

# STATEVILLE SPEAKS

VOICES FROM THE INSIDE • SPRING 2015

## PROTECTING THE PUBLIC, ASSURING INMATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND ENHANCING THE SUCCESS OF REENTRY INTO SOCIETY

By Gayle D. Tulipano  
Stateville Speaks Editor

Perhaps not since the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal, which came to light in 2003, has the American prison system faced allegations of unconscionable treatment of the very same people they are paid to supervise and rehabilitate. A stunning, but perhaps not so surprising, class action lawsuit was filed against key top officials, wardens and officers of a guard unit called the Special Operation Response Team (SORT), also known as Orange Crush, for their alleged egregious conduct while making shakedowns in some southern Illinois prisons.

The lawsuit was filed March 2015 by the [Uptown People's Law Center](#) and [Loevy & Loevy](#) on behalf of plaintiff Demetrios Ross (in Illinois River C.C.) and others like himself, who claim they were brutalized by SORT/Orange Crush at Illinois River C.C., Menard C.C., Big Muddy River C.C. and Lawrence C.C.

The defendants include Illinois Department of Correction's (IDOC) Director Donald Stolorow, Chief of Operations Joseph Yurkovich, Illinois River C.C. Warden Greg Gossett, Big Muddy C.C. Warden Zach Roeckeman, Menard C.C. Warden Kim Butler, Lawrence C.C. Director Stephen Duncan and over 200 members of the SORT.

The lawsuit stems from an April 2014 incident that occurred at the Illinois River C.C. in which officers of the SORT allegedly abused their authority during a sweep of cells, known as a shakedown. The lawsuit claims that instead of conducting the "...shakedown as a legitimate security procedure..." those involved "...beat, sexually humiliated, and otherwise abused Mr. Ross (and hundreds of other prisoners), destroyed his property, and otherwise gratuitously inflicted punishment for the sole purpose of causing humiliation and needless pain."

The suit also claims that SORT subjected



male prisoners to strip searches in front of female officers. It also asserts that prisoners were ordered to touch their genitals and use the same hand to open their mouths. In addition, it was purported that prisoners, while in painfully tight handcuffs, were forced to walk so they were chin on shoulder and genitals on buttocks with the man in front of them. This practice is so common that it has been given a name, "nuts to butts." Over the last year Stateville Speaks has received numerous inmate letters, from various prisons, describing these same tactics. Below is an excerpted account from one of our Menard subscribers detailing his encounter with SORT:

An alarming issue here in Menard A.D. [Administrative Detention section] is the continual acts of retaliation being permitted by staff against inmates. After the January 2014 hunger strike, there had been 3 A.D. inmates assaulted by staff. During the hunger strike, there were protestors that marched in front the facility on two different occasions. On the second occasion, several inmates were

written up on disciplinary reports and had their cells stripped out for allegedly hollering out of their windows.

Since then, the administration decided to place steel coverings over all of the windows in A.D. Not only do they block any view to the outside, but also limit the possibility of any breeze and more importantly, totally block any form of natural sunlight, something that is very important.

Within minutes of the last steel-covering going up, an Orange Crush comes running and hollering into A.D. to shake us all down. It was obvious from the start that this was not going to be a normal deadlock shakedown. We were given extra attention in retaliation for the hunger strike, continual grievance filing and letter writing we have been doing to help bring attention to conditions we are forced to endure.

We were removed from our cells and placed in two rows along the shower walls where we were forced to lean forward with our heads on the wall. During this time, one of the Orange Crush members paced back and forth between, making comments like "So when's the next hunger strike?" or "What, nobody got sh\*t to say now?" or "How do you like your new view?" It was obvious his intention was to provoke us into responding so that it could be used to justify one of us being assaulted.

