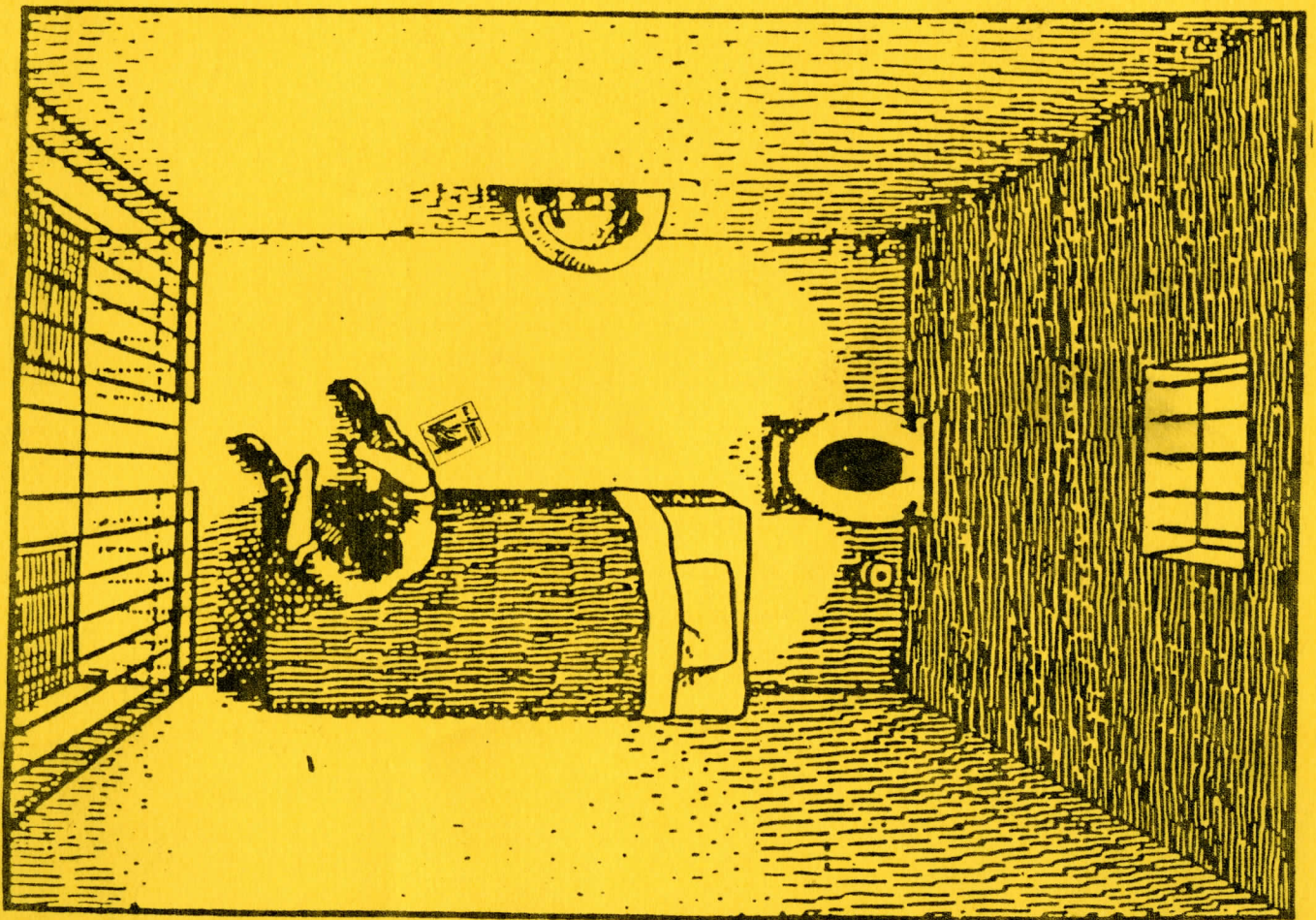


Out of Bounds

Volume 11 No. 1

Magazine



Out of Bounds Magazine

Out of Bounds is a non-profit quarterly publication of the thoughts, feelings, and distinct perspectives of prisoners, visitors, and inspired readers. It is produced and distributed by Pithy Penal Press, the prisoners at William Head Institution, for the prisoners, their families, friends, and the general reading public. We believe that for too long popular media has gone without challenge in its portrayal of crime and prisons and the lives of the people who feel caught up in the vicious cycle. Therefore, it is the aim of the **Out of Bounds** to provide you, the reader, with a view heretofore unseen by most of the general public; if for no other reason than to provide you with information on which to make more informed choices and decisions with respect to what the government should do about crime and punishment, we offer you the **Out of Bounds**.

The views expressed in the articles appearing in the **Out of Bounds** are those of the authors. Editorial decisions on matters of content are made by the magazine's staff and in no way should be deemed to mean the Correctional Service of Canada or any affiliated branch of the criminal justice system are in support. Further, publication of advertisements shall be deemed to mean the **Out of Bounds** neither opposes nor endorses the advertised products.

All articles appearing in the **Out of Bounds** may be reprinted or copied electronically without permission where credit to the author and magazine is given. **Out of Bounds** welcomes all letters and submissions. If you like what we are doing and would like to become a part of it, please feel free to write, **Out of Bounds**, William Head Institution, Box 4000, Station 'A', Victoria, B.C. V8X 3Y8.

Subscriptions to the **Out of Bounds** are \$10.00 per year. You can send your cheque or money order to the above office and address. Enquiries about advertising rates should be directed to the staff.

While we cannot guarantee the publication of all letters or submissions, we can and will guarantee equal and fair consideration.

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"I NEED NOT REMIND YOU THAT MERE EXPRESSION IS TO AN ARIST THE SUPREME AND ONLY MODE OF LIFE. IT IS BY UTTERANCE WE LIVE. OF THE MANY, MANY THINGS FOR WHICH I HAVE TO THANK THE GOVERNOR THERE IS NONE FOR WHICH I AM MORE GRATEFUL THAN FOR HIS PERMISSION TO WRITE FULLY AND AT AS GREAT A LENGTH AS I DESIRE."

Oscar Wilde

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Out of Bounds
Magazine



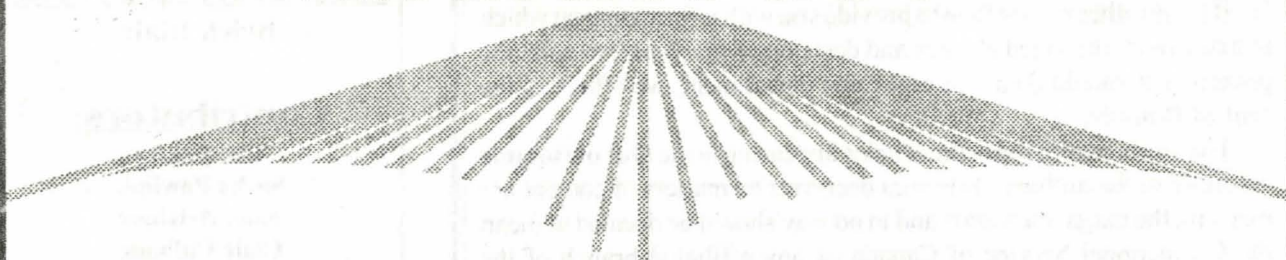
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*You're traveling through another dimension,
a dimension not only of sight and sound,
but of mind; a journey into a wondrous
land whose boundaries are that
of the imagination. Next stop,
Out of Bounds.*

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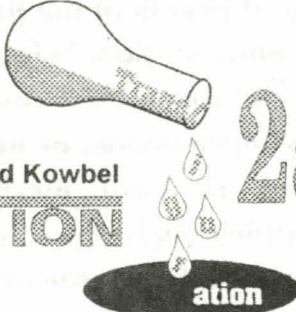
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EDITOR'S DESK

Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980), a media guru, the oracle of the electric age, coined the now famous but often misunderstood phrase "the medium is the message". As with most of his teachings that at first appearance seem completely incomprehensible, upon careful and considerable analysis the above statement emerges as a poignant précis of the fine art of communication.

Communication, in fact, is the science and practice of transmitting information. It is the social activity of sending messages. A medium (pl. media) is a substance through which impressions, or messages, are conveyed to the senses. *Out of Bounds* is a medium. A "cool" medium, as far as McLuhan was concerned. Contrary to what the hippies might think, a "cool" medium has a low-definition structural impact and requires that the user actively participates, both mentally and emotionally. A "hot" medium (TV), in contrast, has a high-definition structural impact requiring little or no participation.

Now, where does all this gobbledegook get us. *Out of Bounds* is a pithy little publication from the Canadian penal press. It's a "cool" magazine. A literary serial treatise. A struggling social force moving in the direction of prison reform. It's a small but alternative and therefore significant voice that demands to be heard. It's the other side of the story; the story from the other side. It's a medium with a message.

And the medium is the message. The magazine is well thought out, well organized, painstakingly precise, credible, and more important, published with pride. The message is clear. Please find the time to read it.

By the way, in case you're wondering what happened to Volume 10 No. 4, we've recently discovered that in the magazine business the Volume number changes with each new calendar year. Last year, *Out of Bounds* was resurrected after a two-year hiatus with the Summer/June 1993 issue, numbered Volume 10 No. 1. Hence, with no Spring/March 1993 issue in Volume 10, there were only three.

Next issue, Summer/June 1994, will be our First Anniversary Issue. Help us celebrate by sending us a submission, article, story, poem, or letter. ●

Opinion/Editorial

Media Manipulation

At the risk of being hoist with one's own petard, media manipulation with respect to crime news demands scrutiny. Direct exposure to crime and law enforcement procedures is not common for most people. In general, Canadians formulate their perceptions of social reality as communicated through the mass media. The reporting of crime news is an old tradition. It is a major staple of newspapers, radios, motion pictures, TV, and tabloids. But, is the coverage of crime truly related to the incidence of crime?

Studies indicate that the constant coverage of crimes gives a highly distorted version of the actual situation. One has to wonder if the "mirror" theory of mass media whereby the media simply hold up a mirror to reality and reflect actual events and occurrences still holds true. Media coverage of crime is biased, sensational, and cursory.

In the mass media's crime reports certain kinds of crimes are often overemphasized. Individual violent crimes (especially murder) are covered to a far greater extent than property and white collar crime. News doctors are less likely to treat stories about "establishment" or "organized" crime. The media concentrates on violent crimes that they can sensationalize to boost their ratings.

Sensational reports cause great public excitement. The inherent conflict of good versus evil is a

common theme that is well understood and has great appeal to the masses. In a free society, media moguls are torn between the obligation to report facts and the necessity to excite an audience. Accurate coverage breaks down when news organizations opt for "hype" in the guise of news.

