

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

JAMES RIVA W38533
One Administration Rd.
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Between The Bars
<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/339/>

COME AND READ MY ARTICLES WHICH I WROTE FROM A PRISONER'S
POINT OF VIEW.

COME AND SEE THE DRAWINGS I HAVE DONE.

READ MY SHORT STORIES.

ALSO:

There's another website that has stuff I wrote, and
details about my life.

to any prospective publisher:

I have other written works, and I need lots of money
to buy my way out of this tremendous debt I owe to people
I have wronged. Come read my stuff and work out a deal
with me. At present it is impossible for me to make restitution
because I only earn \$7.50 per week at my institutional job.
Prisoners in Massachusetts never earn any meaningful amounts
of money. I have to spend what I earn on toothpaste, soap,
parts for appliances, postage, (POSTAGE! I have a HUGE problem
with the officers entrusted to sort and process the mail
stealing most of my mail, and playing what to them is funny
games with my mail. I am lucky to get one letter per week,
although usually it is less than that).

My other webpage:

www.jamesriva.info

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

CORRECTIONS AND THEIR CASH CROP:

an article by,
James Riva W38533
OCCC

1 Administration Rd.
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Before I reveal my postulate, bear in mind that I tend to be paranoid. My opinions formulated are based upon my 31 years of incarceration. I do not, nor can I access the resources to prove or disprove my opinions. My aim is to generate interest in hopes that perhaps some agency with appropriate resources will prove or disprove my beliefs.

CONTROVERSY: That something just short of a conspiracy exists to perpetuate and grow the corrections industry.

I state the obvious. The prison population grows exponentially. Conversely, the world's population also grows exponentially. Also it is evident that most employees of corrections in Massachusetts seem to be related by blood or marriage to other corrections employees. Further, corrections employees earn fantastic wages and benefits. Also, where everywhere jobs are being lost in a recession, corrections still hires more officers. Recidivism seems to be at an all-time high- especially for violent criminals.

These might seem to be benign coincidences to one who never ventured inside a Massachusetts prison for any length of time. I invite you to share my paranoia.

When I first came to prison in 1980, prisoners grew nearly all the food consumed and usually there was a surplus of milk, eggs, vegetables, corn that was sold. Any prisoner desiring to learn a meaningful vocation was given that opportunity. There were garages with dozens of car bays where prisoners would learn auto mechanics fixing state employees' cars while supervised by an experienced mechanic. Most prisons had a welding certification program. There were many carpentry shops teaching furniture making. There was a free college program in all the prisons. Recidivism was low, as was the headcount.

Furloughs were granted, even to lifers in hopes that would make them good candidates for parole. Prisoners worked outside the wall, (even lifers) as trustees, even in non-prison settings like attendants in mental hospitals.

A major scandal while the governor was running for president precipitated a major sea change in policy. A walk-away escape, and a failure to return from furlough in which a rape and attempted murder occurred shelved the furlough program and other vitals.

Now in the present day, vocational training and college classes are almost non-existent. AND, it seems that whenever a prisoner has parole prospects looming, he is targeted for disciplinary tickets, a parole bid nullifier.

We no longer grow ^{our} ~~our~~ own food. Instead there are lucrative contracts to food suppliers that result in much poorer quality food, or chow, as it is called.

Wouldn't it make sense to corrections employees, that in order to ensure job security and industry growth, that they need to maintain and increase the headcount as opposed to reducing it? Elementary that if it were reduced, corrections employees would be laid off.

There are some parallels in the efforts to abolish the slave trade and finally, slavery itself. The abolitionist movement spanned centuries before being successful, in a series of partial victories and partial set-backs. The lawmakers of Europe and United States, of whom many were interested parties, (owners), would advance what by today's standards ~~are~~ ridiculous postulates as to why slavery should remain or that abolition should be delayed: "They would only be enslaved or killed in their native Africa" or "They have a better life as a Christian slave than a pagan forager", and others.

My point is that both slaves and prisoners were/are absolutely powerless. Both slaves and prisoners had/have the easily aroused might of the government against them if need be. Both slaves and prisoners had/have merely nominal redress in the courts.

The pretexts that lawmakers come up with to maintain a large headcount of prisoners are just as false.

Recidivism is high. A prisoner leaving prison today has almost no marketable job skills, and of course, corrections is doing very well.

The pretexts to continue slavery or delay the abolition, like the lawmakers' claims to maintain a high headcount of prisoners, had/has only an economic agenda. A cash crop.

James Riva W38533
OCCC

www.jamesriva.info

AND

<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/339/>