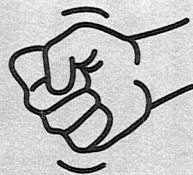


The Sword
c/o Barbara Bryant
3205 Kiya Court #C5
Peoria, IL 61604

**DON'T PANIC
YOUR STORY
STARTS HERE.**



THE SWORD

COMMENCEMENT ISSUE

FREE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of THE SWORD is to empower, encourage, and foster knowledge, wisdom, motivation, inspiration, and the aspiration to manifest change and parallel objectives amongst prisoners, advocates, their families, their communities, organizations, etc., etc., via the rapport generated by the written word.

**Get the
word
out!**

Life isn't a DIY project

THE SWORD Zine Submission Guidelines

Send us your writing, artwork, or poetry!!

Submissions must relate to prison issues, prisoner rights, prison advocacy, or the spread of knowledge, wisdom, motivation, inspiration, etc., etc., with the goal and intent of promoting change and attaining the parallel objectives between prisoners, their advocates, families, their communities, organizations, and victims, alike. Drawing upon your own personal experiences is encouraged; however, we will not publish writings detailing the writer's own legal case. Hand-written submissions will be **accepted** - as long as they are **LEGIBLE!** Send submissions to: Submissions to THE SWORD, c/o Barbara Bryant, 3205 Kiya Court #C5, Peoria, Illinois, 61604. Writings submitted by email may be sent to TheSword2024@gmail.com with the Subject line: "Submission for The Sword". Articles/essays are limited to 500 words, may suggest a title for such, and may be submitted anonymously or with a pen name (pseudonym). In addition, submissions may be considered for inclusion in THE TRUTH: The Midwest Journal of Injustice Across America, and/or The In-Crowd Movement Prison Advocacy, Pen Pal, and Leisure Time Mixbook. While we will consider ALL submissions - there is NO GUARANTEE of publication. Submissions may be edited, but no substantial changes will be made to the content.

**KEEP ON
BELIEVING**

A New Beginning Awaits Us All

TEN PRINCIPLES FROM "THE GREATEST SALESMAN IN THE WORLD"

by
Og Mandino

- 1.) I will form good habits and become their slave.
- 2.) I will greet this day with love in my heart.
- 3.) I will persist until I succeed.
- 4.) I am nature's GREATEST miracle.
- 5.) I will live this day as if it is my last.
- 6.) I will be MASTER of my emotions.
- 7.) I will laugh AT THE WORLD.
- 8.) I will multiply my value one-hundredfold.
- 9.) I will act NOW.
- 10.) I will pray for guidance.

**THE POWER
OF WORDS**

Books Behind Bars

The following is short list of organizations that provide FREE literature to help you improve yourself. Do the time - DON'T LET THE TIME DO YOU!! Organizations prefer that you, at least, provide them with book subject/topics to help better fill your request(s). Most limit you to three (3) books per request (every three-to-six months). And subjects/topic include: African-American Literature, Art, Business, Computers, Biography/Memoir, Economics, Health/Diet/Fitness, History, Latin-American, Math, Music, Native-American, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religion/Spirituality, Science, Self-Help, Sports, Trade, Travel, true Crime, Writing & reference, etc., etc.

Books 2 Prisoners
P.O. Box 515
Urbana, IL 61803
www.books2prisoners.org

Books 2 Prisoners
1631 Elysian Fields Ave. #117
New Orleans, LA 70117

The Books for Prisoners Crew
c/o Hobo Bookstore
P.O. Box 19065
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Books for Prisoners
c/o Groundwork Books
0323 Student Center
La Jolla, CA 92037

Books for Prisoners
c/o Left Bank Bookstore
92 Pike St. Box A
Seattle, WA 98101
Provides up to 3 books at a time. Request by subject - no religion or legal book requests.

Prison Book Project
P.O. Box 396
Amherst, MA 01004

Providence Books thru Bars
c/o Myopic Books
5 South Angell Street
Providence, RI 02906

Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project
c/o Boxcar Books & Community Center
408 E. 6th Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

MORE TO COME..!