Because most reporting involves the actual event of crime, little information is made available regarding the general issue of crime, its causes, remedies, etc. One need not exaggerate to say that the media live on, off, and for crime. Yet, they are reluctant to give the overall picture. News reports to a large extent deal with concrete cases of crime. Social implications are absent. The public awareness of crime the mass media provide is, at best, based upon an information-rich and knowledge-poor foundation.

The media provide examples, incidents, and scandals but no analytical comprehension of crime. In doing so the media restrict rather than enhance the public's ability to act as informed citizens. In the end public concerns, apprehensions, and reactions become part of the general response, which is based upon "cops and robbers" news stories.

Crime news is a constructed reality. Crime which is present in the mass media is not the same as crime in actuality. Crime events and crime news are two different entities. Crime reporting becomes news stories about crime. The crime

news "story" contains specialized images of crime, images which have little to do with the realities or complexities of crime. Subsequently, the media deviate from what must be their own primary value: truth.

Ironically, the mass media offer much the same kind of entertainment as public hangings or a Sunday visit to the local gaol. The audience becomes informed but not knowledgeable, interested about details but dulled by overstimulation, concerned about understanding but limited in comprehending. Crime is culturally relevant, but the non-political explanation of its occurrence put forth by the media minimizes societal factors. Such coverage is insufficient to provide for an understanding of crime in its larger context but sufficient to make the media audience concerned about crime.

Concern translates into customers for the media. Supply influences demand. The public likes what it is familiar with, what it has been given over the years, what it has come to accept and expect. And what it has come to accept and expect is the media's "picture of the world". An exaggerated picture, a sensationalized picture, a picture of stereotypes, a carefully constructed picture that helps set the social/political agenda. A picture that will legitimate and justify the status quo and perpetuate the prevailing system of social control. Not a pretty picture. Not a true picture. ●

Letters to the Editor

Regarding Sami A-Khair's letter about having "hypodermic needles available in prisons" - It is generally accepted that honesty and integrity are positive character traits, whether they appear in an individual or in an institution.

William Head Institution has a zero drug tolerance policy. For some inmates to request that the Institution supply hypodermic needles while at the same time it is saying that there is a zero drug tolerance policy is tantamount to asking it to compromise its own integrity. I, as a solo individual in this community cannot support that request.

I am on the Board of The Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition which voted earlier this year to notify Canada's Solicitor General of our wish to see the now popular illegal drugs made legal. At present I am unaware of any reply to our letter.

Maybe the men who are active in seeking a needle-supply might consider directing their energies towards legalization. There is an organization in Victoria which has as its goal that very thing: The B.C. Anti Prohibition League.

S. Burse-Harris
Victoria, B.C.

I have been a reader of prison publications for many years and, for the most part, have found them enjoyable. However, the last issue of **Out of Bounds** was very disappointing. It appeared to be thrown together at the last minute with little thought to layout or editorial content.

Gord Alcorn
William Head

Share your views with other **Out of Bounds** readers. Your name is required by us but can be withheld if you wish. Length should be kept to approximately 250 words.

Thanks for the past issue of **Out of Bounds**. I collect prison publications and welcome any information in that regard. I am enclosing a past issue of the *Journal Of Prisoners On Prisons*. We publish a variety of articles, only occasionally publishing a thematic issue.

I have finished compiling the next issue and it includes a good piece on section 74 of the new Canadian Prison and Parole Act by Roy Glareman, a lifer at Collins Bay. He mentions the situation at William Head re: the cancelling of post secondary education and your court challenge. Whoever was responsible for opposing this cancellation at WHI should know that their action has had a positive effect in the Ontario region.

How positive remains to be seen.

R. Gaucher
Editor JPP

Greetings! I write you personally with hopes of obtaining a subscription to your magazine. I'm incarcerated at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, confined to its control unit with limited access to positive information, etc. I am also without funds to purchase **Out of Bounds**. I came to know of your magazine by reading *Prison News Service*, a Bulldozer publication out of Toronto, Canada.

With my situation in mind, please seriously consider adding me to your resource mailing list to receive your quarterly publication.

I thank you in advance with my prayers. Hotep! (peace)

A. Mzilikazi Al-Qadri
Camp Hill, PA

I am a 54 year old inmate at the Washington State Penitentiary serving a sentence of 74 years 8 months.

I have been given a free subscription to the *Prison News Service*, a publication produced by PSC Publishers in Toronto. It is a newspaper I enjoy reading very much.

Today when I received my copy of the *Prison News Service* there was an article telling about **Out of Bounds**. It sounded like another wonderful publication. I have found most prison publications with any value come from Canada.

I cannot afford a subscription, so I would appreciate it if you could somehow put me on your mailing list to receive your magazine.

Charles Corliss
Walla Walla, WA

Fellow friends. I am currently serving a term in isolation and would appreciate all articles and info that could be of use to me in the war against inhuman dungeons. I'm indigent, and I hope to be put on your subscription list. I'll be looking forward to receiving what you obviously put out with pride. My respects to you all from my heart.

Juan Gamboa
Crescent City, CA

I am writing to you from within the walls of an Indiana State Prison with the hope that I can provide some kind of input to your magazine.

I have been incarcerated since early 1990 and I'm not due for release until February, 1995.

I earn 65 cents per day doing slave labor that only benefits the guards and not the inmates, so, unfortunately I can not afford a subscription.

I have written articles in the past for the *Prison News Service* and also the "Coalition for Prisoners'

Rights Newsletter", so maybe I can be of some service to your magazine.

I just recently won a lawsuit concerning the censorship of our mail by the Indiana Department of Correction's mail room personnel. I stand on solid ground for the rights of prisoners.

I have been marked by the prison's administrators and guards as being a political prisoner with a strong desire and motivation to fight for prisoners' rights.

I have suffered severe retaliation, beatings, control units, etc., for my actions against the prison's system of injustice.

Please consider sending me your magazine as I am very interested in reading it.

Mark Kellems
Tell City, IN

VOLUNTEERS: OUR CRUCIAL Links

Before being introduced to the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) I had not given much, if any, thought to volunteers. That is, volunteers of any type. Whether food bank volunteers or those who canvas for the United Way. I certainly had not considered groups of volunteers who enter prisons on a regular basis.

Once swallowed by the prison system I began to encounter, rather frequently, people that were not CSC staff. Some of them had some type of sponsorship, thus economic basis to frequent prison. On the other hand, many of the people who I had met were, indeed, volunteers.

Paying attention to the various volunteer groups revealed that volunteer participation and relationships to cons were very diversified. There are volunteers from theatre groups, First Nations, and Christian ministries to name a few. John Howard was becoming a well known

name synonymous with volunteers, as was NA, AA, M2/W2, One to One, and AVP groups.

After a few years of visiting with many of the groups, I realized that I had taken these volunteers and their work for granted on numerous occasions. I did not give it any more thought and soon had accomplished enough time to apply for transfer to a lesser security institution.

After settling into William Head I was soon reminded of the importance of the contributions volunteers make to the lives of prisoners.

I had become acquainted with several of the Christian ministries, the John Howard Society, and the AVP volunteers. I became aware that their visits had helped me hold onto an accurate perspective of daily living. Not just inside but outside as

well.

I have come to view volunteers, in whatever capacity, as liaisons to the community, crucial links between prisoners and society.

That being said, I say thank you to all volunteers, including the ones I haven't mentioned, for the sometimes taken for granted care you freely give.

To the prisoners of William Head, I encourage you to support one or more of the volunteer groups that visit this institution.

T.R. Lemky
William Head

Prisoners' Legal Services

By Sasha Pawliuk

Prisoners' Legal Services is a branch office of the Legal Services of B.C., an independent agency financed by the federal and provincial governments, the Law Foundation and contributions. There are three secretary/legal assistants, two Legal Information Counsellors and one lawyer employed at Prisoners' Legal Services. The office was set up in order to provide summary legal advice on prison and parole related matters to the men and women incarcerated in the approximately 20 prisons, penitentiaries and work camps located between Vancouver and Agassiz. In addition to summary advice, the staff lawyer represents prisoners in Court on test cases against the institutions on matters that, hopefully, will have a broader impact on conditions in jail.

Because of staff shortages at Prisoners' Legal Services, the staff are unable to offer direct representation to prisoners facing parole hearings and disciplinary hearings but the Legal Services Society will pay a lawyer in private practice to represent prisoners who qualify for legal aid on detention and post-suspension or post-revocation hearings.

If you have a legal problem and you are in jail in the Lower Mainland or Fraser Valley, you should call Prisoners' Legal Services at 853-8712 (collect if necessary) or 857-2666 if you are in Vancouver, Surrey, or Burnaby. The staff at Prisoners' Legal Services will be

able to tell you if you have the type of problem with which they can assist you. If your problem does not fall within the services provided by Prisoners' Legal Services, they will make every effort to refer you to someone who can help you or to give you some advice as to what you should do next.

If you have a legal problem and you are in William Head or Wilkinson Road, you should call the Prison Project at the Law Centre Association in Victoria at 388-4516. The Victoria Prison Project is not part of Prisoners' Legal Services and the assistance they can offer you is different from that offered by Prisoners' Legal Services.

If you wish to appeal your criminal conviction or sentence, you should call the Appeals Department of the Legal Services Society directly at 660-4606, collect if necessary. They will take all of the information that they need from you over the telephone. If you are in provincial custody on the Lower Mainland and you need to fill out a legal aid form, you can contact the Salvation Army at 684-6559. The Salvation Army has a contract with the Legal Services Society to take legal aid forms for criminal charges, family matters, and immigration problems.

If you have a problem such as having been convicted in disciplinary court, having had your parole revoked or being involuntarily transferred to higher security or held in segregation under separate custody or administrative segregation, you may have grounds for what people often call a "writ". Unfortunately, "writs" are not granted by the Courts in the same way that appeals are, and you will need a legal opinion from somebody familiar with prison law before deciding whether some sort of Court application may be appropriate. These are the types of problems that Prisoners' Legal Services handles every day and you can call them for advice as to whether or not you may have grounds for a "writ".

If you have your own lawyer in private practice who would like to argue a case for you, Prisoners' Legal Services does not have the authority to approve a legal aid application for your lawyer to do this work for you. It must be approved by the Appeals Department at the head office of the Legal Services Society, and you can call them directly at the above telephone number. They will only appoint a lawyer when they believe that there is a likelihood of success in the Courts for the particular "writ" that you think should be argued.

Over the years, more and more lawyers across the country have become involved in prison law, and for this reason there is a growing body of cases that have been decided by Judges. These decisions can affect your life while you are inside or while you are on parole, and for this reason it is important to try and keep the number of bad decisions against prisoners to a minimum.

That being said, it is equally important to ensure that people who are incarcerated know what their rights are and know that there are people on the outside who are working very hard to make sure those rights are protected.

