

SHIRLEYWORLD UPDATES
"Let The Bullets Fly!"
Chapter LXXIII

by Timothy J. Muise

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- DEPUTY DENIED-OH STARS IN "PORTRAIT OF DORIAN GRAY" REMAKE

The legacy of our plump posterioered Deputy of OverClassification, Deputy Karing Denied-Oh, lives on here at ShirleyWorld; even after she was transferred to NCCI GardnerWorld where the employees started jumping of the ship like rats off the Titanic. The Assistant Associate Acting Alternative Royal Deputy Commissioner of Major Productions (another new "position" enacted by Commissioner Wiggins-O'Cryin / they got more "positions" than the Karma Sutra!) has slated Deputy Denied-Oh to star in a remake of the major motion picture "Potrait of Dorian Gray". This decision was made after the AAAARDC Ima Wastingdough heard the story of how Deputy Denied-Oh's formal potrait kept at the entrance to the prison "changed" so mysteriously. You see when you walk into the gulag here there are 8" x 10" color glossies (think Alice's Restaurant) of each of the "Indignataries" who run this leaking scow on the rocks each and every day. The usual procedure is that when a change is made the photo of the former position holder (think downward facing dog with Denied-Oh) is left in place until a new photo of the new position holder is available to post on the "wall of shame." Well this time, in a miraculous turn of supernatural mysticism Deputy Denied-Oh's photograph disappeared before the dust from her car had settled in the parking lot! As the Champagne corks flew, and sailor/nurse WWII kisses were being exchanged, a "maintanance ghost" somehow unscrewed the frame, removed the 8" X 10", and then burned it with cloves of garlic and eye of newt. Left in its place was just a blank frame area which was like the blank look on Deputy Denied-Oh's face when she first got her marching orders. Spooky voices with an Albanian accent could be heard shouting "No superintendentship for you! 32 years!" The good news is that GardnerWorld has many more grassy pastures where Deputy Denied-Oh can frolick about in her Jelly Shoes and Camel Toe Capris. She may even be able to borrow some lipstick from one of the gender confused cons over there so she can add a little color and turn that frown into a smile. It appears that Director of Mistreatment Lurking and Director of Overclassification Paris-Hilton are planning a "ticker tape parade" through Downtown Shirley which will reach the magnitude of the one down Broadway in NYC when the astronauts returned from lanind on the moon. Following the parade our Fine Feathered and Fearless Leader, "Rubber Stamp" Wry-On, will hold a Duck Boat Parade with cases of Dom Perignon purchased from the Inmate Benefit Account and Law Library Accounts. Superintendent Wry-On has used her musical connections from her Ivory Tower Concert Series (she is the Bill Graham of Corrections and ShirleyWorld is the new Winterland) to secure Barbara Streisand to sing the Golden Oldie "Happy Days are Here Again", and will host another oxygen waster's "weinie roast" as long as the guards sign a contract requiring they chew the hot dogs. We are all certain that Deputy Denied-Oh will win the Best Actress award for her performance and her acceptance speech will begin, "I'd like to thank the Academy and especially Satan..." God help the cons at Gardner!

- SGT. BITCH & LT. McHARDLY UP TO SAME OLD TRICKS / LEGISLATURE INVOLVED

The Brink's Robber of Toilet Paper and Visiting Room Condiments is up to his same old tricks here at ShirleyWorld. his con-hating ways continue and his latest form of abuse is to overcrowd the chowhall when he gets the chance, which is not too often; you see no one trusts him in a leadership position as he is such a fool he will drag his supervisors into the mix. The Charmin Bandit of the Greater Shirley Region calls several blocks at once, calls housing units before workers, and then just sits back and enjoys his work. His day is spent trying to dispell his self-hatred, his "I'm a useless hunk of dung" reckonings, by abusing cons just trying to do their time. The good news is that the Harm Reduction Caucus of the Legislature now has his name as a "contant abuser" with descriptions of his antics here. His days as one of the top abusers are numbered; they are just waiting for him to make that mistake, to fuck up like we know he will, and the ax will come down.

