

Prison News and News Articles For Correction Officers in New York State: { Page 5 }

ARTICLE LIST:

[Back to Correctional Officers Informational Page](#)

[Back to Page #1](#), [Back to Page #2](#), [Back to Page #3](#), [Back to Page #4](#), [To Page #6](#),
[To Page #7](#), [To Page #8](#), [To Page #9](#), [To Page #10](#), [To Page #11](#), [To Page #12](#),
[To Page #13](#), [To Page #14](#), [To Page #15](#), [To Page #16](#), [To Page #17](#), [To Page #18](#),
[To Page #19](#), [To Page #20](#), [To Page #21](#), [To Page #22](#),

[Budget process in overtime](#)

[Escaped killer captured](#)

[Two correction officers suspended without pay](#)

[Guard: Lawmaker's Allegations "Absurd"](#)

[Officers Worked To Revive Inmate](#)

[Legislator asks U.S. to probe uprising at prison.](#)

[Disgraced](#)

[Interpretations of the respiratory protection standard](#)

[My responce to PESH concerning Beards](#)

[Inmates become players in prison expansion debate](#)

[Latin Kings hit two rival gang members](#)

[Jardine deduction without any notification](#)

[COUNCIL 82 REGIONAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE](#)

[Mohawk Correctional Facility on July 18,1997](#)

[Back to the Titles](#)

Budget process in overtime

Albany-- Prisons, health and education spending bills keep lawmakers busy over the weekend

SARAH METZGAR

Capitol bureau

Saturday evening may have been fine for a poolside barbecue, but hundreds of lobbyists, lawmakers and staffers were forced to don business suits and report to work as the Legislature crept painfully toward passing a record-late state budget.

The state's 211 legislators convened in the Capitol at 4 p.m., preparing to act on an additional piece of the state's

\$67 billion budget: a bill covering public protection, health, mental hygiene and Medicaid. Action on the fourth and final bill, which will cover education spending, is expected late tonight or early Monday morning.

The public protection bill includes \$226 million for a prison-building plan: a new 1,500-bed maximum security prison and eight 200-bed additions to existing medium-security prisons.

The bill specifies that the new maximum-security prison will be located in the Franklin County town of Altamont, near Tupper Lake. The siting decision was a major win for Plattsburgh Republican Sen. Ronald Stafford, a 31-year veteran of the Legislature who chairs the Senate Finance Committee. Upstate Republican politicians had been vying for the \$140 million project, which will generate 400 to 500 new jobs.

The prison-siting decision was a blow to Republican Sen. Michael Nozzolio from the Rochester area, who had hoped the facility would be built in his district, in Romulus, Seneca County. Nozzolio, chairman of the Senate Crime & Correction Committee, worked tirelessly to promote the prison-building plan. Republican Sen. Hugh Farley of Niskayuna also was in the running, offering Johnstown, in Fulton County, as a potential site.

The entire budget is expected to be in place on Monday, a record-breaking 126 days late. Legislative staffers have been working around the clock to draft budget bills, and lawmakers are expected to tackle education spending and welfare reform tonight.

Because of the marathon-like weekend session, Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver -- an Orthodox Jew from Manhattan -- made a rare exception and spent the Sabbath in Albany Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, a Rensselaer County Republican, released a list of 67 local projects that he secured funding for in the new budget. In addition to several big-ticket items detailed in Saturday's Times Union, Bruno also took credit Saturday for \$92,000 for a State Police substation in Sand Lake, \$100,000 for repairs to the Frear Park ice rink in Troy and \$50,000 to purchase land and create a park in the town of Milton, \$150,000 for Empire State College, \$100,000 for the Eddy in Troy, \$168,000 for the New York State Theatre Institute in Troy.

Bruno, so far, has taken credit for \$3.2 million in local projects.

"The organizations, programs and projects funded in the budget benefit thousands of people in the Capital Region," Bruno said in a prepared statement.

While most legislators will be churning out similar news releases, confident the pork-barrel spending will make their constituents happy, not everyone was so enthused.

"This state budget prioritizes pork over people and spells pain for people with serious mental illness," said Harvey Rosenthal, executive director of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.