Use your legal remedies. If you think that something that has happened to you is unfair and unjustified don't just get angry and frustrated. Call your own lawyer, Prisoners' Legal Services or the Victoria Prison Project and see if you can get the system to work for you for a change. It does happen. ●

(With thanks to the West Coast Prison Justice Society.)

"...Biting my
truant pen,
beating myself
for spite: Fool!
said my muse
to me, look in
thy heart and
write."

Sir Philip Sidney

Programming Vs Skills Training

By Sami A-Khair

The CSC has made it quite apparent that its focus on offenders' so called rehabilitation is primarily directed towards group therapy type courses such as Healthy Relationships and Cognitive Skills Training. Most of these programs are 2-3 months in length; and after you have completed all the programs your institution has to offer, your time is spent in idleness. True enough, these programs are beneficial in dealing with many of life's challenges, but an employer does not recognize these programs as being beneficial to your being hired. In fact, what the employer is looking for is the kind of skills you possess.

Most prisoners lack a sense of direction, especially when it comes to the workforce; and in this age of technological advances, it would seem that the best way to improve prisoners' chances of re-integrating back into society successfully would be to release them with practical job skills. Thus, monies spent on prisoners' improvement would be more wisely spent on both traditional and non-traditional skills. There will always be a need for carpenters, welders, plumbers, painters, dry-wallers, and, in today's marketplace, computer programmers. When I say skills training I refer to certified and accredited trades training, with recently updated theories and practical applications.

As one who has served time in a number of Canada's prisons, I know that if a survey was done across the country the majority of prisoners would tell you that skills training is what they need and want. Why then has the CSC neglected this avenue. It's surely not economic, a reduction of operating expenses, because the group programs they are now providing require the same if not more staff as would a course in auto-body mechanics. I suggest that if the CSC was interested in reducing operating expenses they would look to alternative types of programming that would have a greater impact on reducing recidivism. For every person who is returned to prison and spends one year there, the cost to the tax-payer is approximately 60,000 dollars. The CSC can teach someone with a grade eight education how to deal with frustration and rejection, but if he is constantly being turned down for jobs in the community because of his lack of skills, the teaching is eventually going to come to naught.

Both society and the prisoner would be better served if he was let out of prison qualified to actually do something, like paint houses, rather than qualified to do nothing. Unfortunately, this is not the norm because the CSC believes that it's a person's behaviour that needs to be modified. Granted, there is some merit to that argument. However, a more balanced approach is needed. Both the tax-paying society and the prisoner deserve better. They deserve programs that help him both inwardly and outwardly, programs designed for the mind and programs designed for the body. Until this balance is struck prisoners will continue to lack direction, security, and a real opportunity to participate in society.

Claire ification

From The Prisoners' Rights Group

By Claire Culhane

Yes, the public must be protected against dangerous, violent offenders who are eventually released to threaten the community once again. Yes, there must be laws to deal with this type of problem. But, first, let us examine the *total* situation, not the vindictive reactions after the event.

1) There already is a law in place which is used to detain such a person indefinitely. It is called the Dangerous Offender Act under which a judge can sentence an accused so that they will be held in prison indefinitely following the completion of their sentence. It can also be imposed during the term of sentence where the prisoner is charged with a violent action and must attend outside Court, at which time the judge is again empowered to apply the Dangerous Offender Act.

While there is criticism as to the manner in which this Act is applied, the same potential exist for any future law. There is therefore a need to improve, not to substitute, existing laws.

2) A prison system needs to be examined which fails to maximize its capabilities to provide adequate Treatment Programs for those sex offenders it already holds. To be told, as I have been, that he is "74th on the waiting list" while pleading for help before release date, indicates that it is not fulfilling its responsibilities, as stated in part in the Guiding Principles of the Correctional Service's Mission Statement:

We believe that programs and opportunities to assist offenders in developing social and living skills, will enhance their potential to become law-abiding citizens. We must ensure that offenders participate in such programs and we will strive to motivate them to contribute to their development.

3) A prison system needs to be examined in which prisoners are often offered rewards in the form of early parole

recommendation, in exchange for informing on others.

As a member of the first Citizens Advisory Committee at the B.C. Penitentiary, it was generally known that (then incarcerated) Clifford Olson was known to have raped a 17-year-old fellow prisoner. No action was taken. On his release, like most other informers, he enjoyed special protection for his "valuable" services carried into the community.

In a public debate in Edmonton many years ago, with Gary Rosenfeld of the Victims of Violence Group, the fact that the life of his stepson (the last of Olson's victims) might conceivably have been spared had Olson not enjoyed this special consideration, was not denied.

4) A prison system needs to be examined which holds the largest percentage of the total population (second only to the United States), the vast majority of whom have never been designated as violent or dangerous, and who should more productively be making restitution to their victims (and/or their families).

Such an approach would in turn assist in directing the resources of both the Correctional Services and National Parole Board towards effectively helping and counselling released prisoners, thereby decreasing the rate of recidivism. However, with a Criminal Justice System budget of eight billion dollars to spend, there is very little evidence to date of efforts to decrease its clientele. An annual financial audit (of the public funds which it draws upon) would be timely, in order to assess the sums apportioned to administration and those to treatment programs, health care, etc.

5) Finally, and of greatest urgency, and which is receiving the least (if any) attention from either the public or the Solicitor General's Ministry, are the steps to be taken in the *prevention* of violent crimes by those not yet apprehended.

Graham Stewart, Executive Director of the John Howard Society, a notable exception, stresses this need in every public interview. With 95% of the prison population from the economically and socially deprived class whose rate of illiteracy has increased from 40 to 50%; with a 1984 election promise of \$6 billion for child care now reduced to zero; with over a million children living below the poverty line; and with unemployment sky-rocketing, it hardly requires a Royal Commission to confirm the bankruptcy of our neighbourhoods, whose safety we are clamouring for.

If the public, the media, the government officials are really serious in their concern about violence running rampant and creating tragic victims, let them look to the breeding grounds. Building community centres for our street kids is far

more urgent than building more prisons.

To ignore the tendencies towards depravity and violence predictable to such a background is to contribute to the incalculable future toll of victims resulting from this stupid refusal to deal with the real problems of those who have yet to offend. The specious argument that predators also come from the privileged class can best be exploded when compared with the proportion of those who have been kicked around since childhood from one abusive location to another, including reformatories and jails.

Instead of escalating the hysteria, let these concerned citizens rally around an immediate positive program calculated to deter rather than to punish. Let the authorities put their money where their mouth is. ●

Deadline

Volume 11 N

Out of Bounds is now accepting submissions for the Summer/June issue.

*Anyone who has material they would like to have considered for publication please send it to the **Out of Bounds.***

Material for consideration must be submitted by Wednesday, May 18.

*Remember, **Out of Bounds** is your vehicle for expression. It is limited only by your lack of submissions.*

The Editor



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CRIME: Sickness or Symptom

By Rev. Henry Boston

What we like to call "The True North Strong and Free" is sick. Crime is the sickness, or a symptom of it.

Before retiring as Prime Minister, Kim Campbell said that each political party was going to the country on a crime prevention ticket. Now it is reported that the new Liberal Government is to appoint a National Crime Prevention Council. At a recent all-candidates meeting for the Victoria City Council, nearly all candidates spoke about the need for crime prevention by improved policing.

Causes of Crime

Not many politicians think about preventing crime by removing causes. But back in the nineteenth century, and early in this century, this idea was promoted. Alcohol was seen as a crime cause. It was hoped that by removing it crime would diminish.

Prohibition of Alcohol

Canada prohibited alcohol in the North West Territories in 1873, and nationally during the First World War. In the United States various states experimented with alcohol prohibition in the nineteenth century, but it was not until 1920 that it was prohibited by Federal Law. Instead of reducing crime it gave rise to the ferocious gang warfare

associated with Al Capone, and after thirteen years the prohibition of alcohol was abandoned in the United States.

Prohibition of Marijuana

The idea that substances cause crime persisted however, and the Canadian Government gave credibility to rumours that marijuana was a crime cause. This led to its prohibition in 1923, even though there were no reports that it had caused criminal acts in Canada. It was added to a 1908 law prohibiting opium. Opium had not been seen as a cause of crime, and its prohibition had been for other reasons, primarily to discourage Chinese immigration. Whites resented the Chinese, who accepted lower wages for the same work, and therefore were seen as an employment threat. This led to racial riots in Vancouver which were used as a pretext for prohibiting opium.

Prohibition of Heroin

Ironically, although opium was not seen as a crime cause in 1908, its derivative heroin, which was also prohibited, has subsequently been represented as a cause of crime. This is because persons addicted to heroin have been known to commit crimes in desperation to obtain the money to pay prices inflated by the hazards of supplying an "illegal" substance. But whereas alcohol had a reputation for arousing violence, heroin and opium have the

opposite effect. The prohibition of opium and heroin converted a small portion of users from peaceful citizens into dangerous criminals, but it is the prohibition, not the substance, which is the problem. In reading news about heroin addicts committing crimes, however, readers frequently see the substance and not its prohibition as the cause of crime.

In both Canada and the United States the prohibition of marijuana was legislated at about the same time as alcohol became legal again. In the United States arguments were presented, as they had been in Canada, that marijuana causes crime. Although these arguments seemed to be convincing at the time, in neither case did they stand up to scrutiny.

Prohibition Causes Crime

But as in the case of alcohol, opium and heroin, the prohibition of marijuana became a cause of crime. It was not that people did desperate acts to obtain it, or to obtain the money to buy it, but the mere possession of it became a criminal act. Those who chose to continue to determine their own private lives and sustenance intake were forced to assume criminal attitudes such as dislike of police and distrust of neighbours. Furthermore a substance which had formerly interested very few people in Canada became interesting to an increasing number of people, partly because it was spotlighted by prohibition, partly be-

cause it was a "forbidden" pleasure.

By the 1970's over 30,000 people a year were being arrested for marijuana. People who had hurt no one and who had planned to hurt no one were filling our courts and prisons. Instead of addressing dangerous anti-social behaviour, enforcement officers were intruding into private lives to control pursuit of innocent pleasure.

The List Grows Longer

Many more substances have been added to the prohibited list. Each substance prohibited was something which someone wanted to use for themselves, or it would not have been prohibited. So each prohibition has created a tension in someone which might lead that person into crime, or at least into disrespect for our justice system. The word "prohibit" was no longer used. Instead governments talked about "controlled" or "restricted" substances. Whatever the name the list grew longer. In 1911 there were about 115 substances "controlled" by the Narcotic Control Act. Fifty or more were "restricted" by the Food and Drugs Act. The following year Bill C-85, the Psychoactive Substances Control Act, had its final reading naming 303 classifications,

and each of these were further subdivided into many more substances. Before the Government retired there was even a proposal to prohibit 64 herbs. Due to public protest, neither that measure nor Bill C-85 is yet law.

