

I COMMENT THIS BOOK
TO OUR COMMUNAL
INQUISITIVE UNIVERSE:

THE PUNISHMENT IMPERATIVE
THE RISE AND FAILURE OF MASS
INCARCERATION IN AMERICA

AUTHORS: TODD R. CLEAR AND
NATASHA A. FROST

\$30.00 [] CLOTH

NYU PRESS

KEEP WONDERING!!!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATE D: DECEMBER 6, 2014



MY GUARDIAN ANGEL



One night I had a dream; it left a tale to tell.
I dreamed I saw an angel; poor thing he wasn't well.
His body was bruised and battered; his wings were ripped
and torn.
I say that he could barely walk; he looked so tired and
worn.
I walked right up and asked him, "How can this be?"
He turned and paused a bit; these words he spoke to me:

"I am your Guardain Angel, a great task as you
can see.

You have run amuck all year; look what you've
done to me.

These bruises are from shielding you, in times of
dire ill.

The alcohol and drugs you used so dangerously,
I've paid for you that bill.

My wings you say are ripped and torn, a noble
badge I bear.

They've flown for you so many times, from evils
unaware.

Each mark has its own story of deadly wound
destroyed.

You've made me wish more than once that I was
unemployed.

If only you could make it, standing on your own;
but please don't fret or worry, you are never left alone.

I'm here to watch over you until my powers fail.

You've made it much easier sitting in jail."

I could hardly believe what I had seen, let alone how much
he cared.

I wept on his broad shoulders and left him in despair.

When I looked in the mirror the next morning I pondered,
why should I try?

Then distantly I thought I heard a

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN

FRAIL OLD ANGEL CRY!

BY: LEON IRBY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2014

THESE BOOKS ARE COMMENDED
TO THE COMMUNAL UNIVERSAL
INQUISTIVE MIND :

A] UNDOCUMENTED: HOW IMMIGRATION
BECAME ILLEGAL

AUTHOR AVYA CHOMSKY

IMMIGRATION WASN'T ALWAYS ILLEGAL
AND IN THIS FIERCELY ARGUED BOOK
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ACTIVIST AVYA
CHOMSKY EXPLAINS HOW THAT CHANGED
AND WHY IT MATTERS.

B]. BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE: THE
END OF JUVENILE PRISON

AUTHOR NELL BERNSTEIN
[THE NEW PRESS]

BY: LEON Z RBY

1081 DATED: DEC. 11/2014

MESSAGE TO THE UNIVERSE
[IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE]!!
WILL YOU RECIEVE THIS MESSAGE ??

This is an old, albeit, ongoing
NEWS: "Woman alleges body cavity
Search in public" Milwaukee Police
Targeted minorities, suit contends.
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL - BY
BRUCE VIELMETT, bvietmet@journal
sentinel.com MAY 31, 2014...

IN BRIEF NEWS: for several years
, circa 2011 to 2013, some officers
of the MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
[MPD] target random Black women
and men in their "BLACK COMMUNITY"
and then subjected them to illeg-
al and outrageous instructive street
intrusive public strip searches...

Officer Michael Vagnini - white...

used sometimes his naked hand
or the victims underwear on their
genitals [PENISES] and finger in-
serted to perform Anal Searches
["forceful Penetration of his anus"].
He was subsequently criminally
convicted and sentenced to Prison.

FOR THE REST OF THIS FANTASTIC
STORY GO TO: "5 men join body
cavity search lawsuit Total Number
of Plaintiff is now 13" MILWAUKEE
JOURNAL SENTINEL BY BRUCE VIELMETTI
bvietmetti@a-journal-sentinel.com
August 20, 2014

By: LEON ZIRBY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2014
2 of 2

THE EYES TO SEE

How can I have the eyes to see what others cannot! I see things that are not of this world anymore. She left into the Spiritual world many years ago, but here I keep seem her! Before me she smile and lough like it was yesterday when we were together! She comes and leave in and into the outdoors! She comes back and gives me ahug, the hugs I missed from her!

Than she reaches for my hands with a desperate rush and than she goes. Her hands felt so cold and my body felt a chill as if I was to fall!

Only I have the eyes to see, no one of this world can see her next to me even when I ask do you see her there? It puzzles my mind as we are to believe that once someone die they can't come back again! What an emmense gift this is and how you fill that void of loneliness deep inside my heart. I love to see you all the times, and here you are like magic, am I still of this world to see you that disparted to the spiritual world long ago? Can you tell me in a word or two am I alive or dead too?

MY LOVE SWEET LOVE

My love sweet love! How gentle are your caresses and how pleasant the warmth of your breath as we embrace each others and looking into our eyes! Those eyes are the window to our souls, have so much to see, so much to know.

My love sweet love, this gift of yourself to me, how precious and brings me ecstasy each and every day as I reflect it eases my mind when life is not okay.

This power that we share is a secret other do not mastered yet! How to love unconditionally!

My lovew sweet love you are the best and nothing like the rest! You are my treassure my everything.

My love sweet love you are the reasons that enable me to survive and enjoy my life! I adore you sweet heart of mine.

MISSING YOU

You have been gone for so long now. You are missed by me and and the loneliness and empty space of our home is hard to see.

In missing you each day I learn and know that when you truely love someone deeply within the heart that we belonge together not apart.

I wish I can hold you in my arms, like I use to, and tell you the things I shall have say, sudly, however, loneliness, that rude companion is the only things beside me. Where are you? You are not here!

Loneliness has taken your place and here I endure the hardest of test!

Missing you all day long and longing for you to be in my arms and here at home but all I can do is imagine that you'll be back someday, I do hold special all the memories of what used to be, when you was here.

WRITTEN BY MY CUBAN AMIGIO LENE

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: DEC. 14, 2014

WONDERING... AGAIN !!!

DON'T NO COUNTRY
FEAR OBAMA,

BUT THE UNITED STATES...

THE SINGLE-HANDELY
STOLE "OUR COUNTRY"!!!]

— REPUBLICANS/TEA PARTY

LEON...

KEEP WONDERING

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2014

SHOUT OUT

TO STELLAR ACTOR

VIOLA DAVIS

CONGRATULATIONS ! ! ! !

FOR NOMINATION

FOR

GOLDEN GLOBE

AWARD ! !

FOR ABC

"HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER"

BEST ACTOR ! !

ACTOR VIOLA DAVIS

so much, they've nominated her for eight Golden Globes, including her performances in 2010's "Duplicity" and 2008's "Charlie Wilson's War." But they didn't go for her AIDS doctor with polio in Ryan Murphy's adaptation of "The Normal Heart" for HBO.

SNUB: "The Walking Dead."

AMC's "The Walking Dead" was only nominated once before for season one, which is more than most orgs have given it. Even though it's the biggest drama on TV -- and critics felt like season five experienced a creative surge -- it would probably take an actual zombie apocalypse for any recognition from a major awards body.

SNUB: "Homeland."

Wither "Homeland"? Showtime's creatively revived drama fell off the Globes list last year after a poorly received third season. But the show was back in top form for season four. Problem is, once you're out of the Globes' good graces, it's very difficult to get back in. And all the extra competition from Showtime's massive drama slate -- including nominee "The Affair" and un-nommed "Masters of Sex," "Penny Dreadful" and "Ray Donovan" -- couldn't have helped.

SNUB: Benedict Cumberbatch, "Sherlock."

He was nominated for "The Imitation Game," but snubbed on the TV side for his Emmy-winning role in "Sherlock." The best actor in a TV miniseries category was packed with heavyweights like Martin Freeman ("Fargo"), Woody Harrelson ("True Detective"), Matthew McConaughey ("True Detective"), Mark Ruffalo ("The Normal Heart") and Billy Bob Thornton ("Fargo").

SNUB: Kerry Washington, "Scandal."

Like the Screen Actors Guild, the Hollywood Foreign Press forgot to nominate Kerry Washington for "Scandal" since apparently they could only find room for one actress from a Shonda Rhimes show (Viola Davis in "How to Get Away With Murder").

SNUB: "Brooklyn Nine-Nine."

The Andy Samberg Fox comedy was a darkhorse winner last year in this category, but it didn't get any love for season two. Instead, the Globes nominated three other freshman shows -- "Silicon Valley," "Transparent" and "Jane the Virgin" -- along with "Girls" and "Orange Is the New Black." Unlike most awards shows, which nominate the same series every year, the Globes seem to forget established shows like "The Big Bang Theory," "Modern Family," "Louie," "Veep" and "Parks and Recreation," which were also snubbed.

SNUB: Amy Poehler, "Parks and Recreation."

The Globes dumped Poehler after she won the category last year.

SURPRISE: Wes Anderson, "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

This is the first time Anderson has been nominated for best director at the Globes. It's a surprise that he was included at the expense of more high-profile directors like Angelina Jolie ("Unbroken"), Clint Eastwood

("American Sniper"), Christopher Nolan ("Interstellar"), Bennett Miller ("Foxcatcher") and Morten Tyldum ("The Imitation Game"). His comedy, which also appeared in the best picture Globes category and landed a SAG ensemble nomination, is picking up awards season steam, even though the Fox Searchlight indie was released early in the year.

SURPRISE: "Pride."

The Hollywood Foreign Press shined the spotlight on the little-seen CBS Film indie about a group of gay-rights activists who joined the 1984 British coal-miners strike. They chose it over "Big Eyes," "Begin Again," "Inherent Vice" and "Annie."

SURPRISE: Joaquin Phoenix, "Inherent Vice."

