

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE "OFFICE"

Sunday

December 18, 2016

This weekend, the prison notified the inmate population of yet another rule change, and, as with just about every previous rule change, this one made absolutely no sense whatsoever. In fact, if anything, this one took the CDCR's idiocy to a whole new level of craziness.

Certain things have almost always been banned from the prison system because of their "gang affiliations." For instance, you can't wear a blue or red bandana because these are the colors of the notorious gangs, the Democrats and the Republicans. You also can't display the colors of the rainbow on your clothing because of its connection with people of the same sex who love and care for each other. Another example includes owning any shoes manufactured by K-Swiss, because a gang member turned it into an acronym for killing members of his rival gang. You're not even allowed to wear a sports team logo because of possible connotations with gangs. The Denver Broncos, for instance, just so happen to have the same colors of a certain California gang, so anyone wearing, or rooting, for the Denver Broncos is automatically guilty by association in the eyes of prison officials. This weekend, prison officials implemented yet another senseless rule change based on their suspicions of gang affiliations, and like most, if not all, of the rules before, this one completely defies all logic and common sense.

According to the prison, inmates are permitted to continue wearing tennis shoes with the manufacturer's logos on them, just as we can continue wearing sweat pants, sweat shirt and t-shirts with those same logos, but, effective immediately, we're no longer allowed to purchase shorts with those same logos. Somehow, in the prison's mind, a logo on a pair of shorts is now associated with gangs, but that same logo, worn on tennis shoes, t-shirts or sweats isn't. Is it just me? Or is this complete lunacy?

I didn't say anything when prison officials wouldn't allow me to wear a rainbow flag in support of the victims from the Orlando shooting massacre, just as I didn't say anything when they wouldn't allow me to wear an American flag in support of the victims from 9/11. In regards to the rainbow colored flag, prison officials claimed they didn't want to be seen as condoning homosexuality, nor did they want to set a precedent which might allow the homosexual prison gangs (yes, such things do exist), to display their gang colors. Concerning the wearing of the American flag, prison officials claimed that they didn't want to set a precedent for inmates to wear the flags of other countries, countries which might have a gang color as the dominant color. While I disagreed with the prison system on their rules, in each, they had some sort of logic, however flawed, in support of their decision, but this most recent rule completely defies any and all attempts at explanation. Why is it not a security threat to wear tennis shoes with logos on them, t-shirts or even sweats, but if that same logo, a manufacturer's logo, at that, appears on a pair of shorts, it's all of a sudden a "threat to the safety and security of the facility?"

If you think back in time for a moment, you'll recall many situations in which a country was ruled by a child (or worse, an adult who acted like a child). As a child ruler, the laws of his country often reflected the ruler's youth and immaturity, something which, sadly, didn't always change when the ruler reached adulthood. In looking at the rules which pervade this prison system, I can't help but wonder if our rules aren't being created by a spoiled little kid sitting in seclusion, separated from anything which might help him understand the consequences of his actions.

I suppose things could be worse. Instead of having a petulant child in charge of creating new rules for the prison system, we could have elected a spoiled little brat to run the entire country.

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