West Coast
PRISON JUSTICE
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MAY - AUGUST 2002

COURT DISMISSES MILLENNIUM PHONE APPEAL - PRISONERS LOSE

by Sasha Pawliuk

We knew we were in trouble very early on. Ann Pollak, lawyer for the prisoners (the appellants) started her submissions to the Federal Court of Appeal by saying: "It's very hard for us not to think of prisoners as a group less meritorious than others - " and was interrupted. Mr. Justice Isaac, sitting, as it turned out, on one of his last cases before going into semi-retirement as a supernumerary judge, interjected by agreeing with that statement. Unfortunately for us, he didn't agree with the rest of her submission, which was " - and this should raise a red flag for us, as it is a likely indicator of a group which is politically powerless or vulnerable." So, while Ms. Pollak was setting up her argument under s. 15 of the *Charter* (the equality provision) on behalf of the prisoners, it would appear that at least one member of the three judge panel had already pretty well made up his mind against us.

> *"It appears to us, from the evidence, that having regard to the concerns about security and the fact that the rates set for the telephone system were set by the CRTC and B.C. Tel and not the respondents, that the respondents have taken the least restrictive measures consistent with the protection of the public, staff members and offenders."*
>
> *Mr. Justice Sexton*

On the 25th of April this year the Federal Court of Appeal, comprised of Isaac, Sexton and Malone JJ.A, dismissed the prisoners' appeal of the decision of the Motions Judge, Richard A.C.J. (as he then was) in Alcorn v. Canada (Commissioner of Corrections). That first decision was dated March 10, 1999 (see the January - March 1999 Newsletter for our coverage of the court below; the full judgement is reported at [1999] F.C.J. No. 330; Court File No. T-1945-97). In a nutshell, in the Trial Division the prisoners had argued that the Millennium phone system cost prisoners too much money to allow them reasonable access to their families, lawyers and community supports. Further, they said that this violated various *Charter* provisions, as well as a number of sections of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA).* Mr. Justice Richard dismissed the case, stating that he was satisfied that the cost per call was not so excessive as to prevent any contact at all between prisoners and the community.

On appeal, Ms. Pollak focussed her arguments on s. 15 of the *Charter*, which reads:

"15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race,

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August 10th Prisoners' Justice Day

by Filis Iverson

August 10th is a day set aside each year when prisoners and supporters gather to honour the memory of the men and women who have died unnatural deaths inside Canadian prisons.

On August 10th, 1974, Eddie Nalon bled to death in a solitary confinement unit at Millhaven Maximum Security Prison near Kingston Ontario when the emergency call button in his cell failed to work. An inquest into his death found that the call buttons in that unit had been deactivated by the guards. In the year to follow there was another death in this same unit, the call buttons had not been repaired. Prisoners at Millhaven marked the anniversary of these deaths by fasting and refusing to work.

What started as a one-time event behind the walls of one prison has become an international day of solidarity. On this day, prisoners around the world fast, refuse to work, and remain in their cells while supporters organize community events to draw public attention to the conditions inside prisons. Here in BC the cuts that are coming down from the neo-liberal government include massive cuts to the Corrections Branch. This includes the closure of 8 minimum and medium security prisons, including the possible closure of the only women's prison. Other cuts include those to alternatives to incarceration, inside and outside programs and services, Legal Aid, Prisoners' Legal Services and more. To find out how this will affect existing prisoners, the community and anyone who may find themselves in conflict with the law may attend the following Prisoners' Justice Day Events:

THURSDAY AUGUST 1st:

Joint Effort and The Blinding Light Cinema Present: Quiet Rage: The Stanford Experiment plus August 10th and Tattoo: Art Beneath the Skin two films made by The Lifer's Group – Joyceville Penitentiary. 36 Powell Street 8:30 PM, Admission $5 with a $3 annual membership

FRIDAY AUGUST 9th:

'ROCK AGAINST PRISONS' Benefit Concert, with performances by: KATHLEEN YEARWOOD, Che: Chapter 127, NECHIWAGAN and MANIK & FRESH COASTERS. 7:30 at the WISE Hall 1882 Adanac Street. Info tables and speakers. Donations at the door, proceeds go to local prisoner support groups. This is an all ages event organized by the Prisoners' Justice Day Committee.

SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH: 26th Annual Prisoners' Justice Day Memorial Rally Noon- 1:30pm outside the Vancouver Pre-trial Centre, 275 East Cordova St.

Speakers will include Ex-prisoners, Prisoners Rights and Community Activists.

Kelly White - Coast Salish Nation, Karlene Faith - Activist, Author, SFU Professor, Eddie Rouse- Lifer, Board Member of West Coast Prison Justice Society, Kim Pate - Executive Director Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, Kris Lyons - Strength in Sisterhood Society, Joanne Butowski - Justice for Girls, Anna McCormick, BCPWA - Prison Outreach Program, Joint Effort plus local performers Wayde Compton. This is a day to remember all the men and women who have died unnatural deaths inside Canadian prisons. Everyone welcome. Kids activities on site. Rain or shine.

SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH: 11:00am - 6:00 PM Prisoners' Justice Day

Programming on Co-op Radio CFRO 102.7 FM

Prisoner deaths from murder, suicide, and neglect can and must be prevented.

Prisoners' Justice Day Committee
P.O. Box 78005, 2606 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1
604-682-3269 ext3019
email august10@vcn.bc.ca
http://www.vcn.bc.ca/august10

The Perspective of Prisoners' Counsel - the Final Chapter

This is the third and concluding segment of *'The Perspective of Prisoners' Counsel'* contributed by John Conroy, QC. The first installment was printed in the Nov-Dec, 2001 issue. In the first installment, John discusses how he became involved in prisoner's rights and his dealings with prison bureaucracies.
In the second installment, John writes how the various media play a key role in shaping public perceptions of prisons and prisoners. There has been much distortion by the media of the facts and/or glaring omissions regarding the exact nature of the parole process and its attendant supervison. Due to the skewed reporting, many members of the public have formed an unrealistic view regarding sentencing and subsequent release under specific conditions. In this last installment, the use and/or misuse of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, or PCL-R as it is known, in determining the release elegibility of prisoners is discussed. The disparities between the required procedures in application of the checklist and the reality are examined in this segment. What Mr. Conroy discovered is that professional standards were not being adhered to according to the criteria and some professionals may have compromised their own ethical standards and the authorities (ie: the Parole Board) who rely on these reports are not qualified to assess them.

