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Monterey houses respected shock incarceration program

MONTEREY -- Ten years ago, a new idea in corrections came to life at the Monterey Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility. On Thursday, officials from across the state, its staff and a few former inmates gathered to reflect on a program that started as an uncertain experiment and has become the largest, most respected shock incarceration program in the world, one used as a model by other states.

There are no walls, no fences, no bars, no guards.

Balancing components of discipline and treatment, the program contains elements of alcohol and substance

abuse treatment, drill instruction, physical training, work crews, education and group counseling.

Each inmate receives 675 hours of substance abuse treatment and education. Academic classes make up 12 hours of the week. Shock work crews labored 1.2 million hours during 1996.

The way most area residents know Camp Monterey is through its inmates working on various projects outside their facility, most recently assisting in flood cleanup.

Brian C. Rittmeyer (Elmira Star Gazette)

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Indictments due in prison riot

Saturday, September 13, 1997

Indictments charging inmates at the Mohawk Correctional Facility with crimes ranging from felony assault to misdemeanors in the July 18 riot could be handed up by a county grand jury next week. Sources involved in the process say indictments against 10 to 12 prisoners will be handed up to a county judge early next week. The inmates could be arraigned at the prison as early as next Friday. District Attorney Michael A. Arcuri confirmed that indictments were imminent when interviewed this morning.

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Election Protest

This letter was provided by Officer Steve Barrette.

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Terry M. Wilhelm

(Address & Phone stricken)

July 17, 1997

Richard Wagner
Council 82 Election Committee Chairperson
Council 82, A.F.S.C.M.E.
63 Colvin Ave., Albany N.Y.

Dear Brother Wagner,

In accordance with the A.F.S.C.M.E. International Constitution, Appendix "D", Section 4, Subsection B, we the undersigned are protesting the

conduct of the Council 82 Correction Policy Vice-Chairman 1997 Elections based on the following inequities;

1. Members of Local 1040 Attica Correctional Facility and Local 1406 Collins Correctional Facility were not allowed to participate in the election of said office. It is our contention that these members should have received ballots for the following reasons:

a. During the Council 82 election period, the per capita obligation for the Correction Policy Committee was deducted from each Local's monthly dues remittance in accordance with ARTICLE IV, Section 5., of the Council 82 Constitution; Local 1040 and Local 1406 respectively. Therefore, the members of these Locals, having fulfilled that obligation, were members of this policy group in good standing and entitled to received ballots.

b. The Correction Policy Group and the Election Committee acted beyond their authority when these two Locals were excluded. The Council 82 Constitution states in ARTICLE VII, Section 6 (c), "For the election of chair officers and correction policy and law enforcement policy chairmen and vice-chairmen to be conducted after 1996, ballots will be mailed out to members in good standing on the first business day after June 1 of the election year and must be received back within thirty days thereafter." (Bold added for emphasis.)

No provision for exclusion of any member(s) or Local(s) is attached or implied. Therefore, any member of a correction local who is a Council 82 "member in good standing" is eligible to participate in the election of correction policy chairmen and vice-chairmen. To do otherwise is a direct violation of the A.F.S.C.M.E. International Constitution Bill Of Rights For Union Members #4, "Members shall have the right to fair and democratic elections, at all levels of the union."

In conclusion, we assert that a run-off candidate for this election was decided over Terry Wilhelm by a margin of (40) forty votes. Thus being, with a substantial amount of support for that candidate lost due to the exclusion of these two Locals, a different outcome could be reached with a new election being held, and the inclusion of Attica Local 1040 and Collins Local 1406.

Fraternally,

Terry M. Wilhelm

Robert J. Cronin

Steve also noted that it is his understanding that a hearing was held on 9-10-97 and that the hearing committee has 30 days to respond.

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Reply to insurance Letter

STATE OF NEW YORK
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
AGENCY BUILDING ONE
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA ALBANY NY 12257

Robert Viccaro
September 5, 1997
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Auburn, NY 13021

Re: Our File: QA97-11481

Dear Mr. Viccaro:

Thank you for your letter of August 18 concerning the change of insurance carrier underwriting Council 82's group life and group disability programs. You ask for our advice as to the legality of the change and our assistance to correct the situation. Our response must necessarily be in the context of New York Insurance Law. It is by that body of law that this Department is granted its authority and jurisdiction. We cannot speak for any other State agency or for any other body of New York law.

