

Ms. Amnesia,

Good to hear back from you! It looks like your comment on my comment on your comment (yikes!) was sent about 2 weeks ago. By the time this posts, more like over a month. That's just the nature of this hybrid digital/analogue blog. Glad you looked and caught my reply, anyway. 😊 I've started including screennames with the words "Comment Reply", so if BTB types it like I'm writing it now, that should help people see I've sent them something. Not sure what more I can do.

I may be able to get hold of a couple of parole hearing transcripts to post on here. I'd make them anonymous, of course, but they'd also likely have to be just excerpts, as those dog & pony shows (thanks for the phrase!) typically last 3 to 5 hours. Way too much to post here. 35 to 100 page transcripts. It really is a joke. An acquaintance of mine was recently granted parole, 3rd attempt. The grant was predictable, as his boxes have all been checked since the first hearing but the commissioners just didn't feel good about releasing him on the first attempt. Second attempt they had to reach quite far up their rectums to pull out some brand new nonsensical excuse, and this time, I just couldn't imagine them trying that trick again. As dense as they usually are, they ~~still~~ still don't like having courts overrule their decisions, which surely would have happened this time.

I'm sure you're right in your theory for why they don't bother trying to learn who these people are by more direct observation, but there's maybe a bit more to it as well. They have these new criteria, the "objective determination", which is almost literally a series of boxes to check. It was meant to correct the problems with ~~the~~ almost purely subjective determination they used for decades (and released virtually no one for almost 40 years). Typical bureaucratic bullshit all ~~around~~ around... they ~~fix~~ fix it all up in one direction, then wildly overcorrect in the other direction, skipping right over the middle ground of common sense and reasoned judgement.

It's just more evidence still that prison cannot be "reformed" any more than cancer can be, and abolition of the entire rotten, dehumanizing system (rooted in capitalism, as you point out) is the only intelligent and humane course.

I hope to hear from you again! Thanks so much for being a part of this. 😊

Sincerely,

Dymitri