Although we bit our tongues, their obvious thirst for aggression was taken out on an individual on the wing downstairs from us. Through the shower vent, we could hear some commotion coming from the shower downstairs and a very loud voice saying "quit slamming his head off the wall". I later learned who it was that had been assaulted by

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 2

*Hope...Redemption...Change*

Orange Crush. A few minutes later, we could hear others from Orange Crush outside the shower area talking. One was telling another "you are missing all the fun downstairs." He then asked "you know that bi\*\*ch?" The other responded, "yeah, I hate that bi\*\*ch." Then the first one said "yeah I hate that bi\*\*ch too. Well he ain't so tough right now.

We got him downstairs in the shower on his fu\*\*ing knees with his face pressed to the floor." I later learned who it was that had been forced to his knees. His head was held down for approximately 45 minutes while the cells were shook down.

What is disturbing is that two high ranking IDOC officials were both said

to have been present when this occurred and did nothing to intervene or prevent them. Yet these are the individuals who we are expected to entrust our safety and well-being to?

Once returned to our cells, we found, as expected, that our belongings were thrown all over the place. Those that had cellies had all of their belongings mixed together, such as photos, legal mail, personal mail, etc.; an unnecessary act done in spite. While reorganizing our belongings everyone complained of missing items. We believe they were thrown away because none of these missing items appeared in our shakedown receipts. These included items like ink pens, peanut butter, noodles, bowls, cups, eye glasses, etc.; none of which could have justifiably been considered contraband and therefore excluded from

our shakedown receipts.

Stateville Speaks has received several letters from other inmates at Menard describing the above incident. According to our readership, this does not appear to be an isolated incident. Readers from other prisons have described similar tactics used at their facilities.

*"The mission of the Department of Corrections is to protect the public from criminal offenders through a system of incarceration and supervision which securely segregates offenders from society, assures offenders of their constitutional rights and maintains programs to enhance the success of offenders' reentry into society."*

- IDOC Website

According to the IDOC website, the purpose of SORT is as follows: "The Special Operations Team (SORT) is a statewide unit that responds to the operational needs of the department during routine or critical incidents. SORT ensures the safety and security of inmates, staff and the public by enforcing the IDOC policy of

zero tolerance for drugs, contraband and violence within its facilities. In order to maintain the safety and security of all areas within IDOC, all or part of the following specialized teams are used, all of which comprise the SORT."

Stateville Speaks reached out to IDOC regarding the lawsuit. IDOC spokesperson Nicole Wilson replied to our email, stating "The IDOC has no comment on the pending litigation." ■

### SPONSORS NEEDED

To make a donation to, or to sponsor an issue of, Stateville Speaks, please contact Dr. Cris Toffolo, [NEIU Justice Studies Chair](#), at 773-442-4761. ■

## IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN HERE

By Angie Lopez

It just happened again "13 dead at Washington Naval Yard, recall, "Newtown, Connecticut".

To be clear: The majority of these mass shootings were by legally acquired guns...

Are tougher laws needed for prevention???

I guess we never thought about it that way, Which way? This way: Society has become the victim of the ferocious political arena!

You want prevention, well here it goes...

Politicians: I encourage you to use common sense. I understand the Constitutional right to bear arms, but "Do you really need a Constitutional amendment to kill innocent people?"

It just happened again "13 shot on Chicago's South side".

We've learned nothing from tragedies.... ■

## NEW IDOC DIRECTOR QUILTS Gladys C. Taylor appointed acting director

Governor Bruce Rauner had chosen a new director for the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to replace the outgoing, retiring director, Salvador Godinez. Donald Stolworthy of Arlington, VA was appointed to the position in March, 2015.

Stolworthy began his criminal justice career in Alaska in 1999 as an Institutional Probation and Parole Officer before being promoted to Probation and Parole Supervisor in 2002. That same year he was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Operations.

In 2005 Stolworthy joined the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) International Criminal Justice and Assistance Program (ICITAP) as a Warden Advisor in Iraq. He was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations for the Iraq Corrections Program.

In 2006, he was hired as the Senior Corrections Advisor/Corrections Team Leader by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) where he assessed and assisted in plan development for reforming prisons in numerous countries.