Not content with the burgeoning list, Bill C-85 apparently attempts to "control" all psychoactive substances yet to be discovered, including not only "a substance included in Schedule I, II, III, or IV" but also any drug "that is intended to be used for introduction into a human body and that, if introduced into a human, would produce a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect" and further states that "a substance included in Schedule I, II, or III shall be deemed to include any substance ... that is represented or held out to produce, if introduced into a human body, a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect substantially similar to or greater than that of a substance included in Schedule I, II, or III."

Political Reason For Prohibition

The reason for these various prohibitions has been obscure. In February 1993, Tom Gore, whom was then President of the Victoria Civil Liberties Association, wrote to the Hon. Benoit Bouchard, who

was then Minister of Health, regarding the proposed Bill C-85 and asked, "What criteria are used to determine which substances are restricted by law to 'authorized' people only?" Mr. Bouchard replied that "Since drug abuse is also a matter which is dealt by international agreement, Bill C-85 is to provide for implementation of Canada's obligations under three international treaties. The criteria used to decide which substances will be placed under control are defined in each of the conventions. Based on recommendation of the World Health Organization, and after revision by all parties signatory to the conventions, the United Nations place a substance under control."

It was felt that Mr. Bouchard had answered the question "Who placed these substances under control," in a faceless kind of way. He had named organizations, but not individuals. But Mr. Gore had not asked "Who" but "Why", and this question had not been answered. So we put the same question to the Hon. Mary Collins who succeeded the Hon. Benoit Bouchard as Minister of Health. She replied, "The criteria used to decide which substances will be placed under control are defined in three international conventions, and in this context Canada must meet its obligations."

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Canada's "obligations" were also referred to in a letter from the Hon. Pierre Blaise, Minister of Justice in the Conservative Government. "Easier access to drugs would likely put Canada in contravention of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Convention of Psychotropic Substances, and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, international agreements to which Canada is a party. The Single Convention, for instance, obliges parties to subject certain drugs, such as cannabis and cocaine, to stringent domestic control. In particular, it requires treating possession, sale, cultivation and importing activities as punishable offences."

In Mr. Gore's letter to Mr. Bouchard a further question sought to discover what criteria government used to decide what substances to prohibit. He had asked why nicotine and ethyl alcohol were excluded from Bill C-85. In government publications alcohol abuse has been presented as Canada's leading drug problem, and statistics have indicated that there are more drug-related deaths due to nicotine than to any other substance. Mr. Bouchard replied that these substances were excluded from legislation because they had not been included in previous legislation. Once again the question as to criterion was sidestepped.

Both Mr. Bouchard and Ms. Collins, when confronted with a question about criteria, had evaded it and passed over responsibility to the World Health Organization and International Conventions. The Hon. Pierre Blais, however, in a letter arguing against a suggestion that legalizing drugs would help the economy, wrote: "Today, more people than ever (especially young people) are being exposed to drugs with resulting increases in drug re-

lated problems, including personal and family unhappiness, increased crime and highway accidents.... Liberalizing drug use would most certainly result in a greater use of drugs by Canadians, thereby increasing the health and safety hazards associated with them.... While research on the effects of drug use continues enough is known to identify clearly significant health hazards."

In expressing these views Mr. Blais gives voice to the way in which most people see laws prohibiting substances. He goes on to invoke this public view as a reason for not legalizing drugs. "Decriminalizing drug use is likely to meet with considerable opposition from the public...surveys have consistently shown that most groups oppose liberalizing access to drugs."

Public thinking is of course informed by the views expressed by government leaders, and if cabinet ministers simply give voice to popular misconceptions and misunderstandings then the public will not be encouraged to re-examine problems resulting from the law. It seems strange, if health hazards and crime-cause were factors determining the prohibition of certain substances, that this was not mentioned by either Mr. Bouchard or Ms. Collins. Perhaps they realized that if crime were that criterion, then alcohol should be prohibited, and if health considerations were a criterion then tobacco should be prohibited. In view of problems which they may have perceived in supplying criteria for prohibiting substances it is understandable that they invoked international conventions as criteria.

Contradictory UN Policy

We have to challenge the drug control policy of the United Nations Organization as being contradic-

tory to their Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in part:

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world...Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience...

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood...

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This declaration prohibits laws dictating the individual's sustenance intake, whether the ingested substance is an alkaloid, an alcohol, an opiate, a psychedelic, a stimulant, etc. Prohibition is obviously based on the assumption that people are not endowed with reason and conscience, and therefore should not be free to choose a substance for their own personal use because they might abuse it. This would imply that all human beings are not equal in dignity, and that some should decide what others may do.

Barbarous Acts

Consequently millions of peaceful citizens around the world suffer

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house and a large
garden have! And a
few friends, and
many books, both
true, both wise, and
both delightful too!'*

Abraham Cowley



the indignity of having their homes broken into and their property and bodies searched externally and internally, with resultant damage to property, dignity, and the rights of all our citizens. These are barbarous acts, and this is precisely what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights testifies has happened in the past when human rights have been disregarded and treated with contempt.

It follows that if our sickness is escalating crime then a significant cause lies in the oppressive laws we have allowed to be made. Laws prohibiting substances not only have led to barbarous acts by enforcement officers, but they are in themselves barbarous acts. The assumption that we are not endowed with sufficient reason and conscience to be able to choose wisely what substances we will use for ourselves takes away our self-respect and self-confidence. These virtues are the very basis of self-control and self-discipline, and therefore of peace and good order.

The requirement that enforcement officers should intrude themselves upon our private lives in order to control our personal use of substances creates a war situation between the law and the citizens of the realm. Authorities mistrust the people, and the people in turn mistrust those in authority. This mistrust is deepened by the fact that enforcement officers often use lying informers to trap users and their suppliers. People who have been deceived in this way no longer believe what authorities tell them. Drug education is thus weakened by the attempt to enforce it. Justice is brought into disrespect.

Let The Healing Begin

For healing to begin we have to trust individuals to make responsible decisions and do what they feel

is best for their personal lives, and not attempt to force them to behave according to our own prejudices.

Based upon this policy of trust, people will begin to trust those in authority, listen to what they say and will more likely accept and follow wise advice. Present drug control policy is based upon mistrust and seeks to obtain control by generating fear. Much of the flag-waving by the leaders of the War On Drugs comes from people who moderate their own consciousness at their own discretion with drugs every bit as "dangerous" and "habituating" as "illegal" ones.

We need a psychoactive substance policy which is based upon trust in the good sense of the individual, operates through education, and accepts that people have various religious, mental, and occupational beliefs, opinions, and goals, and do not want or need to be "controlled".

Attempts to force control have not only led to barbarous acts in legislation, by police, and in courts, but have also produced a defiance and failure in self-control on the part of some people, with tragic consequences (e.g., heroin deaths).

People need to be encouraged to exercise self-control and will be encouraged if the authorities place trust in people. In that context, people would be open to education regarding hazards of substance use and exercise self-control accordingly.

Trust would result in public respect. Trust produces trust. Respect produces respect. When the government trusts the people, the people trust the government. When the government respects the people, the people respect the government.

**With your help
the healing
will begin.**

Returning to Prison

By Steve Foote

The following is an Out of Bounds interview with Mike Hodgkinson, lay counsellor and group leader of the Healthy Relationships program.

OB: *What made you decide to come back to prison and work with the prisoners?*

MH: A few things. When I was inside, there was nothing. There were no programs available and so there wasn't an opportunity for anyone to do anything differently. Maybe I can change that.

OB: *When you were inside, you say, there were no programs available?*

MH: There was NA, AA and church, but they were your only three options.

OB: *If there were no programs what was it you got from prison that helped you stay out?*

MH: I took a course while at Matsqui called Transactional Analysis. I actually got that group started. The psychiatrist used to run it in the seventies, but he hadn't run a group in about ten years. And

so when I heard about this group from a guy who had been there in the seventies I approached the psychiatrist and asked him about it. He told me that if I could get enough guys together he would run a group.

OB: *What motivated you to get this Transactional Analysis group going?*

MH: I'd been in counselling for about a year before I came to prison and I had quit using drugs and alcohol during this time. But I still had a lot of problems that I wanted to deal with.

OB: *Was this your first prison sentence?*

MH: In the federal system, yes.

OB: *What crime did you commit to make it to the federal system?*

MH: Three counts of wounding with the intent to maim and disfigure and one count of assault causing bodily harm.

OB: *By your getting involved in this group, I guess I can assume you really wanted to change?*

MH: Yes, in fact, I had gone through a lot of changes before I came in.

OB: *The changes couldn't have been too great. You were charged with some pretty serious crimes.*

MH: I was out on bail awaiting trial when I got that assault causing bodily harm charge. It was this charge that made me look at myself. I was sober, wasn't using

drugs, and yet I was still violent. It shocked me into realizing that my life was unmanageable, that it wasn't just the drugs and alcohol that were the problems but that it was other things.

OB: *Realizing that your life was unmanageable doesn't necessarily translate into change?*

MH: You're right. The changes I speak of were happening while I was on remand for a year. I took counselling every week with a counsellor from the drug and alcohol program. He would come out to the jail and see me. I did this the whole time I was awaiting trial. Then I got the five years, went to Matsqui, and got that Transactional Analysis group going. I even started an NA group there.

OB: *You say you were out on bail from another charge when you committed another offence?*

MH: Yes, I was out on bail from the three wounding charges when I got the assault causing bodily harm. It was originally an attempted murder charge.

OB: *When you were remanded for that year, before you went to Matsqui, how was it that you were able to participate in counselling?*

MH: The counsellor was the same guy I was seeing while I was out on bail awaiting these charges. So when they suspended my bail for the assault, I just continued to see him while I was on remand.

OB: *What made you decide at that time you wanted to see a drug counsellor?*

MH: I was addicted to drugs and alcohol.

OB: *You recognized quite early then the power of drugs and alcohol over your life?*

MH: Yeah, see, I'd been completely clean for a year when I picked up my fourth charge and it

was just as violent as my three wounding charges, that's why they charged me with attempted murder. That told me that it wasn't just the alcohol and drugs that made me violent but rather that it was me who made me violent. So it was a big eye-opener to me because I was convinced that I'd never be violent again when I quit drinking and using drugs. The fourth charge proved to me that the potential was there.

OB: *Criminals are said to suffer from low self-esteem, they don't like themselves enough to not commit crime and thus free themselves from the inevitable punishments. How did you come to like yourself enough to break this cycle and begin addressing your violent behaviour?*

MH: I never needed anything material. I didn't steal or sell drugs for money. I could always get money from my father. Anything I wanted, my father would buy me. But there was no communication in my house. And so part of the reason I committed criminal acts was to rebel against him. I

in fights, fencing stolen property, bootlegging, etc. It was only when I started looking at myself and my behaviour in the context of my upbringing that I was able to understand myself and thus break the cycle.

