

Lock Downs and Monsters

By Clair L. Beazer

In a recent hour long broadcast on the National Geographic Channel, Colorado's C.S.P. (Colorado State Penitentiary) maximum security lock-down facility was featured. At one point its warden Susan Jones described the isolation of the penitentiary's inmates as part of a behavior modification program. Indeed, she then further described the main focus of the facility's reason for existing as a form of behavioral modification and her responsibilities as the supervisor of this "program."

Of course, as a measure of any purpose or program there must be a number who fail and those that succeed in having modified their behavior. She never actually utters what percentage that is, as any person proud of a success would, and with good reason. That reason is because very, very few succeed in a grim, draconian program that is based on an isolation that exacerbates every phobia, psychosis, psychopathology, and antisocial tendency already run rampant among them.

Furthermore, it would be obvious to any unbiased perspective that any behavior modification "program" that fails to modify behavior is an outright and abject failure. Moreover, one that magnifies and grievously worsens and increases antisocial behaviors that it is specifically designed to "modify" is a travesty and a behavior modification "program" in name only.

In addition many courts have found that this type of incarceration to be unconstitutional, and those of us unfortunate to be suffering through it can testify that is it both cruel and very unusual.

The fact that Colorado will now expand upon its hidden failure is outrageous! Yet after using funny financing to circumvent Colorado's TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) law, the state finds it must now fund this albatross to the tune of what will eventually amount to billions and is the most expensive, inefficient and ineffective program in the entire state.*

How could this be and where in the world would such a foolish failure see the light of day? Right here in the incarceration capital of the world where failure is not only rewarded it is now being duplicated with the soon to open C.S.P. II.

Here in the home of sinecure, base of the prison of the prison industrial complex, where Susan Jones is only one of the overseers and where the public pays...pays to put the inmates in prison, pays for the upkeep and millions in salaries. Pays for the duration of the stay, and if that isn't enough they will pay yet another pound of flesh when these modified monsters are unleashed back onto the public after being warehoused for years and building their frustration, anger and enmity.

In Shelley's classic man/monster tale, Dr. Frankenstein slowly assembled his monster piece by piece as Colorado now does on a much larger scale. Up here in the rarified air they call

it job security and Susan Jones in our personal Dr. Frankenstein in woefully misnamed Fremont County.

Mr. Clair L. Beazer

C.S.P. #49801

P.O. Box 777

Canon City, CO 81215-0777

* Mr. Beazer writes in a letter: “Colorado state in now opening its second such facility amidst a \$1.3 billion dollar deficit. I believe the reason why is because they built it on credit using bonds and in order to pay for the bonds, the prison has to be open and operating to pay those bonds.”

He further writes: “ Here in the lock-down (Administrative Segregation) I receive no earned time and good time is dependent on discretionary parole where 99% do don receive discretion. Colorado will be opening its new C.S.P. II in July even though it costs three times as much to house someone like this. Colorado already has double (or more) the national average of these types of cells.

From a letter sent 5-24-10. Typed by Lois Ahrens