

ocean readers must be 18 years or older to comment on contents

March 9, 2020

Volume 1: Issue XI

ocean newsletter

Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations

In this 11th issue of the ocean newsletter, we take a new approach to the newsletter by acknowledging more testimonies of those affected by the gulag. We then take time to honor Black History and the voices of those who are courageous enough to speak up. We then look at the heartbreaking story of a man refused to attend the funeral of his fiancé and later denied to go to his mother's funeral as well. Then we look at the terrible experience of a man who was forced to sleep in his own anal leakage for weeks. Then we look at the story of a man that has been at the gulag over 26 years. We then have some poetry from our proof editor. We then will look at the process for changing a law and end by thanking our supporters.

If you have questions or comments, write to the ocean founders:

Daniel A. Wilson [daw] & Russell J. Hatton [rjh] *judicium dei* at:

ocean
PO Box 582
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572.

You can also leave a voice message at:

(218) 351-1900
Ext. 106021 for daw
Ext. 70887 for rjh.

👤 A Call To Action! 👤

Ocean Has a New Focus Starting with our 11th Issue.

First things first. Start building your support network. If you have lost touch with your family, reunite. We know how hard it can be to maintain relationships while locked up for years. But you can still gain a lot from staying in touch.

Healthy relationships are crucial to gaining and maintaining our freedom. Find those that will fight for you and speak up for you. Ask them to go online and support you. For example, we have a petition at [Change.org](https://www.change.org) that is specific to Minnesota, but if you have friends or family that will create one for you, they are easy to make. Ours is focused on a specific legal issue specific to this particular gulag. However, yours can be about abolishing civil commitment in general, or replacing a specific government official. Talk about the truth—people will respond (always cite your sources). Once your page is up, promote it in your own facility, or group.

To sign the petition to abolish pre-crime-life-sentences in Minnesota Go to [Change.org](https://www.change.org). Search “MSOP”. Three results should show up. Click on the one titled “Stop unconstitutional confinement and abuse of tax payer money.” Sign up and share the page.

You can also connect with other organizations. We work closely with the Just Future Project who work relentlessly to end pre-crime-life-sentences. Follow them on Twitter at [@JustFutureOrg](https://twitter.com/JustFutureOrg), Instagram at [justfutureorg](https://www.instagram.com/justfutureorg) and YouTube at Just Future Project. Find their contact information at www.ajustfuture.org and let them help you take your advocacy efforts to the next level.

We understand that our newsletters go to many states, but if you are in Minnesota, we have a spot on the Just Future website where our loved ones can tell their stories of how the Minnesota Gulag has affected you, and them, personally. Those affected by the Minnesota gulag should go to www.ajustfuture.org. Click on “Take Action.” Then click “Speak Up Minnesota” to tell the story about how you, or they, have been effected by pre-crime-life-sentences. They can also sign up on the Speak Up Minnesota campaign at <https://actionnetwork.org/form/speak-up-minnesota-2>. Ask people to share an action item or the website on social media with a message asking others to take action. If someone has taken action by submitting a form, then tell them to email Minnesota@ajustfuture.org or just-future-Minnesota@googlegroups.com and ask to join the closed, members-only Google Group. Another way to get on the Google group is to send an email to Just-Future-Minnesota@googlegroups.com. The URL for the group is <http://groups.google.com/i/forum.just-future-Minnesota>.

We encourage men in other facilities to contact Just Future Project to expand their own efforts to abolish civil commitment.

We apologize to our readers for the delay if you have not received a newsletter in a while. We were held up in publication due to the “authorities” violating our First Amendment Rights by confiscating issue 9 of the ocean newsletter. As a result, Issue 10 was also delayed. However, we think the problem has finally been resolved.

On February, 2020 ocean Editor Russell was called into a meeting with cellblock 1E psychologist, Sky Korby-Brister, and clinician Ross Michael Peterson. The intention of this meeting was to return the confiscated ocean Issue 9. Dr. Korby-Brister stated that there was no “contraband” found, but they do have some concerns. Dr. Korby-Brister stated that some of the information about staff holding two positions and receiving multiple wages was incorrect.

I encouraged Dr. Korby-Brister and Mr. Peterson to provide the correct data and ocean will redact what was printed and make a correction in a follow-up issue.

Dr. Korby-Brister nor Mr. Peterson would offer this documentation, and instead stated that I could receive it through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Or that he can find current data online. “Come on. We don’t have access to online or the internet.”

Dr. Korby-Brister seemed intent on getting her point across that the information wasn’t accurate. Again I asked them to provide me with the correct data and we’d change it. I told her that we received the

information from the HIM's department here at the facility. In fact, we get plenty of our information using the FOIA.

I assured Dr. Korby-Brister nor Mr. Peterson that everything we print has been fact checked and is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Dr. Korby-Brister tried to convince me that she was concerned about our reputation being tarnished. However, she would not provide "accurate" information to correct what we have written and we have original documentation proving that some staff are getting two pay checks and holding multiple positions

These comments were thinly veiled threats. An attempt to dissuade ocean from writing the TRUTH.