Stolworthy left the IDOC after less than two months. No reason was given for his resignation, There is much speculation that the overcrowding and disarray of the prisons may have been a contributing factor to his resignation, as was the potential, perhaps inevitable, conflict with the prison workers union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Gladys C. Taylor was named as the new acting director of IDOC in June. She is a longtime IDOC employee, having worked as both acting director and assistant director in the past. She was on the Illinois Commission on Sentencing Reform when she was appointed by Governor Rauner. For more about Taylor, see the May 2011 issue of Stateville Speaks. ■

## RETRACTION

Please note the correction in the name of the author of the poem entitled "Dear Readers" that was published on page 5 in the Fall/Winter 2014 Edition. The authors name is Terry Doll, not Jerry. We thank you for your wonderful piece and sincerely apologize for our error. ■

# FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another edition of Stateville Speaks. Just when we think we know how bad being incarcerated in Illinois can be, we get still another letter and know that we don't. Even after reading the lawsuit filed against IDOC and the Special Operations Response Team and reading personal accounts of the tactics used by SORT, we are astonished over this conduct. Not only are we astonished that this has become a common practice, but astonished that our tax dollars fund it. And we would challenge anyone to help us understand how promoting physical, sexual and psychological abuse helps rehabilitate, assure constitutional rights, or makes society safe. We will keep you updated on the lawsuit as it works its way through the court system.

As promised, we have presented the high-

lights of HB1310, a bill that proposes assistance to elders, the infirm and first time offenders. Though all should welcome the relief it offers to these specific groups, it does not appear to

*"...keep talking, we are listening."*

offer any sweeping reforms, as only one hundred cases will be reviewed at a time. Please let us know what you think. Is it too limiting, is it a good start? Is it just rhetoric or a thoughtful compromise? We welcome your comments.

With a new governor came a new director, only he did not last. There was a lot of speculation, but no facts. To be a fly on that wall...

We thank you for your wonderful submissions. There are so many that we would love to share with the rest of our readers, but due to their length, we cannot. Please keep them as tight as possible so that we can get as many as possible published.

While we welcome our new readers, we value are seasoned ones, many who have been supporting Stateville Speaks since its inception. We count on you to let us know when we get it right, and call us out when we get it wrong, or don't get it at all - it's your paper. Although we take donations from those that can afford it, the paper is free to any inmate who requests to be put on the subscriber list.

Thank you to Jason Adkins for his thought

SEE EDITOR PAGE 5

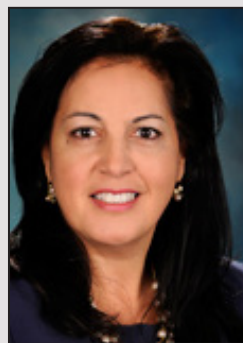
## HB1310, POSSIBLE RELIEF FOR ELDER, COMPASSIONATE AND FIRST TIME OFFENDERS

While HB3668 has already been shelved, Illinois Legislators have been busy drafting a new bill, HB1310. The bill was introduced by Representative Art Turner (D-9th) and co-sponsored by Representatives Linda Chapa LaVia (D-83rd), Carol Ammons (D-103rd) and Elaine Nekritz (D-5th). It includes a review and possible modification of sentences for elder inmates, terminally ill inmates and first time non-violent offenders.

HB1310 Summary:



