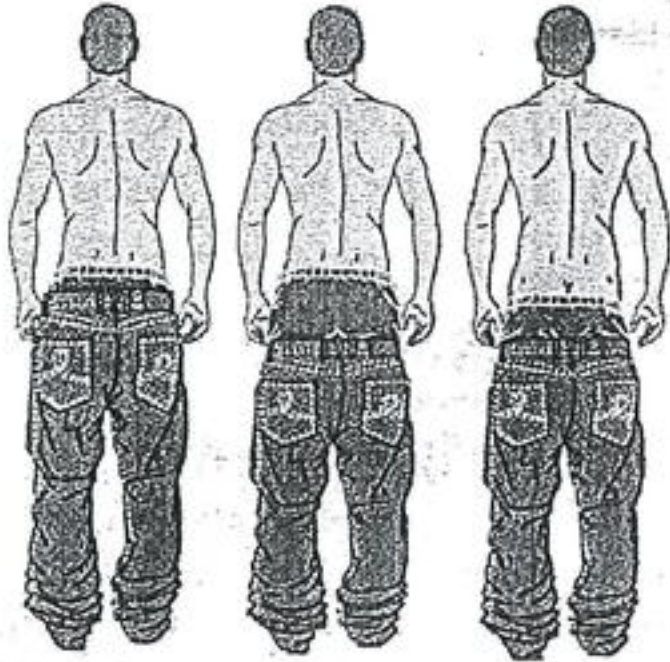


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## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



For all those that think it's nice to walk around with your pants below your butt ... read the following:

This trend was born in the United States' jails and prisons, where prisoners who were willing to have sex with other prisoners needed to invent a signal that would go unnoticed by the guards so they wouldn't suffer the consequences. So, by partially showing their butts, they showed that they were available to be penetrated by other inmates.

---



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is No Public Service!!!

Lie! This is a demonstratable outrageous

I ONLY dispute inasmuch that the origin of 'Shaggy Pants', i.e., PANTS below the butt is the PRISON SYSTEM.

IN 1980 AL PACINO (sic) Made an IN-FAMOUS GAY MOVIE "CRUISING" for that time. It was very controversial... ON THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE! It generated "HOT TOPIC" like Public dialogue.

White male gays culture have signals indicating Sexual Preferences like Large Red Bandanas, and "Shaggy PANTS" signal "ANAL SEX"!

⚡ MIXED MESSAGES COST LIVES,  
ESPECIALLY IN PRISON!!!!

BY: LEON IRBY. DATED: MARCH 2, 2016  
2 OF 2



## DAILY INSPIRATIONS OF STRENGTH



What does it mean to be strong? Does it mean physical prowess or control over others? God has given us many kinds of strength, but the most important is the strength that comes from having a steadfast faith and a resilient spirit. With a foundation that is unshakable, we can overcome any obstacle, challenge, or situation that comes our way.



God gives us just what we can handle, and he also gives us the courage, abilities, and skills to deal with those challenges that often, at the time, seem insurmountable. When we feel that our own strength is about to fail us, we can always call upon God, knowing that we are not alone and that we have “backup” to help us. Just as a police officer or soldier relies on his or her backup to assist in dangerous situations, God is our partner, working in invisible silence but with us nonetheless. Just understanding this provides us with amazing strength and courage.



*“The highest levels of performance come to people who are centered, intuitive, creative and reflective — people who know to see a problem as an opportunity.”*

— Deepak Chopra



A Moment for  
*You*

*You are  
someone  
important.*

Someone likeable, lovable and looked up to. Someone worthy of respect and recognition. Someone who is on more people's minds and in more hearts than you realize. Someone who is original and remarkable. Someone with dreams to live. Someone special!

Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling when you feel like stripping your gears.



*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Proverbs 16:32

He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.



*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

Matthew 6:14



28-2

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2016



THANK YOU NOTE !!!

SHOUT-OUT TO  
NBC SNL

N.Y.C., N.Y., Feb. 13, 2016, SATURDAY  
NIGHT, USA;

THANK YOU! SNL, FOR FINALLY EX-  
POSING TO THE UNIVERSE WHAT WE'VE  
SUSPECTED ALL ALONG THAT BEYONCE  
IS REALLY BLACK !!!!!

SO! WHAT'S NEXT!

Now tell us: WILL JAY-Z RUN FOR  
Elected office [ Was Yeezy his John,  
The Baptist, fore RUNNER ??? ] !!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2016



# PEARLS! DROPPING PEARLS!!

BERNIE (SEN. (D) VT.) AND  
TRUMP (R. (N.Y.))

UPDATE:

Universal Friends:

The Media Industrial Complex ex-claims [ECHO CHAMBERS] Candidates Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump are unelectable !!

However, ONLY because the Actual Establishment wholly BLOCK their Nomination and Availability to the VOTERS.

The System is Fixed!!

SEE USA TODAY COLUMNIST SUSAN PAGE (PAGE) PBS.org/  
NEWSHOUR FEBRUARY 2, 2016 (UNACCEPTABLE TO ESTABLISHMENT  
BY: LEON IRBY DATED; FEBRUARY 20, 2016



# Twelve Symptoms of Inner Peace

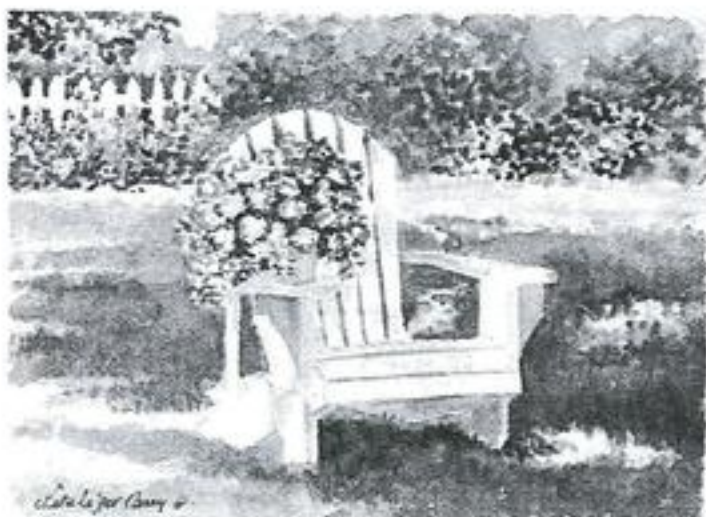


The hopeful man sees success where others see failure, sunshine where others see shadows and storm.

O. S. MARDEN

*The Lord bless you,  
and keep you:  
The Lord  
make his face  
shine on you,  
and be gracious  
to you:  
The Lord lift up  
his countenance  
on you,  
and give you peace.*

- Numbers 6:24-26



1. Tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fear based on past experiences.
2. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
3. Loss of interest in judging self.
4. Loss of interest in judging other people.
5. Loss of interest in conflict.
6. Loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
7. Loss of ability to worry (This is a serious symptom).
8. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
9. Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
10. Frequent attacks of smiling through the eyes of the heart.
11. Increasing susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.
12. Increasing tendency to let things happen rather than to make them happen.

## Reflection

The first step in learning to love one another is to remove the robes of judgment!

Who, except God, can know what dwells within the heart and soul of another?

There is a story of a man who visited an art museum with some friends. Pausing before each of the exhibits, he had nothing but criticism for the work of the artist...until...he stood before a mirror.

God is the artist who created each and every one of us. How then, could we ever criticize the work of God?

If we put aside the robes of judgment, we are free to discover love in all its magnificence—not just love of neighbor, but also love of self.

Scripture tells us love is patient and kind, never jealous or boastful, not arrogant or rude...

Love is acceptance...Love is a gift from God!

† Am I too quick to find fault in others?  
What can I do to change this behavior?

10 of 2



*"I give you  
a new commandment:  
love one another.  
As I have loved you,  
so you also should  
love one another.  
This is how all will know  
that you are My disciples,  
if you have love  
for one another."  
(John 13:34-35)*

## *Angels*

God puts on this Earth

Who care for us and guide us.  
You can feel their love and gentleness  
as they walk through life beside us.