My follow-up comment to Dr. Sky Korby-Brister and clinician Ross Michael Peterson, was this: "I like conflict...means things are going to change. I like challenges."

The second concern was distribution of the ocean newsletters amongst the men at the facility. Policy dictates that we cannot share media with others off our own cellblocks. Therefore, there's a mail procedure to follow. In-house green envelopes are used—which I assured we will use. Concern alleviated.

The third concern was that ocean is allegedly a "business" and policy dictates that the Minnesota Gulag's address cannot be associated with any business other than its own.

First, ocean is not a business of any sort. We are two muckrakes fighting to tell the TRUTH!

Second, this concern is now void as ocean has established an outside address for correspondence—unaffiliated with the Minnesota Gulag.

Lastly, Dr. Korby-Brister stated that we can print freely, but that ocean newsletters may again be confiscated in the future for review. Dr. Korby-Brister also commented that if we want to print we can submit a request to Laurie Severson, Unit Director to get "approval" to publish and print the ocean newsletters.

Approval to practice our First Amendment Right to Free Speech?! Where are we?!

4 copies of the 9th Issue of the ocean Newsletter was also confiscated from Daniel Wilson. They were finally given back to him yesterday, along with an in house ocean Special we did for Black History Month. Stacy Rhodes told Daniel that there was a "big meeting" at about the ocean Newsletter with lawyers present. She said that they had to let us print, but under a few conditions:

1. We have to use green mail if they are distributed in-house.
2. We cannot use the facility address.
3. We cannot incite violence.

We still have a problem with clinical—instead of security—making any recommendations about our newsletters. We may still need to challenge the policies that allow them to do this.

We really stuck to our guns on this, standing firm for our 1st Amendment Rights. It's important to have the freedom to expose what is going on here. Although we wanted to avoid the distraction and frustration of a lawsuit, we were fully prepared to file. However, we will hold off on that as long as we can print/distribute our newsletters. [RJH/DAW]

"It wasn't until my freedom of press was threatened, did I feel a strong compulsion to yell at the top of my lungs. I didn't notice, until they tried to silence me, how primal it is to express one's self. I realized that unless they were willing to tape my mouth shut, they were going to hear what I had to say."

– Daniel A. Wilson

In Honor of Black History

February is Black History Month. However, ocean is glad to distribute this issue in March because Black History should be acknowledged every month. The activist Tupac Amar Shakur defined “Thug Life” like this: “What you give us as seeds, grows up then blows up in your face.” ocean draws from this mentality, using the power of truth and perseverance to overcome the corruption of our oppressor. Although there is still plenty of work to be done, the men at the facility could learn a lot from the African-American community. In our own fight for equality, ocean draws strength from the African-American community, who have forged a way where there was no way. The following are some of the leaders in the African-American community that we admire as we are Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations.

“We have written a Declaration of Independence, itself an accomplishment, but the effort to transform the words into life experience still lies ahead.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr. 1968

“We must not allow fear to stand in our way. Our march to freedom is irreversible.” ~ Nelson Mandela, upon his release from prison, 1990

“I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.” ~ Nelson Mandela, 1964

“My decision to run for public office grew out of a simple desire to fight a system that most of the time exploited its weakest citizens.” ~ Kweisi Mfume

“The only tired I was, was tired of giving in.” ~ Rosa Parks

“Our first step is always to make people aware that they are human beings and deserving of dignity.” ~ Aldolf Pérez Esquivel, 1981

“If anywhere there are efforts tending to curtail the fullest growth of the Negro, let these efforts be turned into stimulating, encouraging, and making him the most useful and intelligent citizen. Effort or means so invested will pay a thousand per cent interest. These efforts will be twice blessed.” ~ Booker T. Washington, 1895

“We must do something and we must do it now. We must educate the white people out of their two hundred and fifty years of slave history.” ~ Ida B. Wells-Barnett, 1928

“Intolerance can grow only in the soil of ignorance: from its branches grow all manner of obstacles to human progress.” ~ Walter Francis White, *The Rope and the Faggot*, 1929

“Be sensitive in every way possible about everything in life. Be sensitive. Insensitivity brings indifference and nothing is worse than indifference.” ~ Elie Wiesel Survivor of Nazi Concentration Camps & Leading Interpreter of the Holocaust, 1996

“I come from another field – the country of the slave. They have got their liberty – so much good luck to have slavery partly destroyed; not entirely. I want it root and branch destroyed.” ~ Sojourner Truth, 1850
“My grandfather was the one who instilled in my mother and her sisters that you don’t put up with bad treatment from anybody. It was passed down almost in our genes.” ~ Rosa Parks

“A man has to act like a brother before you can call him a brother.” ~ Malcolm X 1964

“We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

“Life’s most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

“How does one describe the indescribable? How can one be sure that the words...will not betray, distort the message they bear?” ~ Elie Wiesel Survivor of Nazi Concentration Camps & Leading Interpreter of the Holocaust

Ocean Voices Matter

In November of 2017, the city of Coalinga California administered a vote on whether or not to impose a 1-cent tax on the patients at Coalinga State Hospital (the California equivalent of the Minnesota Gulag). Years ago, the hospital was annexed by the city to increase population. In doing so, it gave those legally able to vote the right to participate in local elections.