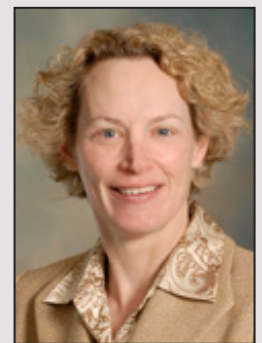
Art Turner  
(D-9th)  
Bill Sponsor



Linda Chapa LaVia  
(D-83rd)  
Bill Co-Sponsor



Carol Ammons  
(D-103rd)  
Bill Co-Sponsor



Elaine Nekritz  
(D-5th)  
Bill Co-Sponsor

- Provides that a committed person who is at least 55 years of age and who has served at least 25 consecutive years of imprisonment in a Department of Corrections institution or facility may petition the Prisoner Review Board for participation in the Sentence Modification Program.
- Provides that the Department of Corrections shall review the criminal history of the petitioner and the petitioner's conduct while incarcerated in a facility or facilities of the Department of Corrections and shall administer a risk assessment and medical, psychological, and psychiatric assessments of the petitioner before submitting the petition to the Board.
- Provides that no more than 100 committed persons shall be allowed to participate in the Program.

- Program shall include 15 hours of weekly community service approved by the Board.
- Twenty percent of the money earned by the participant in the Program shall be deducted from the participant's wages and donated by the administrator of the Program to a victim's organization.
- Provides that a person who is serving a sentence, including one who has not yet served the minimum term of the sentence, who is diagnosed as suffering from a terminal condition so as to render the committed person likely to live less than 9 months may be released on medical parole to a hospital, hospice, other licensed inpatient facility, or suitable housing accommodation as specified by the Board.
- Provides that the Department of Corrections

shall review first-time non-violent offenders to determine their eligibility for the Sentence Modification Program and to be eligible for the Program, the committed person must be a first time non-violent offender.

- Provides that the Department shall review the criminal history of the offender and the offender's conduct while incarcerated in a facility or facilities of the Department of Corrections.
- Provides that the Department shall administer a risk assessment and medical, psychological, and psychiatric assessments of an offender before admission into the Program.
- Provides that an offender who meets the criteria established by this provision and the Department shall be considered by the Department for a reduction of up to 40% of his or her sentence.■

# KEEP YOUR MIND RUNNING

By Manual Malave

All words are powerful – certain words always stand out to me, and stick with me. What I need from you is to focus on these 3 words (encourage) (enlighten) (inspire)! A few weeks ago I was reading this book and it stuck in my head. I don't know who wrote it, but I do appreciate good writers! Salute to you! At the end of the book it said "I'm here to encourage you/enlighten you/and inspire you"... so now I'm in my cell, 2/26/15, putting my thought together and it goes like this:

Something is motivating about those words! We don't even realize how influential words play a part in shaping our lives, every day, from the start of the morning, setting the tone in which direction we choose our day to go. Followed by our action, even in the midst of negativity all around, no matter what our backgrounds are – where we come from – or what race we are – we all have one thing in common; working towards a better future. We are working towards a better life for our kids, family, friends and all of our loved ones. At the end of the day we all are striving to be better people. It's about the quality of life.

If you feel like you can't see beyond your problems or whatever you're going through right now, this encouragement is directly for you. Don't give up! Keep pushing forward! Keep praying (whatever your faith is). Keep believing that your hard work will pay off in the end. Stay focused, you can



do it! No matter what you're going through, someone else is doing way worse than you and I. We are here, we healthy, we breathing another day above ground! We are truly blessed. Sometimes we take certain luxuries for granted. I just stay thankful-grateful-and appreciative! Don't complain about your situation. If you're not happy about your current situation, do something about your situation to change it.

Somebody spoke words into our lives to keep us on the right track. It's our responsibility to make sure our nieces and nephews, sons and daughters, everybody around us stays on the right track in spite of how we grew up. We all have a bigger story inside of us than what people see on the outside. Our struggles and the way we fight our



way through our problems help shape character. If some of my thoughts can inspire, motivate and encourage you, as well as enlighten some of you – then I feel like I'm doing my job. I'm passing on positive energy that was passed on to me. So let's keep it going! Who knew? Me, just doing what I love to do, what I'm passionate about.