The Top-HeavyWeight Champion of beating up handcuffed cons got another victory here at ShirleyWorld last week. His record is now 11-3 in beating up men who are cuffed-up while 20 other guards have his back, and he is 3-1 with cons over 80 years of age. Last week they deat the crap out of a 5', 5", 145lb, mental patient here at the prison. Line guards here, CO Butt-Pilot and CO BakedHam, harrassed the poor Bridgewater Patient to the point where the little guy snapped, and then this opened to door for the "Bitch Button" to be pushed and Lt. McHardly and the "Cowardly Calvary" came a runnin'. Of Course Lt. McHardly could not pass up the opportunity to go into this diminutive cons cell and put the boots to him while other oxygen wasters held him down. After they beat the mentally disturbed prisoner into compliance medical staff tried to place him in a wheelchair, but Lt. McHardly would have no part of that; he had the con ripped out of the wheelchair, with medical staff aghast, and then they dragged the poor little con 150 yards to the HSU where I am certain he received another "tune up". The silver lining to this dark cloud is that the legislature is aware of the situation as well as the ongoing antics of Lt. McHardly and his cohorts. A list was placed directly into the hands of concerned legislators which contained the names of the main abusers here at ShirleyWorld; their activities are now under the microscope. We are working here at Free Speech Central to form a real and effective civilian review committee which will expose and discipline these long-term abusers who create recidivism and destroy public safety. We also hope to remove the ostrich heads of the administration from the sand and help them to "grow a set" when it comes to addressing the abuse at the prison. We will keep you all posted on the prorgess.

- PROGRAMS BUILDING "NEW HIDEOUT" FOR 3-11 SHIFT "ON THE RADAR"

The Lt. McHardly "NapTime" & "Sleeping One Off" Hideout Crew moved their headquarters to the Programs Building after the School Building Hole-In-The-Wall Hideout was exposed. We are happy to report that we have placed the new hideout "on the radar" for officials. Wake up boys!

More To Come...

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**Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants—
Adherence to the Rehabilitative Mandate**

Suspect political realities lead legislators to continue nibbling around the edges of [criminal justice] reform.

C.O.O., Mass Bar Association
Martin W. Healy

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UNPRECEDENTED MEETING WITH LEGISLATURE IN MASSACHUSETTS STATE PRISON

by: Timothy J. Muise

On Friday, October 23, 2015, a select group of prisoners known for their independence from the "system" met with a gathering of two (2) state senators, six (6) state representatives, and 12 (twelve) staff members and aides of other members of the General Court at which time the prisoners presented "positions" on various failures of the current criminal justice system while educating the legislators on the "truths" of prison life; which are not reflected in communications with prison officials. This event was unprecedented in nature, organized by the prisoners themselves working directly with the offices of Representative Benjamin Swan and Representative Thomas Sannicandro. At no time did the prisoners work with prison authorities as these same authorities had attempted to prohibit this long overdue meeting previously.

The prisoners gave presentations which covered such topics as the need for a compassionate medical release vehicle for prisoners in the state, strategies for the revitalization of the never-used commutation laws, ideas for presumptive parole, and the overwhelming attitude of

hopelessness throughout the department of correction which creates the 47% recidivism rate here in the Commonwealth. The legislators were afforded a brief history lesson in Massachusetts rights and rehabilitation, many aspects of which were previously unknown to them, and how the voice of the prisoner has been missing from the equation for commonsense reform for far too long. Prison administrators who had attempted to derail the event had to sit by quietly while the presenters spoke truth to power.

One of the major suggestions the prisoner presenters made to the members of the General Court was that they need to again, as was done in the 1970's and 1980's, bring prisoners into the senate Chamber and House of Representatives to be questioned about how policy actually works inside the prison system. The men let the legislators know that it was their opinion the legislators had been listening "to the fox tell the story about the killing in the chicken coop" when they engage the department of correction about prison reform needs and ideas. These prison administrators adhere to the 1992 former Governor Wil-

liam Weld's mantra of "sending prisoners through the circles of hell" and "returning prisoners to the joy of breaking rocks". Those proven flawed and abusive concepts destroyed our prison system, giving us one of the highest staffing ratios and third highest pay rate in the country. The taxpayers of Massachusetts for decades have been afforded failed public safety efforts at an extraordinary cost; not only a financial cost but a tragic social cost as well.

