similar study. With the current Director’s past experience in implementing effective programs, the time might be right for criminal justice reform here in Illinois. ■

SORT/ORANGE CRUSH INFORMATION

Very few articles have generated the interest as the Summer 2015 Stateville Speaks regarding the class action lawsuit filed against high-ranking officials, key wardens and members of the Special Operations Response Team (SORT) at the Illinois Department of Corrections. The suit, filed by the law firms of [Loevy and Loevy](#) and the [Uptown People’s Law Center](#) was done on behalf of the Illinois inmates that were subjected to questionable treatment during some of the shakedowns conducted in four downstate prisons.

Many of you have asked for more information on the lawsuit. The case referenced is Demetrius Ross v. Gossett, et al., 3:15-cv-00309. The name of the firms and attorneys bringing the suit, as well as their addresses are as follows:

Loevy & Loevy
Attorneys
Mike Kanovitz
Jon Loevy
Sarah Grady
312 North May St., Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60607

Uptown People’s Law Center
Attorneys
Alan Mills
Nicole Schult
4413 North Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL 60640

We will keep you posted as new information becomes available. ■



Director John R. Baldwin (Photo: IDOC website)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another edition of [Northeastern Illinois University](#)'s Stateville Speaks. As we updated some potentially new legislation, wrote about the new PRB, the new Director and the new Governor's new commission, we did so with much ambiguity. While the thought of anything "new" seems good, since the status quo doesn't appear to be working on any level, I do wonder if the powers-that-be are really ready for any significant change or if this is just another round of rhetoric. I guess we follow the adage and plan for the worst and hope for the best, and pray that we just will not be subjected to any more new commissions.

While all of the submissions from within were the highlight of this edition, they too were bittersweet. The stories, poems and essays went beyond the often cruel, senselessly punitive treatment of those in prison, but instead told us what we, as a society, are willing to accept as suitable treatment for our grandparents, parents, children, extended families, friends and any other human being that is on the other side of the guard tower.

I read a lot of very moving accounts of



(Photo by Dawn Larsen)

prison life, yet sometimes I am still not prepared for what I may read. One such work that left me stunned was entitled *Misplaced*, found below. So I ask you, if you do nothing else with this edition of *Stateville Speaks*, please read the essay and then read it again. Please share it with another person and get the dialogues going, on how the richest, most powerful and onetime freest country in the world solves its problems, even illness, through incarceration. You may also want to ask your state representative and the new commission and present some solutions. And please share your thoughts with us.

We appreciate all of the fantastic submissions we have been receiving and want you to keep them coming. Please, try and keep them as tight as possible, since we are limited in space. Also, and most important, let us know if you want it signed or if you want to remain anonymous. Please, put your name or anonymous under the title so we know. Also, we get some pretty awesome letters that we would like to publish but don't want to do so without approval. Let us know if we can publish and if you want it signed or anonymous.

A special thanks to those we have visited in Danville, Hill and the ladies in Logan. To those we somehow missed we will reschedule another day. Weather permitting, we hope to continue and expand our visits. We have met such wonderful people, both inside and those visiting. We would be very interested in hearing about the challenges family and friends face in attending these visits and of course the rewards. Please drop us a line.

And once again, thank you allowing us to be your voice. ■

MISPLACED

By Joseph L. Moore Jr.

As I lay in the bunk reading, I'm torn away from the pages by the unmistakable sound of gum shoes squeaking, property boxes bumping against the wall, and the thud of fists crashing against bare skin. The occupants in the cell above mine are fighting. With my thumb between the pages of the book, I laid it on my chest and listened to the altercation. As the fight intensified, the book slid diagonally across my chest and onto the bed as I sat up and put my feet on the floor. I was staring up at the vent from which the sounds escaped. After what seemed like minutes, but were actually only a few seconds, one of the men could be heard pleading with the other to "stop, I don't want to fight anymore."

Fights are a common occurrence in prison. The difference between this fight and what is considered a common fight is that this fight is between, for all intents and purposes, a "normal" inmate and an inmate who suffers from mental illness. After a spew of profanity and threats of a worse beating if the unstable guy does again, whatever he had done to bring this beating on, the ruckus stops.

It is doubtful the mentally ill guy even

knew what, if anything, he had done wrong. After all it is blatantly obvious to anyone who sees him that he suffers some form of mental illness. He talks to himself—sometimes using exaggerated forms of gesticulation—he is unclean, and he appears to always be spaced out. Guys like him, the mentally ill, are preyed upon every day. They are bullied, tricked out of the best food on their trays, strong-armed out of their commissary, and along with being physically assaulted, some are sexually assaulted.