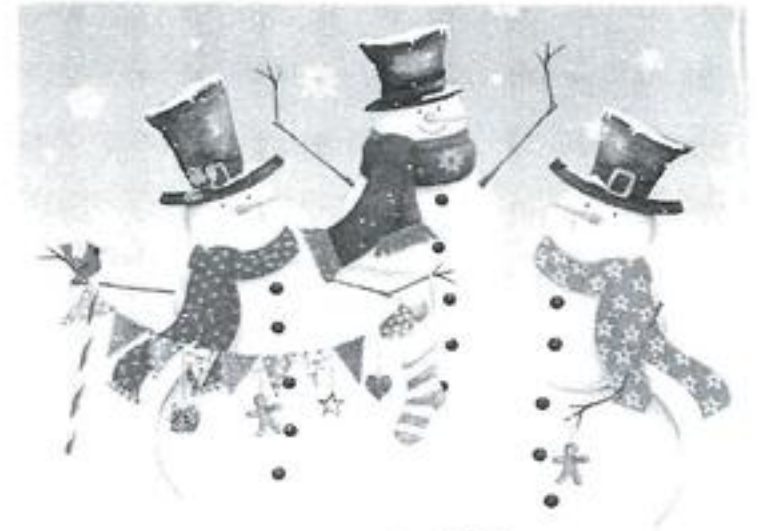
They do great things for us every day  
they whisper in our ears,  
they even hold us in their hearts  
when we are filled with all our fears.

They are always there to give a hug  
and try to make us smile.  
They treat us with respect and love,  
they treat us like their child.

God blessed me with an Angel,  
I'm proud to call my own.  
She's been with me throughout my  
life, been with me as I've grown.

She's guided me the best she can,  
she's taught me like no other,  
and I'm thankful I'm the lucky one  
who get's to call her... mother

BY: LEON IRBY



*Miracles*  
happen to those who  
*Believe.*

*Peace on  
Earth*

*Trust in the  
Lord with all  
your  
Heart*

Proverb 3:5



2 OF 2

DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 2016



# EXPOSE

HANNIBAL BURESS

AKA AGENT PROVOCATEUR VS.

DR. BILL COSBY

AKA AMERICA'S FAVORITE DAD

AND BETRAYAL AT THE CROSSROADS !!

COMING OFF PBS.ORG ILLUMINATING "BLACK PHANTERS PARTY THE VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION"; FEBRUARY 16, 2016, TUESDAY. 8: P.M. CST ON WPT.COM,

— WHICH EXPOSED FBI AGENT PROVOCATEUR NEGRO WILLIAM ONEIL, WHO SOLD FOR MEASLY \$300.00, MR. FRED HAMPTON AND MR. MARK CLARK TO FBI EXECUTIONERS !!!

WHICH IS SO REMINISCENT OF WASHINGTON POST NEGRO COLUMNIST COLEMAN NEFARIOUS BETRAYAL OF THEN "FIRED-UP" DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JESSE JACKSON, SR, IN PUBLISHING HIS CANDID CONFIDENTIAL PURPORTED "NEW YORK HYMIE TOWN" COMMENT !!

THEN ESQUIRE COMETH!

ON FEBRUARY 22, 2016 MY ESQUIRE.COM

1 OF 4



1 MARCH 2016, P. 39, WITH HANNIBAL BORESS / STORY  
Revealing his SINISTER role in HOLLYWOOD'S CON-  
SPIRACY against DR. COSBY !!! SEE BELOW, P. 3

## WHO IS THAT MINISTRAL !!!

Hannibal, a PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN NEGRO  
MINISTRAL; SEE BELOW, P. 4

The piece expose HANNIBAL Previous con-  
nection to NBC SNL "Writer on Saturday Night  
Live. Writer on 30 Rock..." ALL connecting  
to TINY FEY and AMY POEHLER! That's where  
the initial Accusatory Bad Jokes about  
DR. COSBY DRUGGING and RAPPING WOMEN  
ostensibly originated therefrom !!! SEE  
BELOW, P. 4

Since his "Dirty Deed Done Cheap"  
Hannibal has gone from Cult Comic to Main-  
Stream Star". SEE BELOW, P. 4; esp. P. 3

SINCE the FIRST AFRKAN SLAVE landed  
IN the USA, the ESTABLISHMENT has EVER  
Used Negroes to shoot DOWN genuine Black  
Superstars and super Honorable Heroes !! like  
DR. COSBY.

Is this the glimmer of the "conspiracy"  
Madam Phylcia Rashad alluded to in her ABC  
NEWS.COM ZINTERVIEW, Jan. 8, 2015 5:30pm. CST USA.



MAN

MAR  
AT  
HIS  
2016

BEST

---

The ESQ & A

Hannibal Buress

THE COMEDIAN-ACTOR TALKS ABOUT ACTING, UNDER-STATEMENT, "GARBAGE ARTICLES" DUBAI, AND, OH YEAH, LOSBY

INTERVIEWED BY SCOTT RAAB ESQUIRE, COM MARCH 2016, P. 39

SR: You've been doing more movie work.

HB: I've been getting a lot of movie opportunities. I did Daddy's Home with Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell. I'm doing voice-over work in movies. I've got the Secret Life of Pets, and Angry Birds, and this indie film called Band of Robbers. It's just fun.

LAST Q & A.

SR: You got too big, man. You can just say it.

HB: Sure. [...]; p. 39 - END QUOTE



THE DOSSIER:  
HANNIBAL BURESS

Date of birth:

February 4, 1983

Which makes him:

33

Hometown: Chicago

Namesake:

Hannibal Barca, the Carthaginian [Carthaginian] Military Commander...

Most famous bit:

"Bill Cosby has the fucking smuggest old man ... black man public person that I hate. Pull your pants up, black people, I was on TV in the 80s. I can talk down to you because I had a successful sitcom, yeah, but you raped women, Bill Cosby, so brings you down a couple notches.

Which led to: more than 50 women coming forward to accuse Cosby of sexual abuse.

And produced this follow-up "I hate your music more than Bill Cosby hates my comedy" at the Justin Bieber roast., p. 4/0. Id - END QUOTE

BY: LEON IRBY

4 of 4 DATED: FEBRUARY 25, 2016



MAD! MAD!! WORLD!!!

SHOUT-OUT

TO TRAYVON MARTIN'S  
PLUS FOUR OTHER MOTHERS  
OF BLACK SONS MURDERED  
BY POLICE!!!

AND JOHN BROWN'S BODY

You mothers, who shamelessly exploit your own five sons' graves to gain emotional "BLACK VOTES" for HILLARY (BILL) CLINTON, whose polices hugely created these ANTI-BLACK social crises circumstance, ought to be ashamed of yourselves! HOW LONG!!

I've not witnessed such degree of obscenity since published photos of negroes weeping over Gov. (D, ALA.) George Wallace's casket.

[BY THE WAY, Gov. Wallace's wife was  
Governor in his stead!]



Those who vote for CLINTONS ought to  
Lose your vote! You did NOT EARN, NOR  
do you Deserve it!!!

HOW LONG

Check-out Madam JOY ANN REID, MSNBC  
CONTRIBUTOR; AUTHOR FRACTURED ... ON NBC  
MEET THE PRESS.COM NBC NEWS.COM FEB.  
21, 2016, SUNDAY 10: A.M. CST (HER COM-  
MENTS]...

ALSO: CBS OVERNIGHT NEWS.COM FEB.  
25, 2016.

# IF THE MIND IS ENSLAVED, THE BODY CAN NEVER  
BE FREE! MLK, JR.

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2016  
2 of 2



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

UPDATE

MR. HUEY P. NEWTON

BLACK PANTHER PARTY  
THE VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION  
INDEPENDENT LENS PBS.ORG  
WPT.COM FEBRUARY 16, 2016  
8:15 A.M. CST USA

MIND ALTERING EXPERIMENTS

AN INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE ILLUMINATING objective DOCUMENTARY, POSE THE IN-ESCAPABLE, THAT IS, TRUTH THAT THE INTENTIONAL cause of the chairman HUEY P. NEWTON PUSH-DOWN... WAS A FUNDAMENTAL FLAW IN HIS Comrades to grasp the bottomless depth of EVIL AND TRICKERY USED BY THE FBI OPERATIVES [INCLUDING THEIR AGENT PROVOCATORS!!!] TO UTTERLY DESTROY HIS MIND! SOUL! AND BODY!!!

EXPERIMENTATION



What did they do to him while he was  
in Prisons? [E.g. LSD or chemicals?]!  
How did they effect upon his MIND...  
and BEHAVIORAL Alter experiences?

HUEY DID NOT LET THE MOVEMENT DOWN

Contrarily, for human failure to  
apply sophisticated consideration to these  
kinds of ENQUIRES, the movement let down  
Dear Brother Huey Down!

RIP xoxo!!!