Democratic Assemblyman James Brennan of Brooklyn, chairman of that house's Mental Health Committee, described mental hygiene and child welfare as "stepchildren in this budget," despite the extra state revenues churned up by the Wall Street boom.

"The decision to roll part of the surplus into next year made it very difficult to give increases," Brennan said.

Flush with cash, Gov. George Pataki and legislative leaders dramatically boosted aid to education, promised deep tax cuts and put \$530 million in a rainy-day fund.

Scores of lobbyists who walked the halls of the Capitol Saturday evening. Advocates for the disabled seemed to be the most desperate, still trying to prevent sanctions for ill welfare recipients -- such as symptomatic HIV-positive people -- who miss workfare assignments.

Aides to Pataki, Bruno and Silver have been working around the clock to negotiate details and draft budget bills, and much of the welfare reform package was still unresolved on Saturday.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Escaped killer captured

Escaped killer captured after high-speed, two-state chase; he dived out a bus window, then hijacked a car

:This story was reported by Staff Writers Tom Leek, Oliver Mackson and Kristen Schweizer. It was written by Mackson.

For one night, desperation's name was Eron Seeley. The 24-year-old killer leaped from a prison bus late Wednesday, police said. He forced as family from their car and took off like the proverbial bat out of hell, covering 75 miles in two states. He rammed police cars, u-turned to go north in the southbound lanes of the New York State Thruway and drove 100 mph the wrong way on Interstate 84. He wound up flipping his car onto a grassy median after one last charge at a police car, said State Police Major William J. DeBlock. Seeley was in police custody Thursday night at Westchester County Medical Center, where a nursing supervisor said he was in serious but stable condition. No one else was hospitalized.

Seeley had been on the loose at least four hours before the chase started. His most dangerous 50 minutes began about 9:30 p.m., when he confronted Ellen Leonido, of Walden at Sheeley's Car Wash on Route 208. She and her 10-yearold daughter were waiting for her 12year-old son to get some change for the wash, Walden police said. Seeley was wearing a prison uniform and at least one of his handcuffs.

"Apparently, he just tells her he wants the car and she surrenders," DeBlock said.

Leonido declined to be interviewed Thursday, saying through a family member that authorities had advised against it while the investigation proceeds.

Seeley drove north on Route 208 to Route 52, police said. Walden police used their radios to warn police in the Town of Newburgh that Seeley was headed their way, and broadcast a description of the 1996 Mitsubishi Galant. Newburgh Officer Phil Losgar recognized the car as it passed him on Route 52 and turned south onto Route 300. He tried to stop it, but Seeley mashed the gas pedal and raced through the Thruway tollbooths, heading south toward New York City.

"At this point, we didn't know if there was a victim or hostages in the car," said Newburgh Police Lt. Mike Clancy. As he raced south, Seeley lost control of the stolen car and hit a guardrail, then regained control and rammed the left front corner of Losgar's car, damaging one of its tires. Losgar sprained his hand in the collision.

At one point, Seeley turned to go north in the southbound lanes of the Thruway, but then turned back around and continued south until he reached the Harriman exit. He streaked through the toll plaza and onto Route 17 westbound.

Three more Town of Newburgh cars joined the chase, Clancy said. State Police cars also gave chase, following Seeley onto Route 17M. About a dozen state trooper cars were involved by the time the chase ended, DeBlock said.

From Route 17M Losgar radioed back to Newburgh, saying, "It looks like we're going right to the City of Middletown." But Seeley made another turn. After nearly running into a drainage ditch near the intersection of Interstate 84, he turned onto the highway's westbound lanes and headed toward Pennsylvania. State Police supervisors were monitoring the troopers involved in the chase as it proceeded, DeBlock said, and troopers at the Pennsylvania State Police barracks in Lords Valley, Pike County, were told what was headed their way.

Two Pennsylvania troopers, Ralph Romanowski and John McArthur, stopped their cars on the westbound lanes of the highway, near the Milford exit. They were going to place stop sticks across the highway. The metal poles have triangular points that can puncture a car's tires. They also have ropes attached, allowing them to be yanked off the road before the pursuing car's tires are damaged.