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editor's log

Dear Reader:

In initially conceptualizing this zine, my initial intent was to simply spread knowledge and wisdom amongst my peers, and those whom love and support us. But once I actually began the process of compiling the segments/content for this commencement issue, I recognized the fact that it is not in me, specifically, after all I've been through to ignore, disregard, or overlook the fact that many people in my situation have yet to muster the mental fortitude and courage to care about and respect themselves to stand-up and show-out for themselves (if need be!), when they've been wronged, and that I'd be further remiss if I failed to address such a topic in this commencement issue of The Sword. WE MUST LEARN TO ADDRESS SYSTEMATIC ABUSES IN THE PROPER WAY! I'm not so sure that I subscribe to the notion that pulverizing C.O.'s (Correctional Officers) in retaliation for being wronged is the proper response or remedy - but I overstand - and, oftentimes agree, that that is what a good number of them deserve. But, truth-be-told - that isn't a solution! It is selfish, and only provides a false sense of retribution! And, in-the-end, is exactly what the evil ones want. They want to be beaten, so they can be sent home (with often trivial injury), with pay, and to use such incidents as justification to continue to sow discord between the individuals-in-custody, their advocates, and society, by pushing the false narrative that these incidents provide proof of who we are - and why they (and their institutions) are needed! So, I say, again, individual (and group) attacks on C.O.'s are selfish, reckless, and only aid in the reversion of progress that our advocates make on our behalf - and also includes those of us whom have elected to wage our part of this war by rebuilding the minds, hearts, and spirits of prisoners, as well as their conditions! Reframe your MINDS! Reframe YOUR INTENT!

Respect.

their job is to procure a conviction. The time for change is long overdue. Our criminal justice system, and society, mirror each other; if one is broken, so is the other. Together, we can fix it all.

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THE SCOOP!



IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEAL OR
EXPUNGE MY CRIMINAL RECORD?
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? HOW LONG MUST I WAIT BEFORE
I CAN TRY? AND CAN IT BE DONE FOR FELONIES, AS WELL?

When a criminal record is expunged - it is GONE. COMPLETELY destroyed. Obliterated. NOBODY will ever be able to find it/see it. However, sealing a record simply hides it from the public. This means that the record still exists and can be located and reviewed by law enforcement and other government agencies. In other words, someone looking for it at the courthouse, from the general public, will not find it.

Since expungement is more extreme, it is harder to do. What makes it most hard, in particular, is the fact that it's only even possible if there are no convictions, at all, on your record. This, of course, would logically beg the question: "If my record is "clean", why does it need to be expunged? Right? Well, there are several possible answers; but, the simplest, is that, under the law, court supervision, and certain kinds of probation - once successfully completed - are no longer considered convictions! But most people (including those subjected TO said supervision or probation!) do not know that, and job interviewers will often reject applicants if the check with the local circuit clerk, or any other website containing the information, and see "supervision" or "probation". And, although it is illegal to refuse to hire someone just because of an arrest record, an employer may not hire despite the fact that the charges were dropped (but still reflected on the arrest record) - and, of course, they'll never tell why they didn't actually hire an individual.

If you have a conviction somewhere on your record that

After all, the fact is, most criminals will be freed, someday. Would you prefer that that person be a well-adjusted, productive member of society - or remain angry, with a high likelihood to offend again and, perhaps, even worse than before? If a safer society is what you seek, then the answer is clear. This is a logical conclusion that I have reached.

Here's another logical conclusion. Some in authority, with the power to make these decisions, are not interested in a safer society. The criminal justice system in America has become big business. As crime affects most of society, some are completely oblivious to it. They make money and build their riches off of the backs of the average American. They could care less about rehabilitation. Their rhetoric inspires the clueless to believe that a prison's sole purpose is to punish. It is only when their greed has taken such a huge toll on the American public that even politicians start to agree that we can no longer afford it, that they decide that something must be done. Open your eyes. Society is being used. Is your community safe? Do you have family members whom are incarcerated? Does that incarcerated individual have kids? How do you think their incarceration is affecting their community? Are there families in your community dealing with such losses? Does the punishment fit the crime? These are all questions that we need to address. We've been going backwards, for far too long. Our prisons need to focus on rehabilitation. We have many other issues to deal with before prison becomes the answer; but once one's situation becomes that dire, it shouldn't get worse. Our criminal justice system is failing us. WE are failing...