Eddie Rouse, Editor

What follows are some examples of some specific problems that I have encountered or heard about in the course of my practice in relation to the use one of these tools - the Hare Psychopathy Checklist or PCL-R.

(a) Harvey Andres

In May, 1994, I was appointed by the Legal Services Society of British Columbia to act as counsel on behalf of one Harvey Andres on his application for judicial review, pursuant to s.745 of the Criminal Code of Canada, of his parole ineligibility period. This type of an application is presented to the Chief Justice of the Province who then designates a Judge who in turn presides over the empanelling of a Jury which ultimately will decide whether or not the parole ineligibility period should be reduced. The Rules governing this type of an application in British Columbia require the preparation of a Parole Eligibility Report by the Correctional Service of Canada

When that report in relation to Mr. Andres was finalized in July 1995, it included a psychological report by one James Seagers dated August 25, 1994. Mr. Seagers was the “acting” Chief of Psychology at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary. This report was summarized in the Parole Eligibility Report and then the actual report itself was attached. There were six other psychological or psychiatric reports similarly summarized in the main body of the Parole Eligibility Report and attached as Appendices. The report by Mr. Seagers was substantially more negative towards Mr. Andres than other reports, including reports that were both earlier and subsequent in time. In addition, Mr. Seagers applied a number of psychological tests purporting to measure risk, including one called the PCL-R (the Hare Psychopathy Checklist). Mr. Seagers said that he had scored Mr. Andres and placed him in the 8th percentile on that test. This, he said, made Mr. Andres a high risk for general recidivism, saying that approximately 75% of men with similar scores will re-offend within 3-5 years after release. A report from Dr. W.J. Arnold, Ph.D., a registered psychologist, also with the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, conducted a subsequent assessment of Mr. Andres and came to quite a different conclusion than Mr. Seagers and specifically cautioned about the use of the so-called “actuarial indicators of recidivism risk” such as the PCL-R, which tend to focus on characteristics of the

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offence and are relatively insensitive to or ignore post incarceration change.

Given these differences of opinion and following my normal practice on s. 745 review applications, I determined that we should have assessments conducted independent of the Correctional Service of Canada by a qualified forensic psychologist and similarly a qualified forensic psychiatrist. Consequently I arranged for the retention of such persons through the Legal Services Society of British Columbia and provided them with all of the materials, including the Parole Eligibility Report and the attached psychological and psychiatric reports and had them conduct full complete assessments of Mr. Andres.

On completion of the independent psychiatric and psychological assessments, there continued to be substantial differences of opinion compared to that of Mr. Seagers, including a substantial difference in the PCL-R score calculated by the independent psychologist I retained in comparison to the score calculated by Mr. Seagers. Consequently, I asked the psychologist to do a critique of Mr. Seagers' report and to educate me with respect to that report and, among other things, to fully inform and educate me with respect to the PCL-R and its protocols and requirements in order that I might firstly expose any errors in Mr. Seagers' report and thereby limit its weight, and secondly so that I might be prepared to cross examine him in the event that he was called by the Crown.

On conducting this investigation with the assistance of experts, it was determined that Mr. Seagers did not, as yet, have his Ph.D., and was not registered to practice as a psychologist in the Province of Saskatchewan. Subsequently, when we obtained the actual scores arrived at by Mr. Seagers, some further questions were raised as to how he was scoring the PCL-R and whether or not he was doing so in accordance with the protocols.

After the case for the applicant Mr. Andres was completed before the jury, which included the testimony of the independent psychiatrist and psychologist, the Crown chose to call evidence in reply, including Mr. Seagers. Consequently, I cross-examined Mr. Seagers extensively pointing out that he was not in compliance with the protocols for the PCL-R in that he did not

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have his Ph.D. yet, and was not registered to practice in the Province of Saskatchewan. It also became apparent from his evidence in chief that he had been modifying the scoring protocol because of his perspective in terms of public safety and had not disclosed this change in his report, leaving the readers of his psychological report to assume that he had in fact complied with the protocol. Without funding to investigate this matter and without examination in chief and cross-examination these defects would not have been discovered. I pointed out that this would be particularly true in front of the NPB. Even though he had never attended a hearing he knew that the Board would simply accept and read the report without question or assessment of the weight to be given to it.

Ultimately, on September 22, 1995 the Supreme Court Jury returned and reduced Mr. Andres' parole ineligibility date to approximately 19 years from 25 years, namely a reduction of approximately six years.

That was not the end of the story. Subsequently, Mr. Andres was returned to his parent institution, namely the Saskatchewan Penitentiary where Mr. Seagers was continuing as the Acting Institutional Psychologist. On September 26, 1995 I received a telephone call from Mr. Andres informing me that he was going to have to continue to deal with Mr. Seagers who was continuing as the Acting Institutional Psychologist and that he anticipated considerable difficulties because of what had happened at the 15 year review hearing. He asked me to provide him with copies of the various psychological reports and curriculum vitaes for the authors of them. He inquired as to whether we could obtain the transcripts of, among others, the examination and cross-examination of Mr. Seagers. He also requested the data that Mr. Seagers relied upon as well as the Hare Psychopathy Checklist protocol manual so that he could show the Warden and others the document that I was reading from during the course of the cross-examination and to simply show them the requirements of the protocol. Ultimately, Mr. Andres began to experience the difficulties anticipated so my office arranged to send him the materials requested including a copy of the actual Checklist, Exhibit 17 in the Supreme Court proceedings, as well as the scoring completed by Mr. Seagers and the scoring completed by the other professional who testified. I also sent a copy of the protocol manual and the transcript of the cross-examination. I told him that this information should be used only in conjunction with their actual testimony. I found out later that when Mr.Andres went to use the protocol or manual to make his points, it was seized from him and he was told that for some reason prisoners were not permitted to have a copy of this document and that only qualified psychologists or assessors were allowed to have them. I disagreed with that position and expressed the opinion to him that he was entitled to know not only the score on his assessment, but also the basis for it and in particular any materials showing how it was calculated or how it was not calculated in accordance with the protocols so that he could show this to Correctional Service of Canada authorities and thereby limit the validity and therefore the weight to be attached to that assessment. I further expressed the opinion to him that he would be entitled to this material in order to process any complaint that he might have against Mr. Seagers so long as he was not using the materials for any other purpose, such as trying to do assessments.

