

"We are lonesome animals, we spend all our life trying to be less lonesome." - John Steinbeck

Dear Readers,

10-16-16

Howdy! It's Sunday afternoon & I'm sitting outside in the sun on a beautiful Fall day. We haven't had a lot of beautiful days recently.

My birthday was last week. It was largely overlooked, which sucks. I always remember people on their birthdays, but I'm not the type to "advertise" that my b-day is coming up & most often people don't even bother to ask when it is.

While I'm griping, I'll tell you about some of the awful changes that have occurred since I got here.

First of all, when I came here the showers were great. There was a handle to turn it on & you could adjust the temperature to hot or cold to suit you & there was lots of water pressure. They were great.

Then, a few months ago, they installed a horrible new shower system. It turns on based on touching

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a round, flat button that responds to your touch. There is one temperature which is at best lukewarm. Last week that "warm" became cold & I froze my ass off. Plus, there's no water pressure so the water barely sprays out. I have had goosebumps many - hell, most of the time, this summer taking showers & I'm sure I'll freeze this winter.

The other thing are our toilets. They always had the same touch-sensitive button, but you could flush it as much as you needed. That's all gone. Now, if you flush it twice within 5 minutes, it'll turn off for an hour & you can't flush it again until that hour is up. It's insane.

This is not a topic I like to bring up, but just imagine that you're locked in your cell with your cellie & you have to go "# 2". You can't flush twice or you're stuck. Or - say your cellie urinates & leaves the cell & you come in & need to use "# 2" & don't know that he already flushed.

There's been a few times that I've ended up with crap in the toilet for an hour - literally. It's disgusting.

There's no reason for either of these changes. I'm told this prison pays a flat rate for water so no money is saved. As for the toilets, I know of guys who've flooded their cells in the SHU.

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(segregation) with their toilet, but in 12 years that has never happened in a regular unit.

None of the things they do make any sense & rarely serve any purpose but to make our lives even more miserable.

On a personal note, I know I've been going over my heartbreak a lot recently. It's still hard having to see this guy all the time, but with time I've gotten better. I'm just really lonely.

Love & Blessings,