Please be advised that New York Insurance Law does not provide any guidance or restriction applicable to the situation you describe. In this instance, any applicable Insurance Law would concern the conduct of the insurance carrier involved, not that of the group policy owner. Nothing in your letter would lead us to believe that Guardian is in violation of Insurance Law.

Perhaps you and the other concerned members might research the constitution and by-laws of Council 82 to see whether there are provisions directing, controlling or restricting the changes you report. It would seem most likely that the union's own organizational structure would govern this situation.

We trust this information is of some service to you.

Very truly yours,
P. Todd Fryer,
Sr. Insurance Examiner
Consumer Services Bureau, Albany
(518) 473-7939 FAX (518) 474-2188
PTF/bhs

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Guards' melee response praised

Albany -- Study finds several factors contributed to the July uprising at Mohawk Correctional Facility in Rome

MARK McGUIRE
Staff writer

ALBANY -- A suicide, a telephone outage, one hot and humid night, and the rumor mill combined to create conditions resulting in a July mini-riot at a Rome medium-security state prison, officials reported Thursday.

But the action of the guards in the Mohawk Correctional Facility melee that injured 10 officers was praised in a report by state Corrections Commissioner Glenn S. Goord to Gov. George Pataki.

"Employees from Mohawk, its nearby facilities and those deployed from across the state conducted themselves in a professional and dedicated manner throughout this very difficult weekend," Goord stated.

DOCS and the guards union have been fighting all year over safety concerns in the prison, but both sides agree with the commissioner's report that holds harmless the officers in relation to the July 17-18 melee.

Also Thursday, officers at the Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill picketed the prison after officials refused to "lock down" (confine prisoners to their cells) the maximum security center so a weapons search could be conducted. The state Department of Correctional Services said the search is not necessary, and would probably prove fruitless.

The disturbance was sparked by the July 17 suicide of an inmate who was found hanging in his cell. Despite the presence of a suicide note, some inmates questioned the cause of death. When phone service was disrupted less than an hour later, some inmates believed the outage was intentional so inmates couldn't talk about the death with the outside, the report reads. The power outage was accidental.

Tensions boiled over in the prison's recreation yard on a hot and humid July 18 night as officers were attacked with razors, bats, free weights, fists and kicks. Lt. Richard Prusko was the most seriously injured of the staff, suffering two broken ribs, a concussion, abrasions, bumps and bruises. Prusko and five other correction officers injured have not yet returned to work.

An hour after the 7 p.m. melee began, the 309 inmates involved were confined to the East Yard. The inmates stayed in the yard overnight before being returned to cells the next morning. Guards fired six warning shots and used chemical repellents almost three dozen times, but the report states "not one inmate sustained any injuries requiring treatment."

Robert Lawson, spokesman for Council 82, the officers union, praised Goord's report. "His assessment of what happened those two days, I think he is right on the money," Lawson said.

But the union was not in total accord with the department Thursday. Officers reported a total of 100 Downstate Correctional Facility guards picketed in shifts outside the prison, calling for a lockdown so cells could be searched. During a lock down inmates are predominantly confined to their cells.

Downstate is the "reception center" for inmates entering the maximum security prison system. After several months, most of the 1,079 inmates are farmed out to other prisons.

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Inmates Face Charges after Riot

Ten guards were injured during fighting in July at Mohawk Correctional Facility.

Published Sept. 19, 1997, in The Syracuse Newspapers.

By JON CRAIG

ROME - Three inmates could spend 10 to 17 years in isolation cells for their involvement in the July uprising at Mohawk Correctional Facility, a state report said Thursday.

This afternoon, during a rare court proceeding at Mid-State Correctional Facility, the alleged ringleaders of the riot will be among 50 inmates facing new charges and additional prison time. An Oneida County grand jury heard evidence in the case this week.

As punishment for bad behavior, prisoners are sent to isolation cells called "special housing units." The inmates lose rights to telephone calls and packages, and can leave the cells for just one hour of court-mandated recreation time daily, said James Flateau, a spokesman for the state Department of Correctional Services. Although the cells are nicknamed "the box," at Mohawk Correctional Facility the isolation cells have small windows.

Three inmates, all of New York City, face the most serious charges:

Luis Agosto, already serving up to five years for assault and criminal sale of a controlled substance, could spend up to 17 years in isolation.

Damon Miller, serving up to six years from New York County for criminal possession of a weapon, could spend up to 12 years in isolation.

Charles Hanrahan, serving up to eight years for assault and attempted sale of a controlled substance, could spend up to 10 years in isolation.

