

# Ongoing Abuse of Prisoners In W.C.I.'s Segregation Unit by Nate A. Lindell, created 5 May 2013

From out there, peeking through the keyhole of BtB, you might — you should — wonder, "Why do so many prisoners hate the system?" and, more importantly, "Why isn't the Dept. of Corrections making the prisoners nicer, more habilitated?" As the title suggests, I (a system despiser) think it has something to do with the outrageous cruelties that the system inflicts, hypocritically, on its captives. Only a sucker is gonna respect the law when the law-enforcement agents themselves disregard the law; and this is the big lesson that prison teaches anyone with half a brain.

To clarify, I'm not saying that all D.O.C. employees are sadistic. But they don't all have to be sadistic (and stupid) in order to teach prisoners to have contempt for the law and its underlying purpose of ensuring respect for other people. All it takes is one sadist, one bully, one crime victim set on "evening the score" to brutalize a prisoner, and a whole lot more staff who turn a blind eye on their co-horts stupid abuse — stupid because it so obviously teaches prisoners that brutality is acceptable, might is right. Prisoners would be stupid not to learn this lesson.

Since I arrived here at W.C.I.'s seg. unit on 4 Jan. 2013, this is what I've uncovered from talking to the prisoners involved, hearing &/or seeing with my own ears &/or eyes.

Right away I noticed three guards with foul, aggressive attitudes: C.O. II [redacted], C.O. II [redacted] (actually, he acts polite, on the surface) & C.O. II Joseph [redacted]. They're built large & have reputations for battering prisoners. I sat back & observed them, inquired about them....

• 29 Dec. 2012, C.O. II [redacted] slammed D. [redacted] onto a table in the seg. unit's main floor, punched [redacted] in [redacted] testicles & used the cuffs securing [redacted] wrists behind [redacted] back to ligate [redacted] wrists. Lt. [redacted] (who weighs at least 300 pounds) & C.O. II [redacted] arrived (along with a C.O. who's name escapes me), roughed [redacted] up some more, hauled [redacted] to a strip cage, where [redacted] was held in a kneeling position, Lt. [redacted] threatened Knight with a tazer, while C.O. II [redacted] cut off [redacted] clothing & then groped about [redacted] intimate parts,

including penetrating [redacted] anus, supposedly in search of contraband, then housing of [redacted] in a cold cell, soiled with a past occupant's feces, urine + crazed graffiti, without clothing nor any bedding, for more than a day. Conduct Report (C.R.) # 2342151 was issued, full of lies, in an attempt to justify this abuse of [redacted]

Given Gillis v. Litscher, 468 F.3d 488, 493 (7th Cir. 2006) (Prisoners have an 8th Amendment right to receive bedding, hygienic items, a sanitary environment, + warmth), Dixon v. Godinez, 114 F.3d 640, 644 (7th Cir. 1997) (Housing prisoner in a cell so cold that it causes "severe discomfort" violates the 8th Amendment), Calhoun v. De Tella, 319 F.3d 936, 939 (7th Cir. 2003) (Using strip searches as "calculated harassment unrelated to prison needs" violates the 8th Amendment), and Stainback v. Dixon, 569 F.3d 767, 772 (7th Cir. 2009) (For an officer to "knowingly use handcuffs in a way that will inflict unnecessary pain or injury" violates the 8th Amendment), it's apparent that W.C.I. staff violated Knight's Constitutional right to be free from (Cruel + Unusual Punishment. This amounts to a federal felony pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §241 Conspiracy against rights, and §242 Deprivation of rights under color of law, as well as a less serious state felony under Wis. Stats. §940.29 Abuse of residents of penal facilities.

[redacted] needs his knee surgically repaired due to the incident, based on W.C.I. medical staff's exam (+ they sure ain't itchy to help prisoners), which bolsters the already chargeable crime of Wis. Stats. §940.19 Battery (1)

As §DOC 306.04 Responsibility of employees makes all W.D.O.C. staff responsible for [redacted] safety, and §DOC 306.11 Use of mechanical restraints to immobilize inmates, at subs. (a)(a) (Forbidding use of restraints "As a method of punishment") + (b) ("In a way that causes undue physical discomfort, inflicts physical pain...."), by W.C.I. guards violating these administrative codes/regulations, they are chargeable for violating Wis. Stats. §946.12 Misconduct in public office, at sub. (2) (Criminalizing a state employee's acting contrary to official duties or in excess of their authority).