Then it dawned on me, if you put your heart into something and you speak from the heart, an uncensored sharing of life experiences, regardless of what form you use to communicate it, the message will resonate with somebody. Then it's all worth it! Don't ever underestimate the power of words. Stay focused. Keep pushin' Keep grindin'... Make sure you encourage-enlighten-inspire and motivate! ■

son has to buy high priced write-outs (pre-stamped envelopes) in order to write home. When you send out a blank envelope with a money voucher it is rejected. Staff members pass out the mail when they feel it is okay, on certain days.

SEE SYSTEM PAGE 6

## THINKING OF YOU

By Jason Adkins

A legitimate question  
Posed by many kids today  
Where is my father?  
Why did he go away?

Did he love me?  
Did he leave me?  
Or was he simply  
just taken away?

Here one day, gone the next.  
In a world unforgiving  
who says what's best  
for my little children?

Fixing as their father  
what has been destroyed?  
No easy answer,  
just a big ole' void

Fully focused and determined  
to make this right.  
Loving these hearts unbroken  
with all my might

Brooke and Blake  
You're everything I need.  
So here's a big "shout out" today  
To show how much the two of you  
mean to me.

Love, Dad ■

## CONVICT

By John Steinbach

I stood in my cell leaning against the iron of the door. I felt the coldness taking possession of my palms and spreading through my whole body. I walked two steps and found myself in the middle of my cell. Around me there was an air of emptiness

I wanted to scream, but nobody came. I remained alone, alone in my cell, alone in the foamy darkness. I knew the moment would come when I would throw myself on the pallet and stretch my body into the world so far that I'd touch the edges of this city with my hair and reach far into the country with my feet...

And I fell back into the silence... ■

## THE SYSTEM

By Andrew Matthews

The system seems to operate without a care in the world--quick to pull out a gun and shoot carelessly. Within a blink of an eye, grievance forms seem to show this standard. Inmates write about problems that

the staff does on a daily basis, like taking inmates property! Institutions sell certain items in the commissary, and then when an inmate transfers to another institution he or she is not allowed to transfer with these items.

When mail is going out, a per-

# SIGNPOST

By Joseph L. Moore, Jr.

We are fooling ourselves if we believe just because we are serving a prison sentence that we are paying our debt to society. Being housed in a 6 by 9 cell 22 hours a day for x-amount of years doesn't have a restorative effect on the communities to which we are indebted. If anything, despite our criminal activities, our communities suffer in our absence. Our absence creates a void in the lives of our families and friends, saddling them with the burden of bearing an unfair share of our natural responsibilities. As moronic as it may sound, our incarceration only adds to the debt we owe society.

However, for those of us who have undergone the process of self-rehabilitation we are in a prime position to begin making payments on our debts. By mentoring young prisoners and assisting them in their rehabilitation, we are in effect restoring our communities.

There are several different paths we can take to reach that goal. I found that engaging the youth in open and honest conversations about our disillusionment with the so-called game, our regrets, our

dreams deferred, and our inevitable desire to cease to be mere criminals and gang members, coupled with our innate desire to get married, raise a family, own a home, start a career, and to be law abiding tax paying citizens has given many of them pause and caused them to think critically about their future.

Despite the "tough on crime"

rhetoric touted by many public officials, sometimes all the wayward youth needs is someone to point the way to a different life. For those of us who have already undergone the process of self-rehabilitation, we are the signpost. And it's way past time for us to stop resting on our laurels – college degrees, spiritual enlightenment, and elevated con-

sciousness – and descend into the fray of ignorance and dysfunction in order to assist in the raising of many who are unaware that they even need help. All I ask is that you choose a path and set out on it ASAP, because our debt is steadily incurring interest in the form of humanity, at a rate that is unaffordable to our communities. ■