Men here at the state prison, the modern gulag, took great pride in organizing this event. They take their civic duty seriously and this was fully grasped and commented upon by the legislators. This is only the beginning of the process of prisoner involvement; step two is being worked on at this time. Roundtable discussions will be held and ideas to move forward hatched. Real and effective change is coming and prisoners here in the Commonwealth will undoubtedly play a significant role. Men can, do, and will change in prison if they are involved in the process. This creates the hope which destroys the current hopelessness. †



THE SHELL GAME

Secretary of Public Safety trying to protect his employee count.

by: Ken Seguin

I was stunned to read a letter from Daniel Bennett, Secretary of Public Safety where he "respectfully [took] issue with data underlying the research" concerning overcrowding of the Massachusetts prison system. He took exception because the state's Special Commission to Study the Criminal Justice System recommended eliminating minimum mandatory sentencing for drug offenses and establishing presumptive parole to relieve overcrowding and the consequences of stagnant programming. He said the information they were using was too dated. What I also found interesting is that Secretary Bennett was the Chairman of the very commission whose report he faults, adding they did not have current information from one of the agencies that directly

report to him – the Department of Corrections.

The kicker is that the data underlining the research he took exception to as too dated was prison overcrowding of 136%. Bennett said "no D.O.C. facilities currently meet the criteria for being overcrowded" based on updated data. What he didn't say is he had changed the criteria by which overcrowding was determined. Rather than comparing design capacity to occupancy (which does reveal 133% overcrowding in 2015 vs. 135% in 2013 which is what the committee had to work with), he was now comparing occupancy capacity to occupancy. So, even though occupancy capacity violates both fire codes and building codes, it says that's OK? How long will Secretary Bennett hide behind the cloak of "it's a

public safety issue" to justify breaking the law?

This is just another example that creates prisoner bitterness toward authority before being pushed back in society.

Bottom line: (1) Prisons are still overcrowded. (2) The Commission's conclusions to remove mandatory minimums and create a REAL presumptive parole system is valid. (3) The shell game of Secretary Bennett to try to protect his D.O.C. employment ranks is nothing more than a manipulated statistic. Further, eliminating Minimum Mandatories and implementing a Presumptive parole system is not a means for solving overcrowding but rather sound criminal justice policy. The old shell game at its best. †

WHEN THEY SHOW YOU WHO THEY ARE—BELIEVE 'EM!

by: Shawn Fisher

On October 23, 2015 eight prisoners, three of whom are on CURE-ARM's board, met with twenty members of the Harm Reduction/Drug Law Reform Caucus from the State House. The meeting itself was unprecedented! It was organized by State representatives Tom Sannicandro and Benjamin Swan, their aides Rebecca Miller and Shayvone Jackson, and CURE-ARM Director Timothy J. Muise.

At a time when "Mass

Incarceration" and "Criminal Justice reform" are national hot button topics, it seems everyone has an opinion on what should be done and what will work. The problem is, none have the insight that can only be obtained through first hand experience. The panel of prisoners who met with the caucus account for over 160 years of incarceration experience.

Take me for example. I have been in foster care, residential programs, special

needs schools, Department of Youth Services, county jail, and ultimately... state prison. I've seen the ugly side of human nature and the best in humanity. I have been both victim and perpetrator. All of this has afforded me a unique perspective on what is broken with our system. It's a perspective I have gained, not through academia, but rather through 42 years of living a life wrought with regrets failure, obstacles, and miracles.

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RETURN OF THE ERA WHERE THE PRISONER'S VOICE IS HEARD

by: Ken Seguin



Over the years when legislators work on Criminal Justice bills and issues, their primary sources of information have been from enforcement agencies – DOC, Parole, Police, Special Commissions picked by a governor, or prisoner advocacy agencies such as PLS. But the primary person involved – the prisoner – is not usually considered a credible source.

