


Contempt penetrates even the shell of the tortoise.
— Persian Proverb

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Quest for Authentic Manhood creates positive future at Jester III

By John E. Christ
Jester III Unit Reporter

Life is a perpetual progression of personal events into the future. That progression can be either chaotic without direction or purposeful, leading to a greater understanding of self, God, and others. The Quest for Authentic Manhood is a program designed to assist those interested in attaining direction on life's journey. The Quest is a faith-based initiative of a series of weekly sessions with facilitators, multimedia presentation and group discussions. Beginning with a definition of "manhood", a retrospective overview of one's family of origin is undertaken. The place one has in one's family is explored and amplified and the place of mentors is reinforced. At the halfway point in a 24-week series, the Book of Genesis is referenced as a starting point in understanding the spiritual aspects of manhood. The Quest builds on the positive teachings and examples of the New Testament. Authentic manhood is about providing insight and concrete directions in life.

Quest continued on page 7



Graduating class of the Jester III Quest for Authentic Manhood program: (First row) Steve Ingram, Ola Balogun (facilitator), Lawrence Few, Wayne Manemann, Amarr Clark; (Second row) Ira Jordan III, Akin Olubyl (guest facilitator), Armando Escatiola, David Turner (facilitator), Maurice Estrada, John E. Christ; (Back row) Carl Farris (facilitator), Jeffery Hill, Geane Doby Jr., David Marrow, Samuel Dean, Albert J. Yancey III, Kevin Wickware, Joe Cardona, John Halberdiar, and Arthur Allen.

Penitentiary etiquette affects behavior

By William Chaplar
Staff Writer

When we get out of prison (and the overwhelming majority of us will get out some day), there will be certain people who, by law, we will be required to tell about our prison record. It seems sort of foolish, therefore, to advertise the fact that we have been to prison to anyone who *doesn't* have a need to know.

While flipping through the pages of a book entitled *Etiquette for Dummies*, by Sue Fox, I came across all manner of rules to follow if one wants to make a good impression. Tucked away among the seemingly trivial (like proper fork placement) were two that virtually everyone in prison violates on a daily basis. It is this violation of acceptable behavior that will make us free advertising for the penitentiary.

Etiquette continued on page 7

State Counsel For Offenders provides civil rights update

Good news for offenders interested in knowing what their civil rights are while incarcerated. The Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas (ACLU), with help from State Counsel for Offenders (SCFO), recently updated the "Civil Rights Resource Guide." Copies of the 2011 edition can be found in unit law libraries. If you have questions about material in the publication SCFO encourages you to write the authors. Their addresses appear on the back cover of this important and informative publication. If your unit law library does not have the 2011 edition notify Access to Courts with an I-60.

Graduation witness experiences life choices

By Keith Perkins
Wynne Unit

Today I was given the honor of being a part of a college graduation, not as a graduate, but as a sound man for the music and speakers. It was my very first experience, and I was truly intrigued by what I witnessed.

Those who spoke at the event did so with a degree of sincerity that is rarely heard in prison. Even though I was not a graduate, I felt genuinely appreciated right along with those who were graduating. Before the speakers spoke, the graduates made their entrance to the standing applause of family members and dignitaries fortunate enough to be present. The applause continued until the last of the graduates took

his seat. On the faces of the families was a mixture of emotions. I watched as tears flowed like rivers. It was both a happy and a sad moment— happy because of the graduation itself and sad because of the separation that exists between the graduates and those assembled to witness their graduation.

Fifty graduates made the walk, because 50 men made the choice to educate themselves and change the course of their lives upon release. Education is very important to everyone and a necessity to our survival in life. Educating ourselves promotes rational thinking and boosts our self esteem. It brings positive change in our lives.

Experiences continued on page 13

The ECHO

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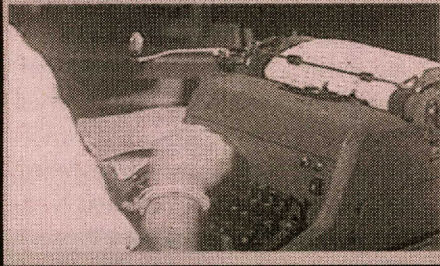
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To the editor,

Sometimes we find ourselves in a position in which we don't know what to do or say. Most of the time, we tend to sit back and ride it out and see how things work themselves out. I have been doing just that with my daughter. The problem is that it isn't fixing itself. Instead, it's getting worse.

