

Reply ID:  
93ve

Dear scrip,

First of all, I'd like to say "thank you" for taking time out to make a transcription of my post. To know that there's someone out there willing to help, in whatever way, means a lot to me, especially when the people in here go so far out of their way to avoid providing us with even the most basic of human necessities.

Speaking of which, my post concerned what I thought was the prison's **failure** to fix the ventilation system. I've since learned that it's not a "failure," it's an outright **refusal**. Please allow me to explain.

Despite not having any ventilation whatsoever, by which I mean that, not only did we not have any air coming through the vents and into our cells, but we also didn't have any air leaving the cells through the exhaust vents, the prison decided not to treat my grievance as an emergency. Instead, they sent my grievance through "normal" channels, meaning that they had weeks, if not months to respond, not 2-business days. During that time, temperatures outside hit 117°, with temperatures in the cells exceeding 100°, and yet, they simply didn't care. An "engineer" came over to inspect the vents in my cell, and a number of other cells, as well, where he verified what I'd been saying all along, that there's NOTHING entering or leaving the cells, and this was one of the cool days, before the heat really got started. They promised to return with a camera, to snake it through the vents and find out where the blockage was, but never did. Instead, I received a response from S. Almosara, the Chief Engineer I for the California Institute for Men (CIM) and J. Core, the Associate Warden for the CIM which stated, and I swear I'm not making this up, "purchasing the equipment [to provide ventilation] would be a hardship on the California Institute for Men."

Are you FUCKING KIDDING ME? It is AGAINST THE LAW to do what they're doing, and for so many reasons, but to better understand, allow me to describe what happens in here when it gets hot outside, like it is today. First, the outside wall begins to heat up, hotter and hotter, until it's finally so hot that it's almost too hot to touch. If there are any hooks on the wall hung up with double-sided tape, the usually fall off because the sticky part on the tape literally melts, and as the day continues, it only gets even hotter and hotter. Before you know it, the floor, the inside walls, the ceiling, the toilet, even the metal of the bunk, all are over 90°, hot to the touch. Anything capable of melting literally begins to melt, and anything capable of cooking literally starts to cook. Their response is to do nothing, to just leave you there sweltering, suffering in agonizing torment, and some of the guys are on heat sensitive medications which, if it gets hot enough, can cause them to suffer serious damage to their brains.



They're supposed to take hourly readings, and then, depending on those readings, take certain actions, but the problem there is that they're not trained, nor do they have the desire, to do this. They're given a thermometer that takes several minutes to fully adjust to any change in temperature. They leave it in their office, where it's cool, and then bring it out to take their readings, but instead of letting it adjust, they hold it in the hallway for a moment, and then use the reading shown, which was the reading from the office. What they need to be doing is leaving the thermometer in the cells for awhile, to get an accurate reading, but that would be too much like "right," which is against the rules, so we just end up suffering for their incompetence.

Their "cooling measures," when implemented, consist of bringing over an Igloo of ice and giving everyone a glass of cold water. One glass per person, and if you're unfortunate to live in a building that eats last, you don't even get any cold water with your meal. In fact, you don't get anything to drink at all, and yet, they continue telling you to "drink more water to avoid heatsroke!"

The heat is bad enough when the doors are open, but the doors are often shut, despite being a Medium Level Facility, and if you've ever been locked up in a car for even a few minutes under the Summer sun, then I don't need to tell you what happens when the door shuts. The temperatures start to rise, higher and higher, until finally, you just can't take it anymore. I've passed out twice so far, I've been sick almost nonstop since the Summer heat started, but there's just nothing anyone can do because, as the prison so eloquently put it, "purchasing the equipment would be a hardship on the California Institute for Men."

If you've ever been in prison, or if you know of someone who's been in prison, or if you just disagree with what's going on, then go online, Google the California Institute for Men and find the extension for the Associate Warden, J. Core and the Chief Engineer, S. Almosara, and give them a call. Give them Hell for not addressing this issue before now, this, despite having been asked, FOR YEARS NOW, to do just that. Do it, not because you know me and care for me personally, but because it's the **right** thing to do. Do it because, the only thing needed for evil to triumph is for the righteous to do nothing. Do it because we won't be in here forever, and when we do get out, you want to know that we haven't been turned into animals because of how bad we've been treated. Do it because, you never know what the future has in store for you. God forbid you or someone you know ends up in a position like this.

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