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If what I'm being told is true, then several years ago, the officers working here came up with a convincing argument to have air conditioning installed so their offices could have cool air, however, they ran into several problems during the installation process. For starters, the offices and the inmates' cells both received their ventilation from the same system of air ducts. If they installed an air conditioning unit to provide the offices air, then logic dictated that the inmates' cells would also receive the cool air, and, to prison officials, this was completely unacceptable, even in an area that routinely sees temperatures that exceed 100° in the summer. As much as they wanted air conditioning for their offices, they wanted to provide us with relief even less, so they went without. (Kind of reminds you of a child who'd rather break his toy than let his sibling play with it, doesn't it?) Then, someone realized that the location of the offices in relation to the ventilation system meant that they received their air first. Once they realized this, they also realized that all they'd have to do was put a physical obstruction in the ventilation system just after the offices, thereby preventing the cool air from the air conditioning unit from reaching the cells. The fact that this meant that none of the cells received any airflow whatsoever was meaningless to them. They had cool air, nothing else mattered, especially since, so far as they were concerned, as convicted felons, we were entitled to nothing which might benefit us or improve our situation. The end result are cells which rarely drop below 90° until well after 1:00 in the morning, and begin the day at 88°. The outside wall routinely exceeds 100°, heat which radiates into the cells; the floors, the inside walls and even the ceiling are usually over 90°, warm, almost hot to the touch. Opening the windows, especially on days like today, doesn't help, as it's usually much hotter outside than it is inside, and if there's a fire nearby, as there is today, then the air quality is so bad that any air that does make it inside (assuming there is a breeze), makes it extremely difficult for those with breathing problems to breathe. To make matters worse, the cell doors are rarely opened more than a crack, which simply isn't sufficient to create any sort of cross breeze, even if the wind outside did happen to be blowing.

This is an issue which has been raised before, numerous times, without any success. Guys have filed grievances, raise the issue at Warden's meetings, even filed suit in court, and while I'm told the court has told them to fix it, nothing ever gets done, and why should it? Instructions, without the force or discipline needed to ensure compliance is meaningless. The local courts can say anything they like, but if they're not willing to hold people accountable for their failure to comply, then why even bother wasting their breath?

People who aren't incarcerated always hear stories about how dangerous prison conditions are, how people are always being assaulted or murdered, how inmates like to take hostages and riot, during which time they subject their hostages to unbelievable torture. Well, you know what? **THIS** is why! Because this is the only way they know to get someone to take notice because, not only do prison officials subject us to cruel and unusual punishments like this on a regular basis, but they do it in full violation of the law, and they do it for a reason. They know full well that, if the authorities do get involved, they're not going to suffer any punishment whatsoever, and why would they? We're talking about a bunch of **inmates** here, convicted felons, people who broke the law. So far as they're concerned, we're here to be **punished**, and it's their job to make the punishment as severe as possible, but the truth of the matter is that every single one of us in here is a friend or family member of someone out there. Most of us will eventually be released back into society, and when that day does finally come, which would you rather have as a neighbor? Someone who was treated humanely? Or someone who was treated worse than an animal every day of their sentence? And if you think they don't treat us like animals, then you obviously haven't visited a prison lately. Or if you did, you took the "approved tour," given by officers who know which buildings to take their visitors through and accompanied by inmates who have no intention of showing you where the skeletons are, either because they truly don't know, don't care or are so close to being seen by the Parole Board that they're terrified to risk opening their mouth. At the end of the day, you're left with a system that continues to worsen. For every step we take forward towards human rights, we take two steps back, and this is just the most recent example, and this is the way it's going to continue, until people in the outside world start contacting their local representatives, prison wardens, etc., and demanding that change be made. Until they're held accountable, things will only continue to get worse.

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