America is SUCH an unforgiving society. In Florida, 25% of the adult population are unable to vote, due to past felony convictions. America has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prison populace. A disproportionate number of these inmates are Black. It is incredibly difficult to find employment if you have a criminal background. It's even difficult to find housing. These issues CAN be fixed. It is imperative that they become the basis for discussion. Our system is failing society. Prosecutors aren't even interested in one's guilt or innocence. A suspect has been arrested, and

cannot be expunged, you may still be able to have it sealed. Most misdemeanors can be sealed, but only a few felonies.

In Illinois, the law was broadened in 2014 by expanding felonies which could be sealed. Previously, only felony convictions such as prostitution, or a few drug offenses could be sealed - and only if they were of the lowest Class (i.e., Class 4).

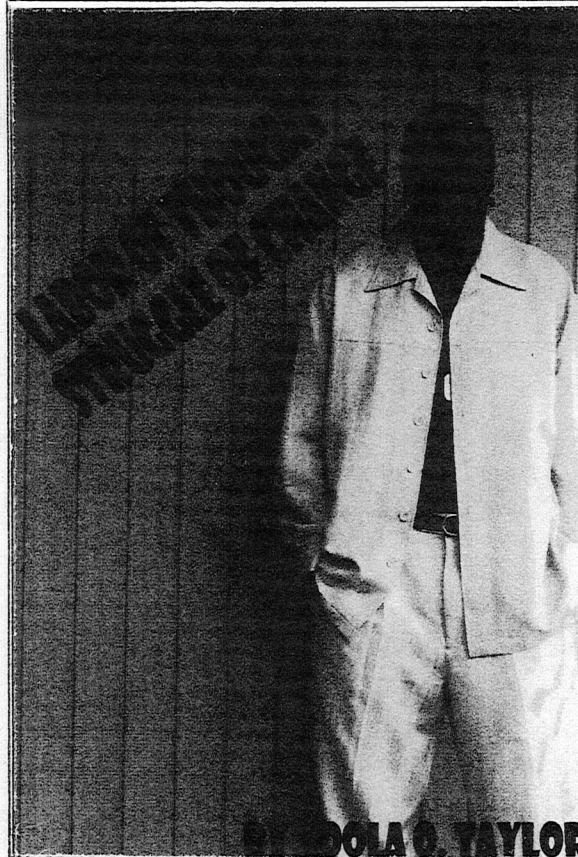
At the time of this writing, there are now 10 different Class 4 felonies that can be sealed, as well as five different Class 4 felonies; amongst others, this includes theft, retail theft, forgery and deceptive practices.

The waiting periods to try to expunge or seal these records vary. There is no time period to wait to attempt to expunge or seal a record where the charges were dismissed. It is two years, however, to try to expunge a record or successfully completed supervision, and five years to expunge a record of successful completion of the kind of qualified probation possible in certain drug cases.

On January 1, 2015, the waiting period to try to seal convictions was reduced from four to three years. Further, there was also a new provision that went into effect which eliminated the waiting period for attempting to seal a conviction if someone got their GED, or other degree or certificate, during their "sentence, after-care release, or mandatory supervised release."

You MUST file a petition to expunge or seal in the ORIGINAL CRIMINAL CASE. That petition gets served on the law enforcement agency responsible for your arrest, their attorney, the state's attorney who filed the charges and the State Police. In Illinois, they have 60 days to respond/object. If no one does, chances are good - but not certain - that your petition will be granted!

Now, in closing, this information may not be applicable to most of us - but it could be a game changer - if you have this knowledge and may be able to use it to help a loved one in need.



of prison life, family, friends, and the struggle of trying to commit to self-rehabilitation despite the situation and circumstances!

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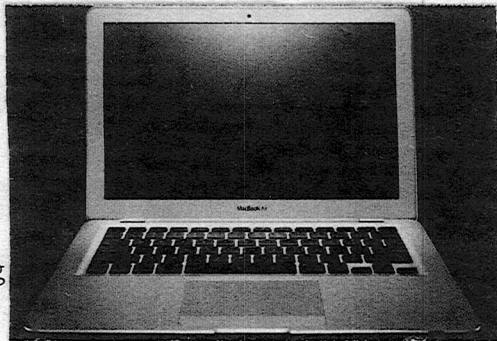
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WRITERS WANTED!! The Commencement Issue of "The In-Crowd Movement Prisoner Advocate, Pen Pal & Leisure Time Mixbook" is scheduled for release in late-2024 and is searching for essays, articles, short stories, poems, etc., etc, pertaining to Justice issues, street life, the prison experience, support & advocacy for prisoners, their families, and victims, alike - or anything that you believe may be of interest to such! Experienced, unexperienced, published and unpublished writers are all WELCOME to submit! Forward work with a short bio and picture (if available), along with a \$10.00 administrative fee (which will be returned if your work is chosen for publication!) to: Myriad Publishing, c/o Barbara Bryant, 3205 Kiya Court*C5, Peoria, IL 61604.