P.T. Anderson's latest is his most alienating film yet, but the Globes still found room for Joaquin Phoenix's trippy performance.

SURPRISE: Quvenzhané Wallis, "Annie"

The Sony Pictures musical remake has been surrounded by bad buzz, but perhaps Wallis' inclusion isn't all that surprising given that the Globes love musicals (they once nominated "Burlesque" for best picture) and they owe her for not previously recognizing her Oscar-nominated performance as Hushpuppy in 2012's "Beasts of the Southern Wild."

SURPRISE: "Transparent" makes history for Amazon.

It was a huge morning for Amazon Studios as the critically acclaimed "Transparent" landed noms for comedy series and lead actor Jeffrey Tambor. That's the first recognition for the upstart digital player from a major awards show, and well deserved for Jill Soloway's semi-autobiographical dramedy.

SURPRISE: "Game of Thrones."

This is the first nomination for "Game of Thrones" in the Globes' drama series category since its first season. Globe voters snubbed seasons 2 and 3 (despite The Red Wedding!). It's incredibly rare for a show to pop back into contention after dropping out, so fanboys should be extra psyched that the Westeros gang is now back in the HFPA's good graces.

SURPRISE: "The Missing."

Imported from the BBC, Starz miniseries "The Missing" was a surprise inclusion in both the top TV movie/mini category and in lead actress for Frances O'Connor. The eight-part series follows the search for a missing boy in France and follows in the footsteps of last year's powerhouse Starz entries "The White Queen" and "Dancing on the Edge" (which earned that now infamous upset win for Jacqueline Bisset).

SURPRISE: "Jane the Virgin" gets some love.

The CW usually isn't the first network anyone thinks of when it comes to awards (or even the 21st network). But "Jane the Virgin" may change all of that. The whip-smart spin on telenovelas landed semi-surprising noms for both best comedy series and breakout lead actress Gina Rodriguez. This isn't entirely

new territory for the Globes (they did give Keri Russell a trophy for The WB's "Felicity"), but there were audible gasps at the Beverly Hilton when Rodriguez was announced as a nominee. And more gasps of delighted surprise when the series was announced.

'Two and a Half Men' departs in February
After 12 seasons and some changes in men, CBS' *Two and a Half Men* will end its run with a one-hour finale on Feb. 19 (9 p.m. ET/PT).

Matthew Perry's new version of *The Odd Couple*, which features him as unrepentant slob Oscar Madison and Thomas Lennon as neat freak Felix Unger, will premiere the same night at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT.

Men stars Jon Cryer and Ashton Kutcher, with Chuck Lorre serving as executive producer. When the comedy premiered, Cryer, a two-time Emmy winner for the role of Alan Harper, starred with the since-departed Charlie Sheen and Angus T. Jones. *Men* will finish with 262 episodes.

After *Men* departs, CBS will have a Lorre-heavy Thursday comedy lineup starting Feb. 26, which will open with an original episode of Lorre's *The Big Bang Theory* followed by *Odd Couple*. A *Big Bang* rerun will be broadcast at 9 p.m. ET/PT and *Mom*, another Lorre show, will move later in the evening, taking over the 9:30 p.m. ET/PT slot.

The plan is to run all 15 episodes of *The McCarthys* (now running Thursday, 9:30 p.m. ET/PT) that CBS had ordered. No announcement has been made about its future beyond that point.

'Mockingjay' maintains iron grip on box office

Power-mad President Snow would be impressed with *Mockingjay's* unbending rule. For the third week in a row, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1* has led the box office, earning \$21.6 million, according to studio estimates from Rentrak.

The third film in the *Hunger Games* franchise was aided by the notoriously slow post-Thanksgiving release weekend. There were no serious challengers.

"*The Hunger Games* is too mighty for any movie entering the arena," says Rentrak analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "*Mockingjay* steamrolls along and everyone gets out of the way."

The movie passed *Transformers: Age of Extinction* (\$245 million) among top domestic box office performers of the year with \$257.7 million. It barely trails *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (\$259.8 million) and *The Lego Movie* (\$257.8 million).

"But *Mockingjay* will leapfrog both of them soon to get to number two," says Dergarabedian.

Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy* remains the top domestic grossing movie of the year at \$332.5 million.

The ancient Egypt-themed horror film *The Pyramid* ran into its own box office mummy curse in its opening weekend, earning \$1.35 million at 589 theaters. Critics crushed the

BY: LEON I RBY

2 OF 2

DATED: DEC. 15, 2014

together and share information and industry-government technology. It was canceled in 2001. The project yielded demonstration vehicles rated 72 to 80 mpg, but they couldn't be priced right for mainstream sales.

When VW showed CrossBlue at the Detroit auto show last January, it said the powertrain was fantasy because it would cost too much. VW forecast that such a plug-in diesel-electric hybrid would be rated 35 mpg in a city/highway mix, and 89 mpg-equivalent in electric-only mode.

A 2015 Q7 with a diesel engine is rated 19 mpg in the city, 28 on the highway and 22 in combined driving. Audi offers no forecast of mpg ratings for a Q7 diesel-electric plug-in hybrid.

The fuel-cost reductions of such a vehicle would have to outweigh the higher price to make economic sense to buyers. It's getting harder to do that as fuel prices fall.

Automotive News says that Audi's Hackenberg said the automaker will offer plug-in diesel variants in the U.S., but didn't specify which models. The combination of power and economy in an Audi plug-in diesel would make it popular in the U.S., Hackenberg said.

Audi CEO Rupert Stadler said, "We strongly believe in plug-in hybrids" at the launch of the A3 Sportback e-tron, the automaker's first plug-in hybrid, which uses a gas-electric combination.

Better Than Organic: Why Lab-Grown Produce Is the Future

Here's a thought: Some 40 percent of the world's food production takes place within 12 miles of a city. That's not surprising, considering that more and more people are moving into urban centers, but it does raise some concerns.

One big issue is cross-contamination between farm and city environments. Each ecosystem has pollutants that can wreak havoc on the other. Still, you can't ignore the advantages of growing food close to a dense population center. Anyone have any solutions?

As it turns out, Toshiba does.

The tech conglomerate has retrofitted one of its floppy disk factories in Yokosuka, Japan, into a clean room produce farm. The indoor facility uses fluorescent lights and hydroponic techniques to grow leafy greens like lettuce and spinach. A company press release details how the operation is a completely closed loop, meaning everything is handled in a nearly aseptic environment, from seeding to packaging.

But why repurpose an expensive electronics factory to grow lettuce when you could just do that outside? Well, there are two really good reasons, and both have to do with the aseptic nature of Toshiba's farm.

First of all, you don't need to use pesticides and other hazardous chemicals. That means Toshiba's lettuce comes out of the "ground" entirely free of man-made contaminants, and doesn't require washing. In fact, washing these veggies in your sink would probably make them dirtier.

It's a particularly smart move to start off growing lettuce and spinach, since both appear on the USDA's Dirty Dozen list—a group of produce items that have tested positive for *at least* 47 different chemicals. The second major benefit is shelf life—something leafy greens typically have in short supply. They wilt, get mushy, and become unpresentable pretty quickly. Aside from being less tasty, wilted vegetables can also have less nutritional value since certain vital nutrients—like vitamin C—are volatile and fall apart in wilting vegetables.

The second major benefit is shelf life—something leafy greens typically have in short supply.

Microorganisms are the primary culprit in vegetable rot, and since Toshiba's clean rooms are free of foreign contaminants, they're also free of those creepy crawlies. Toshiba is banking the idea that consumers will want vegetables that are chemical-free, last longer, and are more nutritious. The factory is estimated to produce approximately 3.9 million pounds of produce and generate 2.5 million dollars per year. If it proves a success, who knows—you could soon see a vertical farm sprout in a city near you.

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS: 26 BIGGEST SNUBS AND SURPRISES

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association loves to nominate celebrities, but this year, they left a few off the list -- no Angelina Jolie for directing "Unbroken," no Ben Affleck for "Gone Girl," no Bradley Cooper for "American Sniper" and no Julia Roberts for HBO's "The Normal Heart." The Golden Globes voters, made up of less than 100 foreign journalists, don't overlap with the Academy, but because their nominations are announced just days before the Oscars nominating window, they are an influential group in terms of giving performances a boost. And the big winners after Thursday morning's announcement included Jake Gyllenhaal for "Nightcrawler," Jennifer Aniston in "Cake," David Oyelowo for "Selma" and "Birdman," which landed more nominations than any other film (seven). On the TV side, the Globes proved to once again be the hippest awards show, by including freshman series like "Jane the Virgin," "Silicon Valley" and "Transparent."

Here are the 26 biggest snubs and surprises.

SNUB: "Unbroken" gets shut out of everything.

The high-profile Universal project, directed by Angelina Jolie, about World War II hero Louis Zamperini was expected to appear in the best drama category. It not only got snubbed there, but didn't pick up a single nomination -- not for its lead actor (Jack O'Connell), supporting actor (Takamasa Ishihara), screenplay (by the Coen brothers) or director (Jolie).

SNUB: "Interstellar."

The Globes had previously singled out Christopher Nolan in the directing category for 2010's "Inception," but his new space epic -- the most emotional movie of his career --

didn't land any nominations. Its star Matthew McConaughey was instead recognized for his TV work in "True Detective."

SNUB: Bradley Cooper, "American Sniper."

