

EARL PICKERING-474689  
HUDSON CORR. FACILITY  
3001 N. JUNIPER ST.  
HUDSON, CO.  
80642

TO...

BETWEEN THE BARS, BLOG #2  
THIS IS NEWS REPORTS  
AND MORE ABOUT THE CORRUPT  
AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OF ALASKA  
PRISONERS AT THE PRIVATE FOR  
PROFIT CORNELL COMPANIES, HUDSON,  
COLORADO CORNELL CORRECTIONS. THE  
LIE TOLD THE NEWS MEDIA THAT A  
RIOT TOOK PLACE AT THIS FACILITY,  
THE FACT THAT UNTRAINED, INCOMPET-  
ENT EMPLOYEES UNLOCKED CELL DOORS  
AND ALLOWED FOR A FEW PRISONERS  
OUT IN A DORM THAT DID SOME  
DAMAGE CAN NOT BE JUSTIFIED  
AS A RIOT. THE FACT THAT MANY  
OF US ALASKA PRISONERS HAVE  
CUSTODY AND SECURITY LEVELS TOO  
HIGH TO BE AT THIS PRIVATE  
FOR PROFIT CORNELL CORRECTIONS  
FACILITY IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.  
THE INHUMANE TREATMENT AND  
TORTURE OF ALASKA PRISONERS  
IS NON-STOP AT THIS CORRUPT

AND ILLEGALLY OPERATED FACILITY. THE FACT THAT ALASKA PRISONERS MUST STAND OUTSIDE IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MEDICATION IS NONE OTHER THAN TORTURE FOR BEING ILL OR HAVING MEDICAL PROBLEMS, THE NONE OTHER THAN LESS THAN GARBAGE BEING SERVED AS FOOD. NON-MEAT PRODUCTS BEING SERVED AND CALLED MEAT. MEDICAL PERSONNEL THAT DRESS AND ACT AS IF THEY ARE AT A SOCIAL EVENT OR A PARTY, MOST OF THE EMPLOYEES AT THIS FACILITY ARE OF VERY OBVIOUS LOW LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE, AND ARE UNTRAINED OR POORLY TRAINED. IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT ALL PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISONS ARE CORRUPT AND ILLEGALLY OPERATED WITH POLITICIANS AND LAW MAKERS, ETC. AS INVESTORS. NO WONDER THEY GET AWAY WITH THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIONS.

THIS IS A LETTER SENT TO  
THE NEWS MEDIA THAT  
NEVER GOT OUT OF  
THE FACILITY.  
To

EARL PICKERING 474689  
HUDSON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
3001 N. Juniper street  
HUDSON, COLORADO 80642