The patients wrote a letter to the Mayor, Nathan Vosburg, asking him to explain why the patients should vote for the tax. The explanation given by Vosburg focused on a \$557,000 budget deficit and the tax hike would save 23 city jobs. This explanation did not successfully convince the patients to vote for the tax. Therefore, 304 active voters registered at the hospital voted against the tax. The patients opposed the tax for a variety of reasons, including that the tax would do little to help the prisoners in return for increased costs.

Robert S. Turner, a former patient currently living in Fresno, is the community liaison for Detainee-Americans for Civic Equality (DACE). The group was formed in 2010 to encourage eligible patients to register as voters and participate in local elections. The group is made of a board of five current and former patients. They meet with the several hundred registered voters at the hospital weekly to discuss issues and make recommendations.¹

Ultimately, the men at Coalinga hospital prevailed and the attempt to increase Coalinga's sales tax by one cent failed by 37 votes. The City of Coalinga has since filed a lawsuit against Fresno County, seeking to have the election results thrown out due to the allegedly "illegal" participation of the patients. Both city and hospital officials blamed the patients for defeating the sales tax hike.² Vosburg, the Mayor, said "The people have spoken, and I stand behind the will of the people."³

Ocean finds it encouraging that we could have a similar impact in elections. For those who are able, we encourage you to vote and to stay updated on upcoming local elections, bills being introduced, as well as other issues we are allowed to participate in.

Footnotes

1. "Patients at this Mental Hospital may have Doomed a City's Sales Tax Measure," By Rory Appleton, *The Fresno Bee*, November 15, 2017, <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/politics-government>. Rory Appleton: (559) 441-6015, @RoryDoesPhonics
2. "New Rule Sparks Uprising at California Sex Offender Civil Commitment Facility" By Matt Clarke, September 3, 2018, *Prison Legal News*.
3. Ibid, *The Fresno Bee*

Drop Testimony

Ocean Defender, Russell John Hatton

It was July 1, 2014 as I checked my voice messages on cellblock 1C. I punched in my number and password and heard the recording say:

"You have 1 new message."

I pushed 1 and listened, my hand trembling as the female voice came over the line...

"Russell, [pause] Diana's dead."

My mind went blank, my whole body shook as my hearing deafened and I stood unknowingly holding my breathe. I didn't know what to do, who to tell, where to go. I...

I hung up the message phone and proceeded out to the commons area where I asked someone to get my friend Marshall.

Marshall came out and I told him I needed to speak to him and Pete. In denial of the seconds old news, I stood as Marshall and Pete orchestrated with the 1E cellblock guards to allow us access to a team room on 1E.

Marshall came out and got me and we went upstairs to the team room.

There I sat silently as Marshall and Pete tried to ask me what was going on. I clenched my teeth and squeezed my fist till they were white as my vision blurred from uncontrollable tears.

I tried to get out the words but nothing would come, until a deep piercing cry broke the silence and I blurted out;

"Diana's dead!"

All I could hear were my own cries.

I couldn't think, couldn't feel, couldn't speak. I was broken...

Going back to 1997. I met Diana in high school. We began dating after our first high school dance. A year later our first daughter was born.

Our parents fully encouraged and supported our relationship. We were both Ojibwe—Native Americans. In high school everyone knew we were sweethearts. And so we remained for almost ten years till that tragic day in 2014.

In 1998 our first daughter was born. I failed as a father and dropped out of high school. Not wanting to be a deadbeat I went to job corps in June of 1999 to try and make something of myself. I returned to Minnesota and got a job as a tree trimmer.

In the summer of 2002 Diana and I reconnected. It was like it was when we were in high school. Those same exciting feelings of nervousness, anxiousness, and feeling love-sick when apart.

We became inseparable and in 2003 our second daughter was born. I was going to make sure that I was not a dead beat father. Unfortunately the small community we lived in offered few, if any, job opportunities and I became a stay at home dad.

I eventually got employed with Diana's brothers. Later I would work with my father earning an apprenticeship as a millwright. Due to union disagreements and shut downs, this opportunity was put on hold.

Finally I achieved full-time employment at the Thief River Falls Casino and Waterpark, starting as a pool attendant. Within this time, our third daughter was born and our lives seemed to be doing okay.

The night of July 6, 2004 I was hanging out with an old high school friend. As the evening progressed, we started out drinking, and then began using marijuana and meth. The last thing I recall from that night was sitting out in my car swigging on a bottle of hard liquor and listening to music. I was so intoxicated I don't even recall what we were drinking.

I was convicted of 3rd degree CSC, with a stay of 18 months and supervised probation with all

requirements.

In 2005, I absconded from probation and was arrested on a warrant in 2006. The remaining time on my stayed sentence was executed and I served 6 months in the St. Cloud Department of Corrections. In 2007 I was petitioned for pre-crime life-sentence—civil commitment.

I was never charged with a crime for the sexual relationship between Diana and I. How could I? We consented even though we were minors. And our parents, teachers and friends encouraged and supported our relationship.