Six of 10 guards injured in the melee remain out of work, officials said Thursday. Lt. Richard Prusko of Utica is still recovering. Prusko suffered two broken ribs and a concussion; one rib cut his spleen. Prusko was kicked, punched and stomped on by at least three inmates, the report said, and hit numerous times with baseball bats.

"No one inmate sustained any injuries requiring treatment," the corrections report said, underscoring the restraint used by guards.

Robert White, local union president with Council 82, said one problem at Mohawk was the shortage of isolation cells. White said only one of 48 cells was empty when the riot began July 18, making it impossible to send troublemakers there.

Thursday's report said neither understaffing nor overcrowding contributed to the disturbance at Mohawk. But White, who represents 400 corrections officers at Mohawk, said that about 200 of the prison's 1,300 inmates are "double-bunked," leaving the prison with more inmates than it was designed to handle.

"We're just starting to warehouse," White said Thursday. "It's scary, as a matter of fact."

White said that for every new inmate assigned to solitary, some other felon has to be let out of confinement, defeating the purpose of the punishment. White said Gov. George Pataki's plan to build more prison space will ease the problem, but that construction of new cells won't begin for at least two years.

Corrections Commissioner Glenn S. Goord ordered that all bats be removed from the prison as well as other athletic equipment used as weapons in July.

Others hurt in the riot were Sgt. Ernest Stevens and officers Todd Candito, Gregory Carter, Richard Torres, Bradley Bliss, Daniel Malloni, Lawrence Rounds, Douglas Christman and Steve Kaczmarek.

Goord also recommended other security improvements Thursday, including new observation towers, more fences, better locks on gates and tear gas for vehicles that protect the prison's perimeter.

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Informational Rally at Downstate(9/18/97)

We had an Informational Rally at Downstate yesterday. Attendance was great. I think one of the best things I saw yesterday was the unity displayed in front of the facility. Officers, supervisors (sergeants as well as lieutenants) and civilian staff (CSEA and PEF) rallied together for a lockdown and search of Downstate. In support from Council 82 was area rep John Beachy, CPC elect John Butler VCPC elect Pat Rybak and Bob Lawson. We received excellent media coverage through press, radio and news. It was phenomenal to hear all the people shout out LOCK IT DOWN, GET THE WEAPONS OUT etc. I was proud to be an officer at Downstate yesterday and proud to be a local 399 union official. I think we got our message across to the administration of Downstate as well as the folks in Bldg...2.

As during all rallies we were being counted and for the most part video taped. Every person out there could care less about this. The only shameful thing I saw was the security cameras that are intended for use on the facility perimeter and yards were used to observe us while the yard was in use. This giving rise to the chant PUT THE CAMERAS ON THE CONS!! While we were peacefully presenting our concerns publicly our administration felt it was necessary to use these cameras to watch us rather than the inmates in the yard.(even after the gang rumble out there last week) HMMM makes you wonder whats priority in a MAX A prison ??????

Well enough said. A big thanks to all who attended!! ;-)

As always my opinion,
Kevin Walker

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Friday 9-19-97 Poughkeepsie Journal

There is a nice article on the front page of the MID-HUDSON section of the Friday 9-19-97 Poughkeepsie Journal. There is a picture of C.O. Bev Sassi with 2 signs "We need a safe prison" and "Too many weapons inside" The article states that the DCF Officer held a day long protest over the fact that the Supt. of DCF will not lock-down the prison for a facility wide frisk...

I glad to see some publicity that show us in a positive light.

GOOD JOB to all our Downstate C.F. Brothers and sisters.

TOM

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New York City Bloods

In Friday's edition of the New York Dailey News 9/12/97 there is an article on one Leonard (Deadeye) Mackenzie currently housed at Downstate Correctional Facility #92A7079. According to the article he is one of the original organizers of the New York City Bloods. They are about revolution, going up against the oppressors of Black people, whether they be Correction Officers, Latin Kings or Netas. Whoever disrespects a Black person would be dealt with. The bloods are shedding blood in accordance with the gang's New York charter. New York City Corrections Gang Intelligence Unit had the following observations; red bandanas, beads and blades. A single edged razor blade is concealed sheathed in a matchbook, attached to a string and hidden in the anal cavity. To join the bloods, (blood in) all you have to do is cut somebody, then your ready for the tattoo, three cigaret burns to represent a dog's paw. On 10/19/95 Deadeye slashed two hispanic inmates in the yard (at Rikers) and then he assaulted Correction Captain with a set of weights. The bloods have become the biggest gang at Rikers. According to the article, Deadeye is now 30 years old and living in lockdown at Downstate, he is NOT ALLOWED at Rikers. He is now being called Uzayr Abdullah, a devout Muslim. Law enforcement sources say such new found faith is his way of avoiding federal indictment. But like a true blood, he still says, "can't stop, won't stop, cradle to the grave." And he still keeps in touch with the more prominent Bloods in Rikers. One of them calls himself Rob Lowe. Another blood organizer is call O.G. (original gangsta) Mack.

