

Opinion: Views & commentary from around the community

Matthew Hattley Our Final Q&A...

What are prisoners allowed to purchase for themselves in regards to clothing?

We are allowed to purchase a variety of items: Shirts (polo, dress, etc), sweaters, shorts and sweat suits. We are also permitted to purchase bath robes, slippers, underwear, baseball caps, knit and/or wool hats, scarves, gloves, Army field jackets and footwear (boots and sneakers). We can purchase those items directly through an approved vendor or our family can purchase them and either mail them to us or bring them up on a visit.

What, if any, are the regulations surrounding the clothing?

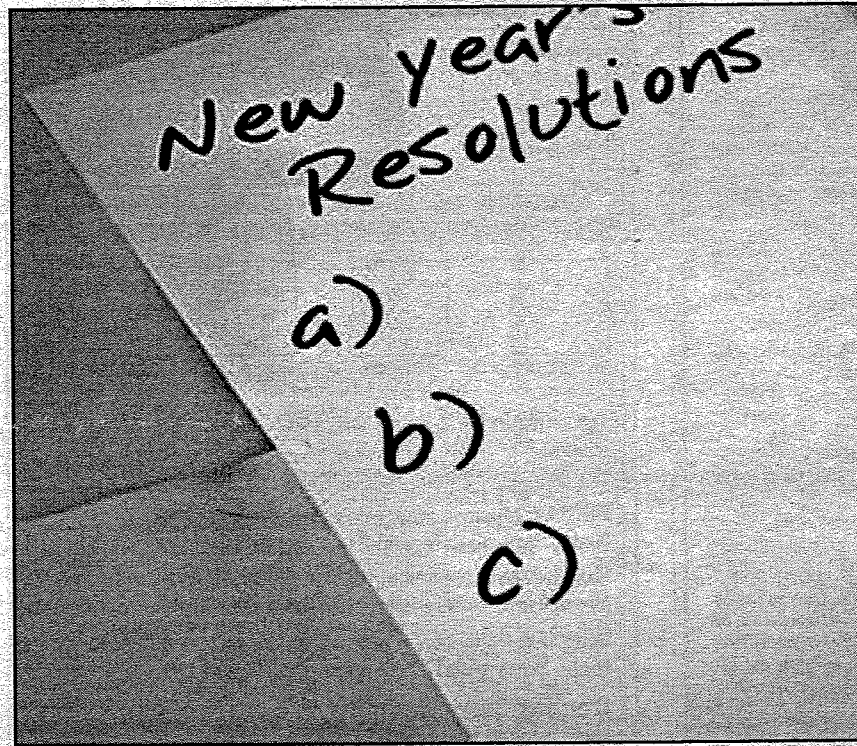
We are not allowed to receive the following colors: blue, black, gray or orange since security staff wears such colors. However, knit wool hats, gloves and socks can be purchased in black. All items, excluding sneakers, are required to be in "solid" colors, no patterns or multi colored allowed. They cannot exceed a maximum of \$50 per item. Hooded sweatshirts are no longer permitted due to security concerns. There is also a limit on each specific item we possess (e.g. two sweatshirts and a total of four footwear). A store receipt must accompany all items.

What do you think about restrictions on possession of firearms?

First of all, as a man convicted of a felony I can no longer legally possess firearms. However I do believe there should be strict restrictions and guidelines regarding such. Specifically, when purchasing any type of firearm in America, an extensive background check should be conducted before anyone can take possession of a firearm. This needs to include more than just a thorough criminal inquiry — a psychological test for example, is strongly suggested (and one that extends to anyone else having access to said weapon in this particular residence). Plus there should be a limit of two firearms per purchase over any six month period. But please understand that none of this will stop crime or deaths from occurring since most criminals acquire their weapons on the black market, where there are no restrictions and firearms are in high demand.

Are there any female correction officers at Woodbourne Correctional Facility? If so, how do the incarcerated handle having female employees around? Do you interact with them?