What's really shocking is that W.C.I. staff's actions regarding Knight also violate Wis. Stats. §940.225 Sexual assault, at subs. (1)(b) + (c), (2)(b), (c) + (h). And, because W.C.I. contracts with the

feds to hold some of its prisoners, these guards are indictable under 18 U.S.C. §2241 Aggravated sexual abuse, sub. (a)(1) + (a); §2242 Sexual abuse (1) + (2)(B); §2243 Sexual abuse of a minor or ward (b) §2244 Abusive sexual contact (b). This makes these staff sex offenders; and they should thus be registered as such; yet, they aren't on the sex-offender registry site, nor have they been prosecuted for any of these crimes.

█ however, is not the only one who's been subject to such abuse.

- 1 Jan. 2012, Lt. █ had Christopher █ brought down the back stairs of W.C.I.'s south cell hall, where no security cameras nor unit staff could observe what happened. Lt. █ then put his pudgy right hand around █ neck, told █ to "stop acting like a kid," squeezed. █ told █ to let go of his neck. █ then flung █ body (about 1/3 of Wenzel's weight) against a wall, then to the floor, fell on █ body + smushed █ while wrenching on █ cuffed (behind his back) arms. This split █ lip + chipped a tooth, as well as causing severe pain in █ arm and abraiding/ligating Hamlin's wrists. Another huge (at least 6'2" and 300 pounds) guard named █ and one whose name I forget, helped █ pig pile + pick on █. After a couple minutes, █ was brought to the seg. unit, where guards █ + █ tightly held █ in a kneeling position; one named █ cut off █ clothing then felt around and at █ genitals + anus, all while █ held a tazer to █ and threatened to use it if █ resisted. Then █ spent a little over 12 hours in a cold, filthy cell, with no clothing, no bedding, no soap, nor any cleaning supplies. He filed the suit I wrote about this: Hamlin v. Holm, et al. W.D. Wis. Case No. 13-cv-202-bbc

- 3 Jan. 2013, while Marvin █ was handcuffed behind his back or in front (not sure), guard █ yanked on the tether attached from the handcuffs to the door, ligating + lacerating █ hands and wrists, pulling █ arms out of a slot in the cell door. Then █ put all of his weight, it seemed to █ on █ arms. █ weighed at least 300 pounds at that time. Lt. █ then responded, put █ in a choke hold and brought █ to the floor, further ligating and lacerating █ wrists, because the tether connecting █ cuffed

wrists to the cell's door was not long enough to allow [redacted] to go all the way to the floor. [redacted] was then dragged to the main-floor's strip cages, threatened with a tazer by Lt. [redacted] held by Moungey and another guard while a guard named [redacted] cut off [redacted] clothing, groped around the kneeling [redacted] anus & genitals, then [redacted] was put in a cold, filthy cell without clothing, bedding, etc. Of course C.R. #1910040 was issued to [redacted] in an attempt to entirely blame [redacted] for the abuse the followed his initial refusal to go in the cell.

• 10 Jan. 2013, William [redacted] was removed by his cell by a group of guards led by Lt. [redacted] after staff closed all of the windows on the doors of other prisoners' cells. [redacted] was tethered to a strip-cage/shower-stall door by the handcuffs on his wrists behind his back. Then the Lt. ordered [redacted] to do the impossible, given the short length of the tether, "Lay down!" [redacted] lay as low as he could, told em the strap was too short to let him lay all the way down. Then a guard named [redacted] jumped on [redacted] back, causing severe ligation & laceration of [redacted] wrists, resulting in a terrifying scream from Counts, "You're breaking my fucking arm!" Again a staff-assisted strip search was done, led by the Lt. ... freezing, filthy cell, etc. C.R. #2343988 and Incident Report (I.R.) #61231 were wrote in relation to this situation, to try & shift blame onto Counts.