WRITERS WANTED!! Founded in 1971, the PEN Prison Writing Program believes in the restorative, rehabilitative power of writing and provides hundreds of prisoners across the country with skilled writing teachers and audiences for their work. It provides a place for prisoners to express themselves freely and encourages the use of the written word as a legitimate form of power. The program sponsors an annual writing contest, publishes the free Handbook for Writer's in Prison, provides one-on-one mentoring, conducts workshop, and seeks to promote prisoners' work publicly through literary publications and readings. Contact: The PEN Prison Writing Program, 588 Broadway, Suite 303, New York, NY 10012, 212-334-1660, www.pen.org/about/programs/prison-writing.

SHINE
TOGETHER



Spotlight

I was released from prison in May 2015. While The Marshall Project existed at the time, News Inside did not. In 2017, I founded The Ladies of Hope Ministries (The LOHM) with an EPIC vision to End Poverty and InCarceration of women and girls globally. I joined the board of directors for The Marshall Project in October 2018, coinciding with the preparation of the launch of News Inside. In that capacity, I get to see the impact that News Inside is having on incarcerated people in helping to bridge the informational gap between society and the forgotten world behind those walls. As a previously incarcerated woman, I know firsthand the importance of getting access to current and relevant information. My ability to gain access was necessary for a successful reentry, and I want that for all of my brothers and sisters.

Dr. Topeka K. Sam is the founder and CEO of The LOHM and president of EPIC Financial, TKS Ventures LLC, and Faces & Voices Inc. She also serves on the board of directors for The Marshall Project, Pure Legatee, Operation Restoration, and United Justice Coalition. Most recently, Dr. Sam was appointed as the UN Ambassador for social justice and incarceration for the Global Creative Economy, named the first Social Impact Award recipient from Google at the Variety/Lifetime Power of the Woman Summit, received a full and unconditional Presidential Pardon and her Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from NYTS. She has worked and continues to work selflessly and relentlessly in her fight for the dignity, decriminalization, and decarceration of women and girls.

All Social Media Handles: @TopekaKSAm

A BROKEN SYSTEM

by
Robert Bey

Given the current state of our country's criminal justice system, it has become apparent that our system is broken and needs to be fixed. There are many different reasons, and many different factors involved, but the conclusion is still the same. Some may only reach this conclusion because of the incredible financial toll it has taken on us as tax-payers, and the state and federal budgets and deficits of our governments. But there is another side to this story.

First-and-foremost, it should be noted that America, by far, has the highest prison population in the world. I suppose some think that this is a good thing. I do not. Is this making America safer? Conversations need to be had, by society, on these issues. To begin with - What is the purpose of a criminal justice system? Most would agree that it is to fight crime and make people feel safer. The big discrepancies don't come into play until you start asking questions like, "Is prison meant to punish or rehabilitate?" This very fundamental issue needs to be addressed. If we, as a society, can't figure-out the criminal justice system's purpose, then it has failed. A goal must be established before it can be attained.

To begin such a discussion, some would immediately state their opinion that some criminals can't be rehabilitated due to the nature of their offenses. I would counter that by stating the obvious: "some" criminals does not mean ALL criminals. In fact, those that fall into the "some" criminals category, are probably the minority. Also, more than likely, they are not first-time offenders. Had rehabilitation been the goal, in the beginning, perhaps the situation wouldn't have regressed so far. The high rate of recidivism shows that rehabilitation has never been the goal. That's where the heart of this problem lies. If you keep locking-up the old criminals, plus the new ones, chances are you will end up with an expensive, over-populated, unproductive system like the one we have. The goal, all along, should have been to re-habilitate.

Write for Prison Journalism Project

WHO: First-time and experienced writers who are incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, family members, corrections officers, prison educators and others involved in the criminal legal system or affected by the experience of prison or jail.