There are a sub-set of the incarcerated who are extremely vested in the health of the environment we had put ourselves in; prisoners who are committed to helping our fellow prisoner succeed. We are caring, well spoken, engaged prisoners who are "good citizens" in this prison community.

There was a time when such prisoners were furloughed to the State House to speak on prison reform and harm reduction is-

And a time when our voice was regularly sought out. In 1993 Representative Barb Gardner, came to see me concerning an issue I wrote on "The 7 Lies of the D.O.C." She came into the max security end of MCI Cedar Junction in Walpole, had me pulled out of my cell during a lock-down, told the Superintendent 'she wanted to "talk to me privately", and questioned me

In the 2015-16 legislative calendar, there are 114 criminal justice bills currently docketed.

They can be previewed by accessing <http://www.cjpc.org/Legislation.htm>

further on the allegations of D.O.C. propaganda I challenged. It was helpful in her job as

a legislature to get the WHOLE picture.

Our voice needs to be heard first-hand. Those in the Executive Branch – the D.O.C. and Parole Board - do NOT have the mentality nor the inclination due to its deep-seeded culture to work for real rehabilitation. Their focus is job protection, not

be risk takers. I would offer three key ratios concerning the D.O.C. (and its union) as evidence that employment is their primary focus:

- 1) Two of every \$3 spent is for employees pay and benefits (not including retirement) while just 6 cents of those \$3 is for education and programming of the prisoner.
- 2) There is one employee for every two inmates and
- 3) One of every 3 employees is an administrator.

If these ratios existed in private industry the company would be bankrupt!

Legislators may propose bills with good intent, but the details of those bills allow their intent to be lost in the execution by the executive branch. The prisoners' voice can help legislators craft their bills that will allow the intent of a bill to be carried out in the execution of the bill and thus begin changing the status quo of prisons that lack in true rehabilitation. This is needed, and this is happening. †

JUVENILE LIFERS TO NOWHERE

by: Ken Seguin

Last year the juvenile justice reform was judicially ruled on at the federal level, then legislated through the Massachusetts Acts of 2014. One area legislated was to allow juveniles who were sentenced to life without parole to now have an opportunity to parole and to qualify for minimum security prison despite the DOC fixed policy of non-discretionary overrides keeping all loss-of-life crimes in medium security or higher even if

their point-based-score classification system indicates they are qualified for minimum security. To date, not one Juvenile LWOP who has NOT been paroled to minimum has been sent to minimum; rather the DOC override for reasons of "nature of the crime" was used to keep the prisoner in medium security. The Acts of 2014 may have passed, but the intent of what was passed was lost in the

execution. The DOC only sent those juveniles that Parole took responsibility for (D.O.C. job protection for taking no risk; case workers were not ashamed to say that either). In sum, what had been legislated based on a judicial ruling, the executive branch snuffed out to maintain the status quo based on the leeway in the language of the legislation. That is why the prisoner must be involved in reform legislation.

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WHEN THEY SHOW YOU WHO THEY ARE—BELIEVE 'EM!

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This is a perspective legislatures rarely get to see. For the first time men and women who shape policies have the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge that no text book of criminology could ever convey. They could certainly make an educated opinion, but, at the end of the day, no one knows the structural design better than the architect. This is the foundation from which this panel discussion was created because far too often the "INTENT of the legislators gets lost in the EXECUTION."

With 23 years in prison, and having been to every solitary confinement unit in the Massachusetts D.O.C., I know first hand about the effects of solitary confinement, and the corrosive culture of staff toward prisoners that prevents opportunities to achieve self-realization.

I began my talk by stating "let me show you who the D.O.C. is" and I did so through the examples of mistreatment/misconduct of D.O.C. staff toward visitors and volunteers.

These people are the conduit to rehabilitation and yet they are treated like excrement. I proceeded to give them twelve examples of mistreatment of volunteers. Then followed by examples of mistreatment toward visitors; one which resulted in a prisoner's mother having to be rushed to an emergency room. There should be zero tolerance for such treatment.