(b) John Pinkney

Around the same time, I was contacted by another prisoner at Mission Medium Institution, regarding a number of legal problems. One of them that involved a complaint regarding the use of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist at Mission Medium Institution by the

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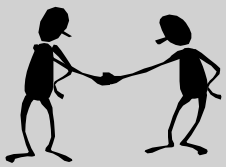

Public Legal Education Program of the Legal Services Society

which enables the publication of this newsletter.

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institutional authorities, including the institutional psychologist Terry Gardy. It was alleged that he and others were not qualified in accordance with the protocols. I understood from him that not only was he having problems, but also others at the institution were having similar problems and that there was a wide divergence in some of the scores on some of the assessments for different people. He specifically mentioned problems being experienced by a Mr. John Pinkney. I arranged to have a copy of the Psychopathy Checklist manual or protocols sent in to him so that he could see what the requirements were in terms of qualifications for the assessors and could then use it in his grievances or the grievances of others, to ensure that the protocol was being complied with and if not, to ensure that the weight given to the assessments would be accordingly limited to the extent of any non-compliance. Mr. Pinkney was moved to William Head Institution and made his own written application to the Federal Court. He had been turned down by the Board for Day Parole and asserted that the Board had relied in so doing on a PCL-R test conducted by an unqualified person and without .his consent as required by Commissioners Directives. The test results characterized him as being high on the Psychopathy rating. Apparently the test had been conducted on him without his knowledge, consent, or involvement and was based entirely on the psychologist's review of his case management and psychology files and his "prior interview impressions" of Mr. Pinkney. There were no other assessments on file diagnosing him as a psychopath. One earlier report from a psychiatrist suggested that he had some traits or features in this regard. The Board treated the reports as two diagnoses to the effect that Mr. Pinkney was in fact a "Psychopath".

...there were a number of people experiencing problems in relation to these assessments and confirmed that there were some that were saying that there was as much as a 50% divergence in the scores between different assessors.

The court stated "With respect for the opinion of the Board on matters within their special ken, there simply is no evidence in the records of the applicant or the respondent of even one proper diagnosis of the applicant as a psychopath". See **Pinkney v. Canada (Attorney General) [1998] F.C.J. No.261 (FCTD**). However the Court declined to give Mr. Pinkney a remedy and gave effect to a preliminary objection made by the Federal Crown that he had failed to exhaust his statutory right of appeal to the Appeal Division of the NPB. In this regard the Court relied upon two decisions of the Trial Division to the same effect, namely, **Fragoso v. Canada (National Parole Board). (19950,101 F.T.R. 131 (TD)** and **Fehr v. National Parole Board (1995)93 F.T.R. 161 (TD).** Obviously a much earlier decision in the Court of Appeal to the contrary, **Morgan v. The National Parole Board, (1982)65 CCC(2d) 216 (FCA)** was not brought to the Courts attention.

The Court held that it should not intervene unless there was clearly a grave injustice, which may not be otherwise remedied. The Court felt that this was not the case, particularly if administrative action was now undertaken to ensure no further prejudice arose to Mr. Pinkney. Consequently, the Court went on to review the matter including the definition of "psychopathy" and concluded as follows:

"These definitions differ, but an essential element of

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each is the classification of a mental disorder. There can be no question but that diagnosis of an individual with such a condition requires skill, knowledge and training at a high level. It is not entirely clear that the assessment of PCL-R rating for the applicant completed on October 20,1996 was intended to be a diagnosis of the applicant in medical terms, but it was too easily relied upon as though it was, apparently by the Correctional Service itself and certainly by the National Parole Board. This, despite efforts of the applicant through the internal grievance process to have the report discounted." (Supra para 20).

The Court further noted after reviewing the protocol manual provisions with respect to qualifications that:

"Moreover, simply on its face the Psychology/Psychiatric Assessment Report of October 20, 1996 which, inter alia, rated the applicant by the PCL-R scheme, ought not to have been intended, nor should it have been relied upon, as a diagnosis of the applicant's mental condition. It would be surprising if any qualified therapist with advanced training in clinical psychology or psychiatry, an essential qualification stated by Dr. Hare, the developer of the test, and by professional training standards, would purport to conclude a diagnosis in the manner this assessment was made, and the assessment may not have been intended as a diagnosis."

Finally the Court directed that a copy of its reasons be sent to the Chairman of the NPB and the Commissioner of Corrections and that they be told to give consideration to avoiding use of questionable psychological testing or assessments in future situations , involving the applicant or other persons detained.

At the time of writing in late July 1999, nothing seems to have changed in British Columbia as far as I have been able to determine.

(c) Ross Goodyear and Prisoners' Legal Services.

I was also aware that this prisoner was dealing with Prisoners' Legal Services of the Legal Services Society of British Columbia in relation to this issue. I was in contact with Megan Arundel at Prisoners' Legal Services and discussed with her this issue with respect to the Hare Psychopathy Checklist. Ms. Arundel informed me, that there were a number of people experiencing problems in relation to these assessments and

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In this space was the ad for Prison Legal Services. Earlier this year as readers may remember, the provincial government decided to close all the Community Law Offices (Legal Aid) across the province of BC. One of these is Prison Legal Services, an office shich specializes in administrative and legal issues that are specific to prisoners. A 'Request for Proposal" was put out asking organizations to submit a plan for operating this particular office within a specified budget as set out in the RFP.

The West Coast Prison Justice Society has been negotiations to operate Prison Legal Services. At the time of publication however, the negotiations are still in limbo.

The Solidarity Choir sang a revised version of
'Joe Hill'
a song writtten about a unionist who was executed by the state many years ago after being framed for the murder of an anti-union mercenary hired by the company to break the union.

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

The JHS worker is available with information and assistance on the following:

- *Services for Families*
- *Accommodation for Visitors*
- *Halfway house information*
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- *Street survival Tips*
- *Community based programs and services*
- *Social Insurance Applications*
- *BC Medical Applications*
- *Welfare rates and information*
- *Substance Abuse programs and services*
- *Counselling*

And other concerns

Visitation is provided in the following institutions
Matsqui, RHC, Ferndale, Mission, Mountain, Kent PC, Kent GP and Elbow Lake.