WHAT: Submissions under 1200 words. No more than ONE STORY or TWO POEMS per submission per month. Please submit only your best work.

Facts in your piece must be information you gathered firsthand, not speculation or information that you've obtained through someone else. We cannot accept stories about individual cases or that are accusatory about a specific person, group or institution. We do not publish academic research papers, religious sermons or work not intended for a general audience. Any data that is mentioned must be attributed to a source. We reserve the right to exclude portions of your work that don't conform to this policy.

Writers must sign and return the PJP Permission and Acknowledgement Form in order to be published. (Please write to us to request the form if you do not already have it, as PJP cannot publish your story without it.) By doing so, you grant PJP a non-exclusive, permanent, royalty-free license to edit, publish, reproduce, distribute, transmit, sublicense, and archive your work in all forms and media worldwide, including with PJP partners and collaborators. However, you continue to own your work and can publish it elsewhere. You may receive an honorarium for a published piece. We cannot re-edit a story once it is published, but if you would like your story taken down for any reason, please submit a request. If an error was inserted in the editing process, notify us with an explanation of the correction, and we will fix the story.

Submissions should include following:

- A header with your full name, prison ID#, contact information, date, word count and suggested headline. Your ID# is only used for verification and to send you information.
- A two-to-three-sentence bio to publish with your piece including your state. If you are already published, you are welcome to mention other work. (If you do not submit a bio, we will create a simple one that says where you are incarcerated.)
- If you prefer a first name or pen name as your byline, include a request with a reason that can be published as part of your bio (e.g., fear of reprisal, already established as a writer under the pen name.)
- A photo to go with your bio. If that's not possible, we will use a graphic of your initials.

WHEN: We accept stories on a rolling basis. You will receive a copy of your story if we publish it on PJP. We have a large backlog of submissions, but we consider each one carefully. Please allow 16 weeks. (Timely stories will be expedited.)

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Prison Journalism Project
2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054
Claymont, DE 19703

Photos/Art Only:
PJP Art Department
2625 Alcatraz Ave. #328, Berkeley, CA 94705

ELECTRONIC MAIL

GTL Connect Network, GTL Getting Out and Corlinks:
pjp@prisonjournalismproject.org.
NOTE: GTL Getting Out is for messages only, submissions must be sent via USPS.

Securus: forwriters@prisonjournalismproject.org

JPAY (messages will come from James Pane):
forwriters@prisonjournalismproject.org

E-mail: submissions@prisonjournalismproject.org

Categories

REPORTED NEWS AND FEATURES: Articles based on reporting and research that tell people about things that actually happened.

ESSAYS: Essays and memoirs about something you experienced.

OP-EDS: Opinion articles and commentary with a thesis, argument or call to action.

POETRY: No more than two submissions per entry.

ART: Drawings, sketches, paintings and other art that illustrate scenes of prison life. Please include a short story or a few sentences that describe your artwork. No more than three artworks per entry. Artwork cannot be returned.

Please don't let Max be forgotten. He deserved a sentence that would have allowed for his rehabilitation. He deserved a life, but because of the heartless atrocities of the Commonwealth of Virginia he was given more than he could bear—more than any 19 year old kid should have to bear.

The prison system in Virginia does more than incarcerate people: it kills hope, deprives humans of dignity and justice, it is the enemy of truth and crushes the light of Love (charity) at every opportunity, it promotes death in its practices, and in every way steals life from the human heart. It stole Max's life and has broken the hearts of his family and friends.

The Commonwealth of Virginia condemned Max to die and now the world is less without him. I am less without him. We are less without him.