Primer on the " Concepts of War" 4. "What is paint to a warrior but a privilege. Causing pain and handling pain are measures of a warrior....." 5. The injury that you do cause upon the enemy must be considered a vicious act of terrorism. 6. "Never let a bonafied enemy live in your mist, because one day he may rise up in great numbers and repay you for that mistake." 10. "...no room for diplomacy. War is outright vicious."

This inmate is very dangerous and treacherous. It is vital that we keep each other informed his whereabouts. To all Downstate staff, stay alert and observant and most of all safe.

Coop

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QWL Dedication

On October 3rd, at 1:00 P.M., Local 1285, Camp Gabriels, will hold a ceremony to dedicate our Quality Work Life Building in the name of

Officer Edward McGuire, a member of our local, that passed away on May 16, 1997. Also, at that time, we will be presenting a memorial plaque to Ed's family.

We will also be dedicating a memorial plaque commemorating all active or retired members of Local 1285 that have passed away.

This memorial plaque will later be displayed in our line-up room. All Council 82 members are invited to join us in having the memory of our fellow brothers.

A gathering with refreshments will be held immediately following the ceremony at the Q.W.L. Building.

[E-mail Thomas Tyler for further information](#)

Camp Gabriels

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Prison nixes sweat lodge ceremonies

By KRISTEN SCHWEIZER
Staff Writer

WALLKILL - As Michael Halfmoon walks across the cement floor at Shawangunk Correctional Facility, a manila folder he carries brushes across the leg of his green prison pants. Stuffed inside the folder are pages of documents and letters detailing the 48-year-old's efforts to practice Native American traditions inside the maximum-security prison. Halfmoon is Lenni Lenape - a tribe that once inhabited the Delaware River Valley and the Shawangunk mountain range.

"Everything I have is in here, I wonder sometimes if any of this will ever make a difference," he says, smoothing his hand over his dark ponytail. Halfmoon has spent the last 10 years inside the New York state prison system, on a slew of charges including robbery, burglary and criminal use of firearms. During that time he has staged six hunger strikes to convince state prison officials he should be allowed to practice such Native American traditions as smudging herbs, smoking Kinnickinick - ceremonial tobacco - from a sacred pipe and holding ceremonies inside a sweat lodge.

He was allowed to do it as a federal prisoner. But state prison rules are different. And with the recent overturning of a nationwide law which gave inmates more religious freedoms, it's doubtful Halfmoon will see the inside of a sweat lodge soon.

"There are certain rights people lose when they are in prison," said Jim Flateau, spokesman for the state Department of Correctional Services. Sweat lodges inside state prisons could invite non-believers inside to pass contraband, he said. And items such as ceremonial tobacco, smudging herbs and medicine pouches could be laced with drugs or hidden with weapons. Halfmoon has few options.

"Don't commit crimes," said Flateau. "And if he doesn't want to eat - that's his prerogative."

Federal prison is different Most states and county jails do not allow such practices, said Tim Giago, editor and publisher of Indian Country Today, a national weekly newspaper on Native American issues. This comes simply out of an ignorance most people have on Native American traditions. Such practices, he said, "are totally alien to the religions that came out of Europe." The struggle by some Native Americans for religious freedom in prison has been going on for more than 20 years, said Giago.

Prior to his time in New York state prisons, Halfmoon spent 16 years in the federal prison system for transporting stolen weapons in his car in South Dakota. He says it was for an Indian cause.

Inside the federal system, Native Americans are allowed to participate in sweat lodges, pipe ceremonies and herb smudging. There are 1,495 Native Americans in federal prison. Sweat lodge ceremonies are held in many of the 90 federal prisons at least once a week, said Susan Vanbaalen, chaplain administrator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Otisville Federal Correctional in Orange County doesn't have a sweat lodge. But one could be set up if needed.

"Our (religious) policy is generic, it guarantees rights to religious expression to inmates of all faiths," said Vanbaalen. The first sweat lodge appeared in federal prisons 18 years ago.

