



Behind the Wall

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by Donald Danford

The Intelligentsia

It takes a lot of intelligence to figure out which man to put on which tier. There are several areas where the staff has to use its intelligence.

One year in February I was taken to the Segregation and Isolation unit. I was put in holding status (solitary) and a few days later I was moved to a segregation cell. They gave me all the comforts: mattress, sheets, blankets, clothes, etc.; but they didn't give me a pair of socks.

I wanted a pair of socks. So I asked the guard for a pair. The guard, (I think his name is Egor), said, "You have to send a kite (interview request) to the commanding officer of the unit." I filled out the proper form, submitted it, and waited. With cold feet.

The 'building' as the Segregation and Isolation unit is called, is a cement structure well ventilated. There are three floors, stairs in the front, stairs in the back, walkways between the two tiers of cells on each floor, ventilation ducts into each cell and uninsulated doors and windows in abundance. In short, there are plenty of drafts and hundreds of

square feet of cold cement.

No one can expect things to happen overnight in a prison. After all, there are hundreds of men to manipulate. The set-up is much too big to concern itself with something as trivial as one pair of socks.

So I patiently waited—one day. And I asked again for a pair of socks. "Send in a kite," Egor replied. I said I did. "Then wait for an answer."

I asked a couple of days later. Nothing. Egor looked at me and cocked his head to one side. I was beginning to wonder if it was possible to get an inferiority complex because a person doesn't have socks. I mean there were people walking around on the same tier with socks—warm, thick, good-looking socks. What am I, I thought, an ugly stepchild? I got bad breath? My armpits smell? Maybe something was wrong with my reasoning, I told myself. I was becoming a sock freak: I thought of socks in the morning, at noon, in the evening and at night as I drifted off to sleep to dream of socks. I counted socks. "Am I evil?" I asked myself.

I tried to probe the reasoning process of the no-sock policymakers.

If I asked again what would they say ("Quit complaining," Egor might say, "millions of people go without socks." "Yea, the ones going without socks live on the South Sea Islands," I'd reply.)

So the first week passed, the second week passed, and (now it was March), I still had cold feet.

It was getting to me. I was raised in a culture where wearing socks was normal. I wore them all the time, one on each foot. Another week passed and I asked again. "I need a pair of socks." "The laundry hasn't sent any over," replied Egor. "I got a dozen new pairs in my property; let me have those." "It's against the rules," Egor smiled back. "Look I'll buy a pair." "Against the rules," laughed Egor. "I've got a cold."

OSP Sports Award Ceremony

Who in their right mind would schedule an awards ceremony for 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning? Behind 30 foot guarded cement walls nothing is considered abnormal or unusual.

Trophies were given at the 1978-79 Sports Award Benefit held in the Activities Department of O.S.P., given to inmates who over the past year have excelled in sports.

"Behind the Wall" congratulates the following winners:

Most Valuable Player (basketball), Henry Dizer; Outstanding Player (basketball), Arbie Steele; Most Valuable Player (softball), Don Rosacker; Outstanding Player (softball), Ray Middleton; Running, Floyd Forsberg; Handball, Luis Linares; Most Improved Handball

"Here, have some cold pills," screamed Egor, the words barely intelligible through his laughter.

You ever been really hungry and looking forward to the next meal? You ever been cold and dream of a warm place? Well, if you have, you've got an idea of what it means to have your consciousness arrested. My consciousness was arrested.

Another week went by. And another. Then, one beautiful spring morning, (it was spring by now), I was presented with a pair of socks. No bands played, no one applauded, no flags were raised. But somehow I thought it was a special occasion: the intelligentsia of rehabilitation had finally figured out how to procure and dispense one pair of used cotton socks.

Player, Karl Slim; Boxing, George Nulph; Billiards, Reggie Smallwood; Foosball, Connie Tyrrell; Golf, Chuck Johnson; Horseshoes, Ralph Maring; Volleyball, Julius Snowden; Shuffleboard, Gary Finn; Ping Pong, Don Cornell; Weightlifting, Henry Mullins; and Body Building, Willie Thomas.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to: Don Yost, Ron Flynn, Thomas Northern, Homer Gamble, Delbert Fuston and Norman Marmet.

To be the best in any sport or event at O.S.P. is a feat to be proud of. The inmates train and practice constantly to achieve these heights.

Sportsmanship—win or lose—is looked upon as a measure of one's success.

Lucid Walls of Time

Julius Snowden #38013,
Editor

"A Musical Score"

The World is a Ghetto

I seem to be loosing it
Perception of time
Like counting notes
On endless stanzas
Five bells in three-quarter time
Two shower overtures
Hard-rock lullabies
Two sheets in each beat
Three frames of meals

The human being:
is a chaos of cruelties
and nobilities, of hatreds
and of loves,
of resentments
and
respects,
of envies
and admirations.