It's a shame that Cooper (above) isn't getting more awards season attention for the most transformative performance of his career -- he packed on 40 pounds to play Navy Seal Chris Kyle. The Warner Bros. drama also got shut out of best picture, best director (Clint Eastwood) and best supporting actress (Sienna Miller).

SNUB: Channing Tatum, "Foxcatcher."

Steve Carell made it into the best actor race for his creepy turn as John du Pont, but there was a hope from Sony Pictures Classics that Channing Tatum would also make the cut for playing Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz.

SNUB: Ben Affleck, "Gone Girl."

The Globes recognized the film's director (David Fincher), female lead (Rosamund Pike) and screenplay (Gillian Flynn), but not its male star.

SNUB: Marion Cotillard, "Two Days, One Night."

You would think that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association would find room for the French actress' stellar turn in the Dardenne brothers' drama, especially after her performance got notices from the New York Film Critics Circle and Boston Society of Film Critics Awards last week.

SNUB: Laura Dern, "Wild."

Both the Hollywood Foreign Press and the Screen Actors Guild (which announced yesterday) overlooked Dern in the supporting actress category for playing Cheryl Strayed's mom in "Wild." She could still rebound for the Oscars.

SNUB: "Top Five."

The Golden Globes somehow neglected to nominate the funniest comedy of the year in the best comedy category. They also shut out its actors Chris Rock and Rosario Dawson.

SNUB: "Begin Again."

The John Carney indie seemed tailor-made for the Golden Globes' best musical/comedy category, but it didn't land a best picture nomination, a best actress notice for Keira Knightley (who picked up a best supporting actress in "The Imitation Game") or best actor for Mark Ruffalo (who got in for both "Foxcatcher" and "The Normal Heart"). And most outrageous of all, the Globes didn't even include the addictive ballad "Lost Stars" (performed by Adam Levine) as best song.

SNUB: Bill Hader, "The Skeleton Twins."

This is the kind of breakthrough performance -- Hader played a depressed gay man in the Sundance darling -- that the Globes are usually good at honoring in their comedy categories.

SNUB: Jenny Slate, "Obvious Child."

The same goes for this A24 Sundance comedy about a Brooklyn 30-something who gets dumped by her boyfriend.

SNUB: Julia Roberts, "The Normal Heart."

The Hollywood Foreign Press adores Roberts

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING



PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



NO GARDEN WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE

AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE!

UNKNOWN

BY: LEON IRBY

DATE D: DECEMBER 14, 2014



THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning our Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

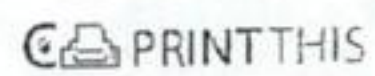
P Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

My gracious God, forgive me for murmuring and complaining about other people, even when they are really annoying. Forgive me for always thinking that I know the best way to do things, even better than your way. Forgive me for bad attitudes, for moping, sulking, pouting, grumbling, and putting my foot down where it has no business being. Can you possibly take all of that and remake me into an obedient child of yours? Can you give me a heart that radiates your glory to a needy world? Yes, you can and you do—work it out in me.



"Well, at least they came to church first."



Watchdog Report

Secretive system keeps parole-eligible inmates behind bars

By Gina Barton of the Journal Sentinel
July 12, 2014

By all accounts, Anthony K. Brown is no longer a danger to society.

Officials at Oakhill Correctional Institution, a minimum-security prison in Dane County, trust Brown so much they allow him to leave the lockup unsupervised almost every day to work on a state-owned farm.

He gets there, Brown says, in a Department of Corrections van driven by a fellow inmate.

In 2010, the Wisconsin Parole Commission decided Brown — one of three men convicted in a 1987 armed robbery that resulted in the victim's death — was rehabilitated and should be allowed to hold down a job in the community in preparation for his release.

During the robbery, Brown, then 17, shot the victim once in the back, wounding him as he tried to run away. One of his co-defendants then fired five shots into the victim's head, killing him.

The man who fired the fatal shots was paroled years ago.

But Brown, 43, is still in custody. He is among about 400 minimum security inmates who are eligible for parole but remain in prison. The taxpayer cost to keep them there is more than \$15 million a year — part of a skyrocketing corrections budget that now surpasses that of the University of Wisconsin System.

"The process in place now is completely irrational," said former Department of Justice administrator Jerry Hancock, who now directs the prison ministry at First Congregational Church in Madison. "It doesn't enhance public safety and it wastes a huge amount of money."

A secretive system that robs the parole board of its power is to blame.

State law gives the parole board the authority to release prisoners it deems rehabilitated if their crimes were committed before truth in sentencing took effect at the end of 1999. But in practice, a little-known administrative rule at the Department of Corrections, written 20 years earlier, transfers that authority to prison employees.

What's more, the Corrections Department says it does not keep official records of which workers are part of the internal decision-making groups, known as program review committees. As a result, they are accountable to no one outside the system — including the public.

Here's how it happens:

The parole board cannot release prisoners until they have met certain standards, such as getting drug or alcohol treatment and behaving well in a minimum-security setting.

But it's up to the program review committee at each prison — not the parole board — to enroll inmates in counseling or move them to a low-risk facility. If the committees don't follow through, there is nothing the parole board can do about it. As a result, inmates can't meet the standards and aren't paroled.

Inmates may appeal the committees' decisions only to Department of Corrections officials, not to the courts.

Parole board members have resigned themselves to the situation.

"Hopefully we can work together, but let's be real: We don't always agree on every single case. And I have to respect that," Parole Commissioner Steven Landreman said of the parole board's relationship with the committees. "If they don't agree with me today, I maybe hope six months from now they'll agree."

His statements came at a Feb. 19 meeting between officials from the parole board and the Corrections Department and a group of faith leaders and activists known as WISDOM.

Since that meeting, an audio recording of which was obtained by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Gov. Scott Walker, who oversees both the Department of Corrections and the Parole Commission, has declined to speak with representatives of the group.

As a result, more than 100 people protested at the Capitol last week, demanding Walker reform the Corrections Department and its policies, which they called cruel, immoral and an unnecessary drain on taxpayers. The demonstrators want each of the some 2,800 people whose sentences allow for parole — including the 400 housed in minimum security — to have the opportunity for fair hearings in the public eye.

Further, Walker should mandate that the parole commission and the program review committees work together, said David Liners, executive director of WISDOM.

"We're not saying just throw the doors open and let everyone out," he said. "But we need to take a fresh look at every case and be sure that we release the people that are able to be released."

Walker, through his spokeswoman, Laurel Patrick, declined to be interviewed. Walker staffers already have met with WISDOM, and the Department of Corrections produced a report in response to the group's concerns, Patrick said in an email.

"The report highlights the fact that 95 percent of the 'close to 3,000 parole-eligible inmates' cited by WISDOM are still serving time for violent offenses" such as robbery, battery, sexual assault and homicide, she said.

Patrick did not answer specific questions regarding the program review committees or the 400 inmates in minimum security.

More inmates, costs

Wisconsin's prison population has tripled since 1990, increasing from about 7,000 to more than 22,000. The amount spent on corrections rose 620% through 2012, not accounting for inflation. The corrections budget for 2013-'15 is \$2.54 billion.

In Wisconsin, truth in sentencing eliminated the possibility of parole for anyone whose crime occurred on or after Dec. 31, 1999. Under the law, among the toughest in the nation, all prisoners must serve every day of the sentence imposed by a judge. Unlike many other states, which reserve truth in sentencing for serious offenses, Wisconsin's law applies to all crimes, not just violent ones. Inmates get no credit for good behavior.

Walker authored the legislation when he served in the Assembly. He has said his main goal was not longer sentences but certainty for victims about how long perpetrators would spend behind bars.

But longer sentences have become the reality.

A Journal Sentinel analysis published in 2004 found that both prison and extended supervision time significantly increased under truth in sentencing. The trend shows no sign of abating.

Meanwhile, the number of inmates released on parole has decreased dramatically in recent years, from 1,146 in 2005 to 132 in 2012, the most recent figure available.

Corrections officials say the reason for the drop is simple: About 19,000 of Wisconsin's inmates, more than 85% of the total, are subject to truth in sentencing and cannot be released early.

"Over time, you have less people eligible for parole, so you have less parole taking place," Tony Streveler, director of research and policy for the Corrections Department, told the group at the February meeting.

Nonetheless, about 2,800 people whose sentences allow for parole — including the 400 housed in minimum security — are in prison today, at a total cost of about \$100 million a year.

These prisoners become eligible for parole after serving 25% of their sentences. In most cases, they are required to be paroled after serving two-thirds of their time. In the interim, it is ostensibly up to parole commissioners to decide which prisoners deserve early release.

For example, an inmate sentenced to 20 years under the old law would become eligible for parole after five years. After 13 years and three months — the two-thirds mark — the inmate must be paroled. (A few exceptions apply for people who committed serious felonies between April 1994 and the end of 1999.) In between, these inmates are entitled to be considered for parole.

"I believed in the parole system and I believed if they did well in prison they would be seriously considered for parole," Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David Hansher said in an interview. "Under old sentencing practices, we took that into consideration. We gave longer terms at that time because we expected they could be paroled."

"Now (under truth in sentencing) the sentences are shorter because we believe they are going to serve each and every day of the sentence."

Other circuit court judges, including Bruce E. Schroeder of Kenosha County and C. William Foust of Dane County, have made similar statements.

Patrick, the governor's spokeswoman, pointed out that 2,000 of the parole-eligible offenders are serving time for rape and murder.