Yes, there are female COs employed at Woodbourne C. F. Why would you believe otherwise? Just like in a normal society, everyone deals with the presence of a female differently. Some are delusional and believe ever female "wants them," while others go out of their way to hold their attention. Other incarcerated individuals simply enjoy having a constructive conversation with someone of the opposite sex, while others ignore them completely. I, personally, treat them all with respect because, regardless of their choice of employment, they are still women who are making an honest living, providing for themselves and their family. Plus I have sisters, daughters and grand-



Landscape Versus One's About Feelings, The Other

By Fiona Stafford

There is a big difference between "place" and "landscape," even though the words are often used interchangeably. The original meaning of "landscape" came from 17th-century artistic discourse. It referred to "a picture representing natural inland scenery" (as opposed to a portrait or a sea view, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*) and the term has continued to be associated with visual perceptions of land. Regardless of the scope of its perspective, whether small or large, landscape includes awareness of how the land has been shaped by human or natural agencies. It is not "wilderness." It is not "pristine." "Place" is more personal and multi-dimensional altogether. It is temporal as well as spatial, because it thickens with personal memories, local stories, history and archaeology. It's not just a question of how things look, but of how things feel to those who know it well.

Zipcodes and map coordinates offer precise locations, but don't fully distinguish one place from another. The feelings associated with local stories and histories become attached to particular features — triumph or humiliation on the school sports field; tender trysts beneath the cherry trees; the proud hotel that once opened its doors to celebrity guests; the house wounded by the fatal fire. The stories that can cluster around ordinary features usually remain invisible to outsiders, and even events startling enough to hit the national headlines rapidly become yesterday's news. People passing through see little if any of the life within

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Are there any female correction officers at Woodbourne Correctional Facility? If so, how do the incarcerated handle having female employees around? Do you interact with them?

Yes, there are female COs employed at Woodbourne C. F. Why would you believe otherwise? Just like in a normal society, everyone deals with the presence of a female differently. Some are delusional and believe ever female "wants them," while others go out of their way to hold their attention. Other incarcerated individuals simply enjoy having a constructive conversation with someone of the opposite sex, while others ignore them completely. I, personally, treat them all with respect because, regardless of their choice of employment, they are still women who are making an honest living, providing for themselves and their family. Plus I have sisters, daughters and granddaughters, so I basically treat the female employees the way I would like males to treat my female family members. For the most part the population will interact with them to some capacity without any negative results. Just for the record, the regular female staff members far outnumber the female COs. These women dominate the positions of secretary, guidance counselor, teacher and nurse.

How do you and others feel about the changes in gender relations that have taken place? Specifically, the substantial shifts towards gender equality in the workplace, and with each advance the angry pushback that has come from those who are furious about feminism?

I personally believe that if a woman is qualified to do a task, specifically those usually performed by males, she should be given the opportunity to do so and her salary should reflect such. Just because she is a woman there is no logical or legal reason why she should earn less for the same job. This applies to promotions as well; a person should not be overlooked and/or ignored simply because of their gender. Everyone deserves a fair chance to succeed and excel in the workplace. Plus, as a man who has been surrounded by males for the past 24+ years, I look forward to finally being in a room full of women again. (Smiley face emoji here) Yet, others in here believe that gender relations within this environment have not shifted one way or the other. Gender equality in the workplace is, I believe, very important; however, there has not been any noticeable changes in this environment, just like in a normal society.

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Heard Around Our

There is news, and then there's lots

In Bloomingburg –

What about that former board of trustees who volunteered to put up Christmas decorations in the week before the big holiday (and Hannukah). As former mayor Frank Gerardi put it, the community needed "some spirit."

In Ellenville –

Kudos to Marcus and Aroma Thyme Bistro, plus 75 volunteer elves, for the hundreds of free meals it prepared and handed out on Christmas for the 14th time. Talk about community-minded...

In Marbletown –

What was more interesting than Hillary Clinton's recent stay at Mohonk Mountain House? The various interpretations of the single image taken of her checking a cell phone at breakfast. Meanwhile, back down the hill in town, everyone's started getting used to no Route 213 bridge in High Falls for the coming half year. Give yourselves time...

In Ulster County –

Talk about battles for a new year... After a state Supreme Court justice refused to block the implementation of Ulster County's \$330 million 2017 budget last week, county comptroller Elliott Auerbach sued the county ex-

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