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Nates News, 5 Nov. 2022

by Nate A. Lindell DOC #303724

Yesterday it rained all day. We were kept in our cells while they scraped "Frenchy" out of the prison. He was found in the morning, overdosed on opioids. Someone dies, we are denied recreation, phone calls, visits, etc. (Forced mourning?)

He was set to be released next week.

Frenchy was sent here, the Columbia Correctional Institution, a max-security prison, from a medium security because he'd been caught with drugs. He was always in the weight room, a short guy with a bushy beard, always wearing a Thor's hammer pendant and a thousand-yard stare. He worked out hard. He was, clearly, a dope FIEND, not merely a user.

The second guy, since I've been here, who's died from opioids.

Even before these guys died I knew that China (not Chinese people, nor Americans of Chinese ancestry) was doing a good job of killing us with opioids (look up: the main source of fentanyl & carfentanyl; how much it takes to kill a person; the rates of overdoses & accidental exposure/poisonings). Karma for the Opium Wars? Whatever the motivation MAY be, there has to have been over a million Americans killed from fentanyl produced &/or distributed by China within the last 15 years; they're dying in prisons too.

It rained all day today too. The wind raged. Visibility was maybe 20 feet from all of the rain this afternoon Frenchy's favorite God, Thor, or Odin's Valkyries were busy carrying Frenchy to the afterlife. (Not Valhalla, sorry; he didn't die in battle, except with addiction....)

What I've been up to?

Many things?

Usually every week I visit mon amie in Norway, Rianne, using Zoom, a practice that my prison initiated in response to COVID. Rianne and I have some laughs, mainly discuss poetry, something we are both into.

I put together 11 of my best drawings, which will be part of an exhibition that will be held in at least four locations in Wisconsin. Look up "Art Against the Odds," or email [portraitsocietygallery@gmail.com](mailto:portraitsocietygallery@gmail.com) if you'd like to know more, and PLEASE hype it on your socials. (Some of my drawings have already posted on my blog & viewers are directed to look up this blog to see much more of my art; do, BtB will get publicity about this.) I was interviewed by a reporter at Milwaukee Magazine about my art; he appreciated my insight & you may see the article in the January 2023 issue....

I beat the Milwaukee County attorney's motion to dismiss a fellow captive's (Demetrius Gohre) suit about a jailer repeatedly banging his head against the courthouse's stone wall because Gohre said "Hi" to his mom on the way to court. The case is now going to trial; an attorney was appointed; the case was reported in The Wall Street Journal.

I just won a motion for reconsideration for another guy's case: W.D. Wisconsin U.S.D.C. Case #22-CV-115

As for my suit about WI Supermax staff setting me up to be stabbed almost to death, I spoke with my attorney, one of several from the firm Godfrey & Kahn (out of Madison). Bon chance he volunteered for the Odyssey.wisc.edu program while he attended U.W. Madison, the same program that runs Odyssey Beyond Bars, which does a Writing 101 class in my prison (I was in the first class here, graduated, now edit the work of students in the current class). I expect that all of that bodes well for their efforts in my case, and, as I explained in prior posts, it's an ugly case (e.g. they knew that they were going to charge my assailant with attempted murder, knew that their policy mandated they preserve body & security camera footage, yet failed to preserve footage from the overhead security camera showing me warning one defendant and ditto from the three guards [two of whom I also warned] who escorted me and my assailant to Rec.)

AND, I'm working as a tutor.

AND, I'm working on some new art, mainly a mobile, using painted cardboard butterflies, inspired by one of the greatest prison books, Papillon (all I can say for now, don't want to give it away). I'll send it to the Portrait Society, as a late inclusion in the exhibition. It'll be offered for sale for 10,000 -if that sounds crazy, don't buy it! (The purchaser is contributing to my endeavors, as well as obtaining something beautiful, something meant to keep them in mind of my struggles.)

AND, I've been revising the "research paper" that I did as part of my OBB class, which lays out the need for trauma-informed care within WI's adult prisons. A very shortened version is going to be published in The Progressive's (progressive.org) site, and submitted to newspapers as an Op Ed; but, my full version will be posted here, and submitted to other activists likely to publish it.

I'm surely forgetting stuff.... Trust me, I'm f-ing busy, constructively.

For anyone who wants to contact me privately, send me an email at Natester75@gmail.com or mail me a letter at

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Mail sent there is copied then forwarded to me, to prevent drug-soaked paper from being mailed to us...now you know why.

My Best,  
Nate