You see, I am a repeat offender who has finally earned a sentence I cannot live down. While I have come to terms with it, my daughter has not. I honestly have tried writing her, but I just don't know what to say to a 15-year-old girl. She quit writing back to me, I figure, because she feels the same way about me. I'm asking for help. Do you have a setup or form I can use that would help me in writing a letter to her? Do you have something that would give me ideas on what to say and maybe how to say it? I fear that I am losing her and that I need something that would help provide a link we can use to help communication.

**Daniel Griffin
Polunsky Unit**



To the reader,

Sadly, there is no manual for corresponding with a loved one. If there was, though, I would guess that it would probably suggest that you never stop trying. What you say is up to you—no one can tell you what words to use. If you are serious about maintaining a relationship with your daughter, though, you have to keep trying in spite of her reluctance. You need to try to understand her feelings and write your own letters accordingly. It's important to remember that she probably feels a huge sense of loss, and it's up to you to at least attempt to fill the void that your absence has left in her life. Don't forget about your unit library which might have some self help books covering this topic. Also some poetry books might offer some help too. But take heart. Words can be extremely powerful tools. Never underestimate the power of words.

To the editor,

First, let me say that after 20 years of doing time and reading *The ECHO*, it's about time I finally write. I have never really had a reason to write until now. I want to tell everyone about the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) here at the Carol Vance Unit. Now this letter is coming from an old hardhead who always thought he could do it his way; take what he wanted, when he wanted it without any repercussions. After 20 years in here, I can tell you that I was wrong. I want people out there to know about this place. I want to set the record straight, so to speak. I too had heard all of the false stories before I took a chance and signed up. Coming here was the best and probably the only right decision I have ever made in my life. This place has literally changed my life.

This is an 18-month, Christian-based pre-release program. Those of us who do the 18 months go home upon completion. The counselors here take every possible scenario in life and apply Christian principles to it. Believe me, there is a biblical answer to every possible thing you can imagine. But let's say you're not a Christian but a rebel as I was. This place is going to change your life. If you are tired of coming in and out of prison, then this could be your last unit of assignment. The counselors here are nothing less than God's special angels. It takes a real special person to put up with people like me — to show you how to stay out of prison and teach you how to love and let someone love you. If you get here and decide that it's not for you, you can sign out. This is strictly a volunteer program. But I promise you, if you give this place a chance, it will forever change your life. You will never be the same again. I want to thank an extraordinary man, my counselor D. Jeffreys. I gave this man every reason in the world to remove me from the program, but he never gave up on me.

So for you guys out there debating on talking to your chaplain or parole about coming to IFI, do it. I promise you that this is the best decision you will ever make in your entire life. Again, thanks to all the

IFI staff and volunteers and to the TDCJ staff who are also here.

**Thank you,
James Fuller**

Carol Vance Unit



To the reader,

Thank you for taking the time to write your heartfelt letter regarding the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) program. It sounds like you are in the right place at the right time. We wish you the best upon completion of the program and upon release. Anyone interested in applying for this program should contact their unit chaplain.

To the editor,

The ECHO contains information that can be applied to all offender thought process. Every time I read it, I come across knowledge that refreshes my memory and information that teaches me what I do not know. *The ECHO* is a means of good for the people who are willing to apply what it contains to their daily lives. This is a benefit because lessons are taught. It is certainly up to us to learn and apply what we receive from those lessons to our life.

I'd like to thank the authors for dedicating their time to a good cause and I encourage the general population to continue to submit their best work: stories, life events and anything else that you may want to share. Even though it may not mean much to you, it could mean a lot to someone else. Every day is a test; every mere breath is to say that we are blessed to live another day.

**Shelby Clifton
Torres Unit**

To the reader,

We print your letter, not for accolades to our publication, but to convey your "thanks" to our many authors, statewide, who take time to think, write and submit articles for the encouragement of our readers. Thanks for taking your time to write.

If you are a regular contributor or occasional contributor, we thank you for your efforts.

Dear Darby,

When I was only 18 years old, I committed a crime that sent me to prison with a 20-year sentence. I really didn't know anything about prison at the time, and I found out about it the hard way. When I got to my unit in 2005, I was in a program for youthful offenders. I only did 10 months there before I was sent to "big girl" prison. I was no longer at "baby day care."

Lane Murray is where I started doing my time the hard way. I was young and didn't care. I was labeled a bad actor, so I saw no reason why I should do things their way. In and out of seg was my daily thing. I was always fighting inmates, threatening them with blades and dashing the law. I didn't think about who I might be hurting along the way, and I really didn't care. I was young, selfish and stupid. I was only thinking about myself.