#MINDALTERING EXPERIMENTS

BY: LEONIRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2016

Z of Z



OSCAR'S AND MINSTREL  
FEBRUARY 28, 2016

MINSTREL CHRIS ROCK ATTACKING  
MR. "HANCOCK"'S WIFE Jada Pickett!  
Watch your SKINNY ASS!  
MR. AND MS. SMITH !!!  
DON'T PLAY THAT, boy!

#OSCAR'S MINSTREL SHOW

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCAR S

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

UNIVERSAL FRIENDS!

Why did Minstrel Chris Rock spend his  
BIT NAMING AND CASTIGATING BOYCOTTERS  
like Ms. Job-Fickett-Smith and demean-  
ING Power and Tradition of Boycotts!

NOT FUNNY!!!

NOT A MINSTREL JOB!!!

NEGROE ON BLACK RACISM!!!!!!

# MINSTREL SHOW!!!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCAR'S  
AND HONORARY WHITES

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

NEGROE ON BLACK RACISM

Whoopi Goldberg and Chris Rock are  
Honorary (pass) as "Whites", and are  
"Lougater (salve) is the best medicine"  
to white racist!

AND RICHLY PAID, too!

NOT LOL!

#OSCAR MISTRELS HOW!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



# OSCAR S AND MINSTREL

CHRIS ROCK

NEGROE ON BLACK RACISM!

HEY! CHRIS

JADA PICKETT-SMITH

WASN'T INVITED TO THE OSCAR S

CAUSE YOU AND WHOPPI GOLDBERG

USURPED (STOLE! ROBBED!! JACKED!!)

JADA'S TICKET TO RIDE!!

# RosaParkJada paid for your ticket chris!!!

BY' LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCARs, AND  
L&L !!!

SHOUT-OUT  
TO: SACHA BARTON

LENNY BRUCE

RICHARD PPROR

GEORGE CARLIN

The Realist Thing ON The Oscars!

L&L!!!!!!

THANK YOU!

#VOTE BERNIEBABY!!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCAR 5 AND MINSTREL  
FEBRUARY 28, 2016

TWO GROUPS AND BOYCOTTS

Minstrel Chris Rock appointed himself  
Some Type of DR. Who's Lord Master of Universe:  
Telling us we don't need Boycotts!

1. BOYCOTTERS!!

Rosa Park - BOYCOTT (MONT GOMERY, ALA.)  
BUSES

2. BENEFICIARY

Minstrels like CHRIS ROCK and MISSY

Whoopi Richly benefit from there Sac-  
rifice!! ALL OSCARS ATTENDEES!!!

BOYCOTT!!!!

#VOTE BERNIE BABY!!!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



MORE! MORE! MORE!!!

SHOUT-OUT

TO: SISTAH STEPHANIE MILLER

PROGRESSIVE RADIO HOST USA

The ESTABLISHMENT had it schemed out to pit the BUSH DYNASTY VERSUS the CLINTON'S DYNASTY.

HOWEVER (R) Candidate DONALD TRUMP devastatingly VANISHED (R.) candidate JEB BUSH IN C.S.C.!!!!

Nonetheless, the Democratic Party "DEMOCRATS" are BLINDLY doomed in proceeding under this CONVINCINGLY defeated paradigm, as overwhelmingly REFLECTED in TRUMP'S "huge" HIGHER VOTER TURN OUT rate, and DEMOCRATS OVERALL LOWER VOTERS TURNOUT compared to 2008.

WOMAN PRESIDENT V. 30 YEARS IN POLITICS !!

(BILL) Voters simply do NOT want a 1990 CLINTON PRESIDENCY!

# Sista! You ALL IN DENIAL!!!!!!

1 of 2



BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCARs  
FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SHTOCK AND DISMAY !!!

Seeing iconic Black Actor Lou Gossett, Jr. at the OSCARS!

He appeared in the original movie "A RAIN IN THE SUN!"

HE KNEW OUR GREAT ANCESTORS LIKE MALCOLM X; ROSA PARKER! DR. MLK, JR.

AND HE BET: HE KNEW BETTER!

XOXO!!!

#VOTE BERNIE BABY!!!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



GOODBYE BEAUTIFUL LADIES NUDES

SHOUT-OUT

TO: MR. PLAYBOY HUGH HEFNER

AND HUGE DISAGREEMENT

WITH

HUSTLER MR. LARRY FLYNT

Mr. Flynt last year told TMZTV.com that Mr. Hefner was Nuts to end PLAYBOY Fab Nude Pic!

Oh! Contrarily, as in its beginning Mr. Hefner's Brilliant genius saw the PICS in the other Mags. Like Young Lovely Actors Kristen Stewart, Selena Gomez, Models Cara Delevingne, Joan Small, Gigi Hadid and such glamorous celebrities posing nude in such glam mags. as VANITY FAIR; VOGUE; ELLE; and ALLURE, etc.

Most likely these stars would not grace with their sexy comely nakedness



PLAYBOY glorious pages!

Therefore, the Competition Act old  
PLAY BOY Nude out of BUSINESS!

Good Job, MR. HUFNER!!!

LOL! ASIDE: "EVERY TORN, HAS A ROSE"  
NO NUDE! THEN NO LAWFUL BAN!  
ON US WDC PRISONERS PURCHASING PLAY-  
BOY!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCARS

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

SILENCE IS GOLDEN!!

Z Wish Minstrel Chris Rock had kept  
his SUPERRICH mouth shut!

# NELSON MANDELA

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: D FEBRUARY 29, 2016



OSCARs

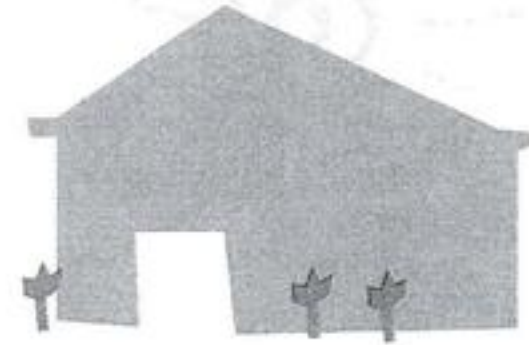
FEBRUARY 28, 2016





**Celebrate All That Binds Us Together**  
From "One World, One Heart"  
By Susan Polis Schutz

Celebrate  
the blooming flowers  
the clear blue sky  
the deep green forests  
the perfect full moon  
the twinkling stars  
Celebrate  
the miracle of a baby  
the optimism of children  
the laughter of adolescents  
the responsibility of adults  
the wisdom of our elders  
Celebrate  
the love in our hearts  
the spirit in our souls  
the health of our bodies  
Celebrate  
all that binds us together  
as one



A good laugh is  
sunshine in a house.  
WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

Mind clearing  
produces power  
steering. When  
your mind is clear,  
you will have the  
power to steer your  
life without any  
difficulty!



It is neither wealth  
nor splendor but tranquility  
and occupation which give  
happiness.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Ry: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 2, 2016



# Christmas

T	V	N	N	T	T	Y	A	T	W	S	L	L	E	B
C	B	A	E	S	T	I	R	X	E	S	M	T	B	R
E	Y	O	C	R	Z	A	O	R	T	N	E	V	D	A
P	U	V	X	A	D	U	C	H	E	D	H	Q	H	N
I	L	T	G	I	T	L	G	H	E	M	E	R	Q	D
P	E	D	T	S	N	I	I	C	E	I	L	A	S	Y
H	L	I	J	L	L	G	O	H	P	S	H	C	E	C
A	O	X	A	Y	U	R	D	N	C	D	T	A	L	O
N	G	B	R	E	A	D	S	A	U	C	E	N	B	M
Y	O	I	I	T	S	R	O	A	Y	L	B	D	U	E
E	A	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	I	L	A	T
F	G	O	O	D	W	I	L	L	Z	G	L	E	B	P
G	N	I	L	I	A	S	S	A	W	N	F	S	R	R
S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	S	C	A	R	O	L	O
I	D	Y	J	U	F	T	F	A	N	E	T	O	S	X

ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BAUBLES  
BELLS  
BETHLEHEM  
BOXING DAY

BRANDY  
BREAD SAUCE  
CANDLES  
CAROL  
CHESTNUT  
CHILDREN

COMET  
DECORATIONS  
EPIPHANY  
FAIRY LIGHTS  
GOODWILL  
MERRY

MISTLETOE  
PRESENTS  
TRADITION  
VACATION  
WASSAILING  
YULE LOG



SHOUT-OUT

TO: THE DR. BILL COSBY  
LEGION OF HATERS

Dr. Cosby is wholly innocent of charges of DRUGGING AND RAPING SO ACCUSERS

"BILL COSBY INNOCENT!!!!!!"