The incarceration of the mentally ill has been on the rise since the 1970s. And considering the cuts in mental health budgets nationwide, the incarceration of the mentally ill will not decrease any time soon. So in the meantime, no help is coming literally or figuratively. As for the unfortunate guy in the cell above me, he is also on his own. He has to sit in that cell in fear for his well-being, if not for his life, until the cells are opened for brunch, 10 hours from now.

If he makes it out of the cell, because of the bruises on his face, he will be stopped by a c/o, hand cuffed, taken to health care, then to segregation where he will be placed under in-

vestigation. After a short investigation, his cellmate will also be placed in SEG. Contrary to popular belief, the mentally ill guy, being that he is vulnerable, will not be placed in protective custody, or in a ward for the mentally ill. After serving a 30 day stint in segregation for fighting, in his case for being a human punching bag, he will be placed back in general population in a cell with a "normal" inmate who is ill equipped to deal with his special needs. So the chance that he suffers some kind of mistreatment at the hands of another inmate is more than likely, it is inevitable.

I was still sitting on the edge of my bunk peering at the silent, dark vent. Although the fight has ended, it took me a few minutes to shake off the thoughts of what could possibly happen to him if, unaware, he violates some prison mores. Contending with a feeling of unease, I finally lie back in my bunk, reopen my book, and gaze at the clock. It's 11:15 pm. 9 hours and 45 minutes until brunch. Hopefully he climbs up into his bunk and doesn't do anything but breathe until then. ■

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRISONER REVIEW BOARD (PRB)

By Dawn Larsen

Along with a new governor often comes new members of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. Shortly after being inaugurated, Governor Rauner made 5 new appointments. They are Gary Duncan (Jefferson County), D. Wayne Dunn (Johnson County), Pete Fisher (Tazewell County), Daryl Jones (Cook County) and Aurther Mae Perkins (Peoria County).

The background and experience of the new members include State's Attorney of Jefferson County (Duncan), Mental Health Administrator at the Illinois Youth Center in Harrisburg (Dunn), Chief of Police with the Creve Coeur Police Department (Fisher), Asst. State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (Jones) and a classroom teacher, then principal for Peoria Public School District 150 (Perkins). Four of the 5 new members list their political affiliation as Democrat.

The current board consists of 12 men

and 3 women, all gubernatorial appointees. The other members of the PRB are: Craig Findley, newly appointed Chair, C. Edward Bowers, Edith Crigler, Salvadore Diaz, Eric E. Gregg, Vonetta Harris, Tom Johnson, Adam Monreal, William Norton and Donald Shelton. Until Governor Rauner made these recent appointments there had been no changes to the board since September 2013.

According to the State of Illinois Prisoner Review Board's website, the function of the Board is to impose release conditions for inmates leaving correctional facilities, revoke/restore good conduct credits from inmates and determine possible parole violations, via hear-



(Photo by Dawn Larsen)

ings. Another function of the Board is to notify victims or victims' families of the impending release of an inmate from custody. They also oversee Executive Clemency hearings and make confidential recommendations to the Governor.

SEE PRB PAGE 5

CAUSES, SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE & ELIMINATE RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?

By Minister Donzell Digby

The main cause is the breakdown of the family structure: emotionally, physically and spiritually. There used to be close families at home, as well as community unity. Examples were set and there was nurturing to teach morals, values and responsibility. That system no longer exists and is totally corrupt. There is no longer a sharing of talents, morals, experiences, nor the regrets, remorse and consequences of actions. Love, compassion, empathy, care and concern have also been lost.

The children of today, primarily those in our inner cities have been left to fend for themselves. They don't have any direction, nor are they properly nourished, encouraged mentally, emotionally or psychologically. They have no good examples or role models to emulate or look up to.

The gangbangers' parents are also gangbangers. The drug dealers' parents are also drug dealers. The prostitute was either turned out by her crack-addicted mother or abused by her deviant father figure. The child that's just barely getting by in school has a dropout for a parent so they can't help them. The murderers now sitting in the prisons got their training from the men that beat their mothers. Who do these children,

and those in other communities, turn to?

The bottom line is that the communities and neighborhoods are under siege. Crime is a daily thing where the children live and is an expected and accepted occurrence. Living in constant fear, or expecting this situation, they just stop caring about themselves and those around them. They only hope to survive each day, while most feel that there is no escape. Others get involved by joining gangs or selling drugs.

To help reduce this random slaughter, parents, schools and society itself has to step up. Parents need to get the help they need to become responsible early in the lives of their children. You can't just write off your kids. The schools have to stop just passing kids along through the system. The schools have a mandate to provide opportunity for these kids by ensuring they are prepared at each level to be successful. Society has to put into place access to the tools needed for kids to aspire, achieve and reach their goals.