You see, I have a 7-year-old son out there and a mother who needs me. I have not held my son since he was 11 months old. Just because I chose to do my time my way, here I am once again going to seg. While I was in seg, I did something stupid that I would regret for the rest of my life. I slit my wrist open with a razor blade, and now I'm going to have to explain to my son how I got that ugly scar. "Mommy" was being stupid and not thinking, so I got seven days at the "ice house" (observation room). A lot of people may think that no one cares, but there are some who do. While I was there, I met two people, Ghost and Robert. They're a little older than I am, and they've both done some time. Some of the things they told me really opened my eyes. I began to question whether I wanted to be here for the next 20 years, and the answer was no!

I want to get out and enjoy life. I want to make up for all the years I lost with my son and my mother. You see, it was my own choice to run with the people I ran with. But I don't blame my husband or my father. I only blame myself. I could have chosen not to do it, but I trusted and loved them, and love will make you do dumb things.

So, to the youngsters that come to prison thinking that they can do everything their way, take it from me; do your time the right way and go home. Prison is not easy, and you only make it harder when you try to do things your way. You're not only hurting yourself, you're also hurting those that love you. I learned that the hard way by doing time my way. I was

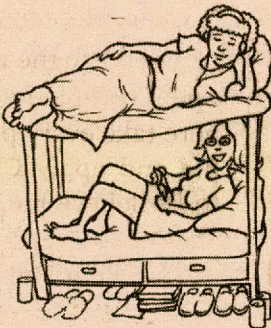
always trying to act hard, but deep down inside I was on an emotional roller coaster ride. I'm not ashamed to admit that I cry most nights because all I want to do is go home to my family and do what I need to do. My goals now are to get out of medium custody, go to population and maybe go to college. I want to go home a better person than I was when I came here.

In closing, I'd like to say to those of you who are serving a life sentence or on death row, keep your faith in God and stay strong with your head held high.

**Patricia Weir
Crain Unit**

Dear Patricia,

It sounds as if you've experienced some serious personal growth during the time you've been in prison. It is my sincere hope that all who read your story will be as inspired by it as I was. Thank you for sharing it with us.

**Dear Darby,**

As a first-timer in the system, I was hoping you could shed some light on what is, to me, a disturbing pattern that I have experienced on the two units I've been on. My fellow inmates have what I feel compelled to call an obsession with courts, police, judges, and anything else related to law enforcement. I came into the system an avid TV watcher. Now, I rarely venture over to the TV area because my fellow inmates can't stop viewing cops putting people in prison. Even programs they can't comprehend, about forensic investigations, command their undivided attention. Conversely, my peers scoff when someone (me) suggests watching something humorous or otherwise not crime-related. This behavior is, to me, odd and also unhealthy. Some will say that they watch these gloom-fests to learn about the system. To them, I suggest putting an end to their unsuccessful criminal careers. I'm not the smartest person around; just a guy with a thesaurus and some time to kill. But I do believe that what one mentally ingests affects one's mood and ability to deal with the pressure and drama that occurs

in prison. What do you think?

**Richard "Cheech" Valdez
Price Daniel Unit**

Dear Cheech,

You cannot imagine how much I agree with everything you said in your letter. Indeed, I found myself skipping to the end to make certain that I didn't write it myself!

I've spent years (literally!) trying to figure out the reason why people in prison are so obsessed with anything on TV having to do with crime and punishment. In the words of the renowned Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza, "I have made a ceaseless effort not to ridicule, not to bewail, not to scorn human actions, but to understand them." Sadly, though, I have not been able to make heads or tails out of this enigmatic offender behavior. But I have come up with a few possibilities. See what you think.

1. Those who watch all of that stuff simply cannot put that lifestyle behind them. They aren't watching the police, they're watching the criminals!

2. They would rather watch people going through hardship than watch something that will make them laugh—hence the aversity you noted to anything humorous on TV.

3. They actually venerate anything having to do with "courts, police, judges, and anything else related to law enforcement."

My favorite comeback from such individuals when you inquire into their obsession is, "The police didn't put you in here." Never does it occur to them that the actors in the comedies didn't put them in here either. And yet they avoid those with every fiber of their being. Go figure!