OB: *What was it about criminality in the first place that interested you enough to choose it as a way to rebel?*

MH: The excitement of the lifestyle. The peer group, the criminal element. The group of guys I hung out with, I had grown up with since the age of thirteen. Our connection was the criminal activity we engaged in.

OB: *Some people believe that "once a criminal always a criminal".*

from your own experience, what do you say to that?

MH: There are a lot of guys that I've done time with who aren't criminals any more, they've turned it around. However you look at it, everyone is only one crime away from being a criminal. But once tagged as a criminal, it's a matter of changing your whole lifestyle.

OB: *Was changing your lifestyle easy?*

MH: Changing my lifestyle was my biggest struggle. Even though I gave up the drugs and alcohol, I found I still had the lifestyle. I was still hanging out with the same people, I was still doing the

same things. The only difference was that I was straight. So I had to start looking at these other things.

OB: *How did you eliminate these "other things"?*

MH: It was years later before I did completely. It was sort of a progression. I had to stop doing things one at a time. Every so often I'd say I'm not doing that any more and I'd work at not

doing that one thing. Pieces would fall away overtime. Eventually I was doing other things that weren't criminal. When

I got out of the penitentiary, for example, I got into this relationship that I'm still in now and as that relationship became more and more important to me the less I was willing to risk losing it for criminal activity.

OB: *Once you recognized your potential for violence even when you weren't using drugs or alcohol, was it easy for you to change?*

MH: No.

OB: *How was it then that you were able to change the things that caused you to act violently, those negative aspects of your lifestyle?*

MH: One of the things I know about me is that it takes a crisis for me to change. That's how I often change; some crisis happens and I recognize what my problem is or I'm willing to do something about it at that point. If the price is too

Some people believe that "once a criminal always a criminal",

left home when I was fourteen. I always worked full time. I never relied on crime to get by. I always had a job. I always worked. When I got those three wounding charges, I had my own construction company. I employed eight people. But I was still selling drugs, getting

high to pay for what I'm doing, then I'm willing to change it.

OB: *How is it that after the life you've lived and the time you've served you are coming back into the prison and delivering the Healthy Relationships program?*

MH: I was running groups in the community when the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) approached the director of the Family Violence Project about running a program at William Head prison. The CSC wanted a program that centered around family violence and abuse in relationships.

Initially, the director said no, they weren't interested. But after thinking about it, she approached me and asked me, "if there was an opportunity to run the program in a prison would you do it and what would it look like?" I said, yes, I would do it but that I would need time to think about what it would look like. When I had the plan, I went back and presented my ideas to her. She then contacted the CSC and said we'd meet with them and talk about it.

Colin Sheppard, who was in regional headquarters at the time, came over for a meeting. It was at that time that the director offered me as the prospective program leader

and asked him if he had a problem with the design. To my surprise, he was really supportive of both me as the program leader and the design. From there we developed the Healthy Relationships program and about six months later, last January, 1993, we started coming in.

OB: *How did you get involved with the Family Violence Project to begin with?*

MH: After I was out about three years and had been in this relationship I'm in now, I made a commitment that I wouldn't be violent with her. In my past relationships I had been violent with my partners and I didn't want to be violent with her. After all, she had already come out of a violent relationship and I didn't want to be the second guy. So, I had made a commitment to her and a commitment to myself that I would never be violent in our relationship.

Things went well for the first year but then I started to slip back into my old ways. It started out with my playing mind games with her, verbally abusing her, intimidating her, threatening her, and then I grabbed her around the throat in an argument one night.

So we went to couples counselling for about four months. The

counselling helped for about a year. Things went fairly smooth for that year. There was no violence. However, there was still some verbal, mental, and emotional abuse. A year later, which was two years after couples counselling, things were back to the way they had always been prior to our going to counselling. I was getting violent again.

I had heard about the Family Violence Project from the guy who I was seeing at couples counselling. Initially, I totally blew it off because, "I didn't beat up my girlfriends; I wasn't a wife beater. I've pushed them, I've slapped them, but I didn't beat them up," so I ain't going to a program like that," I told myself. But the truth of the matter was that I ended up beating her up one night. And the next day I phoned him to get the number of that place. A couple of days later I went for an assessment, and I've been there ever since.

OB: *Are you still violent or abusive in your relationship?*

MH: No! Through that program I've learned a different way to be in my relationships, but it wasn't easy. At first, it was a struggle for me because I was controlling in all kinds of ways in my relationship. I controlled all the money. I made all

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the decisions. What I said, went.

OB: *What is your opinion on guys getting involved in relationships immediately upon release from prison? Alcoholics Anonymous, for example, recommends that guys stay out of relationships for about a year.*

MH: I think that's a good rule of thumb. It allows you to get grounded, to deal with your issues, re-adjust, and so on. One of the important things our program teaches is how to find a good relationship and how to develop it. It takes two people to have a good relationship so one of the first things to be done is to find a healthy partner to have a healthy relationship with. This in itself won't happen overnight.

OB: *Is there a connection between unhealthy relationships and criminal activity?*

MH: From looking at the research and from talking to hundreds of guys in here I see a distinct correlation between bad relationships and the use of drugs and alcohol. And statistics from the Correctional Service show a correlation between these and crime. But speaking from my own experience, whenever my relationships were rocky the rest of my life fell apart. The research shows that one of the prime factors in most guys' criminal activity is bad relationships, seven out of ten in fact. It is one of the primary issues in most guys' lives.

OB: *Can you draw a connection between your violent, abusive behaviour with women and the relationships you had with your male friends?*

MH: I think your peer group gives you the attitudes and values you take into your relationships. In the group that I grew up with, women had no value. They were in the way. The attitude was that they were bitches. They got in the way of the guys' partying. And so these were some of the attitudes I took into my

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relationships later in life.

OB: *In the Healthy Relationships program do you address these attitudes and values?*

MH: Yeah. We address a lot of attitudes about women and how we see them; how we see them differently than we do ourselves. One of the first things we do in the program is challenge the men's belief that men and women are different.

OB: *In terms of the men's personal gains from this program, one would think a prison environment is the wrong place for this type of program, especially when considered in view of effectiveness.*

MH: I've talked to many of

the guys about this and they say there is a lot they get from the program that they can't use in here. It just doesn't work in here because they are dealing with unhealthy people. For a lot of the guys, given the groups they associate with in here, it's not okay for them to exercise what they are learning in the program but they will have the opportunity to use it later on. We are in relationships all the time. But I think that one of the big realizations that come from the program is that until you can have a good relationship with yourself you'll never have a good relationship with anyone else. On the other hand, many of them say there is a lot they can use. They try and make it work in here for them and are quite successful at it. They learn how to resolve conflicts and they learn different strategies to deal with things. I think that whenever we learn something, even though we can't apply it right away, it sits there. And when the opportunity comes along to use it, it's there.

OB: *Do you think your own criminal history makes you more effective as a group leader than say a CSC employee?*

MH: From the feedback I get from the guys in group, I know they trust me. They'll say things to me and in the group that will put them at risk. I don't think they would if a CSC employee was there. So, yes, I'd say they trust me more than somebody else.

OB: *Is this because you are an ex-con?*

MH: No, I don't think so. I think anybody from the outside would be trusted more than a CSC employee given the position of power. Staff members are in positions of power over the prisoner. And where that kind of relationship exists there cannot be a whole lot of trust. One of the things we teach in the program, as a matter of fact, is not to be in power.

OB: *There are staff now delivering programs that once used to be contracted out to the appropriate community organizations. A lot of these programs are mandatory for prisoners to attend. From two different angles, what do you think the staff's perceptions are of you delivering this program: first, you being an ex-offender and, second, you being someone from the community doing what they could maybe be doing themselves?*

MH: Our program is a bit different than other programs offered here. It's more of a group. Their's is education and awareness, and our' is therapy. Our group is based on therapy. For example, some of the stuff we share in the group with each other we would never talk about in another program. This fact alone sets us aside from the other kinds of programs they offer. Guys get to say what's really on their mind and how they're really feeling in our group where they wouldn't take the risk in say a mandatory program. I think a lot of staff see that they couldn't run this style of group simply because they are employees of the CSC. It just wouldn't work. There would be too many conflicts with confidentiality and trust, the two most important ingredients of our program.

OB: *So you think the staff accept you and what you are doing even though you are an ex-convict?*

MH: Yes, I think they see the value in it. They know that the guys trust me. I don't get the sense that they are threatened by it at all.

OB: *Would you say the CSC, or more specifically this institution, isn't all that concerned with the content of what prisoners tell you and the fact that some guys can trust you?*

MH: I don't think they are concerned at all. There are certain things, however, that the CSC wants so they can measure whether this

IDEAS?

After finishing this issue of **Out of Bounds** comes the challenge of securing enough material and ideas to produce another. It is our hope to produce the **Out of Bounds** every three months. We welcome all material and ideas you might have.

If, after reading this issue, you would like to see something changed or added for the next issue, you can send your ideas and suggestions to:

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program is effective. And this could be construed as their wanting personal information.

OB: *What is that, Mike?*

MH: They want us to share our research with them. They think they are going to be able to measure the group's effectiveness with it, but I honestly don't think you can measure success through statistics. But that's what they want to do.

OB: *So what are some of the things they want to do?*

MH: Up to now, the research identified the groups as a whole. It was kept confidential. Starting with the next groups, the research will be shared with the CSC. They want the guys' names and numbers on the questionnaires so they can track them through research and see if there was any change in them. They believe they can determine that. To this point, however, our own research team at UBC, the forefathers of domestic violence research in Canada, has yet to be able to prove anything from the research let alone whether guys have changed or not. But the CSC wants to try and so that is a piece that we've had to give up. The most important thing however, is the confidentiality we have in our groups. We haven't given this up.

OB: *Wouldn't the inmates be less inclined to answer the questionnaires truthfully if they have to identify themselves as the respondents to those questionnaires?*

MH: They definitely will be less inclined to answer truthfully. What the CSC assures us though is that this information will only be used for research purposes. It will never be shared with his case management team and it will never go onto his file. It will only be used to evaluate this program.

OB: *Do you think the CSC knows that this information will be false or inaccurate and that their research results will be equally erroneous?*

MH: Yes, they do know that. From discussions I've had with the research people in Ottawa, they know that the information they're going to get is not going to be as accurate as the information we're going to get. But we don't always get honest information either. Even though the responses are strictly confidential, we know we haven't got a whole lot of honest information from the guys.