It's the responsibility of everyone to give back, and reach and share what they've achieved. Everybody is letting the kids down. Listen to them; talk to them; ask them what they want. Is society listening, do they hear them at

SEE RANDOM PAGE 6

“ROT IN JAIL”

By Douglas Lemon

“Rot in Jail” is when someone spends the rest of their life in prison. Perhaps you're convicted of a serious crime and to “Rot in Jail” was the judge's decision....

Unfortunately many people “Rot in Jail” for being wrongfully convicted. That's to say the court system officials abuse their powers, being wickedly vicious....

Most people in jail, families and friends will turn their backs on them to “Rot in Jail”. Once family and friends turn their backs and leave you alone to “Rot in Jail” it is a living hell...

“Rot in Jail” because the appellate courts are not reversing bogus convictions. Is the court penal systems conning conspiracy for you to “Rot in Jail” for a financial commission?...

“Rot in Jail” is another form of slavery to keep minority people oppressed. It's a deep, wicked conning plot for the oppressed people to commit crime and the court system does the rest...

“Rot in Jail” is one of the worst things you ever want to do. I wrote this story telling poem explaining the meaning of “Rot in Jail” so now you don't have to... ■

STARVATION PROGRAM

By Seyon Haywood and John Wisniewski

People in prison don't believe prison should be a fun-filled walk in the park. We do believe we are entitled to be fed adequately nutritious meals with constitutionally sufficient food portion sizes, which are afforded, to us by the U.S. Constitution. Did Pinckneyville C.C. not get that memo? We as a people hate to imagine anyone starving in a country as wealthy as the U.S. But that's exactly what is happening here at Pinckneyville C.C. Those given the responsibility of ensuring that the residents are fed adequate meals are sustaining a long-failed policy of intentional undernourishment at Pinckneyville's and calling it "brunch".

This starvation program was instituted in 2012 by former IDOC Director S.A. Godinez, Southern IL State Rep. Terri Bryant and IDOC Food Administrator Susan Griswold-Bailey. This "pilot" program consists of residents being fed two meals per day and 1000 calories of food total per day. The meals are sparingly administered. Brunch is served at approximately 10:00 am & dinner at approximately 5:00 pm. From 5:00 pm until 10:00 am the next day residents are left to their own devices as how to find an extra morsel of food to eat.

What makes this pilot program such a violation of inmate rights, is that Pinckneyville's hierarchy has taken it upon themselves to withhold food portion sizes in an attempt to save money. For example, IDOC Master Food Menu says inmates are to be served 1 cup of rice with that meal. Pinckneyville only serves ¼ cup rice to each resident. This saves the institution ¾ cups of rice per person. With 2,500 residents they have saved hundreds of pounds of rice that day and thousands of dollars. By doing this with each measurable food item on the tray at brunch and dinner over the course of time the institution has saved millions at the expense of the residents' health.

The constant waking up in the middle of



(Photo by R.J. Barry)

the night drinking water to fill the void of food is as common as breathing. Stomach growls and hunger pains can be heard through the concrete cell walls at night. If residents are lucky they receive 300 calories at dinner. Out of 5 food slots, at least 1 or 2 are empty almost every night. Bread is often placed in the slot where the main entrée is supposed to be. Not to be forgotten is the uneatable food combinations that cause severe stomach cramps, horrible gas and an inability to defecate in a proper and timely manner. For example, chili and tamales, grits, broccoli stems & pudding will be served for brunch. We

also receive leftover beans, cabbage and other foods that are not thoroughly cooked.

But not everyone in Pinckneyville is as immoral and sadistic minded as we all believe the hierarchy to be. One officer stated, "It's a shame the way they feed you guys. They don't give y'all nearly enough food or vitamins to stay healthy. They only give y'all just enough food to sustain life." This is the reinforcement that the believed inhumane and diabolical state of mind harbored by Pinckneyville's hierarchy is true, because the sentiments of the residents seem to be shared by at least one employee. ■

PRB, FROM PAGE 4

However, it is public safety that they consider to be the primary focus of the Board.

The PRB's most recent annual report (2014) shows that currently there are 162 C-number prisoners is IDOC (those who were given indeterminate sentences prior to 1978). The board had a hearing for 83 prisoners in this category in 2014 and 0 were approved for parole. The total number of cases reviewed for adult good conduct credits was 1,659, 762 of

which had their good conduct credits revoked, 744 were lowered and 153 disapproved. Finally there were 783 restoration cases for adult good conduct credit reviewed, in which the PRB restored 730 cases, lowered 11 and disapproved 42. The total number of adult cases over the various categories that the PRB considered in 2014 was 41,901, which indicates this group certainly has their work cut out for them. ■

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To subscribe to Stateville Speaks, or to submit an essay, see page 7.