MY NAME IS EARL PICKERING. I AM A INMATE AT THE CORNELL CORRECTIONS HUDSON, COLORADO UNIT, FROM ALASKA. I WAS IN ELOY, ARIZONA PRIOR TO BEING HERE, AT A CCA, PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISON. WE ALASKAN INMATES WERE ABLE TO WATCH THE NEWS WHILE ON LOCK DOWN, ON APRIL OF @/10. WE HEARD THE MEDIA STATE, THAT ONLY MINIMUM AND MEDIUM SECURITY PRISONERS WERE, AT THIS PRISON FROM ALASKA. THIS IS A BLATANT LIE, BY CORNELL CORRECTIONS, AS WITH OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY THEM, IN ORDER TO UNLAWFULLY AND CORRUPTLY BRING ALASKA INMATES TO THIS FACILITY DUE TO THE EXTREME PROFIT BEING MADE. A GREAT MANY D.O.C. ALASKAN EMPLOYEES ARE INVESTED IN THESE CORRUPT PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISONS. OVER ONE HALF OF THE POPULATION AT THIS FACILITY ARE OF MAXIMUM, MAXIMUM CLOSE AND A VERY LARGE PERCENTAGE ARE HERE ON CHILD MOLESTATION CHARGES. A VERY CORRUPT RECLASSIFICATION WAS USED IN ORDER TO BRING ALASKAN INMATES TO THIS FACILITY. IN THE CASE OF MANY INMATES, AS WELL AS MYSELF, MY CUSTODY LEVEL DOES NOT OR WILL NOT CHANGE FOR ANY REASON FOR TWENTY FIVE (25) YEARS, THEREFORE, I SHOULD NOT AS WITH OTHERS BE HERE. THE CONTRACT, COLORADO STATUTUES, AND ALASKA LAW STATES THAT, MANY OF US ARE NOT TO BE IN A PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISON, IN THE STATE OF COLORADO. HERE YOU WILL FIND VARIOUS PAPERWORK TO PROVE ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED, ALONG WITH INMATES NAMES WHICH YOU MAY VERIFY AS WELL. THIS FACILITY AS WITH MOST PRIVATE FOR PROFIT FACILITIES IS VERY CORRUPT, DUE TO COST CUTTING. UNTRAINED UNPROFESSIONAL, AND EXTREMELY INCOMPETENT PERSONNEL IS EMPLOYED DUE TO LOW-INCOME RECEIVED BY THEM. YOU MAY CONTRACT ME BY MAIL OR IN PERSON AT THIS FACILITY. I AM IN THE APPEAL PROCESS TO HAVE MY CASE OVER TURNED DUE TO TRIAL CORRUPTION. I AND MANY OTHERS AT THIS CORRUPT INHUMANE FACILITY WANT TO GO BACK HOME TO ALASKA DUE TO THE BAD FOOD, MEDICAL, AND TREATMENT IN GENERAL THAT IS ALL IN VIOLATION OF ALASKA AND COLORADO LAW, ALASKA POLICY AND PROCEDURE, THE AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION STANDARDS FOR ADUULT CORRECTIONAL INSTUTIONS, AND THE ALASKA-CORNELL CORRECTIONS CONTRACT. PLEASE IF YOU WOULD, SEND A REPLY TO ME THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS PAPER WORK AND ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO ME OR OTHER INMATES. THANK YOU FOR ANY AND ALL TIME AND CONSIDERATIONS.

SINCERELY,  
EARL PICKERING

*Earl Pickering*

THIS IS ALL A LIE TOLD TO THE NEWS MEDIA TO COVER UP CORRUPTION.



- ERIC BELLAMY/eballamy@greeleytribune.com

#### Alaskan inmates

Alaska currently houses 3,700 prisoners, with an additional 750 in Arizona, according to Joe Schmidt, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Corrections. Schmidt said 16 percent of the state's population are native Alaskans, while 36 percent of the state's prison population are native Alaskans.

## Hudson welcomes new prison

BILL JACKSON,

HUDSON — A medium-security prison northeast of this southern Weld County community will open in a couple of weeks and will take about 100 prisoners from Alaska.

The \$90 million Hudson Correctional Facility has 1,250 beds, but the privately run operation could be expanded to 4,000 beds in the next few years, officials said during Tuesday's official opening ceremonies. At 1,250 beds, it is about twice the size of the Weld County Jail in north Greeley.

For Hudson Mayor Neal Pontius, the facility, built and operated by Cornell Companies Inc. of Houston, Texas, is a welcome property tax addition. He said once the facility is fully operational, it will provide tax revenues that are basically double what Hudson now receives.

"That won't come next year, but it will the year following," Pontius said, adding that sales taxes alone from the new Love's Truck Stop at the intersection of Interstate 76 and Colo. 52 were nearly enough to provide funding to pave streets in the town.

The correctional facility is about two miles northeast of downtown Hudson.

Pontius said Cornell has hired about a dozen of its employees from Hudson and has worked hard to hire as many locally as possible. The town, he said, twice voted overwhelmingly to support the construction of the facility. The second vote was conducted when a change in the facility was made. Originally planned as a women's facility for Colorado, Cornell had to change plans and worked out a deal with the Alaska Department of Corrections as a men's facility. Cornell operates a women's facility in Brush.

Alaska already has 750 prisoners in Arizona, said Joe Schmidt, corrections commissioner.

"We have an overcrowding problem and this will certainly help to alleviate that," Schmidt said. Alaska, he said, is ready to move 100 prisoners to Hudson in the next couple of weeks. Those prisoners will be ones who have already proven by their behavior that they are ready for a medium-security facility.

"That's not to say they haven't committed some violent crimes. But their behavior has indicated they can be moved to a facility such as this one," he said. The location of Hudson, he added, is ideal for Alaska's needs.

Schmidt said prisoners coming to Hudson will have a minimum of eight months remaining on their sentences.

