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Dear Blog,

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Hello people and peoplettes,  
I am sorry I let a month lapse  
since my last entry. I wish I  
had a colorful excuse but the truth  
is the days just bleed together in here  
and I need to make these entries  
more a part of my daily routine.

I would like to thank Spryte  
for all of your creative ideas for  
bathing in a dry county. 😊

They are definitely better than  
my idea of laying on my back and  
spitting straight up, a technique  
my cellie objects to (quite vociferously).

A little creativity goes a long way  
in here, consider the numerous ways  
inmates can get into trouble. Making  
home brew (wine) using everything  
from jelly to jolly ranchers.

Making tattoo guns using typewriter  
motors or computer modem motors and  
ink from gel pens or soot and toothpaste.

Or the hundred and one tools that  
can be duplicated with a pair of

finger nail clippers (or it's industrial sized cousin the toenail clipper.)

Hmm... that seems like a good topic for future entries - "how to survive prison with creativity."

We all share our many ideas at our version of the water-cooler, "the yard". Everyone walks the compound in their small groups, exchanging the days gossip, bragging about the great "scores" they had in the past, or trading ideas for future endeavors.

Some of the conversations are about as lame as you might expect and a hen house has nothing on the gossip some of these guys can involve themselves in.

But, occasionally intelligence does win out and an intellectual conversation can spring up and develop into a refreshing round table workout for the grey matter.

I make a conscious effort

to avoid what I call the Jerry Springer rants, there is just way too much of that in here, and in the world as a whole.

Why are so many negative television shows so popular?

For instance "Survivor", the premise of which seems to be who can be the most underhanded, conniving, deceitful and manipulative person, and that person is awarded a large cash prize at the end of the game. This show and many just like it have become so popular that you can't go by any water cooler where it's not being discussed.

This promotes the very worst behaviors in human nature, and people flock to it on the edge of their seats waiting to see who will be manipulated off the island.

I live this in here, why has this become entertaining?

The Jerry Springer show makes no allusions to anything but the

pain and suffering it sensationalizes. The sole draw of that show is to see someone have a horrible secret dumped on them for everyone to see while a frothing audience ~~eggs~~ eggs them into violence.

Is this what we are? Is this the modern day version of gladiators being torn apart for the amusement of a mob, and make no mistake, those audiences are just that, a barely restrained mob.

Is it any wonder that anytime a home team is successful at some sporting event the kids cause so much destruction, that's what we are being taught is acceptable behavior, we are in fact encouraging this behavior by sensationalizing it with television.

Am I way off? Ask yourself how many of the most popular reality shows get their ratings from the most negative aspects and who is watching?

a while ago the local press made a lot of noise about prisons allowing inmates video games and cable T.V.

On the one hand the idea is this place should be punishment and inmates comfort is low on the list of society's worries.

Yet the future is important and most inmates will return to the ~~general~~ general population, in fact next door to a lot of you. So the question is what kind of person should be reintroduced into society --- someone who has just spent the past few years watching "Jerry Springer" and "Survivor" or someone who has been watching "A&E", "Discovery", "ESPN", and "BRAVO"?

There are those who would argue against television altogether, but the reality is T.V. is a necessary part of prison, without it, the "good behavior" incentive is gone and this place would be dark and dangerous, then who are you releasing into your neighborhoods.

That seems to be one of the major flaws in the argument for tougher prisons - is anyone really taking into account the future, the release date and the consequences of the years of abusive treatment.

Consider a dog in a small cage, would you feel comfortable maltreating him for years then opening his cage with your family around you -

or consider taking a dog who has been mistreated all its life, and over a period of time show it love, kindness, patience, and work with positive reinforcement, then open the gate in the presence of your family.


Prisoners can be reeducated and can become productive members of society but only if society wills it - otherwise the answer is to release no-one lest a monster be loosed in your neighborhood.

wow - quite the rant - but I invite any and all feedback

if you think I'm off base  
I'd like to hear your ideas.

for now I'll send this and  
hope you all live each day to  
the fullest, enjoy your life  
and find ways to smile each and  
every day because a smile trumps  
glummy any day. 😊

LAR, I was then and have always  
been. Time goes by but that is true for  
us all. In yer window. 😊

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