

Daniel Gwynn Blog Update

Date: 3/11/15

Subject: "Week Five of Strip Search Policy"

Well, week five was a bust as the expected warm temps was mixed with rain & 4-6" of snow which diminished the movement's ranks. No one wanted to be out in the rain & cold, but a few of us did show up, filling 1½ yards (approx. 50 prisoners). On the snow day, the yard workers spent 3½ hours outside clearing the yard of 4-6" of snow. At 11:30am after lunch, the workers resumed clearing the yard while the guards began to bring the prisoners out for yard. We had a full 1st yard, braving the plunging temperatures. The 2nd shift guards had to bring them back in, then came up with an excuse not to run the 2nd yard.

The following two days of yard was canceled because it was too cold (4°). The inclement weather has stalled the movement and the guards just sat back and laughed at us, and twisted the screws to us thinking it would crush our spirits and make us submit. They fail to realize that we can't live like this, because we are still human beings. Subjecting a man to the indignity of constant strip searches has an affect on the mental health of the prisoner, especially when it serves no legitimate penological interest..

Our solitary confinement on death row has been proven to be detrimental to our physical & mental health, so what's the point to adding to that burden. In my 20 years on the row, there has been one study after another exposing the horrors of this death penalty machine: Bias; Inequality; Corruption; Underfunded; Inept; warehousing; disenfranchising; causing physical & mental illness; and wrongful convictions. Long term solitary confinement has also been proven to be cruel & unusual punishment as death row prisoners are subjected to the atypical & significant hardships for decades.



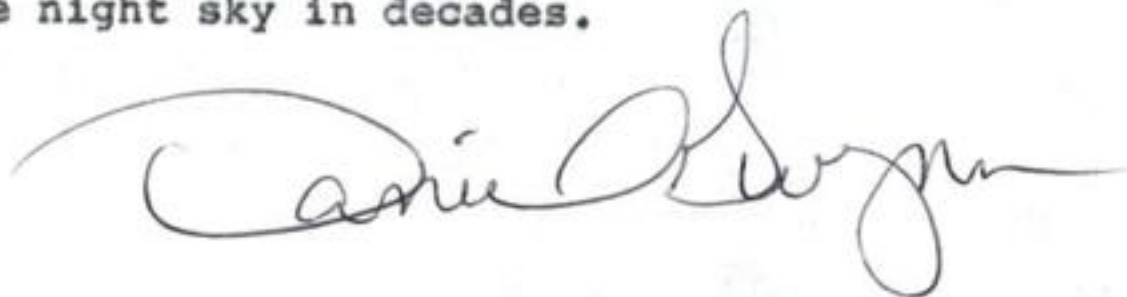
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Date: 3/13/15

Subject: "Week Six of Strip Search Policy"

Week six had a few bumps in the road, as the staff attempted to take short cuts in their procedures to make the strip search policy work. More prisoners came out to the yard to enjoy the warm temperatures, and the 6-2 shift guards were under the gun to get their yards in & out faster, so the 2-10 shift guards weren't stuck with bringing in the 6-2 shift's last yard. To get the yards in & out faster, the 6-2 shift guards strayed from the policy that made them use 2 guards to escort 1 prisoner during a movement, and went to 1 guard on 1 prisoner; and with the additional guard, they were able to accomplish their agenda until Deputy Zaken got wind of it.

It's been rumored that a prisoner informed Deputy Zaken of the short cuts, which prompted him to rip into the Sergeant. The Sergeant was instructed to adhere to policy and go back to 2-on-1 escorts, and to also belt all prisoners cuffed in the front. (The "Belt" is an additional restraint used to secure the prisoner's hands to his body). Deputy Zaken is determined to make these unrealistic policies work down here, in spite of the fact that they don't. One of the main problems is that there are multiple policies governing the Capital Cases that contradict one another. The biggest one is that we are being housed under punitive Restrictive Housing Unit rules that are utilized on Disciplinary Custody & Administrative Custody levels that are supposed to be more restrictive than Capital Cases. This is what creates the clash between the guards & the prisoners which develops into a hostile environment. Things are gonna get worse around here as more prisoners come out to the yard to enjoy the warmer weather. We're also really getting a kick out of the night yard, which most of us hasn't seen an unobstructed view of the night sky in decades.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Gwynn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom center of the page.