Please refer to the institutional brochures posted in each institution for dates and times of the JHS workers schedule.Federal prisoners in BC can call us at 1-877-640-1122

NOTICE TO ALL PRISON VISITORS

Are you aware that the ***JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY FAMILY HOUSE*** exists to serve you? We recognize that visiting a loved one who is incarcerated often means financial strain for families. If you are visiting from out of town and are finding accommodation costs difficult, you are invited to contact

JHSFV Family House
Abbotsford, BC
Telephone: (604) 852-1226

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confirmed that there were some that were saying that there was as much as a 50% divergence in the scores between different assessors. I sent her a copy of the Checklist and Manual so that she could use it for reference and research purposes in assisting her various clients.

To be labeled as having a very high rating on the Hare Psychopathy Checklist is analogous to being labeled a "Dangerous Offender" in terms of the effects and consequences of the label.

In my discussions with Megan Arundel, I was informed by her of the case of Mr. Ross Goodyear who apparently had a Hare Psychopathy Checklist rating conducted on him by one Diane Mawson who was described as a psychological associate working in 1994 at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (Pacific). Apparently Ms. Mawson has a Master of Arts degree, but no Ph.D. and is not a psychologist registered with the College of Psychologists in British Columbia. She rated Mr. Goodyear apparently in the 100th percentile on the Checklist. A further rating was conducted by Dr. Ken Lum, a registered psychologist, also at the Regional Psychiatric Centre, who scored Mr. Goodyear as low to moderate. In addition, a Dr. Jackson, also a psychologist working with the Correctional Service of Canada, but at Elbow Lake Institution, did a further PCL-R assessment on Mr. Goodyear and he arrived at a score that was lower than Dr. Lum's. Consequently, because of the wide diversity in scores and the impact that this was having on Mr. Goodyear's security classification and conditional release prospects, Prisoners' Legal Services had an assessment done by someone independent of the Correctional Service of Canada, namely Dr. R. Ley. Dr. Ley's scoring results were between those of Dr. Lum and Ms. Mawson, but substantially closer to the low/moderate rating of Dr. Lum than the 100th percentile rating of Dr. Mawson.
Which one was the reliable one?

(d) Peter Metcalfe.

Another client of mine, Mr. Peter Metcalfe, was to be sentenced on November 26, 1997 for a manslaughter that occurred when he was unlawfully at large from Ferndale Institution. On November 25, 1996, I received a copy of a Pre-Sentence Report pertaining to him. The author of the Report had attached to it a copy of a Memorandum from Mr. Terry Gardy, Psychologist, at Mission Medium Institution to Mr. Don Macdonnell, a Case Manager at the Institution. When I brought this to Mr. Metcalfe's attention he advised me that Mr. Gardy had come to see him for approximately five minutes at his request to discuss a previous Memorandum dated June 26, 1995 which contained a Hare Psychopathy Checklist Rating on him and other information that he objected to. He asked to see Mr. Gardy because the June 26, 1995 assessment had been conducted without anybody ever seeing him. He felt it contained misleading and inaccurate information. Consequently, as a result of Mr. Metcalfe's request, Mr. Gardy apparently attended on him for approximately five minutes in the segregation unit at Mission Medium Institution and subsequently Mr. Metcalfe did receive a copy of the July 20, 1996 Memorandum.

In the June 26, 1995 Memorandum, it was indicated that the Checklist rating was arrived at by a "review of the case management and psychology files and staff impressions of the a/m inmate." The July 20, 1996 Memorandum indicates that this latter Memorandum replaces the former Memorandum of June 26, 1995 and it also notes that the review of the case management and psychology files and staff impressions of the a/m inmate was conducted with Don Macdonell on June 26, 1995 to complete the Hare Psychopathy Checklist rating. In other words, it confirms that the rating was done based on file material alone and in conjunction with a case manager who does not meet the qualifications pursuant to the Hare Checklist protocol manual. Fortunately for Mr. Metcalfe I was able to prevent the Crown from relying on this memo given their inability to prove it as an aggravating factor at sentencing under s.724.(3) of the Criminal Code.

(e) The plan for the future.

I then decided that I should buy my own copy of the Protocol Manual instead of working from the photocopy that I had used during the Andres' case. I consequently ordered three copies. It was my intention that I would keep one copy in my office and then be in a position to lend out up to two other original copies to others who might need to refer to it for reference purposes in

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ensuring compliance with the protocols. I intended to lend the additional copies to prisoners having these specific problems, to paralegals assisting them, or to the Prisoners' Legal Services.

I completed the "Test User Qualification Statement" that was required and sent them a letter stating that I would only be using the manual for reference or research and not for administration or assessment purposes. In addition I telephoned the company and told them that I required these manuals because various client prisoners were experiencing problems with people not complying with the protocols and that we wanted to have these manuals to ensure compliance with the protocols. Ultimately it cost me $429.34, representing the cost of three manuals, plus shipping, handling and taxes. I understood that there were others who were experiencing similar problems with these assessments as they were by then being conducted extensively throughout Canada and elsewhere. A high rating on the assessment has a very detrimental impact on the liberty interests of such prisoners in obtaining passes or any form of conditional release or even transfers to lesser security. To be labeled as having a very high rating on the Hare Psychopathy Checklist is analogous to being labeled a "Dangerous Offender" in terms of the effects and consequences of the label. However, as mentioned above the "Dangerous Offender" label can only be attached after a full judicial hearing with witnesses, examination and cross-examination. To be a Hare "Psychopath", however, one need only be a prisoner, interviewed by an untrained staff member under the supervision of the institutional psychologist or by other persons who do not have the qualifications required by the protocol manual and with no means of ensuring compliance.

Throughout, my use of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist protocol manual and a copy of it, was to try to assist my clients and ensure that they were not only assessed in accordance with the proper protocols as set out in the manual, but also that they were treated fairly in a procedural sense and in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice as set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Also to ensure that, at a minimum, they were fully advised of the case against them or the case relied upon against them and the basis for it in order that they might have a fair opportunity to respond to anything adverse to them. At no time did I use the protocol manual for the purpose of conducting assessments or allowing others to do so and I only used the manual and its information for reference and research purposes to ensure compliance with it and the Constitution.

(f) The aftermath.