OB: *If the program's success cannot be measured from the statistics, how do you define the program's success?*

MH: When we first started this program they asked us about two weeks before we started doing interviews if we would run a group with two to four people in it, because, as they said, this is the average for attendance in this type of group. They didn't believe we would have more than this come out. I said, of course I would. So, when I ended up with eighteen guys after the interviews there were many who were surprised. Eighteen guys was enough to run two groups. To this date the numbers have not let up. There is always more guys wanting seats than there are seats available.

OB: *So then, the program's success is measured by involvement?*

MH: Yes, but for me personally, one of the big measures of success is the support group we run in the community for the partners of the men taking part in the inside group. The support group we run for the partners in the community provides us with unmeasurable feedback. And the feedback that we get from the partners in the community is how I measure the success of the program, feedback such as how their partners are handling things in the relationship differently, how their relationship is improving, etc. That is the true measure of any men's treatment program centering around abuse.

OB: *Do a lot of the inmates' partners participate in the community group?*

MH: Typically, there is about four to eight women involved all the time in the community program. Some of the women are partners of guys who took the very first group in here a year ago. They have never left the group. They really like it.

OB: *What do you think the future of this project will be? Do you see it continuing on? Do you see yourself getting more involved in it or would you like to stay at this level?*

MH: I'm as involved as I can possibly get. I not only do this institutional program I also run a group in the community for guys on parole. I see guys individually on parole. This program is my full time job. It's all I do. I don't do anything at the Family Violence Project any more because this job has become so big that it consumes all my time.

OB: *What does the future hold for Mike Hodgkinson?*

MH: I do a lot of workshops. I'm not sure what my direction is. This program is my focus for the next fifteen months. It is something I would like to continue to do, because I enjoy working here. I see myself working with offenders in some capacity. I'll definitely stay in the counselling field. One of the areas that interests me is working with male survivors of sexual assault. There are very few services out there for them. I see it as an important piece of work that needs to be done. So it's something that I've been taking some workshops in and getting better educated about. But it's important to keep working on my own process along the way too, which makes me a better helper. The more issues I deal with personally the better equipped I am to help others deal with theirs. ●

Secret

The Mafia

Societies

By Ray Joubert

Society is described in the Random House College Dictionary as "An organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic or other purpose." There are many secret societies: Germany's Red Brigade, America's Ku Klux Klan, Peru's Shining Path, Hong Kong's Triads and Ireland's I.R.A., only to name a few. The Mafia is probably the largest organization that could be classified as a "secret society" in our culture. This society is made up of many groups, diverse in their philosophy and goals but united in the fact that they are sworn to an oath of secrecy in order to ensure their very survival.

In the nineteenth century, the letters "MAFIA" were believed to stand for "Morte Alla Francia Italia Anela" - Death to France is Italy's Cry. In Sicily, during the nineteenth century, the majority of citizens hated their rulers and subsequently regarded bandits as freedom fighters. The Mafia originated as a sort of private army of mercenaries that could be hired by the land owners or the government to keep the peasants in line.

By the late 1860's, the Mafia had organized itself into a society complete with its own rules and initiation rites. In the past they had been simply criminals who defied foreign armies. But, when Giuseppe Garibaldi invaded Sicily in 1860, the Mafia sided with him and as a result became semi-respectable. It was during this period that the


Mafia evolved into a full-scale criminal organization that no longer lived in mountains as social outcasts, but rather became a dominant force in Italy. The aim of this criminal brotherhood was to be a secret local government in opposition to the foreign dominated civic authority. They made the local farmers and small landowners pay protection money. Those who refused had their property burnt. Judges and police officers were bribed to keep Mafia members out of prison. It was at this time that they developed the rule of "Omerta" - a code of silence, never to talk to police even if you're dying from an assassin's bullet. The Mafia soon discovered crime was not the only way to make money. They branched out into different areas of legitimate business. By the 1890's, the Mafia had become a criminal aristocracy in Sicily.

It was around the year 1900 that the Sicilians exported the Mafia to America. At that time the most popular city for Italian immigrants was New Orleans, which had a climate similar to southern Italy. From there they branched out all over America. By 1919, New York was the criminal capital for the Mafia. They existed in most other major cities, but it was only in New York where they had achieved political control. America was a religious country. In 1920, the religious majority passed a law called the Volstead Act. This act prohibited the sale of alcohol. It turned out to be a license with which the Mafia could

make untold amounts of money and expand right across America at an unbelievable rate. The Congress in America created the same conditions that had made Italy the most lawless country in the world. A prohibitionist government became the enemy of the general public. The gangsters who defied the law by providing alcohol smuggled from Canada suddenly became heroes. When America finally opened its eyes and realized it had made a mistake, it was too late. Organized crime was there to stay.

For thirteen years the bootlegging of alcohol made everyone involved in the trade extremely wealthy. With such vast wealth, the Mafia could buy immunity and choose their own political appointees (which is exactly what they have done more

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or less since the thirties). During the prohibition years, there were many gangland disputes and murders because of feuds over who had the right to sell alcohol in certain areas. There were also many hijackings of alcohol consignments by rival gangs. Gang leaders made numerous, almost constant attempts to come to some kind of agreement so that the killings would stop. In 1929, Giuseppe Masseria controlled the Sicilian-Italian organization in New York. A group of outsiders rebelled against this control by the Italian Society. The rebels were lead by Salvatore Maranzano. The Maranzano organization was made up of legendary names such as Gagliano, Lucchese, Bonanno, Profaci, Magaddino and others. The Masseria organization included the likes of Luciano, Genovese, Costello, Terranova, Moretti, Adonis, Scalise, Anastasia and Gambino.

The Masseria organization murdered a Mr. Reina, boss of one of the Maranzano units. This started a war between the Maranzano and Masseria groups which lasted from 1929-1931. By 1931, the Masseria organization were loosing ground

to Maranzano. Lucky Luciano and Vito Genovese feared for their own lives so they defected to Maranzano. They told him they would join him and kill their former leader in exchange for safety and profits. Luciano and Genovese executed Masseria on April 20, 1931. That murder nearly ended the war but there was to be more killing before there would be lasting peace. On September 11, 1931, Maranzano was killed. That day and the two days immediately after, some forty Sicilian-Italian gang leaders across the country lost their lives. Most of those killed were characterized as "boss", "underboss" or "lieutenant".

In fact, some experts say that September 11, 1931, marked the end of the original Mafia in the United States. The organization Union Siciliana, what some call the Cosa Nostra, took over the Italian Society. The difference between the two being that in the Cosa Nostra, the Union cooperates with other non-Italian gangs, while the Mafia was closed to outsiders.

To end the killings and to prevent being deposed himself, Lu-

ciano substituted the "boss of bosses" position for a "consigliere of six", made up of representatives of the five New York families and one New Jersey family established by Maranzano. The consigliere served as a local arbitration board and a court. If anyone wanted to kill another he had to first go to the local consigliere to ask permission. In so doing, he risked being killed himself. The 1931 peace treaty destroyed the concept of a "boss of bosses" or even a regional ruler. Under Luciano's orders there were to be no new members allowed into the families without permission and consent of the others. This different membership concept froze armies and armaments at the same level present at the time of the treaty, giving an advantage to the Luciano family which was in a powerful position from then on. In 1932, the Democrats pledged they would repeal prohibition should they be elected to office. Delano Roosevelt defeated Herbert Clark Hoover by a huge majority and in February 1933, the Volstead Act was repealed. America had been a gangster's paradise for thirteen years because of the



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conditions created by prohibition.

Prohibition was finally over, but it made little difference to the gangs who had now diversified into other business: drugs, gambling, and labour racketeering. In the latter part of 1932, gang representatives from all the major families had an important meeting in Boston. They realized that the public would no longer view them as social benefactors since they would no longer be providing them with liquor now that prohibition had ended. They made a pact or treaty of mutual cooperation and inter-gang warfare was stopped. They realized that public feuds would cause them problems similar to those faced by Al Capone. Because of Capone's extreme violence he attracted a lot of attention from the law. As a result, the authorities sent him to jail for whatever they could, income tax evasion. The gangs decided that their leaders would remain in close contact, like the board of a public corporation. That way the strength of one was the equivalent to the strength of all of them. By 1934, the advantages of this arrangement were

so obvious that gangs from all over the country wanted to join in.

The Mafia had been very fragmented until this time so they held a meeting in Kansas City. Gangs from all over the states attended. At this meeting they formed the Syndicate, sometimes known as Murder Incorporated. For the first time non-Italian gangs were allowed to join the organization. The country was divided up into territories and given to certain families. Each boss remained a czar in his own territory. His rackets would be undisturbed plus he had sole authority over his territory. Unless he was overruled by a Board of Governors, no lawlessness on an organized scale could take place without his consent.

This was the beginning of organized crime orchestrated from a national level and a lasting peace held for many years. The families went about conducting business in secret for the next forty years without much interference from the United States government. The Cosa Nostra is so low key and subtle in its operation that the public is seldom aware of its existence. It has only been

lately that the American government has actually acknowledged the existence of a Cosa Nostra. In recent years, law enforcement agencies have had limited success in dealing with the Cosa Nostra in the United States and Italy.

Robert Kennedy, Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice (1961-1964), once stated,

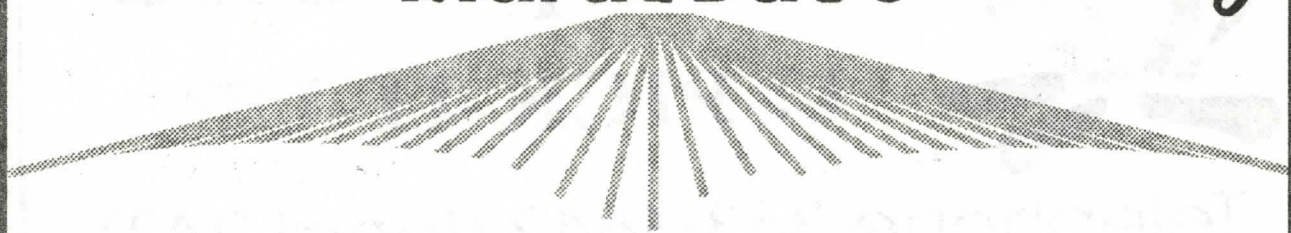
"The racketeer's influence is likely to be as far reaching as that of an important industrialist. When a racketeer bores his way into legitimate business, the cost is borne by the public. It cannot be only the concern of law enforcement officers but must be the active concern of every citizen."