The hardest movement
A constant repetition of this melody
With broken metranomes
Trying to keep tempo
Exhausted arrangements
Finding no key in which to rest
Amongst all these twisted strains
Sharp as a quip
Flat as deadness I can see and hear
And hum along with
Everywhere abounding inside
The no rhyme or reason
To this twenty-four hour symphony

He contains within himself
in his ferment,
much that is base
and
much that is worthy.

by August Encalada

I AM,
I believe,
my own creation,
my own thought.
I am eternal,
multi-dimensional,
existing now and then alike,
simultaneously without time.
My superior,
my God,
I AM,
I believe.

by G. Wm. Holt

Governor explains Bass decision

Governor Vic Atiyeh has explained his decision to return Carl Bass to prison in Alabama.

In a "Dear Fob" letter to Governor Fob James of Alabama, Atiyeh referred to a February federal court ruling that conditions in the Alabama prison system were so bad that they are unconstitutional. The U.S. District Court ruled that the effect of health, sanitation and living conditions are "a threat to life and limb that violates the Eighth Amendment."

Atiyeh wrote, "I'm mindful of a recent federal court ruling which placed you, as Governor directly in charge of the Alabama prison system. More than anything else, it is your assumption of these responsibilities which gives me confidence that unlawful retribution will not befall Mr. Bass upon his return. As a brother Governor, I am asking you to take a personal interest in this man's wellbeing, and assure that he is accorded fair and proper treatment when he resumes his imprisonment."

Governor Atiyeh has determined that guilt or innocence of the accused person is not a valid reason to refuse extradition, and that if Bass wants to clear his record he will have to do that in the courts in Alabama. Bass, a decorated Vietnam veteran with no previous criminal record, was convicted of murder on the word of a ten-year-old who described a "Black man with an Afro." He did not have an appeal.

Atiyeh also will not use Bass' physical condition—the loss of both legs in prison—as a reason not to return him. Bass claims he lost his legs due to purposeful neglect after he was returned to prison following an escape. He sued but the court said he "suffered no barbarous or shocking neglect in basic medical needs." More recently the U.S. District Court has found the prison to have substandard medical care and to have refused to meet standards.

Governor Atiyeh does not find any reason to believe Bass' claim that if he is returned to the Alabama prison he will be killed.

In response to Atiyeh's concern Governor James promised to "ex-

cise every care" to see that Bass is given fair treatment. "I am mindful that protecting inmates within the system is an essential part of an effective prison system."

Unless Atiyeh changes his mind, Bass' last chance is a habeas corpus hearing set for September 13th. The public defender's office has suggested that Atiyeh place Bass on probation with the understanding that if he fails probation he will be returned to Alabama.

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If you are a spiritual seeker who needs help not promises—call me. I am a "God Gifted" man. I can help you in a hurry.

TESTIMONIALS

1) Miss Joyce J.W., Portland, OR., was in a fix where she could not find or keep a good man. I, Rev. Hoskins, removed the fix and the jinx from her. NOW she can draw the man of her desire to her like a magnet.

2) Mr. & Mrs. C.P. of Compton, CA., could not win the BIG one. They called Rev. Hoskins and Rev. sent them a for-sure win blessing money hand. They went to Las Vegas and their luck kept on coming, winning more than \$16,000.

3) Ms. Barbara T., Inglewood, CA., had a man who left home for another woman. She called Rev. Hoskins with tears in her voice. She wanted him back!! Now he is back and eating out of her hand.

4) Mr. Paul, Los Angeles, CA., was in a fix and rooted by this woman. As a result he lost his nature for other women, but through Rev. Hoskins' work, Paul regained his nature and became luckier than ever with women, money and his business.

5) Mrs. O.I., Long Beach, CA., had demons in her body, and in her home, causing all kinds of bad luck, and unnatural sickness. She called Rev. Hoskins and in 72 hours her home and body were free of unclean spirits.

(The names in the above testimonies have been changed for the protection of the individual.) I guarantee to do what I say I can do. I have a big reputation to protect.

I know the power of the SPIRIT. Don't put it off. Don't let distance keep you from calling. Call now!!! You will be glad you did. Tell a friend where to get HELP today.

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EXODUS

SEPTEMBER

According to John Stambaugh the historical cycle of society revolves in the following manner:

Society's progress from bondage to spiritual faith—from spiritual faith to freedom—from freedom to abundance—from abundance to selfishness (when the abundance reaches selfishness consider it a warning)—from selfishness to apathy—from apathy to dependency—from dependency right back into bondage.

While this describes the rise and fall of sociological civilizations, and in general lets us know where we are in this cycle, as a society, it also can be used to check our attitude toward our personal relationships.

Two Questions:

1. Where do you think our society is at this point in time?

2. Where do you FEEL you are within our society at this point in time?