It was a friend and colleague of Dr. Hare that seized the Protocol Manual from Harvey Andres. Communication took place between the Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Mission Medium. They discovered that the copy they each had, had identical written markings. Someone contacted Megan Arundel at Prisoners' Legal Services and determined that the copy she possessed had the same markings. They put two and two together and figured out that they were none other than my markings in preparing my cross exam in Andres. Dr. Hare was notified. Something had to be done. That I was trying to ensure that the protocol was complied with by the CSC did not seem to matter.

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Without realizing that I had in fact bought three copies of his manual at significant expense, he sued me. He is claiming damages for breach of confidentiality and unlawful interference with economic relations. He wants a permanent injunction to restrain me from further breaching his copyright and from unlawfully interfering with his economic relations by improperly copying and distributing the Hare materials. Essentially he wanted to stop me from distributing the materials to prisoners who are affected by them and cannot afford to pay for them. My sources tell me there are literally dozens of copies floating around that are used by staff. We secured the return of the photocopies I sent out -all 3 of them. This was in November 1996. Since then we have been hard pressed to get him to continue with his action. We would like to establish that the principles of fundamental justice and the duty to act fairly supersede his economic interests.

I was about to start lending out my purchased copies when I was informed that the CSC had declared possession of such materials (the Hare manual) to be "contraband". S.2(e) of the CCRA defines such to be -any item not described in paragraphs (a) to (d) that could jeopardize the security of a penitentiary or the safety of persons, when that item is possessed without authorization.

In the opinion of Mr. W. Black, Legal services to CSC, possession of this type of material by an inmate is contraband because inmates could use it to distort test results, which in turn could affect the safety of persons or the security of a penitentiary if they were released or transferred to lower security based in whole or in part on the strength of such distorted results. In Mr. Black's opinion such materials if found in the possession of an inmate may be seized under s.65 of the CCRA and forfeited under subsection 59(4) of the Regulations, after giving the inmate a reasonable opportunity to arrange for its disposal or safekeeping outside the penitentiary or after charging the inmate with a disciplinary offence under s.40 (I) or a) of the CCRA. Another possibility suggested by him is that institutional heads could prohibit the entry of such materials into or the circulation of them within the prison because there are reasonable grounds to believe it would jeopardize the security of the prison or the safety of any persons. A memorandum from Senior Deputy Commissioner Lucie McClung to the same effect was circulated to all Deputy Commissioners in March 1997.Interestingly enough Dr. Hare has also deposed that the dissemination of these materials to inmates could damage the credibility and potentially the reliability of the test because they could "prepare" for the interview. The only problem I have with all of this is that it has been confirmed to me by original researchers and by observation that the test is primarily scored on the inmates file materials, frequently without an interview or on occasion a brief one to see if the inmate acts like his file depicts him or is trying to impress the interviewer differently. Certainly a 1 1/2-hour interview, as called for in the protocol, rarely if ever takes place within the CSC. I am also wondering if this means that Dr. Hare's book, and the many articles he has written and published about the workings of this tool are also banned reading material by CSC inmates.

Conclusion

In my opinion, the problem with these types of tools was succinctly identified by Professor Ron Price QC in his editorial for the ***Journal of Forensic Psychiatry (Vol. 3 No 1May 1997)*** entitled **"On the risks of risk prediction"** as follows: "Those appointed to tribunals called upon to hear such cases are not qualified to assess the validity of the instruments relied upon, or even the possible sources of error. Nor are the case management staff whose reliance upon such data in management and release recommendations has become their assurance of security." At first he quotes from an article by Nikolas Rose in the History of the Human Sciences which points out the recent shift in the 'psy-disciplines" from dangerousness, which is a property of the concrete individual, to risk, which is a combination of factors which are not necessarily dangerous in themselves and how this has caused these professionals to re-code problems previously understood and their obligations in the language of risk. He points out how the logic of prediction has come to replace the logic of diagnosis and that this is a logic at which the psychiatrist can claim no special competence. Prof. Price says that persons speaking to issues of ethics, law or systemic implications are notably absent by design from conferences held by those practitioners of the "craft of risk assessment".

Addressing his concerns to the current practices of the National Parole Board Prof. Price most

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Claire Culhane Memorial Bench

Several months ago a person came into the office where I work. He was directed to me because he had been recently released from prison in the US and was dropped off at the border. Now he was looking for work which led him to me. After speaking with him for a short time, I discovered what his background was. He had been corresponding with Claire Culhane for a few years while he was incarcerated in Folsom Prison. Dan Germain said that she was the only person who kept him sane and human in the conditions of the prison he was in. Although he never met Claire, he felt a strong affinity with her and he wanted to have the experience of what she wrote about in letters. Being unfamiliar with Vancouver, he asked where Trout Lake was. This park is located in the East End of Vancouver and very close to where Claire lived up until the time she passed away April 28, 1996. He wanted to go there and see the park.

A few days later Dan returned and he appeared to be very emotional. He could not understand why there wasn't a memorial for people to remember Claire and what she stood for. It was at this point he suggested that a bench be placed in John Hendry Park (aka Trout Lake). The suggestion was passed along to Claire's family who approved the concept and the project was undertaken through the auspices of New Page and members of the Prison Justice Day Committee.

On Sunday April 28, 2002, a bench bearing a plaque dedicated to Claire was unveiled. This day was not only the anniversary of the Claire's passing but also a special day for many people who attended her Sunday pancake brunches every week. This was a time for people to become grounded to each other and share. I was always amazed at the amount of paper she had stacked in her small apartment and the number of family and friends that could pack in there. I suspect that everyone who ate those delicious pancakes packed with jam and smothered in melted butter learned to come in shifts throughout the morning and early afternoon.

The memorial dedication was attended by over a hundred people. Many people spoke and each had a different memory of Claire and the impact that she made upon their lives. Thank you to all who spoke and shared your memories. Photos of the event will be placed throughout this newsletter. Again, Claire's family, the NewPage Foundation and the Prison Justice Day Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed and took part in this celebration of Claire's life. Those who should also be mentioned are those people who were unable to attend for various reasons. Thanks to Sasha Pawliuk for her photography.

Eddie Rouse, Editor


CULHANE
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Musings From Des

by Des turner

Thinking Outside The Box; I.E.: Outside The Razor Wire

Naturally prisoners and their supporters on the outside tend to focus exclusively on what is happening inside. But what is happening outside in today's world is having a huge influence on the prison system. This article will concentrate mainly on those outside factors.