An overall inventory of Mafia activities leaves no doubt that it is a criminal organization, serving the interests of its membership at the expense of the larger population. Many people believe the very essence of a "secret society" is parasitic to society as a whole. One must wonder if Mr. Kennedy's statement was a prophetic indication of things to come. ●

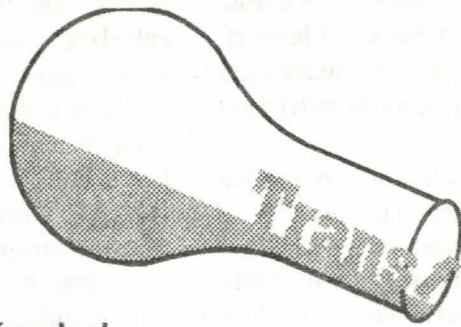
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22, 23, 29, 30

Marat/Sade



Directed By Robert Osborne



By Richard Kowbel

FICTION

The dining area was lightly illuminated by a couple of candles burning in the centre of the table. Silver flatware reflected the light from the candles, brightening the area ever so slightly. Through the shadows two place settings were barely visible. The house was filled with the rich aroma of freshly cooked food.

In the kitchen area a young looking gypsy woman was furiously working away. She was surrounded with bottles upon bottles. She quickly mixed a little something from one, then another, and slowly progressed through the entire collection of bottles. Then, setting one glass of a liquid substance resembling fine wine onto the shelf to her left, she quickly returned the bottles to a lower cupboard, replacing them with a collection of herbs.

Taking exactly measured portions from each of the containers of herbs, she combined them in a small bowl. Catching her own reflection in a piece of polished steel she thought for a moment about what she was doing. Justifying to herself: He deserves it. With a quick look at the timepiece on the mantle she realized it was only a few minutes before her distinguished guest would be arriving. That meant she only had a few more minutes to get the last of the ingredients she needed for the paste. In a rush she grabbed the butcher knife and a large pitcher of water

from the counter and headed out the door.

She returned a few minutes later with the pitcher and knife. Her blouse was soaked with a reddish substance. She set the pitcher on the shelf beside the glass she had placed there earlier. She headed into her bedroom and changed her clothes.

The knock on the door was strong, it was obvious that her guest was as arrogant in social situations as he was at work. She quickly moved to the door and opened it.

"Senor Martinez, please come in." Her voice was calm and showed no hint of what she had planned for her unsuspecting guest.

Martinez, a renowned matador of noble blood, had a reputation for having little mercy while in the arena with a bull. It was rumoured that in a past life he had actually been a bull and had killed several matadors.

After they had eaten, the woman served Martinez the glass of wine-

like substance. He sipped it and commented, "I've never tasted anything so exquisite."

"It's a wine that my ancestors made, the formula has been passed down through the ages."

As they sat and talked Martinez became increasingly lethargic. He started to slur his words as he spoke and soon faded into a deep sleep.

As soon as Martinez was unconscious the woman walked over to him, grabbed him by the ankles and dragged him out of the room, across the yard and into the barn. She returned to the house, took her bowl of herbs and the pitcher she had filled earlier and combined the two, creating a paste. She then carried the bowl of paste out into the barn.

After stripping Martinez of all his clothes as he lay in a stall, she applied the paste to his body. Upon completing the application to his body she began chanting in latin verse, slowly picking up the tempo until the words were a steady garble of gasps and groans. Completing the chant, she collected the matador's clothing and dishes. While exiting the barn she glanced into another stall where a dead bull lay with its throat slit. "What a waste," she softly sighed.

Upon waking, Martinez felt different. "Where am I? Why are all these boards surrounding me?" Turning his head, looking about, he couldn't believe what he saw. "What's happened to me!" he screamed. But nobody could hear his voice which was nothing more than a loud grunt from an angry bull.

Returning to the stall in the barn, the woman was proudly amazed by what she saw. Where she had left the young nobleman matador laying covered in bull's blood and several different magical herbs stood a proud miura, its fierce eyes burning like coals in a fire.

"Off to the Plaza de Torros for

you. And may you meet the same merciless fate you offered to countless other bulls." The woman's revenge was complete, or so she thought.

In the arena, the big black bull soon gained a reputation for being strong and powerful. With death as its dominion the miura flashed its lethal horns, goring every matador it met.

Then one day he noticed a strange, beautiful woman seated in the special seats reserved for the matadors' wives, friends, and family. He fell in love with the woman, and in her honour he found extreme pleasure in killing or maiming all matadors who had the misfortune of facing him. After his latest kill, lowering his head and using his horns to dig in the dust, he picked up a red rose matted with blood and tossed it to her.

Unbeknown to the miura the woman developed a mysterious love for him, a love she couldn't explain. She admired his strength, wit, and proud manner, and she suffered with this strange, cursed admiration, unable to consummate it in passionate sin.

The day finally arrived when the woman's matador lover had to face her secret lover, the deadly miura. The sun blazed bright, dust hung in the air, and the matador, knocked flat by the bull, lay motionless in the centre of the arena. It had been a fierce fight, the bull was badly injured, the matador near death. In despair, the woman jumped from her seat into the ring. With tears in her eyes, flagging her red skirt, she challenged the animal.

He couldn't refuse the challenge. He ran at her, carefully backing her into a sheltered corner of the arena. She picked up the downed matador's sword from the dirt and struck the bull as he gently touched her hips with his enormous head, cradling her between his deadly horns. Lifting his head, he looked into her

eyes. Seeing so much pain and frustration he felt ashamed of himself. As only heart-stricken animals can do when facing death the bull began to weep.

Backing away, he lowered his head and offered to her the back of his neck, his most vulnerable spot. She quickly thrust the sword into his neck as deep as she could. As it entered he didn't even flinch.

The whole plaza sank in silence, faced with the horror of the broken spell. The miura, human again, a handsome naked man, his noble blood


spilling onto the dirt of the arena, called out to the stunned woman his dying words, "I love you."

He was finally freed from the gypsy witch's curse that had made him a bull. He was killed by the hand of his beloved who later died from the sorrow of a lovesick heart.

Legend has it the two of them were reunited after death, never to be separated again. Two souls wandering in the realm of the spirit, shedding the wonderful light of their immense love over untold heartless souls. ●

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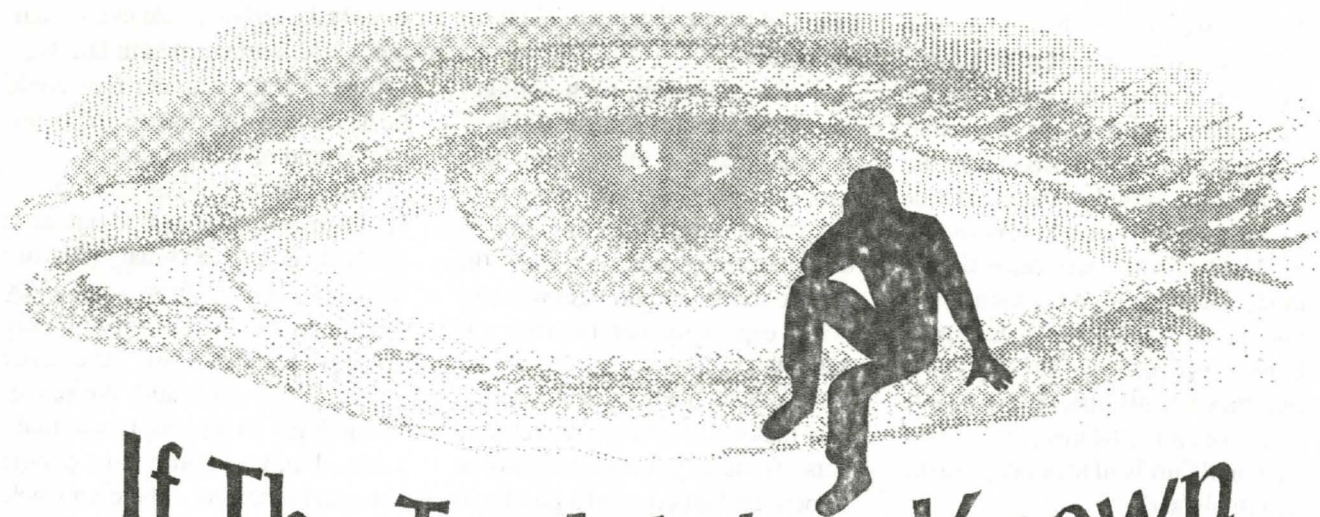
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If The Truth Were Known

By Patrick Rafferty

FICTION

A long, long time ago in a land far, far away on a little island in the middle of a very large, very deep, very blue sea lived a tribe of tiny people.

Now, these people weren't midgits, oh no, and they weren't dwarfs, no siree, and they weren't even leprechauns because leprechauns always have a pot of gold hidden someplace and these people had no gold whatsoever.

These people were just tiny little people, plain and simple, and they lived in tiny little houses full of tiny furniture and there were tiny little curtains on the tiny little windows. Some even had little wee cats and little wee dogs, and in one house, if you looked real hard, you could see an itsy bitsy goldfish in a very, very, small bowl.

Unfortunately, for some strange reason there was a certain sadness that hung over this beautiful little island where the tribe of tiny people

lived. The people, as silly as it may sound, are extremely sad because they are so small. This sadness affects everything that they do. When they work they are sad. When they play they are sad. You might not believe this, but they are even sad when they are asleep.

But, you see, and this is where it gets real complicated, nobody knows for sure why everybody believes that they are small. There are no big people living on the island that they can compare themselves to. And no big people have ever visited the island either, and none of the little people have ever been off the island. So, how can they know for sure that they are in fact small.

Legend has it that one day a huge hand reached down from nowhere and picked up one of the residents of the island, lifted him way, way up into the air where a huge face looked at the little man, first in amazement, then with glee, and began yelling and screaming something so loud that the poor little guy was frightened half to death. Then, just as suddenly as he had been picked up, he was placed back onto the little island, somewhat dazed and completely confused. The trouble is, nobody knows if the legend is true

or not.

None of that matters though, as far as they're concerned they're small, way smaller than normal, and that makes them sad. Very sad. And an island full of sad people is a terrible place to live. It's really too bad, too. It's such a beautiful island, with lots of tall, lazy trees stretching halfway to the sky, and all kinds of tropical plants growing, twisting and turning, in between the trees, and here and there, isolated fields of grass gently swaying in the cool sea breeze that blows across the island, keeping the temperature at a reasonable level under the hot, blazing sun that never seems to go behind a cloud.

One particular family on this beautiful little island in the middle of the very large, very deep, very blue sea was noticeably sadder than everybody else. The Tomlisons, a small family (I don't mean small in the sense that they are little people because we already know that they are little people, at least, we already know that they think, for whatever reason, that they are little people; I mean small in the sense that they don't have many people in their family), just Mrs. Tomlison, and Mr. Tomlison, and little Theresa

Tomlison, their five-year-old daughter, were very, very unhappy. Theresa, a beautiful little girl, an only child, daughter in the small family of tiny people living on the picturesque island in the middle of the large, deep blue sea, was so sad, the saddest little person on the island, that she caused her family, her little family (oops! I mean her small family, because we already know that they are all little, these people who live on the island), she caused her small family of little people to be extremely sad.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomlison just couldn't believe how sad their daughter, Theresa, was. They couldn't stand to see her mopeing around the house, day after day, never laughing, never playing happily outside like children are supposed to. As a matter of fact, they couldn't even remember the last time they saw her so much as smile. What's even worse, they couldn't remember if she had ever smiled, if she even knew how to.