Federal officials purchase the special herbs and ceremonial tobacco for the Indian inmates, minimizing the risk of contraband being smuggled in. The items are X-rayed and thoroughly searched, Vanbaalen said.

Some Indian herbs such as sage and sweetgrass smell like marijuana when smoked. Native Americans using these herbs are required to smoke them outside the housing unit under supervision from staff.

Situations like Halfmoon's will become more difficult in the future, in the wake of an overturning by the Supreme Court of the national Religious Restoration Act, said Jenni Gainsborough, spokeswoman for the ACLU's National Prison Project. "Now all a state has to say as an excuse is safety and security," she said. "The act at least afforded inmates more religious freedoms, it gave them a little more power for their rights,"

Critics say state prison officials get away with denying inmates religious rites by using the security and safety excuse.

"Religion encourages rehabilitation for inmates, they can actually turn their lives around," Gainsborough said. "You'd think states would encourage religions all they could."

Meanwhile, inside a sterile blue-brick prison room, Halfmoon sits at a wooden-topped table. He spreads the contents of his manila folder in front of him: Native American newsletters, books and prison documents. He is a thin man - about to get thinner, he says. He claims he will begin his final hunger strike today. He says he plans to stay on it until the state takes action.

"I don't believe I'm going to get anywhere. These days I know are my last," said Halfmoon.

His most recent fast last month, during which he only drank water, ran for 13 days. He stopped when directed to do so by Lenape nation members on the outside, he said. Halfmoon is currently in special housing because of inmate threats against him, say prison officials. He says the threats were by inmates and correction officers, over a rumor spread in the prison that he was a rapist.

While Halfmoon has been in state prisons here, he's logged several disciplinary charges for things like refusing direct orders, creating a disturbance, harassment and threats against staff, said Flateau.

Last week, in preparation for his hunger strike, Halfmoon signed over his power of attorney to a Native American leader. He said he's OK with dying, if that's what it takes to get the state's attention. "One day soon, the prison is going to find out what they got on their hands, when they come in and touch me and realize I'm not going to be alive."

New York state has had requests for various practices that inmates claimed were religion-related, James Flateau, spokesman for DOC said. Things like sacrificing live animals, the right to keep butcher knives, wear a fez, possess large metal balls or not be required to take tuberculosis tests. They, too, were refused. "(Halfmoon) should not take it personal, there are rules that control conduct in prison for the safety and security of inmates and staff alike," he said. At the same time, the state prison system is tolerant of many religions, Flateau said, allowing inmates chaplains and services for a variety of faiths: Christian, Jewish, Hindu - even Rastafarianism.

"(Inmates) have the right to fully practice religion that has no requirements that fly in the face of legitimate security needs," he said. The following are a few religious practices used by members of the Lenape Nation.

- Sweat lodge: A sweat lodge is a tradition used by Lenape Indians to purify the mind, body and soul, according to the Lenni Lenape Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A sweat lodge is a small, round building structure where herbs are hung from the ceiling and seven rocks, heated on the outside (and then brought in), sizzle below. Men and women are not allowed inside together.

In addition to people inside the sweat lodge, there is also a firestarter, who heats the rocks outside, and another person to ensure the health of those participating. Officials at the historical society say going inside a sweat lodge is similar to being reborn. Native Americans usually enter a sweat lodge before marriage, name-giving or when they ask for forgiveness.

- Smudging: Another religious practice used by Lenapes and other Indian nations for protection. Herbs are burned and the smoke essence from them goes up and around the Native American, symbolizing protection.

- Medicine pouche: A bag of personal belongings a Native American carries with him at all times.

Other items like a sacred pipe and ceremonial tobacco are each Lenape's individual choice and not required by the Lenape Nation.

Ulster jail situation

KINGSTON - An inmate at the Ulster County Jail last year was allowed to practice his Native American religious beliefs.

Clark Whitebird, serving a six-month stint at the jail for first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation, a felony, was permitted to smoke a sage and tobacco mixture through a sacred pipe, keep two feathers each from an eagle and a hawk and to keep several religious books in his jail cell.

Whitebird was also let outside the jail each day for a short period to pray in an undisclosed area he considered sacred, said Sgt. Ray Acevedo. The decision to allow Whitebird such privileges came after talks between jail officials and Whitebird's religious advisors, he said.

In support of religious advisers' requests was the national Religious Restoration Act of 1993, which gave inmates more religious freedom while incarcerated. The act was overturned by the Supreme Court this summer.

Allowing Whitebird to practice religious traditions in jail was a positive experience, Acevedo said.