Loss of two great advocates for prisoners:

In 1996 and in 2001 Clare Culhane and Ruth Morris left this planet. Among the many fond memories, one stands out; both railed against the "establishment," but both were awarded one of the "establishment's" highest honours, the Order of Canada. The sweet irony of those awards legitimized forever the justice of the cause they espoused. It will be hard to replace those lost leaders; we can only hope.

Corporate crime:

Ruth Morris and ICOPA IX focused on corporate crime. Initially, a few of us were uneasy about making enemies in high places. What a difference just two years has made The June 29, 2002 Vancouver Sun lists the huge corporations who have bent the rules to fatten their own bank accounts: Enron, Arthur Andersen, Global Crossing, Tyco International, Adelphia, ImClone, WorldCom, Xerox. Ruth Morris estimated that corporate crime added up to $10 for every $1 attributed to individuals on the street. Now that multiplier of 10 looks more like 10,000 or so. Whereas the news media may have scoffed at Ruth's early accusations, now we have President Bush scolding the big corporations on national television for hiding a billion here and a billion there and hoping no one will notice. (Whether the jail sentences for crooked CEO's will match those given to the individuals who rob a bank is another matter). Canada has had its share of business fiascoes recently. The same issue of the Vancouver Sun lists the Bre-X fraud, the Nortel Networks and 360networks crashes, Corel Inc. insider trading and Livent's accounting fiasco. In simple terms, there is one standard for the run of the mill thief on the street and another for the executive in the boardroom. That doesn't justify either one, but the hypocrisy has never been so evident.

Almost total control by the news media:

CanWest now owns Canada's major newspapers and electronic media outlets. They require their major newspapers to print "core value" editorials. On June 17, 2002, CanWest's obedient puppy, the Vancouver Sun, ran Southam News' editorial entitled, "Anti-G-8 demonstrators a tiresome group of

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thugs." They would have us believe that all protesters are of the same calibre as the violent fringe who seek only to disrupt.

At this point in our discussion, we need to address particularly the importance of questioning the credibility of all we see in print and all we view on the TV screen and all we hear on the radio.

Because of the concentration of news media control it is arguably more important now than it ever was to question all news; who said it, in what context, from what background, with what possible bias? Control of news results in control of public opinions; control of public (voters').views leads to control of the type of government we elect. Control of news is power. Power can corrupt, and absolute power can corrupt absolutely. In an age where "spin doctoring" has almost become a profession, beware. To those prisoners who may be reading this, may we say, yes your freedom to move about is seriously restricted, but your freedom to think is still there; you have brains and you can use them. Take every advantage you can to learn and evaluate what is going on outside. In your enforced confinement you can't exercise your body anytime you like on the track or in the gym (if they are there), but you can exercise your mind and develop mental skills. Ironically, you may have more opportunity to think and learn than you did when you were outside and caught up in the "rat-race" of an unfortunate society. Keeping up with what is happening on the outside has a double benefit if you are inside for a long sentence; you won't feel so disoriented upon reentering the community.

Some examples of thinking outside the box:

More than one reader may be saying, generalities are fine but how about some specifics? Following are some diverse examples:

Following up on the corporate crime comments, about 24 hours after President Bush's stentorian call for honesty among CEO's, the news media reminded us that when his Vice President .Dick Cheney, was an executive with Haliburton, he (Cheney) included in his TV comments an endorsement of the Arthur Andersen accounting firm - the very company now at the centre of the Enron scandal. Hypocrisy?

Locally, we have an almost daily barrage of 'opinion' in print, on radio and TV from Michael Campbell, brother of our provincial Premier. One of his main themes is across-the-board support of Free Trade. That political gift from Brian Mulroney "is now more widely recognized as a step to reducing poverty;" in fact says Guru Michael in his Vancouver Sun columns, opposition to Free Trade is "an assault on the poor." Oh. really? Can we find a quote from a reliable source that disagrees? How about the editorial on losing jobs to Mexico, that said "...hundreds of U.S. companies, lured by Mexico's rock-bottom wages and lack of effective government regulations and enforcement, have shut down factories and relocated in the maquiladora areas. While American workers were losing their jobs, more than a half-million Mexicans working in maquiladora plants were joining the ranks of the most crudely exploited humans on the planet. The result has been conditions along the Mexican side of the border that rival any of the well-publicized disasters of the worst Stalinist regimes... As for the prospect of American workers finding new jobs in industries that produce goods for the Mexican market -what do they propose we sell to people who earn $27 a week? The fact is that trade is good for workers only when it is carried out side-by-side with minimum standards of wages, benefits, safety and environment." Did those words come from some left-leaning academics? Far from it; those quotes are from an *April 25, 1991 Listening Post* in the *Financial Post*, copied from the *Wall Street Journal* -newspapers with biblical stature in the eyes of the right wing. One can only guess that whoever wrote it may have tried to defend it against angry right wing critics with emphasis on the word, "minimum standards of wages, benefits, safety and, environment." Let's explore the "minimum standards of ...environment."

In Maclean's magazine" September 4, 1995, Diane Francis (former editor of the Financial Post), wrote about "Getting down to the business of business" in our globalized world. She said, "No nation can afford environmental restrictions greater than those imposed by competing nations."

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That means that if in the maquiladora areas of Mexico, children are playing in open ditches carrying sewage, Canada must tolerate the same if it wants to compete. Is that what we want? Of course not. But that is a consequence of so-called free trade, which is in reality a race to the bottom in living standards. And what does that have to do with the prison system? A hell of a lot. One of the perceptive things that a Canadian Justice Minister said years ago was along the lines that an increasing prison population had a lot to do with dysfunctional families, poverty and abuse. Where those conditions prevail, the prison population will grow.

One of the seemingly innocent - even amusing - ways of influencing public opinion is with cartoons. They catch the apathetic, the not-too-deep thinker who has only to glance at a drawing or two to get what well may be a biased message. Such was the cartoon in the July 10, 2002 issue of the *Surrey/North Delta Leader*: "The evolution of prison restraining devices." The cartoon shows 4 devices in sequence: shackles hanging from the wall. ball and chain, handcuffs, and finally a bouquet of flowers, with attached note, "Love, The Warden." Now, hands up, please, all those inside or outside, who know of any prisoner restrained only by a bouquet of flowers with love from the warden. But the false message to the voting public is apparent: our prison system is ridiculously soft on the inmates.