"We were attempting to deploy them, and they were just on us too fast," Romanowski said. Seeley rammed Romanowski's car and then McArthur's vehicle, then continued west on the interstate with police from two states in pursuit.

"He tried to press me off on the left berm, then he hit me again on the rear driver's side," Romanowski said. Seeley drove onto the grassy berm, crossed to the other side of the highway and headed back east, moving at more than 100 mph as police followed.

Seeley rammed a New York trooper's car, causing him to lose control of his own vehicle, which flipped at least once and came to rest in the median. Some officers at the scene told their superiors two shots were fired at the end of the chase. DeBlock and Clancy said no one under their command fired their weapon; Pennsylvania State Police declined to say if any shots were fired.

An Orange County grand jury will decide what new charges Seeley will face in New York, where he's already serving 28 1/2 years to life. He also faces charges in Pennsylvania.

Two COs suspended; 'It is difficult to understand how they would not have noticed an inmate getting out of his shackles, taking off the handcuffs and diving out a window.'

[Back to the Titles](#)

Two correction officers suspended without pay

By KRISTEN SCHWEIZER
Staff Writer

WALDEN - Two correction officers at Ulster Correctional Facility were suspended without pay Thursday pending an investigation into how an inmate, shackled and chained inside a prison mini-bus, escaped.

"The only purpose for an officer to be (inside the bus) is to watch the inmates," said Jim Flateau, spokesman for the state Department of Correctional Services. "It does not require training to sit on a bus and watch passengers."

The suspended correction officers, Glenn Yark and John Smith, both of Ulster County, have been with the department for many years, prison union sources said.

Neither Yark nor Smith could not be reached for comment Thursday. Eron Seeley, 24, of Westchester County, planned his escape well before the green prison mini-bus began its route to area prisons at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Serving 28{1/2} years to life for a slew of charges including murder, Seeley boarded the bus at Downstate Correctional in Dutchess County, headed for a court appearance at Sullivan Correctional.

Shortly after after the bus departed Shawangunk Correctional in Wallkill, carrying 14 inmates total, Seeley escaped and fled on foot toward Walden. He escaped by somehow sliding out of his leg shackle and getting out of one handcuff and then diving out of a window opened 10 inches while the bus was driving down a back road, union sources said.

Inmates inside the 16-passenger, 27foot long bus were handcuffed with their arms in front, to a chain around

their waists and secured in back by a padlock. Leg shackles secure inmates in pairs, which are not shackled to the floor for safety reasons.

Correction officers were sitting eight feet from the inmates. The bus also had no inside lights, which made it easier for Seeley to slip past correction officers, said union sources, who blamed the escape on the state's effort to cut transportation costs by skimping on security measures. Seeley was spotted ordering a woman and her two children out of their car around 9:30 p.m. in Walden. Officers didn't notice the inmate missing until 10:20 p.m. as they unloaded inmates at Sullivan Correctional.

Later, when Seeley was caught by authorities, he was found with a handcuff key and a taped razor blade up his rectum.

"Part of the Commissioner's investigation includes how the inmate came to have contraband on himself ... when he was supposedly frisked by officers before getting on the bus," said Flateau.

Pending the state's investigation, the two officers could be reinstated with back pay or dismissed from the department. Correction officers statewide transport more than 100,000 inmates a year, said Flateau.

Prison sources said Thursday night the civilian bus driver transporting the inmates told officials she heard a noise in the back of the bus as they neared Sullivan Correctional. She flicked on the light while the two officers checked the van. Finding nothing unusual, the light was turned off and the bus continued, sources said.

Union sources said the escape could have been prevented had the bus been air-conditioned, instead of having a window open for ventilation, and the correction officers on board been properly trained in transporting inmates.

"It is difficult to understand how they would not have noticed an inmate getting out of his shackles, taking off the handcuffs and diving out a window," said Flateau.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Guard: Lawmaker's Allegations "Absurd"

One of the Mohawk Correctional Facility corrections officers hurt in last month's melee denies guards sport racist tattoos or took part in an inmate's death.

Published Aug. 02, 1997, in The Post-Standard.