KAYNE WEST'S TWEET

US MAGAZINE.COM MARCH 7, 2016, P. 39

DEAR BLIND HATERS, PLEASE KEEP IN IRL "MIND" SOME OTHER CELEBRITIES' INFAMOUS CASES, LIKE ACTORS ERROL FLYNN; ROBERT BLAKE; O. J. SIMPSON; AND AMANDA KNOTS; AND NOW DR. LUKE; P.P. 44-45. ID

THE RABID HATERS TAUNT BILL THAT SO PLUS FEMALES CAN'T BE WRONG, BUT DR. COSBY ONLY NEED DOUBT IN THE "MIND" OF ONE JUROR.

AS A MATTER OF LAW, DR. COSBY IS WHOLLY INNOCENT.

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



SHOUT TO:  
MS. CAMILLE COSBY  
AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE!

MS. BILL COSBY, YOU MISSED YOUR BLESSING  
WHEN NOT CHOOSING JAIL OVER BEING UNLAW-  
FULLY COMPELLED TO BEAR WITNESS AGAINST YOUR  
DEAR EMBATTLED HUSBAND!

YOU BYPASSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFOCUS  
THE HUGE PUBLIC EYE, ALA APPLE'S TIM COOK -  
TO THIS OUTRAGEOUS "CONSPIRACY TO DESTROY  
HIS EXEMPLARY LEGACY"

MS. COSBY, KEEP IN YOUR BIG HEART  
THE BLACK LEGACY OF PERSONAL SACRIFICE  
POWER TO OVERCOME!!!

XOXO!!

#BILL COSBY IS INNOCENT!!!!!!

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



MORE LOVE !!!!!

DR. WILLIAM "BILL" COSBY, Ph.D

"Cliff" - hanger

Have the damning sexual assault allegations Bill Cosby - the Man ONCE KNOWN as "America's favorite dad" - destroyed the legacy of our greatest family sitcom, "The Cosby Show?" Goldie Taylor explores the intensely complicated relationship between the fallen icon, his most beloved character and the broken hearts of black America."

HELL NOOOOO !!!!!

XOXO

FOR THE REST OF THE COVER  
STORY AT EBONY.COM NOVEMBER 2016, P.100

BY: LEDN IRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



GOOD LEGAL NEWS

IN DR. BILL COSBY  
CRIMINAL CASE

UPDATE:

SCOTT PELLEY

CBS NEWS.COM ANCHOR

CBS EVENING NEWS.COM ANCHOR SCOTT  
PELLY, 5:30 PM, CST, USA TUESDAY, MARCH 1,  
2016 - JUST NOW REPORTED THE APPEAL COURT  
PUT A STAY, HALTING ANY FURTHER PROCEEDINGS  
IN DR. COSBY'S CRIMINAL CASE; WHILE IT CON-  
SIDER HIS MOTION TO DISMISS THE CASE !!!

AMEN!!

#JUSTICEFORALL!

#KEEPTHEFAITH

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 1, 2016



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

SHOUT- OUT TO:  
ACTOR MORGAN FREEMAN  
THE VOICE FROM  
THE DARK SIDE !!!



MANIC DEPRESSION  
WHAT A FRUSTRATING MESS - HENDRIX

---

THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED!!!

THE DAY THE BLACK VOTE STALLED THE  
COMING REVOLUTION!!!!!!

UPDATE:

ON Saturday February 20, 2016, Nevada,  
The state known for GAMBLING AND SECRECY  
had the Democratic Presidential Caucus.

The Essential BLACK VOTE WENT 75  
PERCENT TO ESTABLISHMENT CANDIDATE HILLARY  
CLINTON.

O' WHAT NIGHT!!!

Thus stalling candidate BERNIE  
Sander's PEOPLE'S Well known DEMO-  
cratic SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.

ALL the so-called state BLACK  
Leaders, without doubt, SUPPORTED CLINTON

PLEASE hear here MY INFORMED  
TAKE ON IT!!!



THE ACTOR'S VOICE  
FROM THE DARK SIDE

Actor Morgan Freeman used his Actor's 'VOICE' to Narrate REASONS BLACKS ought to "STAND WITH" support her! I heard his LIE that CLINTON has ALWAYS been with BLACK FOLKS!!

PLUS, Clinton exploited Trayvon Martin and Five other Black men murdered by cops Tragedy — With their Mothers holding Mock Funerals!!  
WHAT A RACE CARD!!!

Yes! Bill was with Blacks when he, as Governor of Arkansas, left his then Presidential Campaigning — to Fly there to oversee a pitiful mentally Retarded BLACK BOY EXECUTION!!!  
WHAT A RACE CARD!!!!!!

With Blacks when PLAYING THE RACE CARD against Sistah Soldier!!!

With Blacks when "ENDING WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT"!!!!!! ONE MORE RACE CARD!!!!!!

With Blacks when SIGNING CRIME BILL — LAWS resulting into what is termed "Mass BLACK INCARCERATION"!!!!!! WHAT AN ACE OF SPADE RACE CARD!!!!



With BLACKS When PLAYING THE RACE CARD  
IN The FIRST BLACK President BARACK H OBAMA's  
2008 Campaign!!!!

With BLACKS When Nowadays CLINTON  
needing their votes!!!!

REAL POLITIK !!!!!!!

SEE "America's Lurch to the Left" BY PETER  
BEINART; THE ATLANTIC.COM JANUARY-FEB-  
RUARY 2016, COVER STORY, P. 60

# FEEL THE BERNIE BABY !!!!!!!

FOR THE REST OF THE STORY "The Era of (Bill)  
Clinton Liberalism is Over;" BY JOAN WALSH is  
Salon's editor at large and the Author of What's  
the Matter with White People; FINDING OUR WAY  
IN THE NEXT AMERICA" at populist.com. JUNE  
1, 2015 - p. 13

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 1, 2016



# THE REAL FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT !!!

SHOUT-OUT

TO: SISTAH STEPHANIE MILLER  
PROGRESSIVE RADIO HOST...

February 29, 2016, Monday, USA, Sista celebrating Hillary (BILL) CLINTON'S expected huge (S.C.) Feb. 27; SAT. PRIMARY WIN...

PROUDLY BOASTED CLINTONS GOT MORE BLACK VOTES THAN BARACK H. OBAMA IN (S.C.) 2008.

86 per cent BLACK VOTE  
A Startlingly Historical REMINDER that  
BILL CLINTON is the ACTUAL ORIGINAL:  
"FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT" !!!

NAMASTE!

# FIRSTBLACKPRESIDENTBILLCLINTON  
# THEMIS~~E~~EDUCATION OFTHENEGROE

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 2016



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

## SHOUT-OUT

TO: ALL THE BLACKS WHO  
VOTED FOR HILLARY (BILL) CLINTON

We shall Take Away Your VOTE  
You Did Not Earn IT;  
Nor Deserve it !  
UNTIL Your "MIND"  
Leaves the OLD PLANTATION !!!!!

MOSES

# IF THE MIND IS ENSLAVED THE BODY CAN NEVER BE FREE !!  
- MLK, JR.

BY: LEDN ZRBY ; DATED: MARCH 2, 2016



## GAYLE KING

TWEETED TO MISTAKENING MS. OPPAH FOR MS.  
WHOOPI "WE DON'T ALL LOOK ALIKE"!

SHOUT-OUT

To: Gayle King

HOLLYWOOD DID STEREOTYPE THEM ALL ALIKE!

DARK! FAT! MANNISH! APEISH! AND  
UGLY!

AND WHITE FEMALES (JEAN HARLOW) BLONDE  
BOMBSHELL (C. 1929) SEXY! BEAUTIFUL!  
PINUPS! MAGAZINE COVERS.

FOR A TEASER CHECK-OUT EBONY.com NOVEMBER 2016  
'The Night Time IS The Right Time' A Retrospective  
BY RAGIYAH MAVS!

#DENIAL

BY: LEON ZRBV DATED: MARCH 1, 2016



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SCANDAL! SEXUAL ABUSE BY STAFF! PHYSICAL ABUSE  
REPORTED !!

