

## Feathers from a pillow case

First, a little story my fellow Union brothers and sisters:

Once upon a time, there was this woman, you see, who was so distraught by a rumor she had spread, that she decided to confess her sin during confessional. She told her priest how she had heard a rumor concerning a good friend and then went about repeating the rumor to everyone she knew. As it turned out, the rumor turned out to be just that: a rumor and not true. Now she felt that she had done damage by spreading this lie and wanted to atone for her involvement. *“Here’s what you do!”* advised the priest, *“Go and get yourself a down pillow and a knife. At night, go to the rooftop of your building and cut a hole in that pillow. Then, release all the feathers from that pillow and scatter them to the four winds to atone for your wrongdoing. When you’ve accomplished this task, come and see me! Can you do that?”* The woman did as the priest asked and the following day, she returned to the priest to report that she had completed her atonement. *“Oh no!”* said the priest *“That was not your atonement! There’s one more task that you need to accomplish if it is atonement that you are looking for!”* The woman was desperate to repair the damage she had done and stated *“Anything! Ask me to do anything and I will do it!”*

*“Excellent!”* exclaimed the priest. *“Now go out and collect each and every feather that came from that pillow and return them to me for your atonement!”* The woman, of course, stated that it was impossible because the feathers had now been dispersed throughout the city and lost forever.

“And that……” stated the priest, are what rumors end up becoming!”

“Feathers! Feathers from a pillow case! Once released, they spread like a wildfire with no hope of ever recovering them!”

End of story. Lesson learned.

As dedicated employees of the department of corrections, yearly training reinforces the big fat “NO NO” it is to spread false information and you should all be proud of your determination to prevent this atrocity from occurring during your watch and so the purpose and message behind this story is obviously not directed at you but to those who forget their manners and indulge in such amateurish and uncouth behavior.

Just this past week, it appears that some rotten apples have perpetuated some story concerning a planned “Brown out” and the rumor, like feathers from a pillowcase, spread so fast that many from both high and low fell for it.

Shameful!

Let us get on the same page, shall we, and show some solidarity and pride and put to rest this cadaver from rumors of days old.

We, as dedicated employees of the department of corrections, are first and foremost, loyal and protective of our number one client: The Public. We would never, ever, endanger them in any manner to include leaving them exposed to the breach of security that a “Brown out” would

tragically produce. Any such talk, either past or present, has never been the consensus view for the professionals that represent the majority of the population, of this life, that we have chosen.

And to those who contemplate and infect others with this unprofessional attitude, please stop.

It's getting old.

Let us affirm, together, as a unified whole: as a family: as a true Union: that we do not need to engage in such disastrous behavior to make this department "whole" once again to achieve what is right and just for what we do.

Let us show anyone who engages in such rumors from this moment on, that we do not walk away from problems: we walk towards them.

We walk towards them and confront them with professional logic, policy and solidarity.

Now, as for those feathers already out there: don't worry about them.

Whoever sent them, is standing on some rooftop.....alone.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

Carlos Garcia

Executive Grievance Coordinator