One day, on one of her rare excursions out of doors, actually she was just going across the back yard to take the garbage from the house to the rubbish pile, Theresa stopped for a while beside a very large, very deep, very blue puddle of water. She couldn't help but notice a little clump of what seemed

like mud smack-dab in the middle of the puddle.

All of a sudden, no it couldn't be, wait a minute, yes, she did hear it, what seemed like a very tiny squeak, a soft little yell or something was coming from the clump of dirt. Leaning way out over the puddle so she wouldn't get wet, and being especially careful that she didn't fall in, Theresa, ever so slowly, gently plucked whatever it was that was making the barely perceptible noise from between some grass or something that covered a good part of the clump in the middle of the puddle.

It must be a bug or something. It was alive, that's for sure. She could feel it twisting and turning between her forefinger and thumb. She carefully brought whatever it was up to her face, to have a closer look at it, to try to figure out exactly what this little tiny thing was. When she finally got it close enough, right in front of her eyes actually, she could see little wee arms, little wee legs, and a little wee tiny head covered with long, blonde curls.

Theresa's eyes suddenly opened wide in amazement. The corners of her mouth began to twitch, and then something that hadn't happened in a long, long time occurred. Theresa began to smile. And her smile grew and grew until it seemed like it

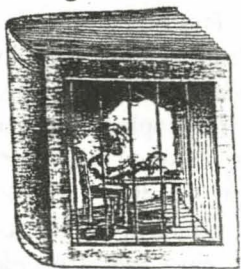
would take up her whole face. Eventually, the smile turned to laughter. Lifting, rolling laughter that could be heard half-way across the beautiful island of sad people.

Everybody from all over the island came running to find out what this strange but obviously pleasant noise could be. Theresa, tears of joy streaming down her face, barely able to talk, blurted out, "We're not small! We're not small! We're big! We're big! These people are small. Look, I have a little tiny person between my fingers. There's a whole island of tiny people in the middle of that puddle down there. We're not tiny, they are. We're big, real big."

Everybody within earshot started to celebrate. The word spread like wildfire across the whole island. For the next entire week and part of the one that followed there was an atmosphere of rejoicing and merriment the likes of which nobody could have imagined in their wildest dreams.

But now, I'm sorry to say, a certain sadness has settled over the little wee island in the middle of the very large, very deep, very blue puddle. A sadness that affects everything the people on that tiny island do. When they work they are sad. When they play they are sad. You might not believe this, but they are even sad when they are asleep.

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Disparate Pen Vernacular

By Jack McColeman

adumbrate - too cheap or expensive

ameliorate - Spanish discount at a motel

arbiter - someone who eats alphabet soup

axiomatic - high-powered lumberjack's tool

banal - a bar where AI isn't allowed

celibate - what a hooker does

cellulite - the reading room for cons

bloodshed - a place to put the bodies

derange - where your cell is located

indolent - time before Easter in East India

intransigent - female impersonator

hyperbole - a shaky toilet

hegemony - unpaid bills

malediction - a deep, husky voice

martinet - escape equipment

mendacity - urban renewal

paradigm - twenty cents

penultimate - toughest guy in the joint

prosaic - CSC criteria

oxymoron - lazy, fat guard

scatology - science of chasing cats away

sychophant - a pachyderm in treatment

Politically Correct Terminology

armed robber - financial procurement specialist

arsonist - fireman employment agent

burglar - security installation tester

car thief - vehicle re-supply agent

con artist - politician

counterfeiter - imitation manufacturer

criminal - socially challenged entrepreneur

drug dealer - monies investment adviser

drug manufacturer - high risk businessman

fence - purchasing agent

fraud artist - documentation specialist

getaway driver - arrest avoidance specialist

gun dealer - piece advocate

hitman - removal technician

joy rider - test driver

loan shark - investment broker

lookout - observation expert

looter - non-traditional shopper

prostitute - pleasure broker

safe cracker - heavy lock specialist

smuggler - covert operations expert

thief - unpaid mover

NEWSPEAK, HMP Garth, England

HorrorScope

By Frater Perdurabo

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)

Your energetic flow remains uninterrupted. The trouble is it's at zero you couch potato. You are too resourceful to let cancellations or hold-ups affect your work's progress, especially if your work involves hold-ups and cancellations. Evening meetings go gracefully, and further plans are set for the future. See you at the Seven Eleven.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)

Unpredictable acts from one of your workers add excitement to your work environment, so make sure you don't fire anybody in the near future. Don't be too bossy, get more help than necessary. The social arena centres around you. You may be in the spotlight. Just make sure it's not the spotlight from the guard tower.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Effective listeners are let in on covert information. Beware of kites. Romantic prospects go out of their way to make up for weak first impressions. Take a second look, Personal Columns have been known to produce duds. Say no to all friendly invitations.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

A new sense of purposivelessness and imbalance begins with a change in personal habits. A blossoming romance is destroyed by a friend's unfavourable gossip. In other words, he told her what you're

really like. An accidental confession is fascinating -- but use the information wisely.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

Your urge to shock and inspire is enhanced with a healthy dose of pork 'n beans. Settle into a new routine at work, do something for a change. Setbacks can be dealt with later, much later. A Gemini makes this evening a kick, so you better hide the family jewels. Don't relax, danger lurks.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Institutional means are fine for now, but don't get too dependant, the public trough is dangerously low. More creative methods of procurement will raise your career status in the future. Taurus will exonerate you. Money comes from your family in the nick of time; pray they don't find out you took it.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Keep the spirit of competition alive, cheat if you have to, especially when competitors are your dear friends. Better domestic conditions are on the way, your mother-in-law is moving out. Continue to add to the home improvement fund, get her to leave her cheque-book behind.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

The kinks are worked out of romantic misunderstandings, now try to work the kinks out of your

broken arm. If you're in doubt, go with gut feelings. Don't try to understand things beyond your pea-brain mentality. Void your mind along with your bowels. A nagging relative calls for a cease-fire. Make sure they put down their weapon first.

Sagit's (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Progressive thinkers get a moment in the spotlight. Make sure it's not an interrogator's spotlight. The tables turn in romance, you meet a lazy Susan. Savour the situation because you'll soon screw it up. Be unkind and the courtesy will be returned, twofold.

Capri's (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Practical communication keeps kites in check and makes rehabilitation possible. Encourage youngsters and inductees to bring new ideas to your attention. When doing so, make sure they are standing at attention.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)

Your lack of patience in dealings at work keeps your co-workers on edge. Honour the five-day waiting period before you purchase a gun. This is not the time to forget how to be a team player, get somebody to watch your back.

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

A trickster spirit adds life to the workplace, but keep it mild, don't use real grenades, the boss appreciates calm logic. When friends are looking for a party, yours is the first door visited, even though it's always locked. Avoid rational people, they'll only confuse you.

Fools

Holding fast to life takes on many forms
As many as the bars that make cages
I don't let them come, I create the storms
Then curse the vile tempest while it rages
I'm covered, then lost, in stacked numbers
They talk, I listen, it never sounds fair
I'm aware of mistakes, yes, my blunders
I comply, or I'll never touch the air
I pretend, they let on, that I've changed
Both sides play the game; pathetic, the fools
Some things are never looked at the same
No side is wrong, just different rules
Stay active, stay strong, prevent your decease
Hold fast, there are many forms of release

T.R. Lemky

Precious Cache

Shayanne, image from
an unfavourable retrospection
wholesale remoteness of
the integral interval
an authentic experience
efficacy latent
precious cache
plundered by ineptitude
thoughts the lone residue
for an interim reality
of ethereal reminiscence

P.W.R.

Balanced Understanding

Yelling into a cave
I hear the wandering echoes of my mind
Empty caverns of thought
 ricocheting throughout the Cosmos
Stepping into a cobweb - recoiling
 into time long past
I sit in a lotus observing the pond
 of emptiness
Concrete clouds surround me - crumbling vapour
Black bull standing at the helm
 of the underworld
Matadoress arrives with entourage of white clouds

-arena setting-

Black and White
 poised for battle.
Clearing the clouds, I lay down my sword
Offering a clear bull's-eye to the horns
 of Darkness
Bull charging with a fearsome snarl
 Horns ripping flesh
 penetrating my will
Blending with the darkness within me
 As my femininity blends with the bull's

-conjoined as one-

I stand and root my feet and hands
 in the sand
My horns of wisdom ready
 metamorphosis complete
Truisms of past dissolve into truth itself
Full of a balanced understanding
 of who we really are

Rick Gagnon

time of life

look at the ocean
a body of water changing
as the earth revolves
imagine coming and going
day in day out

tides change with the moon
full or not
be it like nature
to do what it wants
life is somewhat the same

we have the chance
to change
the course of our life
benefit from a better way
reach for your goals

be what you want
to be in life
yes there are mysteries
that's what life's all about
learn, benefit from it all

Mim Reikort

Eagle's Prey

An eagle, flying into the drifting air flow

The centre of the sky carefully keeps his balance

Coasting clearly across the sky

Suddenly, he sees a rabbit

Knowing it's time to dive

Down goes the eagle

Swooping him up alive

All in one motion, flaring his wings

Flying toward his territory

Carefully keeping him captured

Around the sound, he fell to the ground

He found the strength to kill him

So, in the end, the eagle devoured his prey

Michael Sakowski

PICTURES ON THE WALL

PICTURES ON THE WALL, OF YOU

ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT TO VIEW

IT SEEMS JUST A SHORT TIME AGO

THAT I HAD HAPPINESS, NOT SORROW

WHERE HAS IT ALL GONE, MY LOVELY

ALL THAT WE HAD, NOW SO EMPTY

THE DAYS GO BY WITHOUT YOU, SO SLOW

WISHING, HOPING, FOR OUR LOST GLOW

FEELINGS SO DEEP, STILL THERE

MY LOVE, IT JUST ISN'T FAIR

THAT ALL I HAVE LEFT ARE

PICTURES ON THE WALL

G. HARRIS

excerpt from

Love Revolution

by Dadawah

I don't like the noise coming from the boys
In the big white hacienda
Up on the hill, popping their pills
Making up their political agenda
The poor person knows the way that justice goes
While the rich one walks away
For the working poor the money's spent just to pay the rent
If they can even find a place to stay
And all over the world, every day
Homeless people thirst and starve and die
When we live in such abundance
There's not one good reason why
There's a message for this world gone dread
Listen to these words that Gandhi said
"Nature provides enough for everyone's needs
But not enough for everyone's greed"

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