I have had to remove myself from writing this as I have not had the opportunity to properly grieve my late wife's unexpected passing at the vibrant age of 30.

This is solely due to the Minnesota Gulag administration and clinical denying my request to attend my late wife's wake and funeral. The following are facts of what took place:

July 2nd-7th, 2014 I submitted numerous request to Gemma Watson [Primary therapist Allison Collins was absent]. Submitted request to 1-C CRC Jesse Walsh to learn the process for request of a Death Bed/Death Related Visit. Submitted request for gratis call(s). Submitted request for Pipe and Smudge ceremony concerning loss of loved one – grieving ceremony, asked for several Native American clients to be present (drum singers), to sing ceremonial songs and for mental, emotional and spiritual support. Submitted request to Blake Carey for request of barber for haircut as is tradition in the event of the loss of a loved one. Submitted request to Clinical/CRC/OD/AGS concerning contact information for family. Submitted request stating time and place of wake. Submitted request asking for the presence of my mother and mother-in-law at the wake, expressing it is not Ojibwe tradition to mourn the loss of a loved one alone, as well as expressing that I could provide support and comfort to my mother and mother-in-law as well. Submitted request to provide and gain clarification as to why I was being denied transport based on lack of documentation of marriage.

July 7th, 2014 [approx. 12/12:30 pm] was told verbally by Jesse Walsh, standing beside of 1-C staff desk, with 1-C Security counselors present behind desk that all my requests had been approved, as far as bringing my hand drum, eagle feather and memorial books I had written for my children and family; as well as indicating that I was approved for transport and that I would be going out sometime tomorrow – {exact time not disclosed for security purposes}. I asked if he had heard anything pertaining to getting a barber in to cut my hair, that I preferred to get it cut rather than a client cut it. I'd indicated that I submitted request to Blake Carey, Mr. Walsh said he would look into it and get back to me. Mr. Walsh also indicated that unfortunately my mother and mother-in-law could not be present due to me not being in Phase three of treatment.

On July 7th, 2014, approximately 4:20 pm I was called into a meeting with Kevin Carlson and Jesse Walsh. Mr. Walsh indicated that there had been an unforeseen 'hic up'. Mr. Walsh stated that Troy Basaraba was not able to establish a connection or any documentation that Diana and I were married and also stated that "there must be some other reason you wanna go down on transport." I ignored the confusing disheartening comment and rather attempted to explain the sacred and private process to an Ojibwe Traditional marriage.

Mr. Carlson indicated that all they needed was some clarification and that they already knew the place of the wake. So with what I provided they will take that back to Mr. Basaraba.

July 7th, 2014, Ms.. Keiko asked if I was going to cut my hair and what client was going to cut it? I was confused by her question but stated that I had submitted request to Mr. Carey asking for the barber to come in. Ms.. Keiko indicated that she would contact him and get back to me. Later Ms.. Keiko found me and stated that the barber could not make it in but that I was approved to cut my own hair if I liked. Submitted request to S.C. Ms.. Keiko with attached: Please review US CODE ANN. Title 25 Chapter 10 § 371. Descent of land.

July 7th, 2014 approx. 9:15/9:20 pm Kevin Carlson called me to the 1-C Staff desk and asked if anyone had met with me yet? Mr. Carlson seemed concerned which immediately ignited the confusion, fear and frustration concerning if I was denied to attend the private wake. Mr. Carlson indicated that people were angry asking why they had said no to my transport. He asked if I said anything or heard anything. I shook my head no and verbalized that I don't listen to rumors, if I needed to know something factual I approach the staff desk and ask. Mr. Carlson indicated that as far as he knew I was still going on transport some time tomorrow morning. Before returning to the computer, Mr. Carlson stated that he doesn't make the final decision. My mind was still overwhelmed if I was going to be approved or denied, but the hope in me and by Mr. Carlson's comment that as far as he knew I was still approved for transport - slightly calmed me so that I could contact family.

July 8th, 2014 I approached 1-C Security Counselor desk and asked if they had known the status of my transport. The S.C. indicated they did not and that they would check on it. At this time I also checked out 1-C scissors to cut my hair/braids. 1-C S.C. Thomas (last name unknown) came to cell 207 and asked if I had heard anything about my transport. I stated no as I was braiding my hair with two other clients present. Mr. Thomas [sic] stated that he would look into it. I watched as he got on the 1-C staff desk phone real briefly and then I noticed the three first shift 1-C S.C left the unit and approximately six [A-Team] Security counselors came on.

I felt that something was up and verbalized this to the two clients.

July 8th, 2014, approx. 10 am. I was called into a meeting with Primary Therapist Allison Collins, 1-C Client's Rights Coordinator Jesse Walsh and Security Supervisor/Unit Director Susan Johnson. I was told that Troy Basaraba, Ann Zimmerman, and Peter Puffer denied the transport saying they could not establish a "connection" between Diana and I based on lack of info/documentation, that I haven't had any visits since being here... Overwhelmed with hurt and emotion's I then stormed out and found Mr. Marshall to find some understanding to the confusion and release of the emotions I was feeling.