## A PRISONER'S PRAYER

By Erwin Daniel

Lord knows I try to show the good he bestowed in me.  
I pray and pray living in this box but day after day there's no light in sight.  
Wrong is strong and right is a fight when your kids crying on cold dark nights.  
No role model dad left me with his sorry ass, now I have to fend to keep my brother's and sister's fed.  
My precious mother don't know what to do, I'm locked up in jail praying to you.  
Oh Lord! No shoes, no socks, no pen, no pot; is this my faith trying to survive?  
People say God don't put more on you that you can't handle, well Lord I think it's time I get a wheel barrel.  
I look straight ahead trapped in this hell, hoping and obviously I'm praying for help that's failed.  
Give a sign that you hear my cries even just to know that you're walking by my side, because of now all my prayers seem to be empty, even when people tell me to just stay with it.  
I pray to you for a better day and if nothing happens, I'll pray again, anyway.  
Talking to you will make me smile and the sun will shine away greyest clouds.  
So this is my prayer to the God above who fills my heart with a touch of joy.  
AMEN. ■

## EDITOR, FROM PAGE 3

provoking contribution entitled "Thinking of You." With Mother's Day and Father's Day just passed, it is a great reminder that a parent is a parent regardless of the circumstances. Kids need to know they matter, especially to their parents. Today is a great day to let them know.

Thank you to Arkee, for making his ironic, poignant cartoon contribution issue after issue. If it hasn't been said, we say it now; Stateville Speaks would not feel complete without an "Arkee". Again, thank you for tireless efforts. And thank you all for letting us be your voice...keep talking, we are listening. ■

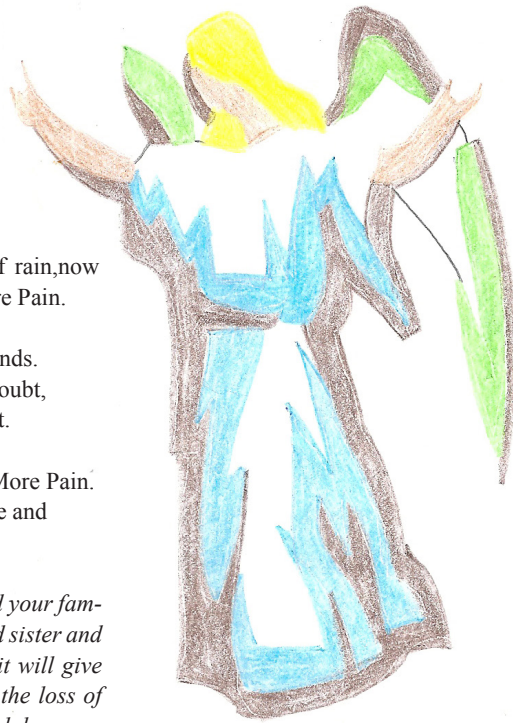
**Stateville Speaks is generously supported by Cynthia Kobel  
& the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation.**

# NO MORE PAIN

By Albert L. Fields

All the worries you carried from day to day,  
Are now in the past for them to stay.  
I hope you left with a smile on your face,  
because now you're in a much better place.  
No more fighting the sorrow of a day full of rain, now  
there will be days full of sunshine and No More Pain.  
Don't worry about us, those you left behind,  
you will always be in our hearts and on our minds.  
We're going to miss you for sure, there is no doubt,  
tears will flow and we will need to let them out.  
One thing we have to keep us sane,  
we know you're in a place where there is No More Pain.  
(Dedicated to his brother and sister, in their life and  
in their passing) ■

*We would like to offer our sympathy to you and your family for the loss of both your beloved brother and sister and give thanks to your heartfelt poem. We trust it will give solace to the many like you, who also grieve the loss of loved ones while incarcerated. Again, our condolences.*



Art by John Steinbach

# IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Beto, a dear old friend of mine, a fellow C-number has lost his fight with cancer. He spent 38 years of his life fighting for his freedom with the parole board, only to be granted parole by grace of God himself; he took the brother home. He died in Galesburg prison.