By LAURA T. RYAN

ROME - A state lawmaker's suggestion that some guards at Mohawk Correctional Facility wear racist tattoos and had a hand in an inmate's death last month is "totally absurd," a prison guard said Friday.

Assemblyman Daniel Feldman, a Brooklyn Democrat, asked federal prosecutors Wednesday to look into allegations that guards at the medium-security prison incited a riot last month by beating prisoners the day after an inmate hanged himself in a "suicide-proof" cell.

Feldman questioned how the inmate could have hung himself in such a setting.

In his letter to Thomas Maroney, U.S. attorney in Syracuse, Feldman also called for an investigation into claims that some guards wear tattoos depicting a black baby being lynched.

Douglas Christman, one of the 11 guards injured in the July 18 melee at the prison, said he was baffled by Feldman's claims.

"Anyone with a tattoo like that is signing his own death warrant," Christman said Friday. "You're in the wrong profession in the first place."

Christman - who himself has eagle and U.S. Marine Corps tattoos - said he has never seen anything remotely resembling what Feldman described.

Guards at the 1,314-inmate Rome prison treat prisoners respectfully, he said. They'd be foolish not to, Christman said, since inmates outnumber guards.

"I'm not judge and jury," Christman said. "I treat them as human beings, and they respect that."

After one inmate "sucker-punched" Christman during the riot, knocking him to the ground in a recreation yard, other inmates turned in the attacker to authorities, Christman said.

"If they wanted to take me as a hostage, they had me. If they wanted to kill me, they had me," Christman said. "But they respect me."

Christman, 37, works in the weight room and recreation yard at the prison. He also serves as a union steward for the Council 82

[Back to the Titles](#)

Officers Worked To Revive Inmate

Published Aug. 02, 1997, in The Post-Standard.

He suffered a broken nose in the brawl, but his lasting bruises are psychological ones, he said.

He might seek counseling before returning to his job of seven years, he said, "just to get it off my chest, you know?"

As for the conspiracy theory among inmates that guards killed the man whose death was ruled a suicide by state police, Christman said there is "no such thing" as a suicide-proof cell.

"We give them the bare minimum, but you've got to give them sheets," he said.

A correctional officer found Josiah Benefield, 22, hanging from a bedsheet in his cell on July 17. The sheet, attached to a wire cover on a ceiling smoke detector, was looped around Benefield's neck, according to information released by the state Department of Correctional Services.

Inmates bent on suicide have "24 hours a day, seven days a week to come up with something," Christman said.

After taking Benefield down, guards spent a half-hour administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation to him, Christman said.

"I can't imagine something like (a killing by guards) ever happening, but those rumors just start," he said. "And the more they go around the grapevine, the worse they get."

[Back to the Titles](#)

On 8-1-97 in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle there appeared an article which I am going to make quotations from:

Legislator asks U.S. to probe uprising at prison.

Assemblyman's letter also notes questions about an inmates death in the Onieda County Facility.

Albany Bureau,
Kyle Hughes

Albany-- "A state legislator who opposed Gov. George Pataki's prison-building proposals said yesterday that he wants federal prosecutors to investigate the causes of a disturbance at the Mohawk Correctional Facility in Rome on July 18."

"Assembly Corrections Committee Chairman Daniel Feldman, D-Brooklyn, said he wants investigators to check out reports that the violence was connected to the July 17 death of an inmate, as well as to beatings of inmates by prison guards just before the violence erupted.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Maroney's staff in Syracuse did not immediately return calls yesterday about Feldman's letter requesting an investigation of possible civil rights violations at the prison in Onieda County."

"In the letter, Feldman cited an affidavit from a former Mohawk inmate named John Anderson who said he saw guards with tattoos 'depicting a black baby with a noose around its neck,' naming two of the officers. Anderson has filed a state Court of Claims lawsuit over his treatment by prison staff.

Feldman also cited a claim on a New York City radio station that officers may have beaten inmates to deliberately cause a riot and 'help persuade the Legislature to build more prisons' as Patacki and the prison guard's union wanted."

"In the letter, Feldman told Maroney that he was rebuffed by Commissioner Goord after an aide tried to talk to staff clergy at the Mohawk prison. He said Federal Officials are the only ones with the resource to discover what happened there.