July 8th, 2014 When I confronted Mr. Basaraba in the main big yard [also present was Steven F. Sayovitz] on WHO made the decision – and WHY. Mr. Basaraba asked if I wanted to go inside to be more private saying it was personal and was the main FACTOR why it was denied.

I answered that I did not want to and that it wasn't going to mean anything, that they already denied the visit and time was running short. I was upset. Mr. Basaraba stated that they (referring to Allison Collins, Primary Therapist, Jesse Walsh 1-C Client's Rights Coordinator and Susan Johnson, Security Supervisor/Unit Director) tried to meet with me to clarify the reason(s) for the denial.

Mr. Basaraba also stated that the decision had passed through the entire security line, through the entire clinical line - all the way up to Kevin Moser, and that he came in at the end of it and had little, very minute input. Again Mr. Basaraba stated that he preferred to meet somewhere private. I expressed that it was to deny me my rights to witnesses, I verbalized that in treatment they say this (referring to men involuntarily civilly committed) was my community and that we are to be transparent with them. That whatever he had to say to me he could say with them present.

Mr. Basaraba said something to the effect of 'victim' and I thought that he was referring to Diana's sister. I reiterated that nobody was even going to be at the funeral home when I went, that I would be shackled and handcuffed, and that Security counselors would be present as well as probably a county deputy.

Mr. Basaraba said it wasn't a family member or her family - that it was something – someone else, and I thought about it again – I said "are you saying she's the victim?!" and he responded extremely sarcastically, posturing up and squaring off in what I perceived to be an instigating posture and tone of speech replying "I don't know, is she?!" Attempting to hopefully provide some clarification to what he was misinformed about, I verbalized that Diana and I were in high school

together, that I was never charged, nor was I ever convicted of anything concerning Diana, and that we were both minors. In addition, we had been together for almost over seventeen years and had born three more children since our first. Additionally, we were traditionally married.

I became overwhelmed with emotion again and quickly removed myself from the situation with another client beside me. I felt and believed that Mr. Basaraba's defensive posture and sarcastic demeaning tone was an attempt to instigate me to become physically assaultive. There were numerous clients present at the time the conversation took place, as well as Mr. Sayovitz.

A year later I lost my mother to cancer. The Minnesota Gulag denied me to go to my mother's wake/funeral as well. Claiming that I had an opportunity to see her before she died at a deathbed visit.

Then stating that not enough time had elapsed between the death bed visit and her funeral. Later, prior to a television news interview, Minnesota Gulag admin claimed it wasn't due to time between my mother's deathbed visit and her funeral, but alleged that it was due to me not being "progressed" far enough in the program. [RJH]

Drop Testimony

Max Pain: Minimal Health Care For Max Gain

“All the men must be fed, sheltered and treated in such a way that as to exploit them to the highest possible extent at the lowest possible expenditure.”

– Fritz Sauckel, Adolf Hitler's Chief Recruiter of slave labor during World War II (The National Archives of the United States DVD, Topics-ent.com, Disk 2, Track 2, 43:43 – 43:50)

“[Max]... is reminded that he does not have any limitations... Please work with vocational regarding your job.”

– Nursing Staff

“...I was told not to put my health before treatment. Medical comes second.”

– “Max,” Man living at the Gulag

The following is a very brief description of what many men at the Minnesota Gulag go through on a regular basis. This man was not comfortable sharing his name. “Retaliation is real here,” he says. For this reason, we will call him Max. If you would like to know who he is, ask and I will talk to him about whether he is comfortable releasing his name.

Max came from DOC with Depends (adult undergarments). However, when Max came to this facility, staff discontinued them. On January 14, 2020 Max wrote a Client Medical Request to the nursing staff. It stated, “...having anal leakage due to stomach issues (bowel issues) I am getting fluids on my clothes 8 times a day. Do not have enough clothes to change into. Please look into getting me large pull-ups.” The response came from a nurse “Riley” on January 15, 2020 and said, “Your diagnosis do not necessarily imply that you need incontinent products. You have a tentative appointment on 2-4-2020 with your NP to follow up on your diabetes. Please discuss this matter with your NP.” Max was forced to lay in his anal leakage for 3 weeks.

Max has multiple health issues. He has neuropathy in his hands and feet. They are numb and he has a hard time walking. Max also has “colitis” and “proctitis” and ulcers in his intestines and his rectum. He also has Diabetic Paralysis, a condition that does not allow Max’s bowels to function, unless he takes Lactolos, a prescription laxative for Diabetic Paralysis. Max has had his current issues for at least the last 8 years and has been hospitalized repeatedly.

When Max arrived at the facility, the staff discontinued his Lactolos, the medication he needs to have bowel movements. Soon after they took away his medication, Max was in so much pain that those at the desk finally called medical services. However, nursing staff would not let him see a doctor. 9 days later, Max had yet to pass a bowel movement – unless you count the blood. On February 7, 2020, Max – still not using the bathroom – was told by nursing staff, “as long as your passing blood, you won’t die.”