But those crimes don't preclude parole or placement in minimum security. Brown, for example, was convicted of being a party to the crimes of armed robbery and first-degree murder, and a judge decided he should be eligible for release after serving 14 years and three months. So far, he has been locked up nearly twice that long.

Liners, of WISDOM, says men like Brown deserve a chance for parole with cooperation from program review committees.

"They *were* violent criminals," he said. "The question is: Are they still?"

Release dates not set

Under the law, it is up to a single parole commissioner to answer that question for each prisoner. No inmate meets with the entire parole board, although individual commissioners sometimes consult with the board chair.

The governor appoints the chair of the parole board. The other parole commissioners are hired via the state's civil

service process.

Commissioners rarely decided to release someone on the spot, and they never set a future date certain for release, according to Landreman.

"I can't just come into a hearing and tell an inmate, 'Well, you've got two more years to do. We'll let you out in two years.' That's not how it works," he said at the February meeting. "There's a lot of factors in considering how much time an individual needs to do based on all of the factors with that inmate and his situation."

Instead, the commissioner tells the inmate when they want to meet again and what they want him or her to do in the meantime. But Landreman conceded that commissioners have no authority to ensure program review committees follow through on giving the inmates those opportunities.

"We try to work with them the best we can and give them cues when we feel the inmate is ready," he said. "But ultimately it's their decision."

The administrative rule that created program review committees lists almost no standards for serving on them.

Each correctional institution has its own committee. The committee chairs must hold the position of "classification specialist" — a job that does not require any specific education or work experience, although it does require an exam. Committee chairs are selected by the director of the department's Bureau of Classification and Movement. There must be at least one other committee member, a prison employee chosen by the warden.

Last month, Department of Corrections spokeswoman Joy Staab said she could not provide the Journal Sentinel with committee members' names because there are no department records that list them. There also is no set length of time for how long employees serve on the committees.

Staab said most wardens choose two or three prison staff members to work with the chair on their respective committees, generally representing some combination of the security, social services and education departments.

After Staab declined to disclose the names, the Journal Sentinel contacted the wardens of 37 facilities individually by mail, requesting a list of committee members, their job titles, the number of years they have worked at the institution and the length of time they have served on the committee.

In response, Staab provided a spreadsheet that listed only committee members' names and job titles.

Under the parole system, program review committees' decisions were routine because all inmates were on equal footing when it came to programs such as substance abuse counseling or anger management.

Today, the large group of prisoners sentenced under truth in sentencing and the much smaller group eligible for parole are constantly competing for space in programs. Demand always exceeds supply — and some facilities don't even offer the programs required for parole.

In order to allow inmates to finish their programs before they re-enter the community, decisions about who can enroll are based on release dates: The sooner the release date, the more likely a prisoner is to get a slot.

For parole-eligible inmates, the program review committees use the two-thirds threshold rather than the 25% threshold, a corrections official said at the February meeting.

That means committees assume someone with a 20-year sentence won't be released until he has served 13 years and three months — even though he is eligible for parole after five years.

As a result, truth-in-sentencing inmates — whose sentences tend to fall somewhere between one-fourth and two-thirds of what they would have been under the old law — almost always get priority for programming, leaving

parole-eligible inmates constantly shifted to the back of the line.

In an email to the Journal Sentinel, Staab contradicted what was said in the meeting. The two-thirds date is "of high interest" to program review committee members, but they also consider the 25% date and other dates, including when the inmate first got to prison, Staab said.

The process subjects prisoners hoping for parole to "a level of almost cruelty," Hancock told parole commission members and corrections officials at the February meeting.

Linda Ketcham, director of the Madison-Area Urban Ministry, questioned whether the tax money spent to keep people such as Brown locked up could be better spent.

"Does incarceration really serve any good at this point?" she said. "Does it serve any useful purpose? What else could we use that \$38,000 a year for?"

A different person now

Brown contends he is a different person from the teenager who committed armed robbery in 1987. Brown shot the victim, Jesse Gamino, 36, in the back before co-defendant Adam J. Howard killed him with multiple shots to the head. The robbery netted \$4. Brown and the two other robbers, also teens at the time, spent the money on a six-pack of beer and a bottle of wine.

Howard was released from prison in 2011, according to online Department of Corrections records. The third co-defendant, Johnny L. Conner, who did not have a gun, was freed in 2008.

Brown took his case to trial and lost. At his sentencing, the judge estimated Brown would be released on parole between 14 and 20 years after the crime — as soon as 2001, according to a transcript.

While incarcerated, Brown has earned his high school equivalency degree, participated in substance abuse counseling and earned a certificate in culinary arts, among other things. He also has completed a parenting class, even though he doesn't have children.

"It was a senseless crime that took place. I'm fully aware of that," Brown said in a telephone interview. "Everybody makes mistakes — some bigger than others. I made a huge mistake, but I'm no longer the same kid I was at 17. I'm thinking for myself now. I'm an adult."

No relatives of Gamino spoke at Brown's sentencing hearing, and none could be located for comment via a public records search.

Brown has completed all the programs parole commissioners and prison officials deem necessary for his rehabilitation. Four years ago, the parole board recommended he be placed in community custody, the lowest security classification, which allows inmates to get jobs at local businesses.

Four months ago, Brown was given a job milking cows on the 540-acre Oregon state farm, which surrounds the prison.

But the program review committee has not yet allowed him to be moved to community custody — usually the final step before parole.

Last month, Brown was denied parole for the 11th time.

The parole commissioner wants to see him again in January.

Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/secretive-system-keeps-parole-eligible-inmates-behind-bars-b99307603z1-266891491.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

BY: LEON IRBY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2014

7/29/2014 2:54 PM

WISCONSIN STATE GOVERNOR'S RACE 2014

UPDATE: OCTOBER 27, 2014

POST; NOV. 4, 2014 ELECTION COMMENTS:

WHO IS AN ANGRY WHITE MEN/MAN?

(D) Candidate Mary Burke lost
Because the States white men
Reflected in Proir October 3,
2014 MARQUETTE E LAW SCHOOL
POLITICAL POLL SHOWED; MEN FAVORED
(R) "DIVIDE" US [CAUGHT ON VIDEO
TELLING STATE BILLIONAIRE DIANE HENDRICK
HOW WHEN ELECTED IN 2010 HOW
HE WOULD DIVIDE THE VOTERS; THEN
TURN-OVER WISCONSIN TO THE 1%...]
Twice (THrice) ... 2010, 2012
RECALL; 2014] ELECTED GOV. Scott
Walker 62% OVER (D) Burke
34%

SEE LOCAL MADISON WHA21 PBS "HERE
AND NOW" WPT. OP9 OCTOBER 3, 2014
FRIDAY... 7:PM. CST,

WENT SOLIDLY BACK TO RE-ELECT
WALKER ON NOV. 4, 2014...

BLINDED BY THE "MANTRA" OF IMM-
IGRATION AND "FREE MONEY IN
POCKET [i.e. PHONY TAX CUT]!

THEY TOO SOON FORGOT PRE-
SIDENT RONLD W. REAGAN [1981-
1989] "SUPPLY SIDERS":

"THERE IS NO FREE
LUNCH" !!!

KEEP ON WONDERING!!

BY: LEONIRBY

2 of 2 DATED: DEC. 15, 2014

ADULT CONTENT..

THE KISS !!!

"I KISSED A GIRL"..

TAYLOR SWIFT, 25

UPDATE: SEPT 18, 2014

NEW LIFE OF TAYLOR SWIFT

THE "GIRLIE" KISS...

TAYLOR AND NYC NEW ROOMMATE

LOVELY, STUNNING SUPERMODEL

KARLIE KLOSS

PICTURED SUCKING-TONGUE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!

By: LEON IRBY DATED: DECEMBER 15, 2014

SHOUT- OUT

GOLF CHAMP TIGER WOODS

CHAMP DO YOURSELF; MS. VONN;
YOUR GOLF WORLD FANS AND
GOLF ...

A BIG TIME FAVOR:

SAVE SOME OF INDOORS SPORTS
FOR THE
GOLF COURSE!!!

PLAY GOLF... CHAMP!

CAN DO!!

XOXO!!!

1 of 2

Alabama, Oregon, Florida State, Ohio State make first College Football Playoff Alabama will meet Ohio State and Oregon will face Florida State in the inaugural College Football Playoff.

The top four seeds, announced Sunday afternoon, will play in the Sugar and Rose Bowls Jan. 1, with No. 1 Alabama playing No. 4 Ohio State in New Orleans at 8:30 p.m. ET and No. 2 Oregon playing No. 3 Florida State in Pasadena, Calif., at 5 p.m. ET.

The winners of those games will meet for the national championship on Jan. 12 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

As expected, the fourth spot of the four-team field was the most contentious. Three teams — Ohio State, TCU and Baylor — all made compelling cases for securing the spot. Baylor finished No. 5 in the Playoff rankings, and TCU was sixth. The Big 12 was the lone Power Five conference left out of the Playoff. TCU had been No. 3 in the rankings entering Sunday's final decision by the Playoff selection committee.

"It was really about Ohio State's moving up, their performance on the field that made the difference to the committee to move them up," committee chairman Jeff Long said on ESPN.

All three won convincingly this weekend, with the Horned Frogs thrashing Iowa State, 55-3, Baylor beating Kansas State, 38-27, and Ohio State cruising to a 59-0 win over Wisconsin in the Big Ten championship game.

But all three also had blemishes on their résumés; the question became, Who had the smallest one?

Ohio State's issue was a brutal loss at home to Virginia Tech back in September. Baylor had the weakest non-conference schedule. TCU lost to Baylor.