VICTIM OF OUR OWN DEMISE

By Danny Armstrong

Abandonment issues, so grab a stack of tissues,
as we listen to the tales of the misused,
ignored and sexually abused.
Unloved, unwanted and aborted,
kidnapped by strangers for their amusement,
that still goes unreported and supported.
Society's misfits; forced into crime by tidbits of bullshit,
uninformed, mis-educated and hated,
by the government machine that divest
the young minds of all potential created.
Locked inside concrete playpens,
for the amusement of the privileged few,
as they accrue dividends and steal state stipends from
enemies and friends with nothing to do.
They marched in long lines,
to the ballot boxes on time,
and once again their voices are quickly muffled,
when their checked boxes gets shuffled and ruffled.
Dead men still give a vote from the grave,
As they elect hypocrite after hypocrite unafraid,
So Sodom and Gomorrah rise up once again,
to welcome deviant behavior and sodomy among friends.
Lest we all fall victim to our own demise,
without one word of objection, so unwise. ■

SAGGIN'

By Roosevelt Wilder

Fruit of the Loom
Saggin' from the ass of the fruit of the womb.
Ashy backs and ass cracks
Sadly howling at the moon.
Doomed....
before they could learn to eat with a spoon
Consumed....
by the TV room, the game room, the chat room,
the classroom, and the courtroom,
where there's no wiggle room.
Soon they'll be crooning a new tune.
No more tongue twistin' rap lyrics
from ghetto tycoons,
just the sad old song of lost souls
trapped in a rhythm of gloom. ■

RANDOM, FROM PAGE 4

all? Show them the right path to take when they
come to a fork in the road. Tell them which way
to turn if they come to what appears to be a dead
end. Don't let them go it alone when we can
teach them a better way. Give them a reason to
reach out and trust someone. ■

ONLY IF YOU MEAN IT

A song by C. Demetrius Hicks, Sr. (D'Metrius)



VERSE 1:

In this world today there's a whole lotta' fakeness goin' on/
You can tell by the way we treat each other/that the old days are long/long gone/
Everybody's got an agenda/but be wary 'cause there are those that are hidden/
Seems ev'ry heart's done turned stone cold/it's like we're livin' in another dimension/
But if there's anybody out there/who feels exactly the way that I do/
Then you should understand where I'm coming from/by the way that I approach you/So
listen...

CHORUS:

When you hug me/Hug me only if you mean it/
Don't be afraid to put your arms around me/and squeeze me somethin' kinda real tight/
Now hug me/Put all your feelins' in it/No matter where we are/or who's around/We're
humanity and this is real life

VERSE 2:

Dramatics is the new attitude/Nobody can co-exist together/
At least that's what society's teachin' now/
even so-called religious leaders barkin' at each other/
Tea Party politicians/Lord they so evil it's a damned shame/
Look at how Boehner smiles in President Obama's face/
but behind his back racism bears its fangs/
Now am I wrong/You know the truth is so unpretentious/
Hypocrisy is when we talk about loving a God we can't see/
but hate the Creation the eye beholds so vividly/
Hug me...

[CHORUS]

AD LIB:

Hey/Listen to me to me Sister/Talkin' to you Brother/Mother/Where you at Father/
My neighbor/Why ev'rytime we open our mouth/negative words come pourin' out/
I don't understand it/I just don't get it/We've only got but so long on this earth/
Why we spendin' it tearing down one another/Somebody tell me why this is/
Do anybody got the answer/Dearest God up in heaven/Is there an end to this madness/
How much longer-er-er-er-er ■

SENTENCING, FROM PAGE 1

did let it be known they will listen to any viable suggestions. Though they are scheduled to draft and release their final report by December 31st, it is possible, even probable, for them to request and be granted a delay of their recommendations.

We will publish highlights once they are made available. In the meantime, please send your ideas to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 300 West Adams Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL, 60606, or contact them online at <http://bit.ly/1Qn2NxR> ■

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DESENSITIZE

By Paul Salgado

We Illinois prisoners have been indoctrinated to be insensitive, apathetic to our current conditions. We are placated with high price commissary items – which consist of mostly junk food, a few hours per week of yard, TV, short phone call privileges etc. Religious leaders, volunteers and inmates preach and pray for liberation from this parlous criminal system. Until our prayers are answered, we continue to be subjected, without entertaining or allowing any thoughts of rebellion or organized protest to take a stronghold.