# Lincoln Hills staffer sacked

3 more placed on paid leave  
amid prisoner abuse probe

By **PATRICK MARLEY**  
pmarley@journalsentinel.com

**Madison** — A Lincoln Hills School employee was fired Friday for excessive use of force and three others were put on paid leave this week amid a probe into allegations of prisoner abuse, child neglect and sexual assault at the state's secure facility for young offenders.

Three others who were earlier put on paid leave quit this week. One of them, Timothy Johnson, contended his resignation was inadvertent and he asked to revoke it, but the head of the school refused to allow that.

Johnson and the fired employee, Travis Taves, were involved in an incident in which a resident's arm was fractured. In another case, Johnson was with a different youth when that teen's arm was broken, as well. In a third matter, a resident alleged Taves had hit him multiple times in the head

Please see **LINCOLN, 2A**



# LINCOLN

## Staffers say they are being unfairly blamed for facility's problems

— a claim Taves denied.

The two ex-staffers said they had done nothing wrong and believed they were being unfairly blamed for wide-ranging problems at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake schools, which share a campus 30 miles north of Wausau in Irma.

"All the allegations are completely false," Johnson said.

"I've become a scapegoat. Lincoln Hills is the most corrupt, unprofessional place I've ever worked in. The supervisors and managers are lying bastards."

Taves said he would fight his termination and would try to eventually force Corrections Secretary Ed Wall and other department officials to testify about conditions at the school at a hearing to get his job back.

"When you ain't done anything wrong, why would I quit? Why would I fold? And I'm not going to give up," Taves said.

Department of Corrections spokeswoman Joy Staab has said the agency is committed to holding people accountable but is limited in what she can say about ongoing investigations. She and another department spokesman, Jeffrey Grothman, did not respond to questions about Taves' and Johnson's

accounts.

The firing and resignations this week came amid a yearlong state Department of Justice investigation of the facilities. Lincoln Hills houses about 220 teenage boys and young men and Copper Lake houses about 35 teenage girls and young women.

No one has been charged in the yearlong investigation, and Attorney General Brad Schimel has said the probe may last another year.

At least 19 Lincoln Hills employees have been put on paid leave, but the department has declined to name those who are continuing to receive pay while they are on leave or say how much taxpayers have paid them.

Taves and Johnson were paid tens of thousands of dollars each while they were on leave and they said they were frustrated by the slow pace of the investigation. Taves said he was on leave for 10 months before he was first interviewed by the officials conducting the internal investigation for the Department of Corrections.

They said they had not been interviewed by Department of Justice agents and did not believe they were under criminal investigation.

Johnson, 48, has worked for the Department of Cor-

rections for 25 years. Taves, 34, started working at Lincoln Hills in 2008. The two said they received positive work reviews over the years, though Taves said he had gotten a written reprimand a couple of years ago for an incident involving the use of force.

### Probe looks at 3 incidents

Taves and Johnson said they were both investigated for their response to a 2012 fight in which a resident was using a mop or broom handle against another resident. They said they were accused of using force on the teen after he was compliant, but they said they had not done that.

"I don't recall ever using any force on this youth," Taves said.

The youth could have been injured during the fight with the other resident or when other staff took him to the ground, he said.

Johnson said he used a hold on the youth in which the wrist is pushed toward the forearm to create discomfort and gain compliance.

After the youth was moved to a room, it was clear he was injured. Johnson said he reported it, and he was taken to the hospital.

"I did not break this kid's wrist," he said. "I just did not do it."

Johnson said he reviewed video of part of the incident soon after it happened and that he and his colleagues had a textbook response to the fight. He said he was told that video no longer exists.

Taves said his discharge letter also cited him for an incident in late 2014 in which a youth being escorted to his room turned around and raised his fists as if to fight

*"All the allegations are completely false, I've become a scapegoat. Lincoln Hills is the most corrupt, unprofessional place I've ever worked in."*

Timothy Johnson, Lincoln Hills employee who resigned this week

staff. He said he felt he was going to be assaulted, told the inmate to stop and took him to the ground.

Afterward, the inmate claimed Taves hit him multiple times in the head. Taves said he asked to have photos taken of his hands and another worker's hands to show they didn't have cuts, bruises or other signs they had hit anyone. A supervisor took photos of their hands, but not of a spot of blood on the floor or a 1-centimeter long cut on the youth's forehead, Taves said.

Johnson said the investigation involving him involved a separate incident in December 2014 in which he used a so-called compliance hold on a disruptive youth as he was transporting him to a secure room. The teen was later found to have a fracture.

"It was not my intent to cause any injury at all because the last thing I want to do is hurt anybody," Johnson said.

### Paid leave, nearly a year

Taves and Johnson were the Lincoln Hills employees who had been on paid leave the longest.

Taves was put on leave in January 2015. He made \$51,000 in 2014 and would have been paid a similar amount for the time that he wasn't working.

Johnson was put on leave

on March 25. He made about \$54,500 in 2014 and would have taken in a little less than that during the 10 months he was on leave.

Johnson on Wednesday sent a short email saying he was retiring to Wayne Olson, the superintendent of Lincoln Hills. On Thursday, he sent a second email saying he had drafted the email but didn't intend to send it, and that it might have been accidentally sent when a family member logged him off his computer.

Johnson had prepared the resignation letters in case corrections officials tried to fire him after a pre-disciplinary meeting that was held Thursday, said Troy Bauch, who represents Lincoln Hills workers for Council 32 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Employees who quit can use unused sick leave in retirement to pay health care costs; those who are fired lose that ability.

Olson on Friday sent Johnson a letter saying he wouldn't allow him to rescind his retirement.

According to the Department of Corrections, two others resigned this week — Kaitlyn Knospe, a youth counselor-advanced who had been put on leave on Dec. 10, and Nicole Daniecki, a social worker who had been put on leave Dec. 12.

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 2, 2016 20FZ



# Bill seeks \$5,000 fine for flying drones over prisons

By BRYNA GODAR  
Associated Press

**Madison** — Republican legislators are pushing a bill aimed at preventing drone operators from flying contraband into Wisconsin prisons as they have in other states.

Under the bill, anyone who flies a drone over a state correctional institution would face a \$5,000 fine. The bill also would allow municipalities and counties to establish areas where drones cannot be flown. Local governments could impose fines up to \$2,500.

The bill follows a series of cases across the country in which smugglers flew drugs, pornography or other contraband over prison walls. In August, a drone dropped a package of marijuana, tobacco and heroin into a prison yard in Ohio, sparking a fight among inmates. In October, a drone carrying drugs, blades and other contraband crashed into an Oklahoma prison yard. Other cases have surfaced in Georgia, Maryland and South Carolina.

Wisconsin has not yet reported similar issues with smuggling, but a drone that lost contact with its operator did land inside the walls of a state prison in Waupun in late December.

"This is really going after people and as a deterrent for people who want to commit crimes using drones," said Shawn Smith, a staff

member in the office of the bill's author, Sen. Richard Gudex (R-Fond du Lac).

Besides a fine, the bill would let police seize any pictures or video taken by a drone and turn it over to the Department of Corrections.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been developing regulations for drones, or unmanned aircraft systems. Almost 300,000 drone owners have registered with the FAA since it started requiring registration on Dec. 21.

But some local and state lawmakers across the country believe the federal rules are too lax and have been stepping in to regulate drones themselves.

"The FAA has been coming out with the rules slowly but surely," Smith said. "We don't know what they're going to come out with, so we wanted to give the local authorities the ability to do so."

Under current Wisconsin law, there is no express authority granted to municipalities or counties to establish no-fly zones.

This bill expressly grants that permission and includes a provision that no political subdivision may enact an ordinance inconsistent with federal law, in order to fit with FAA regulations.

The bill has a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Wednesday.

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BILL PASSED WISCONSIN GOV. COM

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: MARCH 2, 2016



Out of My Mind

# Pain can lead to depression

Thankfully, I'm on the backside of a bout of severe pain.

There are no reliable objective measures for pain, so it is among the most subjective of experiences, one shaped as much by the mind as the body. This reflects the wide range of pain thresholds we see across



Philip Chard

*Physical pain and emotional depression are twins that simply ply their mischief in separate venues.*

any given population. Just as some of us are highly sensitive at an emotional level, some folks possess extraordinary sensitivity on a physical level. Combine these two sensitivities — emotional and physical — and you end up with the potential

for a high level of subjective pain. However, make no mistake; "subjective" suffering is entirely real.

The source of my agony was dental, although I must add that I enjoyed competent and compassionate care. Sometimes, despite all our best efforts, things go off the rails. Sparing you the gruesome details this was the worst

anxiety amplifies the subjective experience of discomfort.