"With the championship game, Ohio State demonstrated they were a total team and did overcome replacing two quarterbacks," Long said. "Ohio State's performance in a 13th game gave them a quality win over a highly ranked team. ... Ohio State earned that spot."

"It was really about Ohio State's movement up," Long added. "It was their performance on the field that made a difference to the committee. "We said going into this weekend that three through six was very close. I will say Ohio State was decisive at No. 4, they were voted in there clearly. Ohio State was clear-cut over five and six." Of TCU, Long added, "It looks like a long drop from three to six, but it was really 3a, 3b and 3c. It was razor close."

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said he returned home from Indianapolis around 4 a.m. but couldn't sleep. He spent time planning out recruiting travel for the coming week and eventually watched the final ranking reveal with athletic director Gene Smith, calling the overall experience "very stressful." Meyer and Alabama coach All of those weekly rankings — which gave a glimpse at what the committee was thinking and valuing — made Sunday's final reveal

TIGER WOODS

even more mysterious, outside of Alabama and Oregon, which were locked in for the top two spots. Would an undefeated ACC champion fall out of the final four entirely? Would Baylor leapfrog the team it beat? How much respect did the committee have for the Big Ten?

In short, there was no shortage of questions and/or controversy in the first year of the Playoff. Finally, on Sunday, there were some answers.

Perhaps the most interesting message Long and the committee sent on Sunday was one that came between the lines. By rewarding Florida State, which rose to No. 3 after beating Georgia Tech in the ACC title game, and Ohio State, which is in the field after winning the Big Ten title game in its 13th game, Long suggested that the reason the Big 12 got left out of the Playoff was its lack of a championship game. He said that the committee did not pick Ohio State to avoid the debate between the Big 12 co-champions and their head-to-head result; they did not choose the path of least resistance. Still, it remains clear that the lack of a title game and the labeling of co-champions hurt both Baylor and TCU

Tiger Woods says he made progress despite results

WINDERMERE, Fla. — Tiger Woods ended a miserable 2014 on Sunday by finishing in last place in the Hero World Challenge.

Yet he left Isleworth Golf and Country Club far from a defeated man.

Despite a short game that is ailing — he chunked nine chips this week and twice hit back-to-back chunks — and finishing with rounds of 77-70-69-72 and 26 shots behind winner Jordan Spieth, Woods can't wait for 2015.

"I made some progress. I hadn't played in four months and I'm in absolutely no pain, which is nice. To be able to go all out on some of these drives like I did this week really enforces that what I'm doing is the right thing for my body," said Woods, who played just nine tournaments and 29 rounds this year.

"... I've got my speed back now. Look how far I'm hitting it again now. That's nice. I just obviously need to clean up my short game. That still needs a lot of work. Again, it's progress."

"I'll probably practice maybe for the next week, and then I'll shut it down for the holidays and then get back up and do it," Woods said. "I like what I'm doing right now. I just want to reinforce it before I take my break. Obviously there are some things that I can do with my short game that I definitely can work on. Overall, it's so nice to be able to go out there and hit drives that hard again, take bunkers out of play, cut corners."

"I hadn't felt healthy enough to be able to do that in a very long time."

A healthy Woods has his colleagues excited, as well.

"I think it looks a lot better," Steve Stricker said of Woods' new swing. "He's going

through it a little freer. ... He looked like he was trying to steer it in play the last 5, 6, 7 years. Today it looked like he really let it go." In addition to working on his game, Woods will attend a meeting of the U.S. Ryder Cup task force in West Palm Beach this week. The following week he will be in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where his first golf course design opens.

Winter Meetings Recap: Fantasy value of Moss trade, other moves

One of the most action-packed Winter Meetings in history is now behind us. We've already wrapped up the fantasy impact of the major moves. Now let's take a lightning-round look at the minor ones that would have been front-page news in many of the more boring Winter Meetings of yore.

Who says power comes at a premium?

We've heard all about how power is hard to find these days, but then the Indians went out and found some in the form of Brandon Moss and they didn't have to give up anything significant in player cost.

Moss, 31, has quietly been one of the better hitters in the league over the last three seasons. Of course, his unsustainable half-season in 2012 when he hit .291/.358/.596 with 21 homers and 160 wRC+ in 296 plate appearances drove that, but the fact remains that he has 135 wRC+ in the last three years. Even last year, his worst during the stretch, he had a .772 OPS, 121 wRC+ and 25 homers in 580 plate appearances. There's plenty of reason to believe Moss can have the best season of his career playing here at Progressive Field. O.co Coliseum suppresses left-handed power to a significant degree. Progressive increases overall homers by 8.3 percent, and left-handed power specifically by 9 percent. On the flip side, O.co holds it down by 12 percent.

Dee Gordon gets the best gigs

Few of us get to work in Los Angeles for a few years, then leave for a new job in Miami, but that's exactly what Gordon did when the Dodgers sent him, along with Dan Haren, to South Beach as part of the three-team trade that landed them Howie Kendrick. Gordon joins a Marlins' team that hung around the wild-card race despite losing Jose Fernandez to a significant elbow injury that required Tommy John surgery. He also enjoyed a breakout fantasy season thanks to his speed, but there are some serious red flags with the second baseman. Gordon hit .289 and stole 64 bases last year, making the All-Star team for the first time in his career. If Gordon's batting average comes crashing down next season, his stolen bases will come with it. He's a very dangerous one-category player.

The Cubs get their catcher in Miguel Montero

BY: LEON IRBY

2 of 2

DATED: DEC. 15/2014

12-15-2014

Before making the biggest signing at the Winter Meetings, Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer filled the Cubs' hole behind the plate by trading two minor league pitchers for Montero, assuming the rest of his contract, which has \$40 million remaining over the next three seasons. The Cubs clearly needed an upgrade at the position from Welington Castillo and they got one, even though Montero has been bringing diminishing returns over the last two years. For Montero, he could not have landed in a better spot for a few reasons.

NBA Power Rankings:

Nobody has solved the Warriors in nearly a month, and there's a new team making a push in the Eastern Conference. Here are this week's rankings:

1. Golden State Warriors (18-2)

Last week: 1

The Warriors have won 13 straight games and are showing no signs of slowing down. The statistics prove they're earning wins in all the right ways and rookie coach Steve Kerr is pushing all the right buttons. However, there's serious work to be done should the Warriors' winning streak continue for another week. A home matchup against the Rockets and road games against Dallas and New Orleans are legitimate opportunities for someone to hand Golden State their first loss in a month.

2. San Antonio Spurs (15-5)

Last week: 3

After stumbling to an overtime loss to the Nets, the Spurs bounced back by beating the Grizzlies in Memphis, ending the Grizzlies' 22-game regular-season home winning streak. That, combined with a Nov. 11 win on the road against the Warriors gives the Spurs a resume no other team can match. Cruising to an easy win over the Timberwolves without needing Tony Parker or Manu Ginobili is nice, too.

3. Portland Trail Blazers (16-4)

Last week: 4

The bad news for the Trail Blazers is they'll play eight of their next 10 games on the road. The good news is the next four are against the Eastern Conference. LaMarcus Aldridge posted double-doubles in each of the Trail Blazers' last three games and garnered Western Conference Player of the Week honors for his efforts.

4. Houston Rockets (16-4)

Last week: 7

Coach Kevin McHale has steered the Rockets to a 7-2 record without Dwight Howard, with wins coming against quality opponents during that stretch. Howard isn't expected to return anytime soon but Donatas Motiejunas is filling in admirably, tallying 13.9 points and a team-best 7.6 rebounds over the last nine games.

5. Memphis Grizzlies (16-4)

Last week: 2

The Grizzlies finally came back down to Earth, losing back-to-back games to the Rockets and Spurs, but are still a force to be

reckoned with in the Western Conference and off to the best start in franchise history.

Perennial postseason underdogs, the Grizzlies might find themselves in uncharted waters as a top seed when the playoffs roll around.

6. Los Angeles Clippers (14-5)

Last week: 6

The Clippers have won seven games in a row, including a 120-100 dismantling of the Pelicans on Dec. 6. Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan are all playing as advertised, and five straight games against the East gives the Clippers a legitimate chance to do some catching up in the West in the coming weeks.

7. Dallas Mavericks (16-6)

Last week: 5

Scoring hasn't been a problem for the Mavericks season, but without a win against the cream of the crop in the Western Conference, the Mavericks are relatively unproven. Monta Ellis hit two game-winners this week to save the Mavericks against the Bulls and Bucks. Upcoming contests against the Grizzlies, Pelicans and Warriors offer plenty of chances for the Mavericks to grab a statement win or wilt away.

8. Cleveland Cavaliers (12-7)

Last week: 11

King James was his usual, dependable self Monday in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who were on hand to witness the Cavaliers make short work of the Nets, 110-88. The win was the Cavaliers' seventh in a row after a 5-7 start. The Cavaliers might have finally put all the pieces together to become the team that cruises to the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

9. Chicago Bulls (12-8)

Last week: 9

The Bulls have a lot to figure out. Derrick Rose hasn't looked anything like "healthy" Derrick Rose when on the floor, and the Bulls defense has been far from the standard they're used to. Chicago has opportunities to notch a quality win or two on the horizon, but for now the Bulls seem to be treading water.

10. Toronto Raptors (16-5)

Last week: 10

The loss of DeMar Derozan (groin) is wreaking havoc on the Raptors, most jarringly on the defensive end where they have conceded at least 100 points in eight consecutive games. After a Tuesday matchup with the Cavaliers, the Raptors have a soft schedule that should allow them time to better adjust to life without DeRozan.