"Getting down to the business of business" in our globalized world. She said, "No nation can afford environmental restrictions greater than those imposed by competing nations." ***(Diane Francis, McLean's Sept. 4, 1995***) That means that if in the maquiladora areas of Mexico, children are playing in open ditches carrying sewage, Canada must tolerate the same if it wants to compete.

Another cartoon, this one in the July 10, 2002 issue of the *NOW* shows 2 views of a protester. In the first drawing, he is carrying a sign, "No more cuts to legal aid," and is reading a newspaper article saying, "Air India defence could cost taxpayers $1 million a month." In the second drawing he has crossed out the "No" and his sign now reads "More cuts to legal aid." But unless the readers understand some of the complexity of the Air India case, including the disagreements between the defence lawyers and the Attorney General, they will not realize that it is simply unfair to deny legal aid to, say, a prisoner facing an unjustified invo1untary transfer just because one notorious case involves a million documents and many millions in legal fees. Again, we have an apparently innocuous cartoon, which is designed to bias viewers against helping prisoners.

Recently the book, "Con Game," by Michael Harris, attracted considerable attention from talk show hosts. It is packed with anecdotes, some of which would have the reader believe that the inmates run the prisons. If you have access to the review of the Con Game published in the Ottawa Citizen, you will find that the book has many errors in fact. There are other ways to evaluate the integrity of the Con Game. For instance, on page 104, Harris refers to the one-sided view (my emphasis) of the P4W riot taken by the Arbour Commission. Madame Justice Louise Arbour, who went on to become chief prosecutor in the war-crime trials in Bosnia and other countries and who is now a Justice of Canada's Supreme Court did not present a "one-sided" report. Harris' accusation just makes him look silly.

We have no quarrel with Harris' claim that the CSC is unaccountable. But his theme that prisoners need more punishment is something else: "Society, not the individual, is somehow to blame for an offender's criminal acts. Touched by a bureaucratic magic wand, perpetrators are transformed from criminals into victims who are then entitled to non-judgmental support from everyone, including their victims" (page 144).

It will be self-evident that the above and innumerable other anti-prisoner barbs are

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hardening the public attitude toward our justice system. This bias needs to be challenged by letters to the editor, calls to talkshow hosts, articles written by perceptive individua1s, and networking with what we now recognize as the alternative news media.

September 11,2001

Inevitably, the terrorist acts of this date have hardened further public attitudes across the world toward crime and security. Now legislation in North America permits detention on suspicion, trial by military tribunals and police surveillance to an increased degree. While any crime committed by inmates of a prison always got headlines, now it is more so than before. Unfortunately for inmates, any act of violence within an institution is almost certainly a no-win situation, not only for the perpetrator but for all other prisoners as well; lockdown and higher security enforcement usually fall on all prisoners subsequent to the event. So a word to the wise inside: if you are one of the few who are contemplating something violent, think again. Forget it. This is not preaching; it's commonsense, which is becoming more important in light of recent events.

Before we leave the events of 9/11, here's an interesting thought arising out of Michael Moore's now famous letter written on the night of September 11, 2001. He said that the airlines were so concerned about his safety that they hired "$5.75 an hour rent-a-cops" as baggage inspectors. Let's think about that. Why weren't the baggage inspectors well-paid, trained persons? Is it not a fact that the "rent-a-cops" let 23 terrorists on board 4 flights with box cutters and knives? Were they there as low-paid (low-ranked) "rent-a-cops" because of the ideology that the airlines' bottom line was the most important factor; the government policy that says we must get said government "out of the face" of business? Could one or all of the tragedies of September 11 been averted if we had the level of security now imposed by government?

Objectives

This final heading started out as, "Conclusions," but was scrubbed because this discussion is mainly about recognition of some objectives and their active promotion:

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Exposing corporate crime:

When this matter first came to the attention of the Justice system, it tended to be dismissed as an academic diversionary tactic by friends of street criminals. Now it commands headlines and speeches from the highest offices in the lands. But mark our words, if there isn't a growing grassroots effort to keep it front and centre, it will quickly fade behind a multitude of cover-ups. One form of cover-up with the complicity of the major news media is to focus on street/terrorist crime by individuals while CEO's create or hide billions in their balance sheets.

Maintaining a healthy scepticism about news from controlled sources:

CanWest not only controls its major dailies, but it has "convergence; it owns many TV stations who are of course licensed by the government controlled CRTC. The David Black empire of community newspapers also have their own agenda; they appear committed to keeping the NDP out of any and all political offices.

Encouraging prisoners to keep up with outside news and think independently:

It is not unusual for a despondent prisoner to feel "nobody cares ...why should I ...I'm just going to drift..." But no matter how low one's self esteem may be, we all have some talents and a mind that is active or can become active. Even just keeping up with what's happening outside pays dividends. And education inside is something that the CSC should be encouraging. A study by Dr. Dennis J. Stevens, Director of Criminal Justice and Sociology, Mount Olive College, N.C., USA. concludes, "In sum, high quality education is the least expensive model of recidivism reduction" (Forum. 1998).

Countering the anti-prisoner publicity:

This is a job for everyone. It requires individual effort and persistence. But without it, the justice system will only get worse.

PRISON

Perspectives Cont'd from .../p1

national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

In the reasons of Mr. Justice Sexton for the Court (Alcorn v. Canada (Commissioner of Corrections), [2002] F.C.J. No. 620; 2002 FCA 154; Docket A-209-99) it states:

"On appeal the appellants (the prisoners) *restricted their arguments concerning the* Charter *to section 15. Specifically they argued that in implementing the Millennium Telephone system the respondents*

(C.S.C.) *violated the rights of the appellants under section 15 of the* Charter *by discriminating against them as federal prisoners and/or poor persons who do not have the money to pay for the additional costs imposed by the new system. The learned Motions Judge found that the appellants do not constitute an analogous group under section 15 of the* Charter. *He was not satisfied that the alleged discrimination invoked by the appellants was based on grounds relating to personal characteristics of the individual or group. He was of the view that any*

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distinction in this case resulting from the new system is based on the economic situation of the inmates and that the Charter *would provide no protection in those circumstances. We agree with his conclusions. This Court has held that prisoners* per se *do not constitute an analogous group under section 15. Sauve v. Attorney General of Canada [2000] 2 F.C. 117 at 198.*
(Portions in brackets added)

Essentially what all of this means is that certain named groups are set out in s. 15 of the *Charter* as being protected - people who might be discriminated against on the "enumerated grounds" of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability. Whenever a group not mentioned in s.15, such as prisoners, wishes to extend the protection of s.15 to themselves, they have to convince a court that they are part of an "analogous group". They must show that they are being discriminated against on grounds relating to some personal characteristics of the group.

