

I know that every day is a new one but the repetitious paranoiac whinings of State officials is draining upon the senses. You may ask why I often call this state paranoid, it is because all you ever hear from the media is how much a threat we prisoners are to the public at large and how dangerous it would be to let us have access to any computer or other technological tool. The latest cries about cell phones being smuggled in and how much a threat they are to public safety is ludicrous. In today's world of the average person being in constant contact via smartphone and/or sitting in front of their computer for up to six or more hours a day; the art of letter writing is slowly dying and I fear that it will not be long before it dies all together. The resonable response to possible violations of inmates is not to prohibit all but to bring consequences to those that violate the rules. With the technological tools available the State could allow us access to computers or cell phones and block any website, conversation, or e-mail that was deemed outside of allowable constraints. The cry that we will use a resource for illegal pursuits is an unwarranted blanket claim that would never stand in the light of reasoned discovery. If laptops and cell phones were able to be earned as a privilege, the benefit to administrative concerns would be astounding. A laptop would allow for the reduction if not elimination of books and paperwork and would also allow for college educational pursuits. Cell phones could be on a local network with all calls sniffed and recorded. Any violation of code, regulation, or law would render that user prohibited use of that privilege. What the general public is not told and thereby lacks understanding of, is that the phone calls we currently have access to are collect and are cost prohibitive to the person receiving the call. Also the receiving party must be able to be automatically billed or the call is blocked from going through, to where the receiver is never aware that a call was even attempted. Access to cell phones in the manner previously described would move the financial burden to the caller and allow for greater possibilities of restored relationships.

This brings to mind the overwhelming influence prison has over both young and new inmates to succumb to behaviors that might serve them well in prison but society at large would be unwilling to tolerate in its community. If this State is going to place the word rehabilitation at the end of the title, where is it in reality? The common mockery of "California Department of Corruption and Racketeering" is most apt for there is little correction or rehabilitation. The single greatest hindrance of increased criminal aptitude is the religious programs available and the freedom to access them. Why then do officers raise such a fuss over access to the chapel? On this institution there are a few that are now here that cry the term "lack of proper supervision" and seek to shut down our access unless there is someone available for direct supervision. This attitude has put a stop to some of the most rehabilitative and life changing education ever to be offered to the inmate population. While there are many in here that have very slim chances of parole or release, there are just as many with determinant sentences who will have to interact with the larger societal population once again. Why then is there no aggressive influence to get these people ready for a life on the outside?