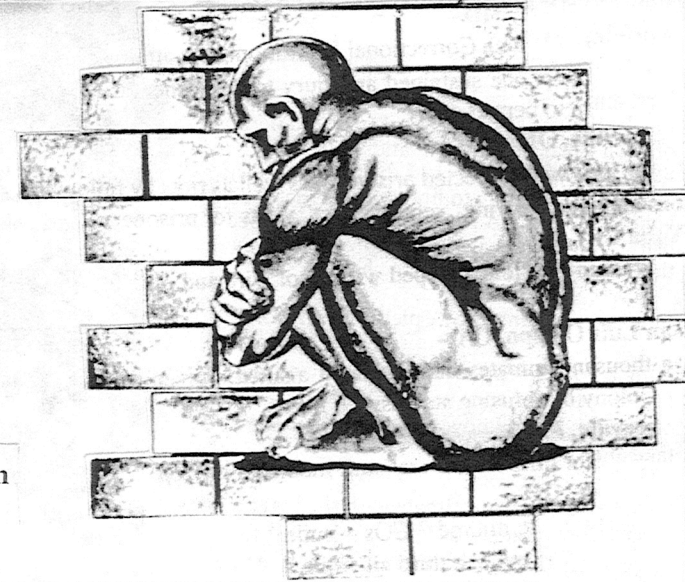
The inhumanities of the sentencing practices combined with the neglect for the mental and emotional care of the human beings coming through these prisons is just too much. Our prisons have become an industry for profiting. The hearts and lives of the human beings incarcerated are ignored and the whole of our society suffers because of it. We are enslaved, deprived of the basic care needed to promote healthy living and productive social growth. We are made to live in unsafe conditions, fed an improper diet conducive to mental and emotional development, and in all confined to hellish conditions. There is nothing about prisons that helps human beings become healthy and more productive citizens upon release. We need to really examine what is being done in our criminal justice system, and for the sake of society and the human condition, start progressing towards real change to heal the hearts and minds of so many of us suffering human hearts that the criminal justice system has labeled "criminal." ■

BE HEARD.

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

Thrown to the Wolves

By Cecil G. Truman
Craigsville, VA



This is a true story about a kid we will call Max. I met Max a few weeks ago in Bible study. Upon speaking with Max, I could tell that his heart and mind were very young. At the age of 19 Max was sentenced to 40 years for what he was convicted of. Furthermore, Max was very young and even I could tell that Max was suffering from the pressures, trauma, and stress inflicted upon him from the unfair things in life—many of which he was powerless to prevent and were not a result of his choices.

Max suffered domestic abuse for God knows how long, killed a family member, and was condemned to pretty much the rest of his life in prison. All of these things thrown upon this young man are more than anyone would wish to bear. Max killed himself. In this heartless, cruel, and inhumane criminal justice system, this young man was mercilessly condemned, his emotional and mental needs were ignored, and he was thrown in prison stripped of hope and justice. Anyone could see that this young man—barely older than a child—needed help processing the tragedies and suffering this life afflicted him with. Instead Max was thrown in prison. Max was a level 3 and they were raising his security to a level 4. It is truly a tragedy that Max would be in high security prisons and no care to his safety or mental and emotional state considered.

By Darrell Sharpe Mass. Correctional Institution

Norfolk, MA

First and foremost, I would like to apologize for the picture I am about to show you because of what it has done to me, and what it will likely do to you. I searched through my stack of pictures carefully to find the one that would vividly illustrate to you the loss that violence brings. But there were no pictures to convey the gravity of what I'd like to share.

So I have to paint one. A picture with words.

Long before I stepped inside of a prison cell, I knew what violence could take away. Most of you think you know, too, but I want you to take another look.

I want you to be as intimate with the loss that comes from violence as I am. Violence is the voice of my three little sisters saying, "Are you going to jail? What did you break?"

Violence is my little nephew telling his nana that if he eats his vegetables, his muscles will turn to rocks because all he remembers of his uncle is squeezing his arm in a prison visiting room.

Violence is my youngster sister who received the brunt of my teasing and taunting, crying as she blew out the candles because all she wished for was her big brother to come home.

Violence is a teen boy trying to prove just how tough and brave he is by jamming a knife into the stomach of another teen boy.

Violence is the last thoughts of the other boy as he bled to death in a school hallway, and a death certificate that says, "Parents too distraught to sign."

Violence is the emptiness that is left behind.

Violence is the guttural sound that escaped my mother's lips when the judge sentenced me. Violence is the lie that I told my mother when I said, "Everything's going to be alright."

Violence is the many years I've spent trying to atone for something for which there is no atonement. It is the tears that streaked down my face and stained this page. It is the picture that I've painted with words, a picture of horror and despair that I can never erase.