As to what I think? It sounds to me, Cheech, as if you're selling yourself short. You certainly seem to be a lot more than "just a guy with a thesaurus and some time to kill." In fact, you sound like you've developed an insight into the prisoner's mind that might go a long way toward helping

DEAR DARBY

LETTERS TO THE OL' THANG

others to better understand it. Because the mere fact that you recognize their obsession as being "odd and also unhealthy" shows promise. Perhaps you should be submitting more of your thoughts to The ECHO—but in article form. Think about it.

**Dear Darby,**

I just decided to stop procrastinating and send a little advice to the newcomers: take advantage of every vocational trade you're interested in so that you'll have something to fall back on. If those "gangsters" that call themselves your homeboys haven't told you what I'm telling you, then stay away from them. Trust me, I've been down for six and a half years on an eight-year sentence, and I got trapped up in the mix. You don't have homeboys in here, so remember that it's all just a manipulation game that's played across the board. So it's best for you to open your eyes.

Waco

Bill Clements Unit—Ad. Seg.

Dear Waco,

You make a good point. I've always maintained that it's best to leave here having known only a select few. I don't see being popular in prison as being any sort of an accomplishment. So you're absolutely right; there are no homeboys in here. There are only people you are forced to live around until you get out. And if the things they do bother you, that's a good thing. Because if life in here isn't considered unbearable, when you get out, there won't be enough of an incentive not to come back. Sitting around all day, then, with a bunch of people who call themselves your homeboys and reminiscing about the days of old...well, aside from being a complete waste of time, it also makes this place a little more bearable. And the more bearable this place is made to seem, the better it will look when life on the outside starts to seem unbearable.

HEALTH NEWS — NUTRITION — MEDICAL UPDATES

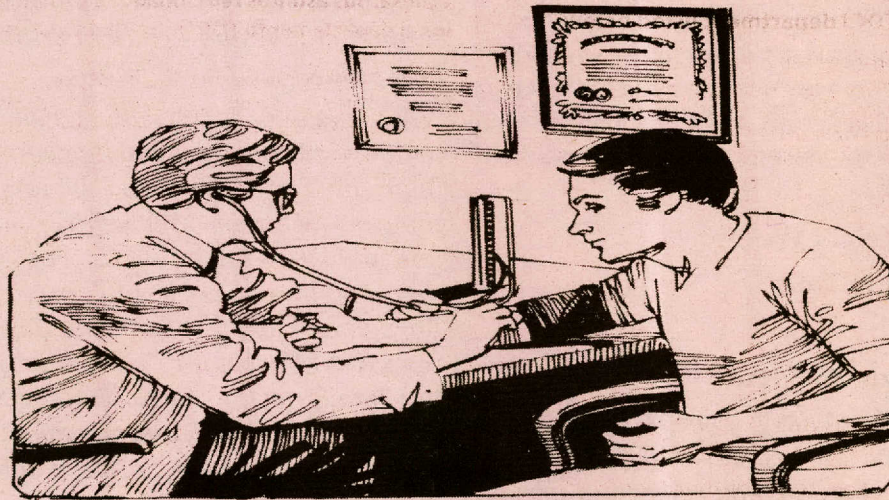
Hypertension: A preventable problem

By William Chaplar
Staff Writer

It has been called “the silent killer” because it so often wreaks havoc on the body without any noticeable symptoms. While it may not seem to be such a bad thing, it is the most important risk factor for death in industrialized countries, manifesting itself through such things as hardening of the arteries, heart attacks, vascular disease, strokes, arterial aneurysms; kidney failure and encephalopathy. While nearly 30 percent of America’s adult population suffers from it in one form or another, it’s actually preventable.

So, what is this hobgoblin of the human body? It is none other than that dreaded condition known as hypertension (or high blood pressure). While many believe that it is a one-dimensional condition, it is actually a lot more complex than one might think. Just as there are multiple forms of hepatitis and diabetes, so too are there multiple forms of hypertension. Initially, hypertension is classified as being either primary (otherwise known as essential) or secondary. Primary hypertension (which refers to high blood pressure for which no medical cause has been found) is experienced by 90 to 95 percent of hypertension sufferers. The other 5 to 10 percent suffer from secondary hypertension, which is caused by other conditions that affect the kidneys, arteries, heart or endocrine system.

If all of this sounds like a lot of medical mumbo jumbo designed to confuse more than inform, let me simplify. Put simply, hypertension is a *bad* thing. But it can be controlled. Before we go into how to do that, though, perhaps it would be better to provide an actual definition for it. There are no fewer than four different blood pressure classifications with which we need to be concerned. Since all of them have to do with those numbers you see them writing down in your chart whenever you go to the infirmary, let’s explain the numbers. A reading of 110 over 70 does not mean a whole lot if you



have no clue what either 110 or 70 represents.