"He really demonstrated sincerity in his religion," he said.

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PRISON UNION VOTES TO FUND PAC

This is a reprint from the Buffalo Evening News

The President of the State prison Guards union says his members walk the toughest beat in the nation. They want to walk with equal authority in the hallways of the State Capital. Members of Council 82, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, voted overwhelmingly last week to increase dues by

\$2.00 each two-week pay period so they could fund a newly enriched Political Action Committee.

The goal, according to Richard Abrahamson, Council 82 President, is to put the 26,000-member union on par with the other lobbying heavyweights when it comes to getting Stae and local policy makers to take notice of the unions positions. In addition to guards at State and Local Prisons, the union represents some security personnel at State Institutions.

WE HAD SOME GREAT PRESS COVERAGE IN THE AUBURN AREA ON THE NEW PAC FUND THAT WAS VOTED IN AT THE CONVENTION. THE ARTICLE STATED WE KNOW ARE THE BIGGEST PAC PLAYER IN NEW YORK STATE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE IN 1996 CSEA AND THE GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SPENT EACH A LITTLE OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS, DONALD TRUMP \$758,000, AFL CIO \$730,000, AND THE STATES LARGEST TEACHER UNION NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHER'S \$663.,000. IT APPEARS THAT BECAUSE OF THE GREAT EFFORTS PUT OUT BY OUR PRESIDENT ABRAHAMSON, VICE-PRESIDENT GRANEY, THE LOCAL PRESIDENTS AND THE MEMBERS OUR UNION WILL BE THE NEW HEAVY HITTER IN NEW YORK POLITICS. THIS IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR UNION AS LONG AS THE MEMBERS ARE PUT FIRST AND POLITICIANS SECOND. AS A MATTER A FACT THE WHOLE CONVENTION WAS THE GREATEST THING SINCE GRANDMA'S APPLE PIE.

WITH AFSCME VOWING TO:

- 1) NOT UNIONIZE PRIVATE PRISON GUARDS
- 2) SUPPLY \$50,000 FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST PRIVATIZATION
- 3) SUPPLY PAYMENTS TO CORRECTION OFFICERS FOR COLLEGE EDUCATION
- 4) NEW COMPUTERIZED PHONES FOR ELECTIONS
- 5) SUPPLY A FULL TIME PAC ASSISTANT FROM AFSCME.

THIS IS THE REBIRTH OF AFSCME AND COUNCIL 82 AND THEY HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED THERE IS A NEED FOR CHANGE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

TOM SHORT
Cayuga CF

The PAC and Legislative fund will be \$78,000 per month PAC and \$26,000 Legislative monthly.

PAC is a dedicated fund that can be only used for contributions directly involving candidates, while the Legislative fund can be used for a myriad of different political related items such as informational picketing, PAC committee education, grass root committee formation and support.

PAC

That's \$ 936,000 plus \$78,000 of PAC donations from the Per Capita for a total of \$1,014,000.

Legislative Committee

That's \$78,000 per year in new monies and \$31,200. per year in per capita monies for total of \$109.200.

This represents a giant step for every member, it will poll vault us into the 21st century.

I can tell you that at the beginning of the Convention we heard excuses that the Governor would not be speaking, once we past the increase in PAC monies and Legislative monies, we were told he was coming and his speech was very supportive of the plight of Corrections officers, it is now politically correct to be pro CO. It is a shame that we don't get it on the merit of our job but, in the atmosphere of our system we'll take it anyway we can get it...

Fraternally,
A.J. Sportiello
Sing Sing CF

Taking the \$2.00 per member per paycheck and the \$1.00 from AFSCME per member per month, it looks like \$130,000 per month or \$1,560,000 for a whole year into the PAC and Legislative accounts. That doesn't include the amount already going there from C-82. A sizable amount either way you look at it.

Jim Schmidt
Sullivan CF

This fund doesn't even start until afscme approves the changes in our Constitution, which could take at least a month. As for the dollar amount, it will be in excess of one million for sure.

As for being enough, it should be enough to show the members what can be done with PAC with money backing them. The money will help a lot, but it won't perform miracles for us. Without member participation it is really worthless unless we outright by the politicians, we don't have enough for that!!

The most important thing our members can do that WILL help that money help US is to register to vote!!! that would be worth more than a million bucks to our efforts! Everything is in place to kick some political ass, but it won't happen just sitting on the money.