11. Washington Wizards (14-6)

Last week: 8

The Wizards suffered an ugly loss to the Celtics on Sunday, 101-93, but evened the home-and-home series with a double-overtime win against Boston on Monday. John Wall scored the Wizards' last 10 points, dished out a career-high 17 assists and has now posted at least 12 assists in each of his last five games. Come Friday, Wall will have the chance to measure his game against Chris Paul and the streaking Clippers.

12. Atlanta Hawks (14-6)

Last week: 16

It doesn't take much in the Eastern Conference, but the Hawks have made an impressive jump up the standings by winning seven in a row. The Hawks are leaning on Jeff Teague and a stingy defense, and could be leading the East in a week if they take care of business against the 76ers and Magic.

13. Phoenix Suns (12-10)

Last week: 17

The Suns have five players averaging at least 14 points, including guard Isaiah Thomas, who is set to return from injury any day now. Goran Dragic scored 34 points against the Pacers and another 28 in a road win in Dallas, spurring the Suns' offense along with Thomas on the mend.

14. New Orleans Pelicans (9-10)

Last week: 19

The Pelicans haven't beaten a team with a winning record since topping the Kings on Nov. 18, but having Anthony Davis means the Pelicans are relevant until they aren't. If New Orleans can assemble a team that jells around Davis, there's no telling how far they can go.

15. Sacramento Kings (11-10)

Last week: 15

DeMarcus Cousins will be sidelined for a while longer after being diagnosed with viral meningitis, and the Kings aren't getting along very well without him. With Cousins on the floor, the Kings are a threat to beat just about anybody. Without him, Sacramento is a shell of itself. Here's to hoping Cousins gets healthy sooner rather than later. The NBA is one notch less entertaining without him.

16. Milwaukee Bucks (11-11)

Last week: 13

The Bucks have taken it on the chin a handful of times lately, but one-possession losses against the Cavaliers and Mavericks can be seen as moral victories for such an exceedingly young team. Jabari Parker, 19, and Giannis Antetokounmpo, 20, are the real deal. It's only a matter of time before the Bucks are turning some of those one-possession losses into victories.

17. Oklahoma City Thunder (7-13)

Last week: 20

With Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant back to their usual routine of doing amazing things, it's a near certainty the Thunder will work their way into the top eight in the West at some point. The questions are how long it will take and how far they can rise. There are plenty of wrinkles to work out, but Oklahoma City has time and there's no doubting they have the talent.

18. Denver Nuggets (9-12)

Last week: 14

The Nuggets started the season extremely cold, got hot for two weeks and then the warm water ran out. Denver let one get away at home against the Trail Blazers on Dec. 2 and haven't won since on a three-game road swing. Danilo Gallinari has been dreadful in his long-awaited return from injury, scoring at least 15 points just twice this season.

SHOUT OUT

A LOVE CONFESSION TO

HERO ALICE WALKER

AUTHOR, POET; REVOLUTIONARY,
HUMANITARIAN ! ! ! ! !

UPDATE: ISRAEL JULY 23, 2014

THE UNIVERSE TAKE YOU IN A LOVE
EMBRACE - QUEEN ALICE WALKER. !!!

RECENTLY, ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2014,
SUNDAY, AMERICAN MASTERS.COM...
.ORG PBS.ORG [SHOW ON MADISON
WHA 21 WPT.ORG] SHOWED AN
EN CORE PRESENTATION FEATURING
QUEEN ALICE WALKER...

I WAS DELIGHTFULLY INTRODUCED TO
A MUCH FULLER AND WONDERFUL
HUMAN WOMAN BEING.

What rocked this pen brightest of
ALL WAS [ALSO NEW TOME] — is her
bold Brave and Loud compassion-
ate Support of the "GAZA GHETTO"
Palestinians [Palestine] prisoners.

SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T
HELP BELIEVING
THAT THIS WHOLE WORLD
IS JUST ONE BIG PRISON YARD
SOME OF US ARE PRISONERS
AND THE REST OF US ARE GUARDS
— BOB DYLAN...

~ She was one the Shipmates
[Liberators] ON the 2009
LOVE BOATS to Break Israel
UNJUST BLOCKADE AND FREE
THE PRISONERS !!!!!

She Like Bishop Desmond
TUTU, 1984 NOBLE PEACE PRIZE
2 of 6

Laurate, Recognizes Israel Lock-
down "Occupation" of the Pale-
stinian People as ~~ense~~ Evil "
"Apartheid" !!

SEE: PBS.org/America Masters
2013

CHECK BOOKS:

A] THE BATTLE FOR JUSTICE
IN PALESTINE

AUTHOR ALI ABUNIMAH

"offers hope that as more people
awaken to the shocking reality of
what has for decades been
going on, we can bring understand-
ing and restitution to the Palestinian
people."

— ALICE WALKER

SOURCE: IN THESE TIMES OCTOBER 2014
P. 31 WWW.haymarketbooks.org

B] MANS SEARCH FOR MEANING
AUTHOR: MARK FRANKL

C] HARRY S. TRUMAN
"A SAFE HAVEN"
FOUNDING OF ISRAEL

AUTHORS: ALLIS RADOSH; RONALD
RADOSH; SEE: C SPAN. ORG JULY
12, 2009

NOTE:

BRITISH LAW MAKERS VOTE IN
FAVOR OF RECOGNIZING PALESTINE
AS A STATE... #GMA goodmorn-
ingamerica OCTOBER 14, 2014 7:AM EST
ABC GMA NEWS TICKER
FOR LATEST UPDATE GO TO ABC
NEWS.COM

INSPIRATION: #IMAGINE...

"KERRY WARNS OF 'APARTHEID' WITHOUT MIDDLE EAST PEACE"

investigation into the cause and handling of the tragedy.

South Korean authorities are unaware what specifically sunk the ship and are investigating a number of causes. As of Sunday, 187 dead bodies have been recovered while 115 people are still missing. According to a presidential spokesman, Chung will remain in office until the government has concluded its official response.

Pope Francis declares John Paul II and John XXIII saints

In an unprecedented double ceremony, Pope Francis declared two of his 20th century predecessors, Popes John Paul II and John XXIII, saints in the eyes of the Roman Catholic church.

Hundreds of thousands of Catholic pilgrims flocked to Vatican City to witness the canonization of the two most influential modern popes.

"We declare and define Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II to be saints and we enrol them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole church," Pope Francis said, formally assigning divinity to Catholic prayers directed to the popes.

Francis described the new saints as men of courage who "co-operated with the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the church."

"They were priests, bishops and popes of the 20th century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them."

Although he died before its fruition, Pope John XXIII is most remembered for calling the Vatican Council to session, a move that led to the creation of Vatican II and what is considered the start of the modern Catholic church.

For baby boomers through millennials, Pope John Paul II's papacy was the defining leadership of the Catholic Church in their lifetime. The former pope is credited as the face of the social aspect of the international community's coordinated destabilization of the Soviet Union in the 1980s and the first pope forced to address the church's ongoing, now-decades-long, child abuse scandal.

MH370 Tragedy: Undersea search expanded, may take 6-8 months

SYDNEY: The chance of finding floating debris from a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner has become highly unlikely, and a new phase of the search will focus on a far larger area of the Indian Ocean floor, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on today.

The search effort for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, which vanished while flying

from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8 with 239 people on board, has so far failed to turn up any trace of wreckage from the plane.

Given the amount of time that has elapsed, Abbott said that efforts would now shift away from the visual searches conducted by planes and ships and towards underwater equipment capable of scouring the ocean floor with sophisticated sensors.

He admitted, however, that it was possible nothing would ever be found of the jetliner.

"We will do everything we humanly can, everything we reasonably can, to solve this mystery," he told reporters in Canberra.

Malaysia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Britain and the United States are assisting Australia in conducting the most expensive search in aviation history.

It remains unclear what caused the Boeing 777 to veer sharply off its course and disappear from radar as it prepared to cross into Vietnamese airspace.

Malaysian authorities have still not ruled out mechanical problems, but say evidence suggests it was deliberately diverted from its scheduled route.

Malaysia is under pressure to bring closure to the grieving families by finding wreckage to determine definitively what happened to the aircraft.

But the empty expanse of water northwest of the Australian city of Perth is one of the most remote places in the world and also one of the deepest, making the search complicated.

Authorities had been focusing on a 10 square km (6.2 square mile) stretch of seabed about 2,000 miles from Perth, after detecting what they suspected was a signal from the plane's black box recorder on April 4.

The U.S. Navy Bluefin-21 underwater drone searching the seabed has so far failed to turn up any sign of the plane.

"We are still baffled and disappointed that we haven't been able to find undersea wreckage based on those detections," Abbott told reporters.

Abbott said that the new search area, which spans 700 km by 80 km (435 miles by 40 miles), could take between 6-8 months to completely examine, at a cost to Australia of as much as A\$60 million (US\$55.69 million).

The search operations have up until now been handled primarily as a military operation by the countries involved, but Abbott said that one or more commercial companies would be hired by Australia and Malaysia to handle the next phase.

Angus Houston, head of the Australian agency coordinating the search effort, offered a sobering assessment of the operation.

"We haven't found anything anywhere that has any connection to MH370," Houston said during the Abbott news conference

Kerry warns of 'apartheid' without Middle East peace

The US Secretary of State, John Kerry, has warned that Israel risks becoming "an apartheid state" if a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians does not emerge soon.