That first number is the systolic pressure. This is the pressure of the blood in the vessels *during* a heartbeat. The second number is the diastolic pressure. This is a measure of the pressure in the vessels *between* heartbeats. A “normal” reading generally ranges from 90-119 for the systolic reading and 60-79 for the diastolic. A condition known as prehypertension generally has a systolic range of 120-139 and a diastolic range of 80-89. Then we get into the two stages of hypertension that should bring about concern in the health conscious adult. In stage 1 hypertension, the range for the systolic reading is generally 140-159 while the diastolic range is 90-99. Stage 2 hypertension is any reading in which the systolic reading is generally 160 or higher and the diastolic is in triple figures (100 or more).

So, if you are in either the stage 1 or stage 2 range, you should be doing those things necessary to bring your blood pressure down. If you’re one of the 5 to 10 percent whose hypertension is caused by some diagnosable condition, then you’re probably being treated for the hypertension along with the condition itself. If, on the other hand, you’re one of the 90 to 95 percent who suffer from primary hypertension...the first thing you should probably do is find out what your blood pressure *is*. Now that you’re armed with the normal and elevated ranges, you’ll know what to

look for. If you go to the infirmary and are told that your blood pressure is 148 over 98, it should cause a red flag to go up. More than likely, the medical staff will take action if such a reading happens on several separate occasions. But there are things that *you* can do as well, and they do not involve pills or injections. They do, however, require a commitment to your personal health.

It seems that every time you turn around, a different food item is being condemned by the medical profession. After years of study, though, the demon food is oftentimes said to be safe after all. (Remember that whole saccharin thing?) Salt and sugar, however, can always be found on most dieticians’ ten most unwanted list. Consequently, an easy way to help control blood pressure is to minimize both of these dietary demons—especially salt.

Since obesity is often connected with high blood pressure, losing weight is another way to take matters into your own hands. That means exercise!

Fortunately for us in prison, there are two major contributors to hypertension that prison authorities have taken care of for us—tobacco and alcohol. Unless you are one of those mental defectives who actually drinks the dubious concoctions that are brewed in here or smokes any of the cigarettes that somehow find their way in (which must be lit at risk to life and limb), you’re already two steps ahead of many hypertension

sufferers in the free world. You’ll probably want to take both of these substances into consideration, however, if you get *out* of here with an elevated blood pressure.

Another thing you as an individual can do to help control your blood pressure is to reduce stress. Naturally such a suggestion in here sounds about as simpleminded as saying, “The only thing you need to alleviate a drought is rain.” Actually, though, reducing stress in here is far more under your control than naysayers would like you to believe. You see, stress is not a specific incident; it’s your body’s *response* to that incident. In other words, stress is not the noise level in the dayroom; it’s the spike in your blood pressure. My drill sergeant at army basic training—philosopher that he was—put it quite eloquently when he said, “Everything’s a question of mind over matter; and if you don’t mind, it don’t matter.” If the noise is disturbing, wear earplugs (12 cents in the commissary) and it won’t matter. There are also drills you can try that may help you relax. Virtually every self-help book on the market, many of which can be found on your library shelves, includes some form of relaxation therapy. For the most part, they center around deep breathing and meditation.

For those of you with big bank, those Omega 3 fish oil tablets at the store can help lower blood pressure as well.

So, while hypertension can contribute to a myriad of health problems, it is something over which we have a modicum of control. In a place where so much is beyond our control, isn’t it nice to know that something so critical to our physical well being is *not*?

If you have a history of hypertension in your family, you should submit a sick call request and have your blood pressure checked. Remember, it’s known as “the silent killer” for a reason!

Resources:

- [Wikipedia, April, 2011](#)
- [Mayo Clinic.com](#)
- [Web M.D.](#)



TDCJ OMBUDSMAN INFORMATION GUIDE



The TDCJ Office of Ombudsman responds to public inquiries and concerns, **not offender complaints or requests.** This office will not respond to offenders.

You should always attempt to resolve your problem informally at your unit with staff, department and security supervisors, or the warden. Verbally communicate the problem, or submit an I-60 Offender Request to Official. Sending your concerns to the wrong department or agency is inappropriate and only delays valuable response time. Your prison-related issues can be addressed in a timely manner by directing them to the appropriate responsible TDCJ department listed below.