By February 12, 2020 Max had 13 days without having a bowel movement. He was rushed to the hospital and given pain medications and 4 enemas. He was prescribed a few bottles of Mag Citrate, and Meralax. After leaving the hospital, Max weighed 27 pounds less. He had dodged a bullet, until he came back to the facility and the nurse told him, “I hope the NP orders your meds. It’s up to her.”

For two weeks before Max finally got to the hospital, Max had been calling his family and a lawyer, trying to get help. His dad eventually made contact with a counsel woman from Princeton MN, Sandra Erickson, who called Michael Woods, the Ombudsman for the Gulag. Woods then called the facility yesterday, on February 12, 2020, the same day Max finally went to the hospital. It’s not that Max was not sick. He wasn’t making all of this up and just trying to be difficult. It also wasn’t because his insurance could not cover Max’s medical issues. It’s simply that facility staff didn’t want to treat Max. It wasn’t until Max finally got enough people involved, that staff was forced to do something.

On December 13, 2019, Max filled out a number of "Client Request for Reasonable Modification" forms asking to have someone help him make his bed and clean his room. This kind of service can be done by certain clients that volunteer for such tasks. In the requests, Max tells staff that he has "severe back pain, asthma, neuropathy, and a Super-Pubic catheter" which bleeds when he moves around too much. Due to these issues, Max becomes dizzy from the pain and bleeding, if he sweeps, mops, or changes his linen. His requests simply asks for "...some help with cleaning room and making bed." Krista Gilpin and Nicole Boder, with their response on January 7, 2020, acknowledges a "medically documented physical or mental impairment," due to "Obesity, asthma, flaccid bladder with S/P tube..." and that the "...impairment limit[s] a major life activity..." . The nurses even acknowledged that Max becomes "dizzy" when he makes his bed. However, the modification plan was denied. The explanation: Max has, "...no physical impairment that would limit his physical activity (cleaning his room/making his bed)..."

On February 4, 2020 Max could not get his bed sheets together fast enough to make it to the linen department in time. Max received a Behavioral Expectation Report (BER) and was punished for "Unsanitary Acts and Conditions," for being late to linen exchange. Max was then forced to keep the "unsanitary" linen for an extra week, until the next linen exchange.

Max has a super – pubic (SP) catheter that should be changed once a month. However, Max had his last one for 3 months and staff only changed it once when the hose burst. Even then, they just tried to tape it. However, this was not possible so they were forced to replace it. Max has told nursing that he currently has a urinary tract infection. At the time of this report, he has yet to be treated for this.

"They told me," Max says, "that whatever DOC did is now null and void and all diagnosis from DOC no longer matter. Although DOC said that I'm disabled, the nursing staff claims that I have no physical restrictions."

Bandages and tape are contraband at the facility, even though they are absolutely necessary for a Super-Pubic catheter, which includes a hose coming out of an open wound on Max's stomach. Nursing has directed Max to write a request to his clinical team to get approval for the medical supplies that he needs, like bandages, tape and bacitracin. "My basic medical needs are not being met here. This is a very dangerous place for me," Max says.

All clients are expected to begin their work history cleaning showers, which requires a lot of movement and stretching and is a strenuous job of vigorous scrubbing. Max put in a request to get an "ADA job." The final determination: "[Max]... is encouraged to work with the vocational department for any/all vocational opportunities that he can partake in... He is reminded that he does not have any limitations other than the use of a cane as needed for vocational programming." Another said "There are no physical restrictions noted in your physical activity clearance. Please work with vocational regarding your job." [DAW]

DROP Testimony

Lincoln Brown: 26 years and counting

Hello, my name is Lincoln Brown and I am a prisoner of indefinite civil confinement at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Moose Lake (mosp). In 1992, I committed sex crimes at the age of 16. I was sent to treatment and failed. In 1994, the information gathered during treatment was used to support a determination that I am a Sexually Dangerous Person in 1995. I've committed other crimes, though none as serious.

The following is a testimony of my experience of the mosp.

On two occasions the National Guard secured the mosp when the staff union went on strike. In my 26 years here, these were the only times I recall a feeling of not being oppressed. The culture and operation of the program is that of paranoia and manipulation. It took a military force to liberate the prisoners of this program from the daily persecution. Those precious few weeks without pressure and stigma are an oasis in my memory, a time I go back to when the people and policies threaten my sanity in the present.

It is hard to feel worthy and whole when all the documentation and talk focuses only on my errors. The program has changed at least 3 times, erasing all of my previous efforts and progress. These records have been destroyed. I am presently at the beginning of the treatment program, now returning from a five year break. My health and sanity have returned and I must find out if there is any real opportunity in this iteration of mosp.

After all these years, there is clear purpose or intent to treatment in my view. It serves to control the minds of those who do it. Without this false hope, the indefinite reality of this confinement would be evident and this would be a very difficult population to control. It is a prison inside a prison. I've experienced growth and seen many people become healthier as a result of treatment. Some of these same people, like myself, languish with uncertainty because it repeats and never ends. Even while the courts are letting a few men out, I don't expect the mosp to act honorably and recognize what I have done. Instead, I am portrayed as worsening while my wellness is quite evident. Wellness in spite of the program, many here get it.