John Butler
Correction Policy Chairman (C-82)

I would like to personally thank every delegate from the convention who supported the \$2.00 per paycheck amendment. As one of the original authors, D. Hannold and myself came up with the idea and wrote it up, I can tell you we had our doubts Wednesday morning that it would pass. We were prepared to amend it any which way just to get it going. When it came time for the actual vote, it was a feeling of true elation and complete joy that it passed with an overwhelming majority. This alone gives Council 82 the power in this State, it makes Council 82 a force to be reckoned with. It will make things better for all of us. Thanks again.

Jim Schmidt
Sullivan CF

LAST SATURDAY WAS THE FIRST REGIONAL PAC MEETING IN AUBURN AT LEWIS'S RESTAURANT. YES OUR CORRECTION POLICY CHAIRMAN JOHN BUTLER DROVE FROM ELMIRA TO ATTEND.

THIS SATURDAY THE SECOND AUBURN HUB REGIONAL PAC (POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE) MEETING will be held at 9:00 am at the AUBURN UNION OFFICE WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE FACILITY ON STATE STREET RIGHT NEXT TO THE PRISON. SEVERAL REPS INCLUDING MYSELF FROM CAYUGA C.F WILL ATTEND AS WELL AS BUTLER ASACTC, AUBURN, BUTLER MINIMUM, AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE WITH WILLARD.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION ON SEVERAL ISSUES INCLUDING VOTER REGISTRATION AS I HAVE JUST RECEIVED LARGE BOX OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS FROM TOM PRYSTAL AT THE CAYUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS. HOPE TO SEE EVERYBODY THERE.

Tom Short
Cayuga CF

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Pork Barrel Projects

The governor and legislators have gotten good at concealing their pork-barrel projects. The anti-tax group pork index lists 4,400 pet projects and shows the budget to be the most wasteful in history. All told \$609,000,000 has been stashed away so legislators can curry favors with special intererers groups and community cronies. And they have no shame about it. State Senator Michael (the noze) Nozzolio for one, is taking home \$15,000.00 money from your taxes - to fund a seneca lake WHALE WATCH a local festival involving a search for nonexistant Leviathans. Way to go Noze thats alot of in-pocket money.

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Prison nurse hurt in attack

By Don Lehman
and David Blow
Staff Writers

COMSTOCK -- A state prison inmate serving a sentence for rape stripped naked and attacked a nurse Sunday in a woman's bathroom at Washington Correctional Facility.

The nurse, a 48-year-old woman whose name was not released, suffered minor head injuries when her head and face were repeatedly slammed into the sink and wall of the bathroom, officials said. He did not sexually assault her, officials said.

The woman managed to force her way out of the bathroom and summon help, and guards subdued the prisoner shortly afterward.

She was treated at Glens Falls Hospital and released, but hadn't returned to work as of Tuesday, prison Superintendent John Malloy said. He said she isn't expected to be out of work for an extended period of time, and counseling is being offered to her and others who desire it.

The prisoner, Daryl B. Wood, 20, of New York City, was charged with second-degree assault, a felony, in the 9:20 a.m. attack at the medium-security prison. He was arraigned before Fort Ann Town Justice Ruth Cartier and is now being held at maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora.

Washington County District Attorney Robert M. Winn said his office will present the case to a Washington County grand jury and ask that weightier charges be lodged.

" In light of the fact he was naked, it would be my opinion there was a plan to sexually assault" the woman, Winn said.

Wood apparently wanted to be transferred from the prison, where he is serving a 6- to 18-year term for first-degree rape and coercion, because of problems with other inmates, Winn said.

Wood told State Police after Sunday's incident that he had planned to attack a nurse after a visit to the prison infirmary for a tuberculosis test, the district attorney said.

" He said he planned to grab a nurse and throw her up against the wall," Winn said.

Authorities said the nurse entered the bathroom and was grabbed from behind by a man who began choking her and slamming her head against a sink. They struggled for several seconds, with the attacker putting his hands over her mouth to keep her from screaming.

She managed to get away and run from the bathroom after elbowing the man. Guards responded and took the still-naked Wood into custody in the bathroom, officials said.

James McCabe, president of Local 3046 of Council 82, the union that represents correction officers, questioned why a person convicted of first-degree rape was being held in a medium-security prison.

James Flateau, spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services, said an inmate's placement depends not only on his crime but his disciplinary record in prison and the time he has left before he's eligible for parole.

He said Wood, who has been in the state system since March 1996, had no violent problems in the past, though he had been disciplined for disobeying an order.