One tends to focus obsessively on the physical sensations, scanning for any sign that it may be getting worse; which, because of the attention, it does.

Of course, the more we concentrate on something, the more it is amplified in our consciousness, which is why folks in pain often attempt to distract themselves with anything that occupies their awareness. However, when the pain is intense and unremitting, this approach rarely works.

The current epidemic in prescription opioid use speaks to the paucity of healthy solutions for those in physical agony.

Certain nonmedicinal methods provide some relief, such as self-hypnosis,

meditation, acupuncture and cognitive behavioral therapy, but these only help.

They don't heal. Physical pain and emotional depression are twins that simply ply their mischief in separate venues. The rate of clinical depression among those enduring chronic pain far exceeds that of folks not so afflicted.

What's more, people who are seriously depressed often describe it as a deep, visceral ache, a kind of pain that straddles the mental and physical domains.

Both can create suffering of the worst kind — that which has no apparent meaning and seems to serve no purpose.

*Philip Chard is a psychotherapist, author and trainer. Email Chard at [outofmymind@philipchard.com](mailto:outofmymind@philipchard.com) or visit [philipchard.com](http://philipchard.com).*

# Bigger fix needed at DOC

Gov. Scott Walker has ordered a rewrite of discipline policies in the Department of Corrections after the Journal Sentinel reported that a supervisor received a mere reprimand after he smashed his vehicle in a drunken-driving accident, was found with several grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, and refused to tell his bosses where he had acquired the drugs.

Good for Walker. Such a rewrite clearly is needed. But better might be a thorough review of the department, all of its policies and how it has been managed of late.

**EDITORIAL** The slap-on-the-wrist for the supervisor comes on top of a probe at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake schools, the secure facilities for young offenders in northern Wisconsin. The state Department of Justice is investigating potential prisoner abuse, sexual assault, child neglect and other crimes, and the Department of Corrections is simultaneously conducting internal reviews of employees at the facilities who have been put on paid leave in the last year.

Three more Lincoln Hills School employees were put on paid leave and three others who were earlier put on paid leave quit this week, the Journal Sentinel reported. In all, at least 19 Lincoln Hills employees have been put on paid leave, but the department has declined to name those continuing to receive pay while they are on leave or say how much taxpayers have paid them while they are on leave.

The department should make that information available to the public. Now. The public also

1 of 2



for a high level of subjective pain. However, make no mistake; "subjective" suffering is entirely real.

The source of my agony was dental, although I must add that I enjoyed competent and compassionate care.

Sometimes, despite all our best efforts, things go off the rails. Sparing you the gruesome details, this was the worst pain I've ever suffered, and it persisted for weeks.

This unwelcome experience has given me increased empathy for folks besieged by chronic and intractable pain. It also demonstrated some of the most salient features of how ongoing physical discomfort grates on psyche and soul.

In addition to the actual physical sensations, there is also the added sense that one has little or no control over one's nemesis. As I did, many fight back by attempting different varieties of self-care and homegrown remedies.

Even when these don't work, which is often, one still gets a short-term emotional reprieve, mostly because assertive efforts temporarily renew one's hope.

The downside, of course, is that if you try many things that don't help, that glimmer of hope soon dissolves into despair and a sense of helplessness. What often follows is passivity, a sense of "What's the use?"

The fear (loss of control) associated with chronic pain exacerbates the situation.

Research shows that

the Journal Sentinel reported. In all, at least 19 Lincoln Hills employees have been put on paid leave, but the department has declined to name those continuing to receive pay while they are on leave or say how much taxpayers have paid them while they are on leave.

The department should make that information available to the public. Now. The public also should demand that Republicans in the Legislature take up a Democratic package of bills that aim to improve worker training, limit the use of forced overtime, increase workplace safety, strengthen reporting requirements and ensure appropriate staffing levels for first responders. That, or Republican legislators need to come up with a package of their own.

The department says that the reprimand given to Stanley Correctional Institution supervisor Patrick Lynch, who made about \$70,000 last year, was consistent with current policies. If so, those policies are indeed unacceptable, as the governor has said.

"Governor Walker thinks that the discipline administered in this case is unacceptable," Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said Thursday in a statement. He's right.

A union official told the Journal Sentinel that the discipline imposed on Lynch was light compared with what front-line correctional officers would receive if they refused to answer questions about illegal activities. When lower-level employees won't cooperate with investigations, they are promptly fired, said Troy Bauch, who represents workers for Council 32 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

That kind of difference between front-line employees and managers is, of course, unacceptable and needs to be dealt with.

But Lynch's case seems to be part of a larger problem at the department — a problem that the state needs to fix. Now.

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BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 2, 2016



# Life Without Parole

Loaded on AUG. 31, 2015 by Beth Schwartzapfel (/news/author/beth-schwartzapfel/) published in Prison Legal News September, 2015 (/news/issue/26/9/), page 1

Filed under: Parole Board Misconduct (/search/?selected\_facets=tags:Parole%20Board%20Misconduct), Open Meetings (/search/?selected\_facets=tags:Open%20Meetings), Parole (/search/?selected\_facets=tags:Parole), Parole Conditions (/search/?selected\_facets=tags:Parole%20Conditions). Location: United States of America (/search/?selected\_facets=locations:998).

## Life Without Parole

*Inside the secretive world of parole boards, where your freedom may depend on politics and whim.*

by Beth Schwartzapfel, The Marshall Project\*

Reynaldo Rodriguez was 19 with a young son, a good job and no criminal record when he shot and killed a man. As part of an ongoing family feud, someone – Rodriguez believed it was a man named Robert Cuellar – had shot at Rodriguez’s mother and brother. Then Cuellar slapped Rodriguez’s sister.

“I just blew a fuse,” Rodriguez says now of killing Cuellar.

In 1977 he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, and the judge gave him a choice: A sentence of 15 to 30 years would probably mean parole in 12. A life sentence would make him parole-eligible in 10 years.

Rodriguez chose life. At his sentencing, Saginaw County (Michigan) Judge Gary McDonald made it clear that this was “not the mandatory natural life imprisonment sentence” and said that if Rodriguez was a “model prisoner,” McDonald would recommend release in 10 years.

Thirty-seven years later, Rodriguez is still behind bars.

America’s prisons hold tens of thousands of people like Rodriguez – people primarily confined not by the verdicts of a judge or a jury but by the inaction of a parole board. Michigan is one of 26 states where parole boards are vested with almost unlimited power to decide who gets out of prison when, and why.

With more than 2.2 million people behind bars, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and the financial costs are staggering. As politicians from both parties seek alternatives to mass imprisonment, the parole process has emerged as a major obstacle.

A months-long Marshall Project investigation reveals that, in many states, parole boards are so deeply cautious about releasing prisoners who could come back to haunt them that they release only a small fraction of those eligible – and almost none who have committed violent offenses, even those who pose little danger and whom a judge clearly intended to go free.



A recent revision of the Model Penal Code, an influential document written by legal scholars, declared parole boards “failed institutions.”

“No one has documented an example in contemporary practice, or from any historical era, of a parole-release system that has performed reasonably well in discharging its goals,” a draft of the document says.

Rodriguez’s parole file, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, includes a scoring matrix that suggests how much time he should serve. Around the country, almost every decision in the criminal justice system is now aided by such data-based tools. But many parole boards eschew them, basing decisions instead on political considerations and gut instincts.

In Michigan, for example, Rodriguez’s prior criminal history (zero) was measured against the severity of his crime (6 on a 23-point scale) to produce a recommended sentence of 14 years. But Rodriguez wasn’t even granted a hearing before the parole board until 1994, 17 years after he was sentenced.

By then, Rodriguez had earned his GED and worked his way up to head mechanic in the prison shop. He had a letter of support from Judge McDonald and glowing reports from his work supervisors. A prison psychologist noted: “prognosis while on parole is good.”

But the board refused to release him and has considered his case only once in the years since.

“Nature of crime as described in public hearing causes further concern,” the board wrote.

Because declining to consider a case is not considered a “decision,” the board is not required to give any reason.

Rodriguez is now 59 years old.

“Closed to the extreme”

Parole boards are vested with almost unlimited discretion to make decisions on almost any basis. Hearsay, rumor and instinct are all fair game. In New Mexico, the law directs the board to take into account “the inmate’s culture, language, values, mores, judgments, communicative ability and other unique qualities.”