Offender Grievance Procedure: Issues regarding unit operations, disciplinary disputes, property issues, mail or any other matter relating to conditions of care or supervision may be formally addressed through the Offender Grievance Procedure **if informal contact (verbally or I-60) with unit staff does not address your concerns.** Submit your Step 1 grievance to the Grievance Department at your unit. If you appeal a decision to the next level, you must submit a Step 2 grievance along with the original answered Step 1 grievance to the Grievance Department at your unit. Allow ample time for the Grievance Department to investigate your complaint and return a reply to you. Step 2 grievances are reviewed by the regional authority or the Central Grievance Office if you are dissatisfied with the response on the Step 1. **Directing grievances to unrelated offices may result in expiration of your grievable time period.**

If you wish to comment on the effectiveness and credibility of the grievance procedure, write a letter or send an I-60 request form to the grievance investigator at your unit, or forward to the Central Grievance office at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342-0099.

If you have already pursued the issue through the Offender Grievance Procedure at Step 1 and Step 2; no other administrative remedies are available to you regarding the issue. You may pursue the matter in any manner you choose outside of the agency.

Offender Protection Issues (OPI): Immediately contact a correctional officer; security supervisor; warden; assistant warden; or the Classification Department at your unit.

Medical Care: The unit physician is the primary care provider at the unit level and is responsible for the determination of medical treatments, medications, medical restrictions and scheduling of services. You should attempt to resolve your problem at the unit level first by contacting the unit medical administrator in writing (sick call request or I-60 request form) for assistance. Subsequently, if you are not in agreement with the provider's response you may utilize the grievance process. You will not be transferred for medical reasons without the approval and recommendation of unit health care providers.

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Investigation: Complaints or allegations relating to excessive or unreported use of force, physical harm by staff or any crime committed by an offender or employee on state property should be directed to the Office of Inspector General, Investigation Division at P.O. Box 4003, Huntsville, TX, 77342. Full details must be provided in order to initiate an investigation in this manner.

Classification: Issues related to time disputes; time calculations; sentencing; concurrent time and stacked time; jail time; forfeited good conduct time; back dated good conduct time; class; promotions; cell assignment; or information on various programs should be directed to the Classification Chief at your unit or the Classification & Records Department at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099.

Transfer: Offenders are not at liberty to choose their unit of assignment. Notify the Classification Department at your unit if you have a reason that warrants a transfer. A request for a hardship transfer may be made if an immediate family member, listed on your approved visitation list, is unable to travel long distances. To be considered, you must be at least L1/G3, with no major disciplinary cases for 1

year and more than 200 miles from home. The family member may submit their request along with a letter from their doctor to verify the medical disability to Joni White, TDCJ-Classifications & Records Department at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099. A transfer is not guaranteed, but the request will be reviewed for consideration.

Religion: Any issue related to religious programs; services; holidays; or activities should be directed through the Chaplain at your unit or the TDCJ Chaplaincy Department at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099.

Parole: Parole review status issues should be directed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles at P.O. Box 13401, Capitol Station, Austin, TX, 78711.

Education: Issues related to education should be directed to the Windham School District Principal at your unit. Continuing Education issues should be directed to WSD at P.O. Box 40, Huntsville, TX, 77342. You will not be considered for educational transfer without Windham recommendation.

Trust Fund & Commissary: Issues related to your commissary account should be directed to Inmate Trust Fund at P.O. Box 629, Huntsville, TX, 77342. Issues related to commissary purchases, items stocked or special requests should be directed to the commissary supervisor at your unit.

Food Service: Issues related to meals, sack lunches or special diet menus should be sent to the food service manager for resolution at your unit. If the issue is not resolved at the unit level, then contact the Director of Food Service at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099 or utilize the Grievance Procedure.

Legal Assistance: Issues such as conviction appeal, detainers, divorce or child support should be directed to an offender's attorney or State Counsel for Offenders, Legal Services Section at P.O. Box 4005, Huntsville, TX, 77342-4005.

Law Library: All offender legal issues related to unit operations such as, access to courts; legal visits with other offenders; free world attorney visits; indigent, legal or correspondence supplies; postage; policy; and state law information requests should be directed to the law library supervisor at your unit or researched yourself in the unit law library. If you disagree with a response from the law library staff, you may utilize the Grievance Procedure.

Security Threat Group (STG): If you feel you have been incorrectly identified as a member of a security threat group, or wish to begin the disassociation process, you should contact the Security Threat Group Officer (STGO) at your unit. The STGO will know the proper procedure to follow in having your STG status reviewed. You may also write to the Security Threat Group Management Office (STGMO) at P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099. However, the STG Management Office relies more on requests and information submitted to them by the Unit STGO than directly from offenders.