His comments were captured in a recording of a closed-door meeting, the *Daily Beast* reported.

The current round of direct peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians appear to be at an impasse.

But President Barack Obama has said the US will not abandon its peace efforts.

'Only real alternative'

The US state department is telling everyone that it's no big deal that John Kerry used the 'A' word to describe the impact on Israel if the two-state solution for the Israel-Palestinian conflict collapses.

A spokeswoman has pointed out that senior Israeli politicians have also referenced apartheid before when talking about the risks to Israel's reputation. This point though is frankly spin. It is one thing for Israeli politicians to use provocative language in their own political arena. When used by the US secretary of state it adds legitimacy to the debate about whether there is an equivalence between the old South African regime and the situation on the West Bank.

Whether the "apartheid" reference was a gaffe or deliberate there is no doubt that Secretary Kerry believes Israel's government is stubbornly ignoring his warnings that a failure to agree a peace deal will feed a campaign trying to delegitimise their state.

Mr Obama has previously rejected the use of the term "apartheid" in discussion of the Middle East peace process, calling it unhelpful and inaccurate.

But in remarks before a group of high-ranking officials from the US, Europe and Japan known as the Trilateral Commission, Mr Kerry used the word.

"A two-state solution will be clearly underscored as the only real alternative," Mr Kerry said, according to the *Daily Beast*.

"Because a unitary state winds up either being an apartheid state with second-class citizens - or it ends up being a state that destroys the capacity of Israel to be a Jewish state."

5 of 6

and thereby keep justices they don't like off cases, he argued.

The court approved the rule on a 4-3 vote, with the four justices who benefited from the Wisconsin Club for Growth's spending in the majority. The three dissenters contended the rule would damage the court's reputation.

Rick Esenberg, an adjunct law professor at Marquette University and head of a conservative public interest law firm, said he saw no reason any of the four would need to recuse themselves.

Wisconsin's founders decided to elect judges, and with that comes an expectation that justices would be able to separate their judicial work from what happens in campaigns, he said.

"The whole thing (regarding campaign-related recusal) gets to be at war with judicial elections," said Esenberg, president of the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty. "If we want to have them elected, at some point we have to trust people to put these things aside."

Esenberg said if Prosser had to get off the case, then Appeals Judge JoAnne Kloppenburg also could not participate because she was Prosser's opponent in 2011 and the Club for Growth spent money against her.

Kloppenburg was one of three appeals judges to rule against a challenge in January and allow the John Doe investigation to continue. At the time she considered the case, the public did not know the Wisconsin Club for Growth was a party to the case because of the secret nature of the matter.

Matthew Menendez, who specializes in campaign spending in court races as counsel with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, said the secrecy surrounding the cases makes it impossible for the public to know whether any of the justices should recuse themselves.

The investigation centers on whether the club or others illegally helped Walker. Allegations such as that could lead some to question whether the club illegally helped the justices it supported, he said — creating high-stakes questions the justices must consider as they mull whether to remain on the cases.

"What public opinion polls and common sense has shown is people are naturally suspicious when a lawyer or litigant has been a major backer of a judge," Menendez said.

Syrian President Assad to run for third term

President Bashar Al-Assad will seek a third term as president of Syria in the June 3 election, the speaker of the Syrian Parliament announced Monday.

Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Labban added four more candidates would contest the election, bringing the total to seven. Assad's plan to run was not a surprise; he is expected to win, despite a violent, three-year uprising against his administration, against five relatively unknown candidates.

It remains to be seen if this war-torn country, with over a million refugees already escaped, can support a successful election.

Sawsan Haddad, Samir Mala, Mohammed Firas Rajjub, Abdel-Salam Salameh, Hassan Abdullah al-Nuri and Maher al-Hajjar are Al-Assad's opponents.

Across Syria Sunday, unrest continued. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, headquartered in London, reported a mortar attack by rebels killed at least 21 people in Aleppo. It also reported the explosion of a building, housing government troops, in the Old City section of Aleppo, as well as government air raids which killed at least six people.

In Wadi Suwab, in eastern Syria, Iraqi helicopters crossed the border to strike a jihadist convoy, killing at least eight, a spokesman for the Iraqi Interior ministry said.

U.S., Philippines agree to 10-year military base deal

MANILA, April 28 (UPI) -- The United States and the Philippines reached a 10-year agreement that will allow American troops and military material greater access to bases in the Philippines, American officials said in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The agreement will give the United States a visible presence in the country for the first time since the American military abandoned its naval and air bases there in 1992.

"We're not doing this because of China. We're doing this because we have a longstanding alliance partner," said Even Medeiros, the National Security Council's senior director for Asian Affairs.

Tension between China and its neighbors has been growing recently over territorial claims over the waters that separate them.

The American presence in the Philippines was also a source of tension between the two countries, but the rapid response of American ships and planes after Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013 has increased popular support for a renewed U.S. presence.

Medeiros added the scope of the use of bases by U.S. troops has not yet been determined, and may include use of the massive former base at Subic Bay. He emphasized the deal would not lead to the re-establishment of formal U.S. bases.

New U.S. sanctions target Russian officials and businesses

-- The United States imposed additional sanctions Monday against Russia, this time targeting seven individuals, including two regarded as part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle of advisers, and 17 companies.

The sanctions involve travel bans and the freezing of assets of the individuals, as well as the freezing of company assets. 13 of the companies will face additional restrictions with the denial of export approval.

The White House said the sanctions were a response to "Russia's continued illegal intervention in Ukraine."

The list of individuals includes Igor Sechin, president of the state-owned Rosneft oil company; Dmitri Kozak, deputy prime minister; Vyacheslav Volodin, Putin's deputy chief of staff; and Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the international affairs committee of Russia's lower parliament, the Duma. Although the head of the energy company Gazprom, Aleksei Miller, was expected to be on the list, he was not.

Among the companies sanctioned were several banks, including Sobinbank, and the Sroytransgaz energy company.

In targeting Sechin, the White House sanctioned the chief of a partner with ExxonMobil, in numerous joint projects. It is unknown if he has U.S. assets to freeze, but he will no longer be permitted to enter the United States.

The sanctions "will increase the impact we have already begun to see on Russia's own economy ... Russian economic growth forecasts have dropped sharply, capital flight has accelerated and higher borrowing costs reflect declining confidence in the market outlook," noted U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew.

South Korean prime minister resigns amidst ferry controversy

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won, amidst increasing controversy over his administration's handling of the Sewol ferry disaster, resigned Sunday in an effort to take responsibility for the nation's government and to unify his countrymen.

"I'd like to apologize for the mishandling of a slew of problems, from preventive measures before the accident to the government's initial response and follow-up steps," Chung said.

"During the search process, the government took inadequate measures and disappointed the public. I should take responsibility for everything as the prime minister, but the government can assume no more. So I will resign as prime minister."

Chung went on to plead that South Koreans "come together" for the recovery efforts rather than divide further over the

"ABBAS TO SEEK \$4 BILLION FOR GAZA RECONSTRUCTION":

campaigner Malala Yousafzai, or perhaps Pope Francis.

Last year, the physics prize awarded to Peter Higgs and Francois Englert for the Higgs particle was widely predicted, but Nobel pundits and bookmakers tend to focus more on who will get the prestigious peace and literature awards.

This year saw a record 278 peace prize nominations and, while the list is secret, some names have been revealed by their sponsors, including US whistleblower Edward Snowden, who was nominated by two Norwegian members of parliament.

Kristian Berg Harpviken, director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) is one of few experts to publish an annual shortlist of likely winners, even if he has yet to predict one accurately.

This year he ranked Snowden second place, behind Pope Francis, for exposing the extent of US electronic surveillance. However, he acknowledged that the former intelligence analyst would be a controversial choice as "many continue to see him as a traitor and a criminal".

Nonetheless the five members of the Nobel Committee could award Snowden, considered a fugitive by the US and living in exile in Russia, to "underline the independence of the Nobel Committee" from the Norwegian and US authorities, according to Nobeliana.com, a website run by leading Norwegian Nobel historians.

'Too controversial'

Others have rubbished the Snowden speculation.

"It would be really courageous to give it to Snowden," Robert Haardh, head of Stockholm-based Civil Rights Defenders told AFP.

"But judging from the past, I can't see that coming. It's too controversial, and Scandinavians are too fond of the (United) States."

Pope Francis, topping bookmaker Paddy Power's list with 9/4 odds, would be another controversial choice.

"The massively unjust global distribution of wealth is detrimental to peace... Pope Francis has brought attention to the fate of the poor, and the need for a new approach to development and economic redistribution," according to the PRIO director's prediction.

Critics point out that a papal Nobel would cause a similar outcry to US President Barack Obama's 2009 Nobel, less than a year into his

presidency, which led to complaints that he was awarded for potential good deeds in the future rather than anything he had achieved.

Other favourites, also tipped last year, were 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for girls' right to education who was wounded by the Taliban in 2012, and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege.

The Nobel could also go to a champion of democracy and human rights in Russia, such as the opposition newspaper Novaya Gazeta, co-founded by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993 with part of his peace prize money, or to human rights activist Ales Bialiatski from the Russian-backed dictatorship Belarus.

"This year has been marked by a lot of drama. It can mean the list will look different," Harpviken told Norwegian news agency NTB, adding that he believed the committee would search for a laureate linked to major upheavals and conflicts of the last year.