The boards’ sensitivity to politics stems in part from the heavy presence of politicians in the ranks of board members. At least 18 states have one or more former elected officials on the board. In 44 states, the board is wholly appointed by the governor, and the well-paid positions can become gifts for former aides and political allies.

While some state laws require basic qualifications, these statutes are often vaguely worded, with language that is easily sidestepped. Many states have no minimum requirements at all.



And unlike politicians, who are bound by open records and disclosure laws and are accountable to their constituents, parole boards often operate behind closed doors. Their decisions are largely unreviewable by courts – or anyone else.

“Not only are they closed, they’re paranoid closed,” said Janet Barton, the former operations manager of Missouri’s parole board. “Closed to the extreme.”

Few others in the criminal justice system wield so much power with so few professional requirements and so little accountability.

“I received your letter ... and frankly was surprised you were not released at your last review,” Judge McDonald wrote to Rodriguez in 1999, almost 22 years after he went to prison. “I am sure you know that I have no power over the parole board and there is nothing I can do in that regard.”

In many states, the boards’ most basic workings are shielded by law from public view. Boards are not obligated to give any but the most cursory reasons for their decisions, which include not only whether to release prisoners but also how long they must wait to be considered again or what they can do to increase their chances in the meantime.

In 24 states, boards need not disclose what material they relied upon to reach their decisions. Courts have consistently upheld this prerogative, ruling that prisoners have no due process right to parole.

“I have no idea as to what is expected of me to gain meaningful consideration from the parole board again,” Rodriguez wrote in an emotional 2003 letter to the board.

At the bottom, someone had stamped: “No response necessary.”

### Paradox for parole boards

Prisoners like Rodriguez represent a paradox for parole boards: Older prisoners who have committed the most serious crimes, and served the longest terms, are the least likely to commit new crimes upon release.

One Stanford University study of 860 murderers paroled in California found only five returned to prison for new felonies, and none for murder.

This is especially true for older prisoners. Recidivism rates drop steadily with age. And older prisoners are more expensive: The average annual cost per prisoner doubles at age 55 and continues to climb thereafter.

Still, these prisoners are consistently the least likely to be paroled. Though they pose a low risk of future violence, the political risk of releasing them is huge. Parole board members are routinely pilloried in the news media and chastised by the public. Many have lost their jobs for releasing people whose crimes were violent.



“There’s some offense conduct you just can’t outrun,” said William Wynne, a member of the Alabama parole board.

Take Keith Drone, who has been denied parole five times – including once when the Missouri board granted parole and then took it away.

Drone was 17 when he and his friends tried to rob a motel. Although no one was killed or critically injured – except Drone himself, who was shot in the head – he received three life sentences, in part because an off-duty police officer, acting as a security guard, was shot in the leg during the melee. Under Missouri law, “armed criminal action” enhancements carry a life sentence, though Drone’s plea bargain allowed him to serve the sentences concurrently.

Drone is now 44. “I’m not exactly an old man yet,” he said. “I really don’t want to be one of those guys.”

After each parole hearing, Drone has received the standard line from the board: “Release at this time would depreciate the seriousness of the present offense based on A: circumstances surrounding the present offense.”

Of the 10 factors parole board members weigh most heavily in their release decisions, five are related to the crime itself, according to a nationwide survey of parole boards in 2008. The top two are “crime severity” and “crime type.”

Eight of the 10, including the offender’s criminal history and gender, were known to the judge at the time of sentencing.

Those paroled before the end of their sentence are subject to supervision in the community. The parole board can dictate the terms of release, including how often they must meet with a parole officer and whether they must seek treatment for drug or alcohol abuse.

But those continually denied parole eventually serve their full sentence – they “max out,” and the state loses its legal ability to supervise them. The people deemed too dangerous to release therefore become the very people released with no conditions and no supervision.

“When a person is parole-eligible, if they meet the qualifications, if they’ve done the programming, if they pose a manageable risk, then you want to parole them at the earliest point possible,” says Catherine McVey, the former chairman of Pennsylvania’s parole board.

Over the past two decades, however, the number of prisoners who max out has more than doubled, according to a recent study by the Pew Charitable Trusts. In 2012, one in five state prisoners was released from prison without supervision.

### Assessing the risk

Determining whether an offender poses a manageable risk is a major preoccupation in criminal justice circles. At many steps in the process – from sentencing to probation – offenders’ histories are plumbed to produce data-driven, research-tested assessments of the threat they pose to public safety.



In the past five years, at least ten states have passed laws requiring parole boards to use risk assessment tools and other quantitative guidelines. Many other state boards also use them.

But the quality of the tools varies widely, and even high-quality tools are often ignored.

A Missouri parole board staffer filled one out for Drone in 2001, after he had been in prison for almost 13 years. Because Drone had no criminal history, his score was almost perfect: 9 out of a possible 11. A copy was attached to his parole rejection notice.

Fourteen years after that first risk assessment, Drone was finally granted parole, but his release was set for 2017. He has no idea why and no way to find out.

Some states require board members who depart from the guidelines to explain why. In New Hampshire, lack of a financial safety net or a safe place to live is “the most common reason we would hold somebody back with a decent score,” said Donna Sytek, who chairs the New Hampshire board.

In other cases, it’s impossible to know whether a departure from the guidelines was for a good reason.

“There’s not a way to go back and look at that file to find out why they deviated from the parole decision guidelines,” said one former member of the Georgia parole board, who requested anonymity to discuss the board’s inner workings. “They don’t have to answer to that. They don’t have to answer to anybody.”

Many state parole boards claim exemptions from state sunshine laws that would be unthinkable for other government officials.

In 19 states, some or all parole board hearings are closed to the public. In 24 states, board files and documents are sealed. In 18 states, parole files are not available to the prisoners themselves.

Georgia, for example, classifies board records as “state secrets,” immune even from subpoena. This spring, Governor Nathan Deal (R) signed a measure intended to increase transparency, but lawmakers jettisoned a provision that would have required the board to explain its decisions.

### Leaving prisoners in the dark

Some state boards are more transparent. Connecticut broadcasts some of its parole hearings on public access television. In New Hampshire, Sytek scrapped a long-standing rule barring cameras from board hearings.

“In order to have confidence in their government, the public needs to know what their appointed officials are doing,” Sytek said. “They don’t trust what they can’t see.”

States that give prisoners access to their files almost always make an exception for victim statements and other letters of protest.



“Someone can be kept in prison indefinitely and could never have a clue that the victim is saying something that may be untrue,” said Barbara Levine, founder of a Michigan nonprofit devoted to reducing the prison population, and a member of the state’s new Criminal Justice Policy Commission.

This may have happened to Roosevelt Price, a Missouri prisoner who last came up for parole in 2013. At his hearing, Price said he was stunned by a skeptical board member.

“I think you’ve been involved in other murders that you haven’t been caught for,” she told him.

By then, Price had served 20 years of a life sentence for shooting and killing his brother-in-law in a fight. His only other run-in with the law had also involved a long-standing feud with his wife’s family. He had never been accused of another killing.

“I don’t know where you’re getting that from,” Price said.

“There’s things in your file I know about that I think you don’t know,” the woman responded.

Missouri officials declined to provide additional information.

“Several state statutes prohibit the release of this information,” Missouri Parole Board chairman Ellis McSwain said in a written statement. He cited laws dictating that parole-related documents “shall not be disclosed” and that any parole-related meeting or vote “may be ... closed.”

### Shift in attitudes

When Judge McDonald sentenced Reynaldo Rodriguez to life, he expected Rodriguez to get out in 10 years. This was, for much of modern U.S. history, how criminal sentencing worked.

Judges would hand down an indeterminate sentence with a range of years, such as five-to-10 or 25-to-life. The lower number was generally meant to serve as the punishment portion of the sentence. The balance could be served on parole if the prisoner could prove he had been rehabilitated.

“The idea was, you should only stay in as long as you needed to,” says Peggy Burke of the National Parole Resource Center. “The parole board was in a good position to judge that.”

Murderers released in 1981 served a median term of about five years before they were paroled or had their sentences commuted. The tough-on-crime 1990s changed that.

Criminologists began to tout the notion that rehabilitation was impossible. Therefore, the thinking went, the best option was to keep violent criminals off the streets as long as possible. “Abolish parole” and “life means life” joined the political lexicon.

Fourteen states and the federal government eliminated or severely restricted parole. These states turned instead to “determinate” sentencing schemes, in which the sentences handed down in court dictate exactly when a prisoner will go home, and how long he or she will be



supervised afterward.