Moving prisoners that far from home presents some special problems, especially when it comes to visitations by family. Cornell, he said, operates a halfway house northwest of Anchorage in a remote area of the state and has helped alleviate the visitation problem by setting up video visits.

"That, obviously, is not the same as a face-to-face visit, but it helps with the goal of getting these prisoners ready for re-entry into society. We will have the same video capabilities here," Schmidt said.

The new prison will have

250 employees to start, all of which have taken extensive training at a Cornell facility in Pennsylvania, said James Hyman, chairman and CEO of Cornell. It will provide a \$7.3 million annual payroll and will offer programs

designed to get prisoners ready for re-entry to society. The planned expansion, he said, will add another \$200 million in capital improvements.

"This will be a flagship for private prison operations," he said.

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AID=/20091118/NEWS/911179965/1051&ParentProfile=1001&template=printart](http://www.greeleytribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091118/NEWS/911179965/1051&ParentProfile=1001&template=printart)

PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CORNELL CORRECTIONS OF ALASKA INC., 1700 WEST LOOP SOUTH, SUITE 1500, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027, DO NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL AUTHORITY VESTED IN THEM THAT WOULD LEGALLY ALLOW THEM TO DO ANY PAT-SEARCHES, CELL SEARCHES, PROPERTY SEARCHES, OR THE TOUCHING OR PUTTING HANDS ON ALASKA INMATES OR ANY CITIZEN FOR ANY REASON. CORNELL EMPLOYEES ARE NOT SWORN TO OATH LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS OF ANY GOVERNMENT. CORNELL EMPLOYEES ARE NOT EMPLOYED BY ANY STATE OR EMPOWERED IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY BY STATE LAW. IF INDEED A CORNELL EMPLOYEE IS A SWORN TO OATH LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER, THIS OFFICER MAY NOT EXERCISE THEIR SWORN TO OATH OFFICIAL AUTHORITY WHILE EMPLOYED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY SUCH AS CORNELL CORRECTIONS. PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY CORNELL CORRECTIONS ARE NONE OTHER THAN PRIVATE CITIZENS WITH NONE OTHER THAN PRIVATE CITIZEN RIGHTS. SWORN TO OATH LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER RIGHTS CAN NOT EXTEND TO OR BE TRANSFERRED TO ANY PRIVATE CITIZEN FOR ANY REASON. A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ALASKA D.O.C. AND THE CORNELL CORRECTIONS OF ALASKA CAN NOT JUSTIFY OR MAKE LEGAL ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIONS BY PRIVATE CITIZENS CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ENTITLED TO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY FROM SUITS BY PRISONERS CHARGING A VIOLATION OF SECTION 1983 OF TITLE 42 OF THE U.S. CODE. THE U.S SUPREME COURT MADE THIS VERY CLEAR ANY CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE THAT PLACES THEIR HANDS ON THE BODY OF A INMATE AS A PAT-SEARCH, DOES A CELL SEARCH OR OPENS MAIL OF A INMATE HAS COMMITTED THE VIOLATION OF HARASSMENT, HUMILIATION AND ASSAULT. A TORTURE ACTION IS COMMITTED WHEN A CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE RESTRAINS A INMATE WITH HAND CUFFS OR LEG RESTRAINTS, AND THE ACT OF PEPPER SPRAYING OR TASERING. IN THE EVENT OF A PROBLEM AT THIS FACILITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT IS TO BE SUMMONED. DO TO THE FACT THAT CORNELL EMPLOYEES ARE TOTALLY UNTRAINED, UNPROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE HIRED TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF CORPORATE EMPLOYERS RATHER THEN THE PUBLIC MAKES FOR THEM TO BE IN TOTAL VIOLATION OF THE LAW WHEN COMMITTING ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIONS. ALL ACTIONS ARE IN VIOLATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, ACA STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, ALASKA POLICY AND PROCEDURE AND INMATES RIGHTS.