Flateau angrily disputed Feldman's claims and said State Police have determined Beneflied, imprisoned on a robbery conviction from Erie County, committed suicide."

"'It's unfortunate that the assemblyman would not offer the commissioner the respect of giving him a reasonable amount of time to conduct an investigation and complete a report on an incident that involved 300 inmates and at least as many staff,' Flateau said."

[Back to the Titles](#)

Disgraced

From: ffirst@northnet.org (AL FAYLE)
To: feldmad@assembly.state.ny.us (Daniel Feldman)
CC: TheHackNet@aol.com
Date: 97-08-02 13:10:23 EDT

It is with great displeasure that I feel so compelled to E-mail you. The inuendos or insinuations that I read you said concerning the riot at the MOHAWK C.F. are a disgrace to all who wear this uniform. To imply that you think that someone could have hung this young inmate, or officers here were beating inmates turns my stomach. Without giving any consideration or thought to the officers who were beaten and laid helpless in the walkways you have the audacious nerve to even think this possible. Well let me try to set you straight on all these issues. That is if you can keep an open mind long enough to see the truth. When it is staring you right in the face. Did it

ever occur to you that during this riot, which I observed first hand that not one inmate was injured. This was accomplished using the same officers who you feel could have beaten inmates. If they were ever justified in doing so don't even you think this would have been the time. It did not happen. So you in your infinite wisdom can't even see that. I was also present in the S.H.U. when this young inmate hung himself. This was the second time I witnessed this tragedy in as many years. I can tell you first hand it is not a pretty sight. Instead of rewarding the officers for their feverous efforts to revive these inmates you use the opportunity to grab a few headlines. It is not hard to see who's side your on. Did it ever occur to you to pick up a phone and call the LT. laying in I.C.U. or to my partner who is having nightmares and reliving the horror of that night. He may never return due to the trauma he has suffered. So you sit there on capital hill in Albany in your protected surroundings, and through rocks at us the men and women who walk the toughest beat in the nation, keeping you save from these vicious criminals who you care so much for. As for the tattoo I personally have never seen one nor do I think they exist. But when judgement day comes I think the almighty will have a rope with a noose on it. And guess who,s head he will be looking to put it over. It never ceases to amaze me how little some of you know about what we are dealing with and whats worse. How very little you care. We have a saying amongst us, STAY SAFE that's something you don't ever have to worry about because we provide it even for people like you. Remember we are professionals and we can hold our heads high. WE just hope that someday you will be able to experience it.

Correctional Officer AL FAYLE MOHAWK C.F.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Interpretations of the resiratory protection standard

This is in a responce to your March 24, 1997 letter to OSHA requesting interpretations o fthe resiratory protection standard, 29 CFR 1910.134. On March 26, the Albany OSHA office wrote to you stating that PESH had jurisdiction and that they were forwarding your letter to us for a responce. I will respond to each point you made in your letter in the order you made them.

Your first question regarding the old vs. new directives is a NYSDOCS management/union issue and is not a PESH concern. The universal citation issued by PESH merely states that NYSDOCS employees cant't wear tuberculosis respirators (eg, N-95, HEPA) and emergency use respirators (eg. SCBA, gas masks) with beards, other facial hair, or temple pieces on glasses, or other conditions that prevent a good face seal. If NYSDOCS management wants to expand this to include all employees, all respirators, all fadcila hair, or any other more strict variant, it is outside of PESH's scope.

It is not a PESH concern if the M-17 and M-17-M gas masks are approved respirators. An approved respirator is not required in this case. NIOSH/MSHA approve repirators; the Mine Safety Appliance Company (MSA) is a company that sells resirators and other safety and health eqiptment and doesn't certify or approve anything. Correction Officers are obviously not military personnel but PESH doesn't regulate who can use the repirators in this regard.