Being outspoken about our conditions using different mediums is strongly discouraged, even punishable with SEG (segregation) time, using terms like organizer, disrupter, having strong influence on a particular group of the masses. Special units AD (administrative detention) have been opened as a form of further control and deterrence. Counselors, program coordinators and staff alike encourage the use of the grievance system, set in place to address all prison grievances, justly and of course in a timely manner, knowing full well this system only serves to prolong the daily denial of the minimum human rights and the little prison privileges we should receive. Proper medical

attention is denied from every level, on a daily basis. Lack of programs, to help rehabilitate an inmate are rarely in place, if so, for short periods of time.

Because of absolute indifference and weariness, exhaustion from lies, treachery, deceit, denial from IDOC, it should be sufficient to break the spell of apathy, rid our amorphous attitude that permeates throughout every prison, cell house, gallery, cell into the subconscious of the oppressed, us! It's imperative we change our way of thinking, stop hating the people who are oppressed like you. Who is linked with you using chains of despair, humiliation, degradation & oppression, conditions worse than some third world countries? Only then our voices will become one loud enough to transcend.

If you have not felt the constant whip and tactics used to keep you blind and silent to your current condition, don't bother pondering what you just read. Rather resume watching your tv shows, consumed with anger only directing it towards people who are in the same position like yourself. Because you've already been desensitized, spreading to the smallest fiber of your being. ■

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

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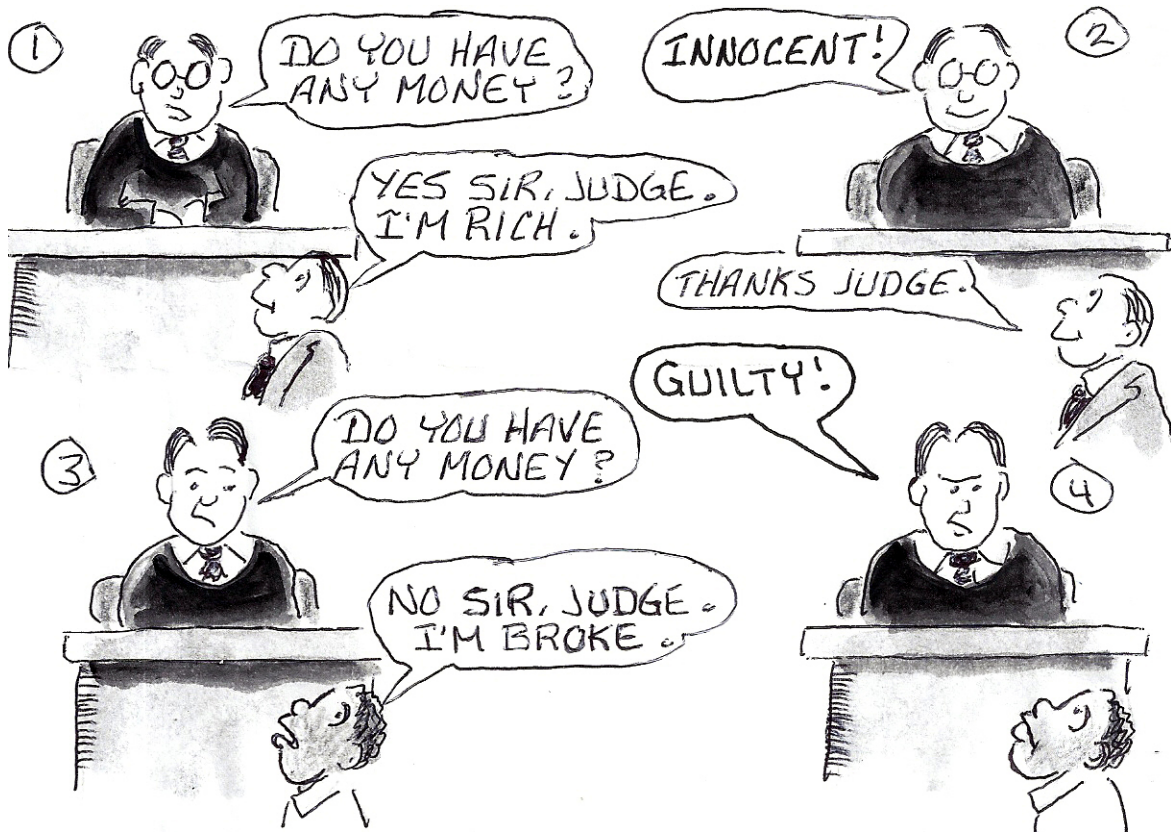
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