"But that does not necessarily mean that they will find any," he added, echoing the view of several analysts that the ongoing wars in the Middle East and Ukraine do not easily lend themselves to a peace prize.

Just over a week ahead of the October 10 announcement, Harpviken told NTB he was planning to update his forecast.

Last year, the Nobel peace prize went to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

SEE

Abbas to Seek \$4 Billion for Gaza Reconstruction

The Palestinian president will ask donor countries for \$4 billion for Gaza reconstruction after a summer war between Israel and Hamas damaged or destroyed tens of thousands of homes and more than 5,000 businesses, according to a report Mahmoud Abbas is to present to a pledging conference this month.

During the 50-day war, Israel launched several thousand air strikes and unleashed artillery barrages at what it said were Hamas-linked targets in Gaza, flattening entire neighborhoods. Hamas fired thousands of rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities during the fighting.

According to the 72-page reconstruction report, obtained by The Associated Press late Thursday, the Palestinian government will request \$4 billion in emergency relief and reconstruction funds. It will also ask donors to pledge an additional \$4.5 billion in support for the Palestinian government's budget through 2017.

The Gaza pledging conference will be held in Cairo on Oct. 12.

Meanwhile, Israel's army chief said in comments published Friday that it would serve Israeli security interests to allow construction materials to enter blockaded Gaza.

Israel and Egypt have sharply restricted movement and trade in and out of Gaza since the Islamic militant Hamas seized the territory from Abbas in 2007.

Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz told the Haaretz daily that Hamas suffered military setbacks during the war, but that Israel can only secure long-term quiet on its border with Gaza if "an economic anchor backs up what was achieved in the fighting."

"We need to permit the opening of the strip to goods," Gantz was quoted as saying. "In the end, there are 1.8 million people there, with Israel and Egypt surrounding them. These people need to live."

The Israel-Hamas war that ended in late August killed more than 2,100 Palestinians, three-fourth of them civilians, according to U.N. figures. Israel lost 66 soldiers and six civilians.

Hamas had ruled Gaza with an iron grip since it seized the coastal strip. However, earlier this year, the militant movement found itself in a severe financial crisis, largely because Egypt tightened its closure, shutting virtually all smuggling tunnels into Gaza and cutting off a key source of Hamas revenues.

The pressure eventually forced Hamas to hand over some powers to a temporary unity government of independent experts who report to Abbas and who are to oversee the reconstruction effort.

The reconstruction would also require Israel to permit the import of large quantities of cement, steel and other construction materials. Under a recent deal between Israel, the Abbas government and the United Nations, Israel would allow such imports, provided Palestinian and U.N. inspectors make sure they are not diverted by Hamas for military use.

During the war, Israel had uncovered and partially destroyed a network of cement-lined Hamas military tunnels.

Palestinian government officials have said security forces loyal to Abbas would be deployed on the Gaza side of crossings with Israel after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which starts Saturday, as a first step in the process.

However, no date was given for their deployment, seen as key by many in the international community for getting ambitious reconstruction projects off the ground.

The Palestinian report asked for more than \$1.1 billion to rebuild 20,000 homes or apartments that were destroyed or severely

BY: LEONIRBY

6 of 6
12-15-2015

DATED: DEC. 15, 2014

announced whether they will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Walker and Burke camps step up criticisms of each other

Madison — With five weeks to go to the Nov. 4 election, Gov. Scott Walker attacked his opponent Tuesday over copied sections of her jobs plan and the head of the state Democratic Party accused Walker of trading access to his top staff for political donations.

Also Tuesday, Democrat Mary Burke announced Michelle Obama would campaign for her in Madison on Oct. 7, just a week and a day after the first lady led a rally for Burke in Milwaukee. And Walker on Tuesday unveiled an ad — in part as a response to comments by Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz — featuring a victim of domestic abuse praising the governor.

Mike Tate, chairman of the state Democratic Party, criticized Walker for having top aides from his official office and campaign attend an event last year that brought together policy-makers and donors to an arm of the Republican Governors Association. The New York Times reported last week the records inadvertently had been made public.

Walker is "still operating as if there is no line separating government business and campaign business," Tate told reporters in a conference call.

Walker dismissed the matter, saying his staff had handled it the same way as meetings of nonpartisan groups such as the National Governors Association.

"They didn't raise any money at those events," Walker said of his staff. "They were meeting with other governors and governors' staff talking about policy just like we do at any number of associations."

Walker said his practice was similar to that of former Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle.

Much of Walker's focus remained on the recent disclosure that parts of Burke's jobs plan were identical to sections from plans by other Democrats around the country. All those passages were written by the same consultant and Burke cut ties with him after the issue came to light.

"Whether you call it plagiarism or anything else, I think most people just say, 'Here's another politician.' This is what they expect out of politicians. They expect people who say one thing and do something different," Walker said.

"I hope what people know about me is, whether they like everything I've done or not, I say what I mean and I mean what I say."

Walker released an ad on the subject Tuesday that included news footage about the matter and ended with Burke defining plagiarism in

halting words at a recent news conference. The Republican Governors Association also released an ad on the topic Tuesday.

In response, Burke put out a recent ad saying it made sense to mimic the best proposals from other states to create jobs.

"As governor, I'm going to take the best ideas wherever I can find them," she said in the spot. "And if Scott Walker had done the same, maybe we wouldn't be dead last in Midwest job growth."

In another ad released Tuesday by Walker's campaign, Teri Jendusa-Nicolai described being kidnapped by her ex-husband in January 2004, put in a trash can and left in an unheated storage unit in Illinois. As a result of the incident, she had a miscarriage and had her toes amputated.

"I lost the child I was carrying," she said in the ad. "But I fought to stay alive for my other two children and today I am fighting for Scott Walker."

Walker said his campaign cut the ad in part in response to the "offensive" comment from the Democratic National Committee chairwoman, who a month ago said Walker "has given women the back of his hand." The next day she backtracked, saying she'd used the wrong words to make her point that she believed Walker was bad for women.

Walker has faced a gender gap in his support. A September poll by Marquette University Law School found that 56% of female likely voters supported Burke, with 38% backing Walker. (By the same token, Walker has found men supporting him more strongly, with 57% of male likely voters backing him and 40% favoring Burke.)

When accounting for all voters, Burke and Walker have been in a statistical dead heat since this summer, according to polling by the law school. A new poll is scheduled for release Wednesday.

The close race has drawn national attention, highlighted by the twin visits of the first lady and a campaign stop Monday in western Wisconsin by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for Walker. Cecile Richards, the head of Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the political arm of the abortion provider, will campaign for Burke on Wednesday in Madison.

The 'bombed up' Australian force heading to fight Islamic State in Iraq

THE RAAF has six Super Hornet strike fighters from No.6 Squadron at the Al Minhad air base near Dubai.

Four will be deployed to Iraq and two held in reserve.

They will be joined by a KC-30A tanker transport from No. 33 Squadron (also based at Amberley) and a E7-A Wedgetail

command and control plane from No.2 Squadron, (based at Williamstown) which have already flown sorties over the war zone in support of coalition forces.

The tanker will refuel the fighters at least twice during their eight-hour-plus missions.

The Wedgetail will direct the jets to their targets and provide feedback about possible threats and about other coalition forces.

The strike fighters will be armed with weapons including the GPS-guided 500kg long-range Joint Stand Off Weapon, with a range of up to 130km, and the Joint Direct Attack Munition, which can carry warheads from 230-900kg, with a range of up to 28km. The aircraft will probably fly intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions before launching any attack.

Most of the two-person crews will not have had combat experience, though some veterans of the first Iraq War will be flying missions again.

The air campaign is being run by the Coalition Air Operations Centre at al-Udeid air base in Doha.

RAAF crews will operate under international law and Australian rules of engagement. They will have to satisfy six criteria before the red button is pushed and the "bombs gone" call goes out.

Possible collateral damage and the risk of civilian casualties could see crews abort their missions and return to base with their weapons intact.

The jets will fly up the Arabian Gulf from Dubai, taking care to avoid Iranian airspace off to their right.

They will then cross the Kuwait-Iraq border and fly on to the Mosul and Kirkuk areas of northern Iraq.

Teams of advisers from the Sydney-based 2nd Commando Regiment are standing by at Al Minhad to fly to Baghdad and Kirkuk, and other forward bases, to join the headquarters of Iraqi military units.

Australian Defence Force chief Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin described the 600-strong Australian task force as "potent".

"The team is well trained, they're well equipped, they're well prepared," Air Chief Marshal Binskin said.

He said the task force was aware of the risks involved in the mission and would undertake full threat assessments as part of their mission planning.

Whistleblower Snowden, Pope Francis tipped for 2014 Nobel peace prize

STOCKHOLM: Nobel prize season starts on Monday with speculation rife that the peace prize could go to US whistleblower Edward Snowden, Pakistani girls' education

December 15, 2014

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Mr. Benjamin Sugar
Between the Bars
P.O. Box 425103
Cambridge, MA 02142

RE: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/275FURL>

Greetings Benjamin:

Always - I express my great
gratitude for you and the TEAM
there kindly gratis allowing me
[US] access to the UNIVERSE!!

Feb. 13: 1-3

Accordingly, I enclosed
19 Blogs and 33 pages
for POSTING!

Thank you in Advance,

PAUL!

Leon

LEON I RBY

CDOC #033802-A

Columbia Correctional Institution

P.O. Box 900

Portage, WI 53901-0900

ENC.

33 pages.

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.

2KACH V49AH

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number.