Lockdowns & Shakedown: Unfortunately, offenders who had nothing to do with a disturbance are often included in a lockdown, and all offenders at a unit are affected by a semi-annual shakedown. The procedures for implementing a lockdown or shakedown are well established and have proven effective in restoring order and ensuring the security of the unit, as well as the safety of offenders and staff. That does not mean the process is pleasant for offenders or staff. If you feel procedures violate policies, you may utilize the Grievance Procedure. E

La oficina TDCJ de Ombudsman responde a preguntas y preocupaciones del público, **no a quejas o peticiones de ofensor.** Esta oficina no responderá a ofensores.

Usted siempre debe intentar resolver informalmente su problema con empleados, departamento y supervisores de seguridad, o el guardián en su unidad. Comunicar verbalmente su problema, o entregar un I-60 Petición de Ofensor a Oficial. Enviando sus problemas al departamento equivocado o agencia es inapropiado y únicamente demora el tiempo de respuesta valiosa. Sus asuntos relacionados a prisión pueden ser atendidos oportunamente dirigiéndolos al departamento TDCJ apropiado que es responsable anotado a continuación.

Procedimiento Quejas de Ofensor: Asuntos relacionados al funcionamiento de la unidad, disputas disciplinarias, correo o cualquier otro asunto relacionado a condiciones de cuidado o supervisión pueden ser formalmente tratados a través del Procedimiento de Quejas de Ofensor **Si contacto informal (verbalmente o I-60) con personal de la unidad no atiende sus problemas.** Entregue su queja Paso 1 al Departamento de Quejas en su unidad. Si usted apela la decisión al siguiente nivel, usted debe entregar una queja Paso 2 junto con la contestación original de la queja Paso 1 al Departamento de Quejas de su unidad. Permita suficiente tiempo para que el Departamento de Quejas investigue su reclamo y le regrese una contestación. Quejas Paso 2 son revisadas por la autoridad regional o por la Oficina Central de Quejas si usted no está satisfecho con la respuesta en el Paso 1. **Enviando quejas a oficinas no relacionadas puede resultar en que se termine su tiempo del período para quejarse.**

Si usted desea comentar de la efectividad y credibilidad del procedimiento de quejas, escriba una carta o envíe una forma I-60 al investigador de quejas de su unidad, o envíela a la Oficina Central de Quejas a P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342-0099.

Si usted ya ha tratado el asunto a través del Procedimiento de Quejas de Ofensor Paso 1 y Paso 2; no hay otros remedios administrativos disponibles para usted relacionados al asunto. Usted puede seguir el asunto en cualquier manera que usted escoja fuera de la agencia.

Asuntos de Protección de Ofensor (OPI): Póngase inmediatamente en contacto con un oficial correccional; supervisor de seguridad; guardián, guardián asistente; o Departamento de Clasificación en su unidad.

Cuidado Médico: El médico de la unidad es el proveedor primario de cuidado a nivel de la unidad y es responsable por la determinación de tratamientos médicos, medicamentos, restricciones médicas y horarios de servicios. Usted primero debe intentar resolver su problema a nivel de la unidad comunicándose con el administrador médico de la unidad por escrito (forma petición de enfermo o petición I-60) pidiendo ayuda. Subsecuentemente, si usted no está de acuerdo con la respuesta del proveedor usted puede utilizar el proceso de quejas. Usted no será transferido por razones médicas sin la aprobación y recomendación de los proveedores de cuidado de salud de la unidad.

Investigación Oficina del Inspector General (OIG): Reclamos o averiguaciones relacionadas a uso de fuerza excesiva o no reportada, daño físico por empleados o cualquier crimen cometido por un ofensor o empleado en propiedad del estado deberá ser enviado a Office of Inspector General, Investigation Division, P.O. Box 4003, Huntsville, TX, 77342. Detalles completos deben ser proporcionados para poder iniciar una investigación de esta manera.

Clasificación: Asuntos relacionados a disputas de tiempo; calculaciones de tiempo; sentencias; tiempo concurrente-paralelo y consecutivo (stacked); tiempo de cárcel; pérdida tiempo buena conducta; tiempo buena conducta acreditado; clase; promociones; asignación de celda; o información de varios programas deben ser dirigidos al Classification Chief de su unidad o Classification & Records Department, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099.