UPON A INMATE VERBALLY MAKING STATEMENT TO A CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE THAT THE ACT OF A SEARCH OR PAT-SEARCH BY THEM IS ILLEGAL DUE TO THE FACT OF THEM, NOT BEING SWORN TO OATH CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS OR IS ANY CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE ENPOWERED IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY BY ANY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW, A INMATE MY DEFEND HIMSELF BY USING REASONABLE FORCE. REASONABLE FORCE CAN ONLY BE USED IF THE CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY CEASE THE ILLEGAL SEARCH ACTION. ALSO CHARGES OF HARASSMENT, HUMILIATION, ASSUALT, AND TORTURE, MAY ALSO BE FILED ON THE CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE. BECAUSE CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES DO NOT ENJOY OR ARE THEY ENTITLED TO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY, SUIT IS TO BE FILED ON THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE. THROUGH COST-CUTTING AND THE FACT THAT CORNELL CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ENTITLED TO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY AS SWORN TO OATH CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ARE, CORNELL CORRECTIONS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ATTORNEY SERVICES, THERE FORE THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EMPLOYEE.

## Private Prisons Still Booming

By RICHARD GEFFKEN

**W**hile the rest of the nation suffers an economic downturn, private prison corporations continue to experience a boom.

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) has the biggest share of the marketplace, with 64 facilities nationwide. It built two new prisons in 2008, and is constructing two more in 2009. It also expanded its bed space at nine existing sites, putting 1,680 more in use in just one quarter of 2008. In business language, CCA's income increased by 14% to \$37.9 million. The suffering doesn't matter, just count the money.

GEO Group ranks second in the industry. It expanded eight existing prisons, and began construction of a new one in Milton, FL in March 2009.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons had 13 prisons built for private management in the last 10 years. These have largely housed low security risk illegal immigrants. Delaying deportation increases bed space usage to maximize profits.

These corporations are seeking longer sentences through their lobbyists in nearly all state legislatures. Prison policy-makers are projecting increased prison populations of 25% by 2011. It's good for business. That will mean nearly 3 million Americans imprisoned.

Prison overcrowding in California has given the private prison industry an extra boost. Over 5,000 prisoners were shipped to other states' private facilities between 2007 - 2008 rather than cut any sentences. 2,900 more were transferred at the start of 2009. Nevertheless, reducing the prison population remains unthinkable. The numbers represent money and influence to politicians, and voter fears which translate into votes.

Having run California into virtual bankruptcy, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger still demands no mercy for prisoners. With a deficit of \$41 billion, state workers and teachers are being laid off. 20,000 received their layoff notice on February 17, 2009. Cutting vital public services remains preferred to reducing prison populations and profit margins.

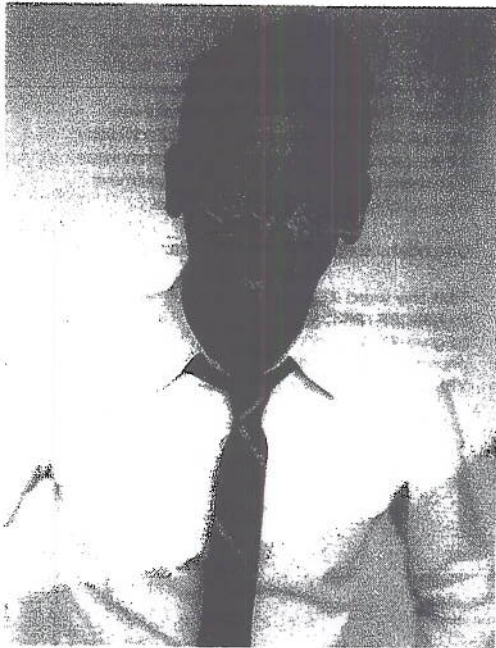
It offers little hope that 46 states face bankruptcy in 2009. President Obama is expected to bail them out, while they continue imprisoning more and more of his fellow citizens. Private prisons appear to be a "New Deal" industry. So much for change.

*Richard Geffken is a Florida prisoner.*



# Letter from the Editor

# Party-istan!



CAN I ASK you something? Did you know? Have you seen those Afghan abuse photos of the American contractors in Afghanistan who were supposed to be protecting the U.S. embassy in Kabul but instead spent their down-low time dancing around bonfires half-naked, getting hammered, groping each other and dry-humping their buddies? Amazing, huh? Who knew Afghanistan could be so much fun!