Boards that retained the ability to release people, meanwhile, became increasingly reluctant to do so. In the early 1990s, the New York state board voted to parole more than 60 percent of those eligible. That rate then went into a two-decade decline, dipping below 20 percent in 2010.

When Rodriguez appeared before the Michigan parole board in 1994, the release of lifers in that state had slowed to a trickle.

In 1997, the Michigan board published a report trumpeting its transformation into “a Parole Board that is much less willing to release criminals who complete their minimum sentences – and much less willing to release criminals at all, forcing many to serve their maximum sentences.”

Lately, the national mood has swung away from the punitive excesses of the 1990s. But those who study the issue say parole boards continue to release far fewer people than they safely could.

That conclusion is largely anecdotal: There is no national data on parole grant rates. Each board calculates its rate differently, and some states don't release it at all. There is also little hard data on recidivism among parolees vs. those who max out.

“Despite the best efforts of parole authorities, there is little empirical evidence to support the proposition that we can effectively distinguish those offenders who are truly rehabilitated from those who merely ‘talk the talk,’” said a recent report by the New York state Sentencing Commission, which recommended that New York eliminate discretionary parole entirely.

Crunched for time

Courts understand parole to be an act of grace rather than a right. Legally, boards can – and do – make decisions for almost any reason.

Board files may contain “observations of guards, counselors, and other corrections personnel. Even unsubstantiated rumors may appear,” criminologist Neil P. Cohen wrote in his authoritative reference book *The Law of Probation and Parole*.

Many boards deny parole based on crimes that were never prosecuted or facts that were never established before a judge or jury.

“Their offense on paper may be a property offense, but they may have had a series of other offenses that just overshoot that,” said Wynne, the parole board member in Alabama. “I’ve seen burglary thirds that were pled down, that [started as] a burglary first and a rape. You’re going to treat that differently from a guy that walks in and steals a lawn mower out of a shed.”

Time is one of the many factors that prevent board members from making thoughtful decisions. The 2008 parole board survey revealed that the average state board considered 8,355 prisoners for release each year. That’s about 35 decisions per workday for a board that



usually has other responsibilities.

“I typically voted 100 cases a day. That was just an average day,” said the former Georgia parole board member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity and who had urged a “system overhaul.” “You’re just talking about two to three minutes to make a decision. The public would be astounded at the short period of time that the board has to make decisions on life and death cases.”

The parole process varies widely by state. Some boards review files and conduct interviews, either in person or by video; some only review files. Some meet to discuss cases; others simply pass files from one board member to the next until they accumulate enough votes to support a decision. That’s the system in Georgia.

“Most families have it in their mind that the board sits down and has a hearing as it relates to a case. And that’s not correct,” the former Georgia board member said.

Janet Barton, who worked as operations manager of the Missouri board for 30 years, said some members never examined the files, basing their decisions instead on how others voted.

As a file changed hands, “a board member may not even look at that case, other than to say, ‘I trust Richard. So I’m going to agree with him,’” Barton said. The next board member might say, “I don’t trust a thing that guy does. He’s a liberal decision-maker. I’m not even going to look at the case. I’m going to just deny.”

For a time it was Barton’s job to fill out the form that communicates the board’s decision to the prisoners. She became increasingly disheartened, she said, by how difficult it was for people with violent convictions to get parole, even decades after their crime.

Their forms would always say the same thing: “Release at this time would depreciate the seriousness of the present offense.”

But that was “not always the truth. Sometimes I’d make that crap up. The real reason,” Barton said, was “we don’t believe in parole for people like you.”

Members of the Missouri parole board declined repeated requests for comment.

“Our statute is that parole and probation records are closed,” said Corrections spokesman David Owen.

### Lost confidence in parole

In December 2010, the Massachusetts parole board faced a scenario every board dreads: A man the board had voted unanimously to release went on to commit another terrible crime. During an armed robbery, Dominic Cinelli killed a police officer.

Headlines blared: “Massachusetts Cop Was Killed by Career Criminal Out on Parole Despite Three Life Sentences,” Fox News wrote. Lawmakers and police called for decisive action.



Privately, Governor Deval Patrick (D) assured board members they had done nothing wrong. He urged them to cooperate with investigators from his office, who ultimately blamed inadequate supervision by Cinelli's parole officer, rather than the board's decision to release him.

Still, when board members arrived at work days later, armed troopers escorted them to a conference room where they found Mo Cowan, the governor's chief of staff, distributing resignation letters, according to a wrongful-termination lawsuit filed by one of the board members.

Patrick still believed they had done nothing wrong, Cowan told them, but he was asking the entire board to resign nonetheless.

"The public has lost confidence in parole, and I have lost confidence in parole," Patrick said later.

In 44 states, parole boards are appointed by governors. Only three states recruit publicly for the job, which typically comes with a handsome salary and government benefits. Parole boards nationwide heed cases like Cinelli's as a warning.

In Massachusetts, where the average board member's salary is more than \$100,000 a year, the new board got the message: The year before Cinelli killed the police officer, the release rate was 42 percent. The year after the shooting, it was 26 percent.

Mark Conrad, the chair of the parole board that oversaw Cinelli's release, was a former police officer with two degrees in criminal justice – and he was the governor's former driver. In many states, the most obvious qualifications of parole board members are their political connections to the governor.

A Louisiana board member, for example, served on the Governor's Commission for Marriage and Family and as a lobbyist for the Louisiana Family Forum, which has close ties to Governor Bobby Jindal (R). A New Jersey board member was a Senate staffer, then chief of staff to former governor Richard Codey (D) before he appointed her.

One of the American Correctional Association's "essential" standards for parole boards is that at least two-thirds of members have at least three years of experience in criminal justice or a related position. But the ACA declined to clarify those guidelines. "We're not going to weigh in," said ACA spokesman Eric Schultz.

Without an objective standard, it's hard to say how many state parole boards meet the ACA's benchmark.

The boards in Arkansas (which is ACA-accredited), Delaware, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia seem to fall short. Members in these states included farmers, executives at the chemical company DuPont, an automotive broker and personal fitness trainer, a pastor, and an entertainment and event manager.



In at least seven other states, board members' official biographies do not make clear whether they have criminal justice experience. Four states – Wisconsin, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Indiana – refused to provide board members' biographies.

Parole boards have recently begun to emerge as an area ripe for reform. In the past five years, at least 16 states have passed overhaul bills, including six that set out minimum qualifications for members, such as a bachelor's degree.

But many of those requirements are broad, allowing for experience in fields such as “education” that don't necessarily bear on the complexities of criminal behavior, risk assessment or the local prison system.

### Facing political pressure

Given the close relationship between politics and parole boards, it's not uncommon for board members to lose their jobs – or fear losing their jobs – for making decisions that are politically unpopular.

“You generally don't get reappointed if you take a controversial stand on a media case. And most cases involving law enforcement personnel become media cases,” said Thomas Grant, a former member of the New York parole board. The New York tabloids have a close connection with the police officers' unions, Grant said, and “they can generate a Page One story pretty quickly.”

Grant should know. In 2009, the *Daily News* ran a story headlined: “Cop killers' pal: Parole Board's Thomas Grant keeps voting to turn 'em loose.” In 2010, the paper asked: “Has state parole commissioner Thomas Grant ever met a cop killer he didn't want to put back on our streets?”

Grant was not reappointed after his first term.

Victims' rights groups, too, now wield considerable influence in states around the country.

“The heavy pressure for being super conservative is from your victims' groups,” said McVey, the Pennsylvania board chair. “The advocacy groups are stronger than ever.”

The vast majority of the nation's parole boards are required to hear victim input before making a decision, according to the 2008 survey; 40 percent said victim input is “very influential.”

In Alabama, it's almost unheard of for the board to grant parole over victim opposition. The board also routinely receives letters opposing parole from the governor, the attorney general and other elected officials.

“That's going to impact the disposition when they protest, almost universally,” Alabama board Chairman Robert Longshore said. “You've got a very politicized victim community in the state of Alabama.”



In Maryland, Oklahoma and California, the governor has the power to reverse a parole decision, taking a process already implicitly fraught with politics and making it explicitly so.

Dorian Maddox was caught in that emotional grinder. After extensive psychological workups, the Maryland parole board voted to release him in 2005, only to have the decision reversed by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (R) in 2007.

When he pleaded guilty to first-degree rape and was sentenced to life in 1976, Maddox said, "the state's attorney and my attorney both agreed that I would accept this plea and after 20 years I would be paroled."

Thirty-eight years later, he is still waiting.

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