-Larry Kurina

*Stateville Speaks offers our condolences to Mr. Kurcina, other friends and family on the passing of Joseph Berto.*

\*\*\*

My reason for writing you this letter is due to my youngest brother Christopher Anderson being killed by the Highland Park Police Department at Highland Park Hospital on November 3, 2014. My brother was involved in a car crash along with his daughter and was rushed to Highland Park Hospital. My brother and his daughter were being refused medical attention and according to the news media had a shoot out with the police in order to save his daughters life. I want everybody who knows me, throughout the maximum prison system, to know that I'm all right and that my youngest brother was my hero, not through the act of violence, but because he love me, and his family.

- Lemar H. Moore

*Stateville Speaks would like to offer our sympathy to you and your family, especially your niece, for the loss of your bother Christopher in an altercation with the police. We thank you for sharing this personal perspective on this very high profile and tragic encounter.*

# I AM

By Corey Hodges

I am who I think I am.....  
that reflection that stares back in the mirror  
and see's the eyes of God. "I am a visionary"  
that shines so brightly,  
That my legacy will forever be legendary....  
I am free!!! I once was a slave bound by  
chains, blindfolded and carried away  
"But now I see"....  
I am "chosen", if God gives his toughest battles  
to his strongest soldiers,  
then I am Moses....  
I am equipped with the resilience to lead my  
people from captivity. "Let my people go"  
is what I scream to their oppressors;  
I don't condone violence, but I'm prepared  
to use my mind as a weapon....  
It's time to heal, so please let me be your  
medicine.  
I am gifted!!! And don't you know that  
"iron sharpens iron"  
So allow me to "uplift you".  
I am your supreme peace  
So follow my lead....  
This is dedicated to my brother  
Anaviel Ben Israel  
From your 'lil bro. Corey. ■

# THE BOTTOM LINE

By Jeff Scott

Face it. Nobody owes you a living.  
What you achieve in your lifetime  
is directly related to what you do or fail to do.  
No one chooses his parents or childhood  
but you can choose your own direction.  
Everyone has problems and obstacles to  
overcome,  
but that too is relative to each individual.  
Nothing is carved in stone.  
You can change anything in your life,  
if you want to badly enough.  
Excuses are for losers.  
Those who take responsibility for their actions  
are the real winners in life.  
Winners meet life's challenges head on  
knowing there are no guarantees,  
and give it all they've got.  
Never think it's too late or too early to begin.  
Time plays no favorites,  
and will pass whether you act or not.  
Take control of your life.  
Dare to dream and take risk. Compete.  
If you are not willing to work for your goals,  
Don't expect others to.  
Believe in yourself. ■

# SYSTEM, FROM PAGE 4

There are always complaints about the staff shortage, but for some reason there are staff members relaxing and chattering about, doing nothing. All you need are a few young people who can get this job done, and then there would not be any problems. I know everything is not perfect but "come on", if it was me or other inmates breaking rules what end of the law would the weight be on? Grievances are for the staff purposes. They cover up the silent gun. ■

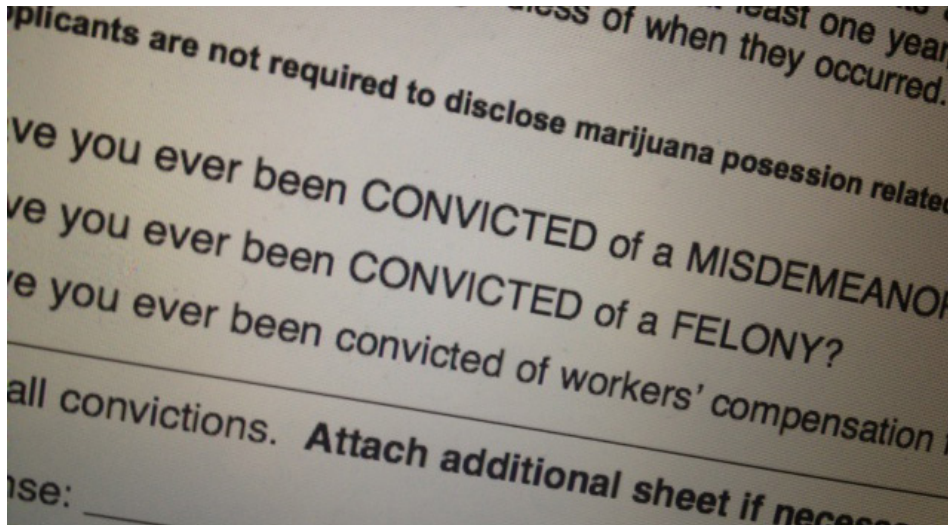
Thanks to Illinois Prison Talk (IPT) for support and further dissemination of Stateville Speaks and your tireless reform efforts. Visit [www.illinoisprisonstake.com](http://www.illinoisprisonstake.com) to learn more.