At the time that the appeal was filed in this case, the Federal Court of Appeal had not yet come down with their decision in Sauve, cited in the quote above. Since the Court decided in Sauve that prisoners *per se* were not an "analogous group", it made the argument that much harder to make.

The Appeal Court similarly agreed with the Motions Judge that the Millennium System did not violate various sections of the *CCRA.* The Court was clearly impressed with C.S.C.'s security concerns around phone use, and with the fact that C.S.C. (called the respondents in the judgement) didn't set the rates that make the telephones so expensive. Again, here's Mr. Justice Sexton for the Court:

"It appears to us, from the evidence, that having regard to the concerns about security and the fact that the rates set for the telephone system were set by the CRTC and B.C. Tel and not the respondents, that the respondents have taken the least restrictive measures consistent with the protection of the public, staff members and offenders."

During the course of the hearing, the Court was advised that C.S.C. was intent on getting rid of Millennium and replacing it with a system that would allow for the use of a calling card with less expense per phone call. The Court was also told that these efforts had been stymied by lawsuits between the phone companies who bid on the contract and C.S.C. It would appear that the Court was convinced that C.S.C had done everything it could to correct the problem, and even suggested that it was up to prisoners to come up with a solution to C.S.C.'s corporate woes!

The Judgement ends this way:

"We are in agreement with the decision of the learned Motions Judge and agree with the clearly articulated reasons which he gave for his decision. We would say in addition that the complaints of the appellants focus rather on the cessation of the previous local phone service which involved a lesser cost to the inmates than the present system. That subsidized service was not an entitlement and its withdrawal cannot result in discrimination under section 15 of the Charter.

In any event, the Appellants concede that the Respondents have made the decision to eliminate the Millennium System and to implement a new system which would result in cheaper telephone rates for prisoners. However, we were told that implementation of this decision has been delayed by reason of

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litigation and because the new system is still in the developmental stage. The Appellants wish to accelerate the change but were unable to provide the Court with any realistic suggestions as to how cheaper rates could be obtained at the present time. The Appellants simply propose that the Millennium System be immediately removed. That would have the effect of depriving the prisoners of any telephone system at all, which would hardly be an improvement over the present situation. The only alternative suggested by the appellants is that the Respondents subsidize the inmates.

This appeal will be dismissed with costs."

The results are disappointing, to say the least. From where I sat as an observer, it seemed that despite herculean efforts on Ann Pollak's part, the Court was just not prepared to accept the argument. They peppered her with questions and then ordered her to finish her argument before the noon break. They brought down their decision directly after a lunch that apparently included a celebratory cake for Mr. Justice Isaac's last day on the bench. Again, from my vantage point, not exactly a sympathetic hearing.

So, now that many of the provincial jails in B.C. also have phone systems much like Millennium it seems that they are here to stay. At this point we can only hope that it's only a matter of time before the new calling card is ready so that the cost will be reduced…and that it happens sooner rather than later.

Perspectives Cont'd From .../p11

rules of 'expert' testimony do not apply. Most importantly he points out:

"Clinical records and correctional files, in common and demonstrable experience, contain numerous errors. Much of this has to do with how record keeping obligations are performed in institutional settings. Incorrect 'facts', and interpretations of facts, follow detainees through the years, as report parrots report. Where clinicians are called to testify, errors can often be shown through questioning. How is this to be done of the absent witnesses who compile risk assessments? The interpretation of 'facts' reflected in risk assessment coding sometimes strains credibility."

He then notes that reports are prepared by psychiatrists and psychologists that commonly incorporate risk assessment scores into their conclusions although their expertise is not in the methodology of risk assessment. In this way the "psy-disciplines" give their imprimatur to what would otherwise not pass the test for accepting opinion evidence as expert. It also causes these clinicians to collude with a non-clinical social agenda of preventative confinement. After raising the numerous questions that arise about every one of such risk assessment tools he concludes with a quotation from **Grisso and Appelbaum (1991-'Is it Unethical to Offer Predictions of Future Violence?', Law and Human Behaviour 16:621-33**) calling on the psy-practitioners to question the ethical basis of their involvement in this process:

"Independent of that which is accepted by society or the law, professionals have an obligation to consider the potential effects of their testimony about risk statements with high false positive rates, and to question whether the law's use of their testimony violates their professional ethical standards."

To this I say - Amen.

The West Coast Prison Justice Society was started in 1993 and incorporated in February 1994. The objectives of this organization are to further the application of justice in B.C. penitentiaries, prisons, jails and reformatories. Through our newsletter, we wish to provide prisoners with an open forum for ongoing dialogue. We will try to provide legal interpretations of recent legislation and current prison case law and to bring to the forefront the major issues which concern prisoners in B.C. We will also keep you updated with respect to current Legal Aid policies. We share the commitment to work together towards these goals.

Your responses and your suggestions are key to the success of this ongoing process. In order to be able to address the problems that you believe are most relevant to conditions inside the walls and when on parole, we rely on your questions and comments. We also wish to hear how any legal precedent and/or legislation is affecting you.

PURPOSES OF THE WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY

a) To promote the provision of legal services to people who are incarcerated in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley of British Columbia, and who are financially unable to obtain legal services privately.
b) To encourage the provision of legal services to prisoners whose problems arise because of their unique status as prisoners.
c) To promote the rule of law within prisons and penitentiaries.
d) To encourage prisoners to make use of the legal remedies at their disposal.
e) To promote the fair and equal treatment of prisoners, by assisting prisoners who face discrimination based on such matters as sex, aboriginal origin, race, colour, religion, national ethnic origin, age or mental or physical disability.
f) To encourage the application of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms inside prisons and penitentiaries.
g) To promote openness and accountability in the prisons and penitentiaries of British Columbia.
h) To promote the principle that incarcerated people must be treated with fairness and dignity.
i) To promote the abolition of prisons through the reform of the criminal justice system.

WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY

We would be pleased to hear from you. Please write, or have someone write for you, to:

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