Keep in mind that these are only the incidents I could learn about from my cell in lower-A wing of the seg. complex. Things were happening in upper A-wing and elsewhere in the seg. complex (which has more than 180 cells) and throughout the prison that I knew & know nothing about. I actually spoke to the prisoners I'm writing about, each of whom gave me permission to reveal their identities.

• 12 Feb 2013, [redacted] slammed Marcus [redacted], a slightly built black kid, face-first into Scott [redacted] cell door, then choked [redacted] bent [redacted] handcuffed wrists (again, ligation & lacerating them). Other guards arrived, supervised by [redacted] roughed [redacted] up some more; the Lt. tazed [redacted] a couple times, then a staff assisted sexual assault (let's call it what it is) was done on Haynes... cold, filthy cell with nothing... C.R. #2343777 was written by [redacted] containing blatant lies (e.g. that [redacted] was

eyeing [redacted] threateningly and had made loud, aggressive remarks).

• 6 March 2013, a Lt., who's name I missed, during a search of all seg. cells, shortly after the 21 Feb suicide of Maurice [redacted] (he hung himself, in cell A-101, while I was in A-110), led a cell extraction on James [redacted]. Dehler was paranoid after Childs's suicide, thought the search was to steal his notes about [redacted] suicide, so refused to exit his filthy cell. We all thought Jimmy Dean, what we call [redacted] was nuts (see my post #125<sup>P.2</sup> for details). Despite Jimmy's numerous similar conflicts with staff & disorganized behavior, no psych. staff were called nor intervened. Jimmy was beat, removed from his cell, manhandled in every possible way, tazed, sexually assaulted, put in a cold, filthy cell with nothing... as has happened to him many times before and since then. He looked like the comedian Gallagher before, but now has a large pink scar from the top of his head to behind his eye (on the right, as I recall), from a staff-stomping that was inflicted on him after the 6 March one.

• 8 March 2013, Guard [redacted] made some homosexual remarks to LaRon [redacted], on C-wing. Then [redacted] (noted earlier) told [redacted] staff were gonna kill [redacted] for having stabbed & otherwise assaulted W.D.O.C. staff many years ago. This happened during shower time. It led up to [redacted] stomping on [redacted] shackles & then standing on the chain, severely ligating & lacerating [redacted] ankles, while Stanieck punched [redacted] in the neck, chest & ribs, as [redacted] (who is slighty built & over age 55) was handcuffed, shackled & tethered to a strip-cage door. You know the rest....

What many of the forenoted prisoners have in common is, that at least at the time they were abused, they were not acting rationally. So I conclude, as a layperson, with much experience providing psych care (to a mom & little brother with P.T.S.D., Multiple-Personality Disorder, & severe Depression) as a teenager & much self-study of psychology. Prisoners who are universally deemed to be "nuts" here (e.g. Mr. [redacted] noted above, & Richard [redacted] who told everyone on lower A that he's been diagnosed with A.D.H.D., Borderline P.D., Bi-Polar Disorder, & many other disorders, has been subjected to (so he says) "dozens" of uses of force, sexual assaults, etc., as happened to the forenoted

prisoners — which you think would alert W.C.F. staff that Mr. [redacted] who is built like a young Harry Potter, is nuts & maybe shouldn't be beat on & semi-raped until a shrink tries to intervene!

But no. Thick-skulled guards prefer using force & degradation to treat insanity & emotional disturbances... and rehabilitate, or, more accurately, dehabilitate. Many prisoners may be crazy, or stupid, or both, but not so much of either that they don't know crap when it's flung on them. The lesson that they learn is that The system is brutal and calloused, if not outright unjust. So why should they, prisoners respect that system? Voila recidivism.<sup>1</sup>

For those of you readers who'd like to do something about this forenoted abuse, you can. Please refer the following persons to this post, etc.:

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Hench, mon amies, hench!

Lovingly Yours,  
Nate

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Tell them we seek their representation on a class action & to contact me about this.

**f.n.1** For a carefully prepared analysis of this phenomenon, check out "Is Prison Increasing Crime?" 2008 Wis. L. Rev. 1049 (2008) by Martin H. Pritikin of Whittier Law School