## BOXED IN

Ten square blocks, you call your land.  
Young gun boyz gunz in hand.  
Can not shoot straight,  
bullets in the gate.  
Women & children by the lot,  
in a pine box.  
Boxed in.  
Awaiting trial in a holding pen full  
of people just like you.  
What next, what will you do?  
The walls on this cage are closing in,  
dope sick bodies, crack heads who  
have not seen soap or water at all,  
in one place.  
You have to right this case.  
Boxed in.  
On the blue bird, flying to the pen.  
Chained together boys and men,  
Joliet bound, heads hanging down.  
Follow the yellow line,  
turn left, turn right do this and

that before the night.  
Boxed in.  
Stateville, Pontiac, Menard just  
to name a few.  
Hard time, in the box in and out.  
Under the gun, shots fired.  
Everyone down on the ground.  
Boxed in  
Did your time.  
Black pants, white shirt  
Gate money, two dimes.  
Back to town with a  
upside down frown.  
Much has changed for you.  
When you get to the job interview  
You see the form, you know where  
this is going.  
Have you ever been convicted of a  
Felony? Check the box.....  
Boxed in! ■

- By Anonymous



## STATEVILLE SPEAKS

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Please limit essays to around 500 words.

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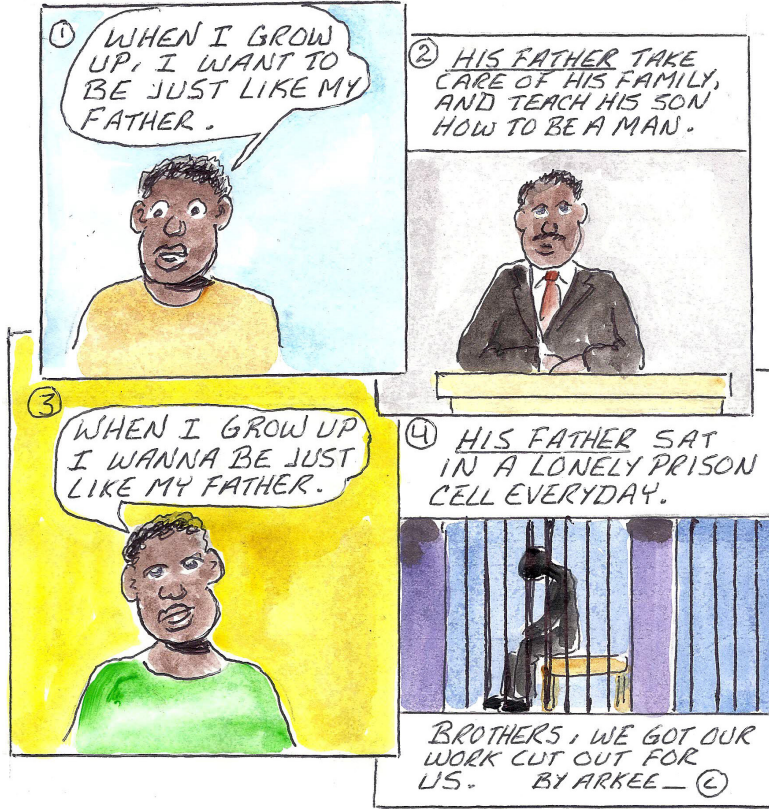
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