It is PESH requirements that thesetype of respirator (ie. TB, SCBA, gas masks) be properly fit-tested as part of the training, although this wasn't part of the universal citation regarding facial hair. Fit-testing can be either quantitative (eg. Prta Count Respirator Fit Tester) or qualitative (ie. isomyl acetate, saccharin solution, irrtant fume). Wearing a gas mask in a actual setting test atmosphere would constitute a type od irratant fume qualitative fit-test. If some type of fit-testing is not being performed at your work site you or council 82 could also file a complaint with our PESH office and we would gladly incvestagate the matter. Also, fit-testing with beards or any other facial hair that comes between the seal of a tight-fitting respirator is not allowed and would be an OSHA/PESH violation. People can obtain a good face seal and good fit-test with a beard or other facila

hair but the problem is that due to the way hair lies at any given time it may pass the fit one day and not the next.

The fit checks that the wearer should perform each and everytime the respirator is donned are different than a fit-test. Positive and negative checks are not fit-tests. The fit checks, done in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, should be done each and every time the repirator is donned; fit-tests are usually performed once or twicw a year. It is not a PESH/OSHA concern with the manufacturer says about beards.

Regarding corrective lenses, it is the employer's responsibility to make certain that each respirator user has a proper respirator fit. If temple bars from glasses interfere with the seal the employer is responsible (29 CFR 1910.134 (e)(5)(ii) and (iii) govern this scenario).

PESH concurs with all of Mr. Field's statements that you quote from his aguast 13, 1982 letter. Again if NYSDOCS management wants to initiate a no facial hair or other stricter policy, this is not a PESH matter but a management/union concern.

Pesh poicy is dictated by OSHA and because OSHA states that there must be no facial hair where the respirator seals against the face, your for options are not acceptable. None of your four options "would comply within these standards."

Sincerely
Mark E. Thorsland
Associate Industrial Hygienist

Department of Labor
Division of Safety and Health
Governor W. Averell Harriman
State Officee Building Campus
Albany, New York 12240
FAX-518-457-5545

My options listed below:

There are several options that could be looked into which would comply within these standards.

- #1) Allow beards either one inch and if a seal can not be obtained shorten the length of these individuals working the jobs which require them to presently to be clean shaven.
- #2) Apply a Vaseline type of grease to beards to compact the facial hair protruding from under the seal, this would assure a proper seal.
- #3) To updated an out of date respirator, with a respirator which would provide protection for the bearded employee as well as the non-bearded.
- #4) To be fit tested yearly by a competent instructor to assure that a bearded employee does in fact obtain a seal.

Provided by Hiker13931@aol.com

[Back to the Titles](#)

My response to PESH concerning Beards

Hiker13931@aol.com

Dear Mr. Thorsland,

I have been patiently and eagerly waiting for this reply from your office. You say that the old vs. new directives are not a PESH concern. Does this mean that beards should not or were not aloud under the old directive? Because if they were allowed under the old directive, then your office would have a concern towards the new, since there were changes made.

You go on to say that, Pesh required that respirators (i.e., TB, SCBA, gas masks) be properly fit-tested as part of the training, although this wasn't part of the universal citation regarding facial hair. Could you explain further why this was not included as part of the universal citation, please?

You asked if fit-testing was not being performed at my worksite, then I could file a complaint with your office and you would investigate these matters. I do not believe that these fit-testing procedures are happening anywhere throughout the state and I would like you to investigate these matters at my facility and/or statewide. I have never worn a gas mask in an actual training session with gas involved. We normally get an overview about the function of the gas mask. I have never been given the opportunity to wear this equipment during an actual gas situation.

I thank you for your explanation concerning corrective lenses. Where as, the EMPLOYER is the responsible party concerning this matter.

If PESH concurs with Mr. Fields statements which were, " Osha's present regulation does not, per se, ban facial hair on the reporter users in the work place. A reporters face must be clean shaven where the respirator seals against the face. Furthermore , it says It does not matter if hair is allowed to grow on other areas of the face if it does not protrude under the seal. Acc ordingly, mustaches, sideburns and small goatees that are trimmed so that no hair underlies the seal of the respirator present no hazard and do not violate 29 CFR 1910.134 (e)(5)(i)," does this in fact mean that PESH's interpretations would allow the same views as listed above? And if so would these issues have to be agreed upon through the NYSDOCS management/union negotiations?