There is another prison inside this prison. Since our major loss in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, the MSOP is applying a Tier System. This exercises more control over a population that has lost hope. In this new tier scheme, the use of food, property and movement are not only arbitrated but used to distinguish and shame prisoners among themselves. Tier 1 (the bad guys) must all eat together at special tables in front of all other prisoners. Within a few feet of these prisoners the security staff are in an elevated observation post, literally looking down upon them. Tier 5 prisoners receive monthly "special meal" orders that they consume together in an isolated setting. We must all wear colored tags that shows our tier level. There is no sharing of food or materials with tier 1 & 2 prisoners; they must also lock-in earlier than everyone else; they cannot use the vending machines or play video games. Tier 3 is a "base" level of privileges that represents the norm before the tier system. Dropping to tier 2 is a severe loss.

Advancing to tier 4 earns the prisoner a "special meal" order; tier 5 earns an additional "special meal". Advancing a tier requires a prisoner to present himself before a unit community meeting. This meeting occurs while the unit is placed on lockdown, attendees are expected to be positive and non-attendees are locked in their cells. There is a long arbitrary process to advance one tier. A prisoner can be demoted any number of tiers (tier 5 to tier 1) at any time for any reason that the treatment team determines.

Strangely, all this manipulation has been accepted and systematized rather well. It's merely proof to me of entanglement. There must be a relationship of enmeshment for the dynamics power to progress. We really are no better for it.

There is a lot of false happiness. It is just survival. Hatred and rage is rare but sudden and real. When this stress comes to the surface, there comes a look upon the faces of the staff. It is a mixture of fear, anger and shame. I was raised amidst plenty of abuse and it's clear when the nature of one's care is exposed.

I do not believe in America. I'd rather be in the worst situation anywhere in the world. There, I would

have a better chance of a better life where I am not fighting the American Way – which is to build oneself on the back of another. No one is lower than a sex offender in the USA. We've been stripped of our rights, our lives managed and monetized. We are publicly viewed as non-human. This will not change soon because everyone is chasing the mighty dollar. It's what buys the silence of the gatekeepers and shapes the science of a label. We as a country will suffer a general loss of civility before we stop hanging our fears and hates upon a new, imagined monster – the sex offender.

Over half of the men who greeted me at the State Hospital when I was 19 are dead now. At this age of 44, I conduct myself with happiness and energy. Yet just beneath is a profound sadness for all those who've passed away and for all those believing they'll outlive the odds. I'm especially sad for my captors. The only thing that separates them from villainy is not their indifference, class or conscience... but time. In time, the true story of their intent and actions will educate a future generation.

Here at the mosp we live in a "forever wait". These civilly committed people do not know how, when or even if their confinement will ever end. A life sentence or a death sentence are defined; with which a human heart may find resolve. In strange contrast, ours is an exquisite pain of absolute uncertainty.

My experience of the mosp is to be manipulated, stigmatized, oppressed and persecuted. This is what my neighbor, town, state and country stands for.

Minnesotans are clever and resourceful despite their culture of apparent niceness and simplicity. They hope to hide a horrible secret; hundreds of men and one woman suffering a torment most people cannot comprehend. Deep in the woods of Moose Lake and behind the gates of St. Peter are pseudo-psychiatric prisons. These are the deep, dark caves to which a society has cast their unwanted. Some of these cave people may never heal, some may never forgive the extremes of time and peaceful personhood taken. We've seen this before, only there are no obvious scars to witness. Moreover, who would believe this is happening in America, the land of the free? Some men are so deeply wounded they live in a literal loop, like fish, forgetting the moment before... forgetting any future.

Our humanity is now reflected in the Undetermined, a blind-fearful few who lead with hate. They will stand so long as the hearts of the true sit silently in their shadow. What we do unto any offender, we do unto all. No one can create harm any sooner than escape it.

Thank you for hearing my words.

DROP Poetry
By Matthew Feeney

Deaths

I remember the first time I died...
well before Columbus invaded America.

The gallows forever haunting
the course rope forever itching
(ever after I never wore a tie).

Another death in Auschwitz
it's very name now telling the story
but in my time, it was just another town.

The firing squad so inept
you'd have thought they were the ones
wearing the black hood.

I'll never forget the sharp of the needle
injecting society's venom
more deadly than any cobra

Old Sparky
soldering body parts together
and lighting my thinning hair on fire.

And now the longest death
is the one I'm still living:
Lifetime Civil Commitment.

Discombobulated

My stomach rolls
liquid electricity courses my arms
spinning worlds still into one
silence so loud it hurts my feet
my teeth itch
my tongue wants to declare defenses
but mashed brains smell of turnips

GIVE UP!

Clamor and screech my naysayers

I'm too drained to answer
the melodic bats in my belfry
softly singing lullabies
What the hell am I doing here?
more importantly...
How do I find my way home?