Visitors and volunteers have done nothing to deserve such treatment. I stated, "If anything, they should be treated as royalty since volunteers make

up for approximately 90% of the rehabilitative programs here at Shirley medium. Equally as important, if not more, is the critical role visitors play in the rehabilitation process. A prisoner who receives visits twice a week is 45% less likely to recidivate. Yet, visitors are routinely mistreated and subject to onerous searches, long waits, and often

petty rules.

I then gave examples which highlight the guards' culture toward prisoners including allegations regarding former guard Bruce Gelb who handed a donut box filled with excrement to a mental health inmate. Gelb is now the Associate Commissioner for the Northern Region. Further proof that abusive behavior is tolerated, and even rewarded!

I further emphasized that cell decorum is the top priority of the D.O.C. — not rehabilitation — and how cell decorum is a tool used to abuse prisoners and not as a means for following rules.

In the end I state how caucus members as well as D.O.C. staff share in the responsibility for those who recidivate. Because after hearing what I had to say, the caucus could no longer say, "I didn't know." †



JUVENILE LIFERS TO NOWHERE

(continued from page 3)

That was just one example of many legislations and judicial decisions that the executive branch managed to ignore. It goes back to the 1972 passage of the Massachusetts penal reform laws following the Attica prison riots. In those laws professional treatment via licensed social workers for the

practice of rehabilitation counseling were legislated. There is no such social worker today, but there is an employee who handles money slips and rubber stamps classification decisions and program planning documents.

And so, today, in 2015,

there are 114 new Criminal Justice and prison related bills docketed. Other than the Compassionate Medical Release of Prisoner bills which had prisoner input in the language, legislators will again write bills with a good intent that will be drowned in the execution of the bills. †



Hard Hitting Headlines 60 MINUTES HAD IT RIGHT... EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD IT WRONG!

"FREE JOSEPH LABRIOLA!"

by: Timothy J. Muise



In the mid 1990's the TV news show "60 Minutes" ran two separate segments about a Massachusetts prisoner who was serving life without parole. The intent of these segments was to show the illogical brutality of these draconian sentences. The man they profiled, Joseph Yandle, was purported to have been awarded the Bronze Star with Battle "V" for Valor, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, the Purple Heart, and other noble hero's credits. On the heels of the 60 Minutes segment he had his sentence commuted by the Governor of Massachusetts and was immediately released on parole. The truth came out shortly thereafter; Joe Yandle had never served in Vietnam. He had stolen another prisoner's military DD-214 paperwork and affixed his name to it. The real hero's

paperwork he stole— Joseph Labriola.

Joseph Labriola still sits in prison, after 42 years, and he is the man that 60 Minutes felt should get a second chance due to his heroic service to his country. The medals Joe was awarded do not tell the whole story; you have to read the descriptions the military gave of his valor. Joseph Labriola received his hero's medals because he saved the Fire Team he commanded at great risk to his life. Joe was wounded multiple times, but continued to fight to save the lives of his team, his friends. Our government bestowed a designation of "valor" upon Joe, but today he cannot even get a hearing for his commutation petition.

In his wheelchair Joe still serves his "team" today. He is the current Commander of the American Veterans in Prison at the state prison in Shirley, Massachusetts. As he

suffers, slowly dying from the effects of Agent Orange poisoning, Joe continues to fight for freedom for all his heroes, recognized or not, but the cruel and uncaring system has forgotten about Joe. They have forgotten so many veterans, and life without parole is barbaric and ineffective. We are better than that as a people.

60 Minutes had it right, even though they had it wrong; Joe Labriola deserves his freedom—a freedom many of us have enjoyed because of the service of men like Joe Labriola. Help us bring back commutations and end life without parole sentences. Help us bring a compassionate medical release vehicle to Massachusetts.