I would also ask of you, to forward a copy of your written statement for each of these letters to Governor Pataki's (FAX# 518-474-1513), Commissioner Goord's (FAX# 518-485-1590), and Council 82's (FAX# 518-489-8430) offices. I have already Faxed them a complete copy of my letters, thank you.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Thursday, July 24, 1997

INMATES BECOME PLAYERS IN PRISON EXPANSION DEBATE

Albany Prisoners begin letter-writing campaign as state leaders' battle intensifies

SARAH METZGAR Capitol bureau

The state's prison-building debate, reaching a fever pitch, has moved beyond the customary circle of union leaders and politicians: Prisoners themselves have taken notice.

In letters to state officials, and to Alice Green at the Center for Law & Justice in Albany, inmates are making it clear that they know about Gov. George Pataki's proposal to build 6,950 new cells over the next three years.

One inmate from the Oneida Correctional Facility, in a letter Green received Wednesday, even claimed that guards have been creating a charged atmosphere of tension and abuse to provoke unrest and generate support for the construction plan.

“That is absolutely absurd,” said Bob Lawson, spokesman for Council 82, the union that represents the state's 22,000 correction officers. “We're the people who want to go home in one piece at the end of the shift. Why in God's name would we want to provoke violence in an already tension-filled workplace?”

There is no question, however, that Republicans, desperately pushing the prison-building plan against the defiance of Assembly Democrats, have highlighted recent prison unrest as evidence of overcrowding and the need for expansion. Pataki, on Tuesday, made a high-profile and well-timed visit to the hospital bed of a correction officer injured in a recent fracas at the Mohawk Correctional Facility.

And Sen. Michael Nozzolio, a Republican from the Rochester area who heads the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime & Corrections, held a news conference last week and said the prison system -- if it isn't expanded soon -- is on the verge of an uprising much like the infamous revolt 25 years ago at the Attica Correctional Facility.

Nozzolio's counterpart in the Democrat-run Assembly, Brooklyn Democrat Daniel Feldman, sent a scathing letter to Nozzolio on Wednesday.

“Your assertion last week that New York's prison system is on the verge of an Attica-style uprising and that, in your words, ‘the warning signs are here and now for a prison revolt’ was dangerous and irresponsible,” Feldman wrote. “Inmates, like everyone else, are exposed to newspapers and media. With a hot summer upon us and tensions in the prison system running high, having a state eader yelling ‘fire’ in a maximum-security prison is obviously provocative.”

Nozzolio, on Wednesday, responded that “the inaction of the Assembly is much more dangerous than my words could ever be.”

The prison debate has been the linchpin of difficult budget talks between Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Pataki and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno. They are trying to wrap up the latest-ever state budget, and Pataki said Wednesday that a prison-building compromise hadn't been reached yet.

The Democrats say they're willing to add 800 special disciplinary cells to the state prison system, but want to focus their crime efforts on hiring more police officers and expanding drug treatment centers. They claim crime will continue to decline, and that prison expansion won't be necessary.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Latin Kings hit two rival gang member

Datelines: 08/0497 1728 hrs.

During a rainy evening in HBB yard members of the Latin Kings hit two members of the bloods and a member of the NETA.

Kings warned the bloods that the B Block yard was theirs and not to walk their turf, two bloods disregard the warning and defy the Kings threats.

Intelligence given to LT. Sing Sing had a second Officer in Tower # 17 to record the whole incident on video.

During the day the bloods walked free in the yards falling into a trap that the Kings weren't going to make a hit,

this ended in the evening as the Kings surrounded the Bloods and slashed an stabbed. The NETA had warn one of the Bloods that the hit was coming an the Kings took him out also. The Kings went crazy an even started to stab and slash their own, four went out to OSH one blood remains there with a puncher wound to the chest.

Two warning shots fired into the yard and quick action by the Officers quelled the incident.

Towers 16 and 17 held 207 inmates under sights until the calvary arrived. No injuries to staff accept one of the Brothers involved in 6/24/97 incident hurt his arm from a fall, didn't stop him from doing his job and again he had to ordered to medical for evaluation.