Matthew Feeney is a former actor, currently a pretrial detainee at the Minnesota Gulag. Matthew won 2nd place in the 2017 PEN America Poets annual contest; and three of his poems were recently performed at PEN America's 2019 World Voices Festival in New York City. Matthew's work has appeared in dozens of publication, including *The Analog Sea Review*, *Spotlight on Recovery*, *The Pinyon Review*, *The Blue Collar Review*, *ArtLiJo* and *The Hawai'i Review*. Matthew currently the proof editor for the OCEAN Newsletter.

How to Change a Law Through the Democratic Process

To change a law, start by doing some research, finding the right level of government to approach (local, state or federal), and looking into pending legislation. You might be able to write a draft of the law yourself, or you might need the support of your state or national legislator. It's a lot easier to change local of state law than on the federal level, but there are possibilities for taking action at any level.

1. Discover an issue that you are passionate about. It can be small – trying to get people to clean up after their animals, for example – or larger – trying to eliminate the sales tax on groceries in your state. Keep in mind that the smaller the issue, the better chance you have at making a difference. Local government necessarily includes fewer people, and because you are one of those people, your voice can make a difference in a way that it can't among the millions on a state or national level.
2. Know what level of government is responsible for the law. Is it a local, state or national law? Then you might want to enlist the help of a Senator or Congressmen. Is it a state law? Then your state house representative or a state senator is the person to see. Finally, if the law is a county or two ordinance seek out the local councilor, supervisor, mayor, or county executive.
3. Go to community meetings if you can't file a referendum. This is a way for you to bring up your issue to local lawmakers. Check your city to see when there are meetings for constituents to bring up issues. You usually have a limited time to speak, so be prepared and be professional. You might have to go to many meetings before people begin to take you seriously, but this is an important step.
4. Research state, federal members. Look at their websites. See what kinds of laws they have promoted in the past, and if yours might fit in. If you are going to change a state law, you need support from someone in the state legislature. Choose state members from your district or one you think will be sympathetic to your cause.
5. Meet with your chosen lawmaker. Tell them about your pattern of attending community meetings. Lay out your ideas for a law change. Bring copies of your proposed changes to share with the lawmaker. Ask their opinion on the feasibility of your goals. Listen to their suggestions. If they say that they need a petition with signatures from citizens showing support for your idea (probably at least 5000 signatures), that's your next step.
6. Wait for the lawmakers to take action. Once you have presented the law and anything else they have asked for (like a petition), you have to wait and see what happens. The legislature might choose to vote on your idea soon, or it might have to wait behind other outstanding business.
7. Keep in mind that changing a law can take a long time. It also might be that your law comes up for a vote but fails. In that case, you will need to do more work in talking to the legislature trying to get it heard and voted on again, this time with adequate support.
8. Try again. If your law doesn't go anywhere the first time, talk to more constituents, make allies, and do the process again. This time, think about getting the media involved, having meetings specifically about the issue, and put ucodeigns to help raise consciousness about the idea.

<https://www.google.com/amps/s/m.wikihow.com/Change-a-Law-Through-the-Democratic-Process?amp=1>. Edited by RIHD

Here's how everyone can track legislation/bills (prior/current/all years):

<https://lis.virginia.gov/191/mbr/MBR.HTM>

RIHD MONTHLY "Sentence Reform/Parole Online Petition" & RIHD Mailing List:

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-the-unfair-sentencing-trap-in-va>

Thank you from Ocean

We want to thank Galen in Virginia for his direction on filing a First Amendment rights violation complaint.

Thank you to Garnett for answering the phone and putting up with all of our questions. She is a huge support for us all.

Thank you Clint B. Clint was Daniel's good friend in prison. Clint and Daniel just got back in touch recently. Clint is out now, married to his high school sweetheart, and doing all he can for ocean. Thanks Bro!

Thank you Mac, who set up the Change.org petition. She has spent hours getting that thing up and running. Go to Change.org. Search "mosp" and go to "stop unconstitutional confinement and abuse of tax payers money" and sign up.

Thank you Mylady and Jim for all your prayers. Mylady and Jim are huge advocates for all of us. Stay encouraged men.

Thank you Jim K. for always being so willing to research for ocean and help us solve problems we simply could not do without you.

Thank you Ben S. and Ben O. for your moral support and doing everything you can to help.

Thank you to our families—especially our kids who should know their Dads are doing everything in their power to get home to you. We love you dearly. Stay strong.

"A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets a much as he deserves ."
-Henry Ward Beecher

". . . that psychiatrists are rather inaccurate predictors -- inaccurate in an absolute sense and even less accurate when compared with other professionals, such as psychologists, social workers and correctional officials and when compared to actuarial devices, such as prediction or experience tables. Even more significant for legal purposes, it seems that psychiatrists are particularly prone to one type of error -- over prediction. They tend to predict antisocial conduct in many instances where it would not, in fact, occur. Indeed, our research suggests that for every correct psychiatric prediction of violence, there are numerous erroneous predictions. That is, among every group of inmates presently confined on the basis of psychiatric predictions of violence, there are only a few who would, and many more who would not, actually engage in such conduct if released."

Dershowitz, The Psychiatrist's Power in Civil Commitment: A Knife That Cuts Both Ways, Psychology Today, Feb. 1969, {1977 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 22} at 47.