

H A R L A N R I C H A R D S

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Are Criminals Running the Prison?

Last year, SCI Housing Unit Manager Patrick Lynch crashed his car on the way home from a golf course. He had been drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana before he went off the road and hit a tree.

Police found 5 grams of marijuana, a rubber ball filled with hash oil and other related items. Lynch refused to take a breathalyzer test. Anyone else would have ^{been} severely sanctioned for such conduct. Instead, Lynch was given a deferred prosecution deal where the drug possession would be reduced to an ordinance violation. DOC officials gave him a reprimand so he could keep his \$70,000 per year job at SCI.

Lynch is disliked by many prisoners for his callous attitude toward prisoners. He recently refused to move a vulnerable prisoner out of a cell after he had been threatened by his cellmate. The prisoner was brutally beaten by his cellmate. Lynch was not held accountable for this action either.

My most recent experience with Lynch was when he sat on the prison classification committee at my annual hearing. Lynch and other members of that committee concluded that I needed cognitive growth intervention program (CGIP) treatment - 31 years after I came to prison. If I ever needed it, I'm certain I no longer could get any benefit from a program like that. I remember thinking to myself as I looked at Lynch, that they are talking to the wrong person.

The Wisconsin DOC is a law unto itself. It exists solely to perpetuate itself, protect its employees and wield its power arbitrarily. Its practice of promoting from within has created a fraternity of likeminded incompetent people who haven't got a clue what they're doing. It's the worst case of group think in a governmental organization since the Viet Nam war.