Flateau said 1,147 rapists are housed in the state's medium-security prisons, 804 in maximum-security. Those convicted of violent felonies are placed in medium-security prison as they get closer to parole eligibility; Wood was eligible for parole in May 2000.

" There are murderers in medium security," Flateau said.

McCabe also charged Tuesday that because of staffing cuts, a guard who was supposed to be stationed in the area where the assault took place wasn't working Sunday. The prison superintendent, though, said staffing was appropriate.

McCabe said two officers were typically assigned to the infirmary, but one has been assigned other duties during the week, so only one is typically in the area on weekends.

" They continually close us down and there's just one officer there," McCabe said. " It's a security problem we've been raising for months and months ... They've got us stretched too thin."

But Malloy said staffing was adequate. Wood had a plan that he would have carried out regardless how many guards were posted, Malloy said.

" Anytime there is an incident they (union officials) bring up the staffing issue," Malloy said. " An officer was in the area and there were nurses there as well."

McCabe said union officials met with prison administration Monday, but weren't encouraged by the discussion.

" I hoped this would be a wake-up call," he said. " We were extremely lucky this wasn't a lot worse."

The attack is the latest in a string of violence at the prison, which has accompanied a change in the makeup of the prison's population. The state has been placing more younger inmates at Washington to qualify for federal aid and now a majority are under the age of 21. The younger inmates have proved to be more violent.

There have been at least two other serious fights or attacks at the prison since the spring, officials said.

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Prison Guards to Start PAC

The Times Herald Record---9/29/97

Albany(AP)- The president of the state prison guards' union says his members walk the toughest beat in the nation. They want to walk with equal authority in the hallways of the state Capitol.

Members of Council 82 voted overwhelmingly last week to increase dues by \$2 each two-week pay period so they could fund a newly enriched political action committee.

The goal, according to Council 82 president Richard Abrahamson, is to put the 26,000- member union on par with the other lobbying heavyweights when it comes to getting state and local policymakers to take notice of the union's positions.

In addition to guards at state and local prisons, the union represents some security personell at state institutions.

"We have learned that polititians hold the key to our future," Abrahamson said."We need to help get people elected who think along the same lines that we do. We want to be treated fairly."

Council 82's parent union, AFSCME, has also promised to pay \$1 for every \$2 contribution, generating a pool of \$1.3 million a year for council 82's lobbying and political purposes. That's 10 times what the union has ever had available to spend.

That much money will instantly make council 82 one of the leading lobbying groups in Albany.

According to reports to the state Lobbying Commission, both Civil Service Employees Association and the Greater New York Hospital Association both spent slightly more than \$1 million on state lobbying in 1996.

Other heavy hitters in Albany last year included Donald Trump's Taj Mahal at \$758,850; the state AFL-CIO, which spent \$729,611; and the state's largest teachers' union, New York State United Teachers, which put \$663,421 towards lobbying.

Abrahamsom said no decision had been made about how much money would be spent on direct lobbying and how much for political purposes.

The state director of Common Cause, Rachel Leon, said Council 82's plans were troubling.

"We are worried at any time when they are upping the ante," she said. "If they are talking about that amount of money, if they are going to raise this much new money, our concern is where this money is going to go."

Council 82 is facing some unusual challenges. Its top officers were thrown out of office for chartering flights, buying lavish dinners and otherwise misusing union funds. AFSCME stepped in for a time to run Council 82's affairs.

Abrahamson acknowledged that the trust of some of his members, especially the younger ones, was undermined by the improprieties of the union's former leadership. Abrahamson said he wants to win them back.

The union said it will also use its additional resources to fight plans to create a private prison in Sullivan County. Other issues high on the union's agenda include alleviating prison overcrowding, improving guard-to-inmate staffing ratios and better protecting the safety of the guards.

Leon said if Council 82 follows the patterns of other unions, it will begin to pour money into "housekeeping" accounts maintained by the state political parties and the party committees in Legislature - donations that do not have to meet campaign contribution limits. Unions have also funded "educational" campaigns on issues before the state Legislature that are political in nature and should be regulated as such, she said.

One target for a cash-flush Council 82 will be state Assemblyman Daniel Feldman, Abrahamson said.

Following a July disturbance at the state's Mohawk prison in Rome which left 10 guards injured, Feldman suggested that guards may have prompted the disturbance as a way of winning state budget money for additional maximum-security prison space.

There is a "real strong possibility" that Council 82 will use its clout to promote Feldman's opponent in the 1998 elections, whether he runs for Assembly again or for Congress, as he has indicated he wants to, the union president said.
