

IN THE LIFE OF A CONNECTICUT PRISONER #8

By Richard Stevenson

Greetings free world! We are just coming off another lockdown because a young man who had been arrested for several robberies had committed suicide by hanging. For those of you who seem to think that we have it easy because we have a few amenities or because others have it worse, well, continue to educate yourselves in these matters. Get information first hand and write several people in prison and ask whatever questions you like. The vast majority of us are more than willing to let you know what really goes down in here.

When reading a news story about something that happened in prison 99% of the stories are missing elements that are exculpatory or are favorable to the prisoner. If there is a quote from a Department of Correction official regarding the actions or intentions of a prisoner they will usually exaggerate them. It's easy enough for you to find out what unit the incident occurred in and get the names of individuals housed there. Write and ask a few of them. You will almost always be surprised. Don't allow anyone to cause you to be afraid to contact us. While there are a few knuckleheads, most of us don't want to lose our mail privileges nor do we want to be placed on mail review. What most of you are not likely to know is that it is safer in a Connecticut prison than it is in the free world. In the past 21 years I have never witnessed an employee assaulted. Though I'm sure it happened, it is actually just that rare. While in this particular unit (South Block-2) 19 months there have only been about 3 fights amongst prisoners. Prisoners are far less likely to commit crimes while in prison than when they get out. So when you hear D.O.C. employees claim how dangerous their jobs are compare the Connecticut "Workplace Violence" stats from the Dept. of Labor to other occupations and see for yourself.

This doesn't mean that we are not suffering. You won't find anyone who has been through this for 10 years willing to volunteer for another 10. Take it from me, the psychological and emotional suffering is immeasurable.

Rich.