Help us:

FREE JOE LABRIOLA!

www.freejoelab.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by: Shawn Fisher

For far too long the prisoner's voice has been stagnant. Outside agencies, whose intent is noble and just, lack the inside track. What beekeeper would make honey without the help of bees? Granted, many prisoner rights advocates are grieved on some personal level. A family member was/is in prison, they've lost a loved one in prison, or maybe even served time in prison. To that I say, "You have paid the price to speak from the

pulpit". But what about us who are still incarcerated? What of those who are currently serving lengthy sentences? Who routinely face the oppression of the jailer ethos that resides within the D.O.C.? Who can point out the mistreatment of individuals and name names?

Who can make honey better than the bee? WE CAN! We are the worker bees! We are the one's on the front lines living in a hive

where each day we find ourselves mired in a viscous landscape more reminiscent of muck than honey. Yet somewhere along the way someone has forgotten how important it is to rely on the "worker bees". To rely on their "expertise". Somewhere, someone forgot we had a voice to be heard.

The Harm Reduction Caucus understands the importance of that expertise. After today our voices will be heard. †





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OUR BOARD

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CURE-ARM Inc. supports the work of Massachusetts CURE and works to provide them with their first hand knowledge of their inner workings of the abusive Massachusetts prison system. We applaud the work of Massachusetts CURE's Director Louise Carcione as she supports the men and women behind the walls and fences who are working to build their own voice; the true voice of the prisoner. †

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CURE-ARM
MISSION STATEMENT

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a very unique distinction in that General Laws of this state **MANDATE** that prisoners be rehabilitated as stated under the Powers and Duties of the commissioner of Corrections, M.G.L. 124 § 1(e):

- In addition to exercising the powers and performing the duties which are otherwise given him by law, the commissioner of corrections, shall: ...*
- (e) establish, maintain, and administer programs of rehabilitation, including but not limited to education, training and employment, of persons committed to the custody of the department, designed as far as practicably to prepare and assist each person to assume the responsibilities and exercise the rights of a citizen of the Commonwealth.*

It is apparent to our organization that the Department of Corrections has engaged in efforts to usurp the legal mandate to rehabilitate here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts special interest group of CURE-ARM will work toward the melioration of that failure in accordance with justice and the enhancement of public safety.

Our Platform Issues are:

- ◆ Re-establish a viable commutation system in Massachusetts
- ◆ Enacting a presumptive parole system focusing on managed successful reintegration to society as well as motivated and effective rehabilitation during incarceration
- ◆ Working toward the implementation of compassionate medical releases dovetailing into viable commutations and effective parole with more cost effective management of the D.O.C. medical budget.
- ◆ Effective use of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections medical budget which is the 2nd largest portion of their budget. Cost effective preventative care is the goal.
- ◆ Work toward realization of the mandated duty that the D.O.C. focus on care and custody that promotes successful reentry and goes beyond a predominant focus of security-only.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION
OF THE HARM REDUCTION CAUCUS

by: Shawn Fisher

Members of CURE-ARM are working with The Harm Reduction & Drug Law Reform Caucus to hear the issues related to prison reform/rehabilitation. The caucus works in partnership with various entities to provide a forum where legislators who are aligned on these issues can come together to collaborate on, support, and pursue reform, together.

CURE-ARM supports and believes in the work the Caucus pursues and the hundred-plus members who continue to work in raising awareness. Below is a list of the caucus's priority legislation for the 2015-2016 session. Please show your support by contacting your representative/senator to pass this legislation.

KEY BILLS:

- Repealing Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Drug Offences- Rep. Swan (HD1921) & Sen. Creem (SD1770)
- Pretrial and Bail Reform — Rep. Sannicandro (HD3156) & Sen. Donnelly (SD1491)
- Restorative Justice — Rep. Garballey (HD 2089) & Sen. Eldridge (SD1105)
- Expungement — Rep. Dykema (HD2308) & Sen. Eldridge (SD1105)
- Extraordinary Medical Placement — Rep. Toomey (HD2997) & Sen. Jehlen (SD1417)
- Ending Collateral Sanctions at the Registry of Motor Vehicles — Rep. Malia (HD2584) & Sen. Chandler (SD1665) †