Of course you know that according to the official releases from DOCS this didn't happen, there are no gangs in the NYS DOCS system

[Back to the Titles](#)

Jardine deduction without any notification

"Officers should check your paycheck stub for 7/30/97 if you have any insurance with jardine. You may have an increase in your deduction without any notification. The reason for the increase is that "C-82" did not pay the insurance company. There appears to be a contract dispute and "C-82" is holding your money and not paying the bill.

The insurance company is able to increase your payroll deduction to pay the bill with out notifying you. I contacted jardine and they informed me that since the deduction our so called union decided to pay some of the bill.

Also check to make sure they don't do it to your next paycheck dated 8/13/97. (They already made arrangements to deduct from that paycheck). If you are interested in doing more to stop this crap from "C-82 and need more information contact Nelson Reed at Otisville Correctional Facility 1-914 386 1490 ext 349 7-3 shift"

[Back to the Titles](#)

PLEASE POST

COUNCIL 82 REGIONAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Title: Regional Health & Safety Program Assistant

Background: Council 82 is in the process of expanding the Health & Safety Department. In order to provide additional service and enhanced training in health and safety matters, we will be establishing Regional Health & Safety Program Assistants. These Assistants will be in various locations in the state (northern, southern. western. central and Mid-Hudson regions). and will be utilized on an as needed basis.

Duties: This position is responsible for performing a wide variety of activities that involve protecting the health and safety of Council 82 members and training members, local leaders and committees about health and safety matters. The activities include. but are not limited to:

-Perform worksite inspections and provide assistance in the resolution of identified hazards.

-Assist in regional training and training local health and safety committees.

-You will be expected to service your designated region and assist on occasion with other nearby regions. On occasion, for training or meetings, you will be required to report to Albany or travel as necessary.

-Network with members, locals and Council 82 on identifying areas of concern and issues that need to be addressed.

-May be called upon to represent Council 82 in meetings with various agencies and serve as the spokesperson to support the Union's position on health and safety issues.

-Must work under direction of the Council 82 Occupational Health & Safety Specialist and/or other designated staff. May be required to assist other staff or elected leaders on health and safety and other issues as necessary or directed.

Salary: There is no salary-for this position. You will be placed on Employee Organizational Leave and receive your normal agency pay. You will be entitled to be reimbursed expenses such as mileage, hotel accommodations or per diem when appropriate and per Council 82 guidelines.

Requirements: Background, education or experience in health and safety. Must be able to apply knowledge to various agencies and occupations where Council 82 members are employed. Experience and/or knowledge of Council 82 operations and activities in the labor movement will be considered, but are not required.

All resumes should be addressed and mailed to:

Mr. Michael Graney
Executive Vice-President
Council 82. AFSCME. AFL-CIO
63 Colvin Avenue
Albany. New York 12206

All resumes must be received no later than Friday, August 1, 1997.

[Back to the Titles](#)

Mohawk Correctional Facility on July 18,1997

Assemblyman Feldman:

This letter is in response to your various statements regarding the incident at Mohawk Correctional Facility on July 18,1997. As a wife of a correction officer and a taxpayer, I feel it my duty to express my opinion regarding the irresponsibility of your statements.

I have worked in a law office for approximately 20 years and, I cannot believe that, as a lawyer, you are making such statements without acquiring all the facts and without the investigation being completed. You are taking the word of an inmate(s) without having any hard evidence. If you are getting this information from what you think is a reliable source, it is still hearsay. Have you seen these tatoos? Have the person(s) who gave you this information seen them?

It is my opinion that you made these statements due to the fact that you didn't want prison expansion. Maybe if you had a relative who worked in a facility you would feel differently. You might then realize the dangers that these men and women face day in and day out. I am sure that none of them would ever think of instigating a riot and endangering their lives to get more prisons built. You have an extremely distorted view of what it's like to be surrounded by criminals everyday of your life. I am sick and tired of hearing people feeling sorry for criminals. Screaming for their rights. What about the rights of the officers, who make sure that you, your wife and your children are safe everyday.

Mr. Feldman, keep in mind that the men and women (and their families) who "Walk the Toughest Beat in America" will remember you at election time.

Kelly A. Abrahamson
Buffalo, New York