The scandal is being investigated, some people have been fired, the contractors may lose their contract (not to mention their awesome desert party space), and the dry humpers may already be dry-humping someone fresh and delicious. But before the moment passes, can we stop the clock for a minute and just say: Wow. The pics, taken at a place called Camp Sullivan, are worth a gander. They're super-macho and menacing, with a darkly erotic undercurrent,

like the Facebook page for a sadomasochistic keg party. ("Come on down to Camp Sully! Muscles will be flexed, brewskis will be downed, nipples will be group-licked.") But they're also weird and disorienting. Why is that buff man strutting around in a coconut-shell bikini? Why, pray tell, is he peeing on himself? Why is bald Mr. Vodka Chugger doing shots from his friend's butt? In Afghanistan! It's as if Hamid Karzai owned a leather bar.

Maybe it's nothing you've never seen before—the typical routine of meatheads in the desert just kickin' back, drinkin' brewskis, and pointing at each other's scrotums. (Apparently, one never runs out of beer or imagination in the desert.) Still, I think we should all ask ourselves the tough question here: What is it about security compounds that makes guys go homo?

By security compound, I might just mean your college fraternity, where the freshman hazing always involved a teabag-full of sexual humiliation. By homo, I might just mean that drunken group hug where the dude from Ohio hung on a little too long. Because think about it: These pictures may be shocking, but they're not...surprising.

What's striking, and oddly familiar, about them is the posey-ness of the shots—the sloppy hugs and hang-ten hand gestures, the theatrical groping, the this-party-is-so-awesome-I-might-just-have-to-shave-somebody abandon. We've all seen it before, that special, in-your-face breed of culturally sanctioned homophilia that puts quotation marks around the behavior, as if to say, "Yes, I know my lips are awfully close to my buddy's genitals, but I would never, ever go beyond a bro hug. Unless there was six ounces of primo vodka pouring down his butt cheeks."

Everyone's smiling, too—you know, the way you smile when someone's refreshed your beverage or called you faggot. The camera seems to liberate them: The whole world is watching, signing off on it, and everything's cool. It's only later that you can't help but think how the whole scene resembles the abuse and basement-porn vibe of Abu Ghraib, where every little indecency was framed for the camera's forgiving flash, and deliberate, comic finger-pointing made it all seem like a joke. (One thing that's become clear about the twenty-first century: All our horrors will be accompanied by digital flashes, unabashed grins, and enthusiastic thumbs-up.)

Funny thing about Camp Sullivan, though: A lot of news organizations referred to the circumstances as a "Lord of the Flies" situation, but that struck me as odd. It suggests a kind of primordial queer party from which we are all descended, and to which we could all just as easily revert. But there is nothing natural or inevitable about that scene, or in the end, truly erotic. The opposite. Camp Sully was a corrupted state, the sad—and, in that sense, inevitable—result of culturally condoned homophobia. And nope, I don't think those men are closet cases. They're just...jackasses. It's what happens when guys are weaned on masculine insecurities, on bullying and beer bong and a million tiny homo-hazings. ("Dude, that's so gay.") It's what happens when guys like that are alone and scared in the desert and looking for any kind of group security that still allows them to claim their manhood. Is that kind of hazing *primitive*? Only in the sense that there aren't enough cultural forces telling men that's not cool.

Isn't it time we took that on? In schools, in conversations, in the military, in companies that get sweet \$189 million government contracts like the one that ran Camp Sullivan? We spend a ton of money to put men in the desert, but very little cultural capital educating them not to harass and haze. When things go "primitive," as they did at Abu Ghraib and Camp Sully, we'll spend more money investigating what happened *after* it happened (later—surprise!—no one is ever at fault but the Lynndie Englands of the world), rather than, pardon the pun, groping for the source. That's why we have half-cocked policies like "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," because we just don't have the spine to deal with it. Ah, but later. If you *tell* us about it, we are *so* on it.

Just listen to the executive at the company responsible for Camp Sully, Wackenhut Services (yes, you got that right: Wackenhut), explaining how everything will be solved, dealt with. "We take all allegations seriously," he said. "We investigate them. We take firm, swift action to remedy the situation." (Okay, new company policy: Absolutely *no* more coconut bikinis.) "We have no tolerance," he vowed, "for the types of behavior that have come to light in Kabul."

No tolerance?! You don't understand the meaning of those words.

JIM NELSON  
Editor-in-Chief