I only hope and pray you never have to paint this picture for yourselves, because violence is not the answer. ✱



"Grief"

by Aleksey Trapeznikov



Darrell Sharpe

...family with less procedural safeguards and public scrutiny. At the top of the sentencing scale, life sentences exert upward pressure on the severity of all other sentences, resulting in longer prison terms that distort how criminal justice resources are allocated. Aging prisoners cost twice as much as younger prisoners to house and are far less likely to reoffend. If those funds were reallocated to reentry services, education, employment, housing, and substance abuse treatment in under-resourced neighborhoods, the book argues, they would produce better outcomes for public safety.

Spread throughout the book are six profiles of lifers written by award-winning author and former lifer, Kerry Myers. It's hard to read the profiles without pangs of sympathy for these six people. Lifers are condemned to live in hopelessness and despair, with little reason to pursue an education or refrain from violence. But these stories reveal, again and again, that humans have the capacity for positive change and personal transformation. They deserve a chance at redemption.

"It is long past time to join the rest of the democratic world by scaling down the excessive nature of punishment that has become the hallmark of mass incarceration."

It's time to end life imprisonment. For more information, visit endlifeimprisonment.org. ■

Christopher Santiago is a prisoner serving life without parole in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

This piece was taken from the National Lawyers Guild Guild Notes publication, Volume 44, Number 3/4. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in submitting to Guild Notes - or to become a Jailhouse Lawyer member! - submit/write to: National Lawyers Guild Foundation, Post Office Box 1266, Dept. SWD, New York, NY 10009. If submitting an essay/article, add "Guild Notes Submissions" to the address, and keep said submissions below 600 words. For more info on writer's guidelines, send a SASE to the above address, or go to: www.nlg.org/submission-guidelines.

The Meaning of Life:

The Case for Abolishing Life Sentences

Review by Christopher Santiago
Columbia, SC

More than 200,000 people are serving life sentences in the United States. That's more lifers than in any other country, and despite declining crime rates, their number is growing.

In *The Meaning of Life: The Case for Abolishing Life Sentences* (2018), Marc Mauer and Ashley Nellis of The Sentencing Project succeed in drawing from a wide range of sources plenty of evidence to make their case against life imprisonment. They explain how life sentences conflict with human rights norms, contradict the principles of rehabilitation, contribute to mass incarceration, and result in diminishing returns for public safety as prisoners "age out" of criminal behaviors. Life sentences disproportionately affect vulnerable populations and people of color while having little or no deterrent effect on crime.

The book provides a roadmap for research-based criminal justice reform and policy recommendations at a time when there is bipartisan support for decarceration in America. "To lay the groundwork for a realistic challenge to mass incarceration and to provide a better approach to public safety," the authors write, "sentences in American prisons should be capped at a maximum of twenty years, except in circumstances in which the individual still represents a clear threat to public safety."

Mauer and Nellis thoroughly debunk the notion that life sentences are an alternative to the death penalty. They show that life imprisonment is a more protected from

THE SEVEN SHADES OF WISDOM (Qualities of Iman)

by
Dr. Abdul Shakir

- 1.) He who knows not, and STRIVES to know, is a "Seeker" - AID him.
- 2.) He who knows not, WHAT he SHOULD know, is a "Wonderer" - Guide him.
- 3.) He who knows not, THAT he should know, is "Asleep" - WAKE him.
- 4.) He who knows not, and FEARS to know, is "enslaved" - FREE him.
- 5.) He who knows not, and REJECTS to know, is "DEAD" - PASS him.
- 6.) He who knows not, yet CLAIMS to know, is an "imposter" - SHUN him.
- 7.) He who knows, and SHARES what he knows, is "wise" - HEED him.



Words of Fire is a collection of writing and artwork by people in prison or on parole at time of editing. It is published by Prison Books Collective Publishing and Distribution.

We welcome submissions at any time of short essays, short stories, poetry (all text pieces under 500 words), and art from people in prisons and jails. We may edit submissions for clarity, length, and comprehension. We will not publish works that are racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise persecute specific groups of people, and discourage promoting violence. We rarely publish more than two pieces by one artist. Please title your pieces if possible.

Include your name and location on all submissions, preferably each page. This issue prints full name and town for distribution within prisons, whereas the online version uses initials only. **But beginning in Issue 12 of Words of Fire**, we will default to sharing your full name and town in print and online. **Tell us if you have other preferences.**

Mail submissions to:

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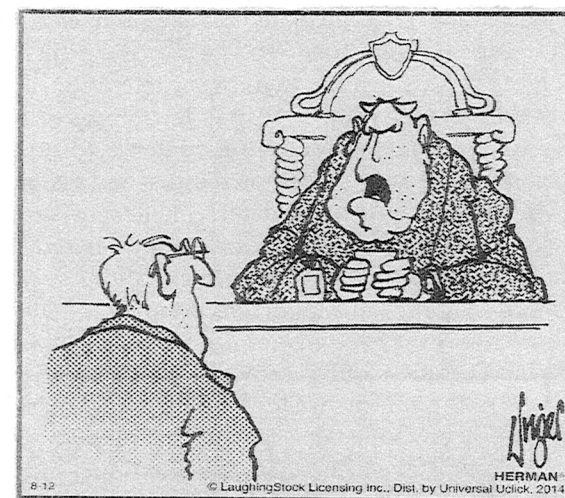
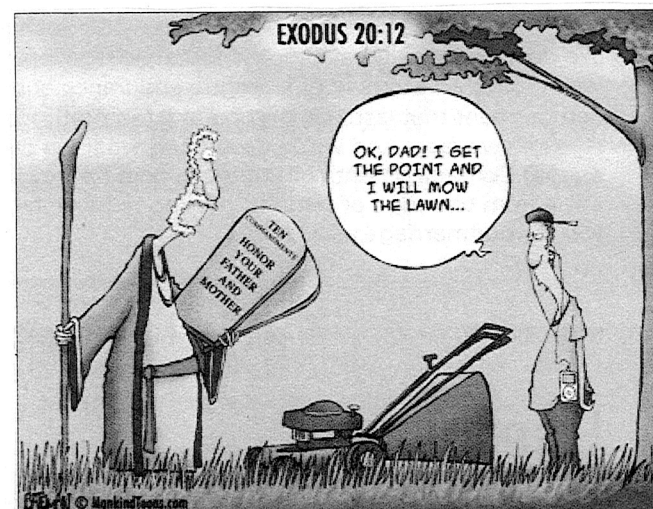
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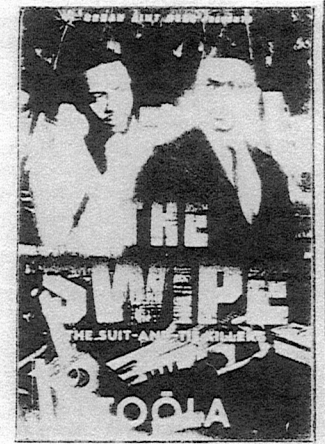
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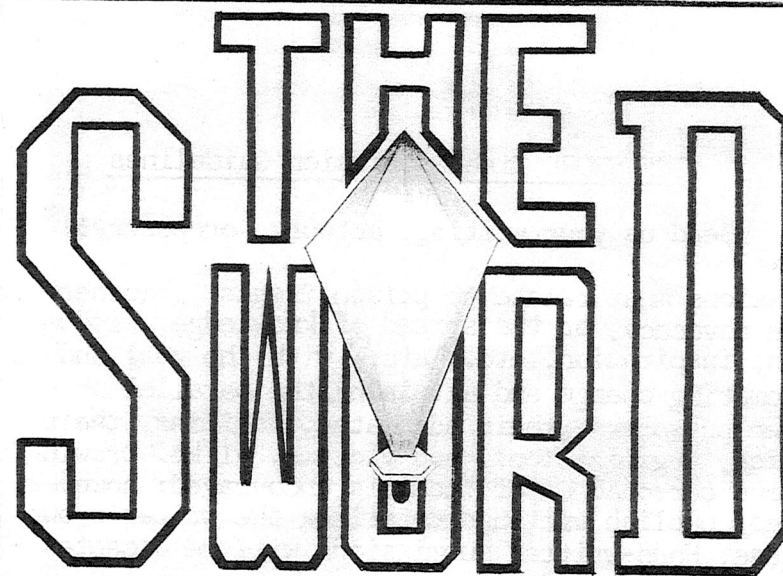
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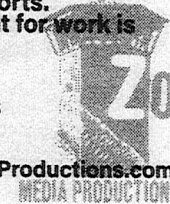
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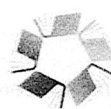
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