Transferencia: Ofensores no están en libertad de escoger su unidad de asignación. Notifique al Departamento de Clasificación de su unidad si usted tiene una razón que justifique una transferencia. Una petición por transferencia humanitaria-hardship transfer puede ser hecha si un familiar inmediato, anotado en su lista aprobada de visitas, no puede viajar largas distancias. Para ser considerado, usted debe ser por lo menos L1/G3, no tener casos mayores de disciplina por 1 año y más de 200 millas lejos de casa. El familiar debe enviar la petición junto con una carta de su

doctor verificando la incapacidad médica a Joni White, TDCJ - Classifications &

Records Department a P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099. No se garantiza una transferencia, pero la petición se revisará para consideración.

Religión: Cualquier asunto relacionado a programas religiosos; servicios, festividades, o actividades deben ser atendidos por el Capellán de su unidad o el TDCJ Chaplaincy Department, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099.

Libertad Condicional-Parole: Asuntos de estatus de revisión de Libertad Condicional deben ser enviados a Board of Pardons and Paroles a P.O. Box 13401, Capitol Station, Austin, TX, 78711.

Educación: Asuntos relacionados a educación deben ser dirigidos al Director de la escuela - Windham School Principal de su unidad. Asuntos de Educación Continua deben ser enviados a Windham School, P.O. Box 40, Huntsville, TX, 77342. Usted no será considerado para transferencia educativa sin la recomendación de Windham.

Fondo de Confianza & Comisaría: Asuntos relacionados a su cuenta de comisaría deben ser enviados a Inmate Trust Fund, P.O. Box 629, Huntsville, TX, 77342. Asuntos relacionados a compras de comisaría, artículos existentes o peticiones especiales deben ser dirigidos al supervisor de la comisaría de su unidad.

Servicio de Alimento: Asuntos relacionados a comidas, comida en bolsa o menús de dieta especial deben ser enviados al supervisor del servicio de alimentos en su unidad por una resolución. Si su asunto no es resuelto a nivel de la unidad, entonces comuníquese con el Director de Food Service a P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099 o utilice el Procedimiento de Quejas.

Ayuda Legal: Asuntos tales como apelación de convicción, ordenes de detención, divorcio o manutención de menor deben ser dirigidos a un abogado del ofensor o al State Counsel for Offenders, Legal Services Section, P.O. Box 4005, Huntsville, TX, 77342-4005.

Biblioteca de Ley: Todos los asuntos legales de ofensor relacionados al funcionamiento de la unidad tales como acceso a cortes; visitas legales con otros ofensores; visitas de abogados externos; material indigente y legal o de correspondencia; estampillas postales; políticas; y peticiones de información de leyes estatales deben ser dirigidas al supervisor de la biblioteca de ley en su unidad o investigar usted mismo en la biblioteca de ley. Si usted no está de acuerdo con la respuesta del personal de la biblioteca de ley, usted puede utilizar el Procedimiento de Quejas.

Grupo que Amenaza la Seguridad (STG): Si usted siente que ha sido incorrectamente identificado como un miembro de un grupo que amenaza la seguridad, o desea empezar el proceso para desasociarse, usted debe comunicarse con el Security Threat Group Officer (STGO) en su unidad. El STGO conocerá el procedimiento a seguir apropiado para que su estatus STG sea revisado. Usted también puede escribir a Security Threat Group Management Office (STGMO), P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099. Sin embargo, la Oficina STG se basa más en las peticiones e información enviadas a ellos por el STGO de la unidad que en las enviadas directamente por los ofensores.

Encerramientos & Registros-Cateos: Desafortunadamente, ofensores quienes no tuvieron nada que ver en un disturbio son a menudo incluidos en un encerramiento, y todos los ofensores en una unidad son afectados por un encerramiento semi-anual. Los procedimientos para llevar a cabo un encerramiento o cateos están bien establecidos y han probado efectividad en restaurar orden y garantizar la seguridad de la unidad, también como la seguridad de ofensores y empleados. Eso no significa que el proceso es agradable para ofensores y empleados. Si usted siente que procedimientos violan las políticas, usted puede utilizar el Procedimiento de Quejas. E

'A FIERY TALE'

A short story
By Jerry Don Pless
Eastham Unit

Hillsboro, Texas, is home to an Annual Fourth of July weekend festival, and my buddy Frank and I decided to attend last year's gala. Once we arrived, the activities were in full bloom, and we could hear blue-grass music playing on the distant stage, which pleasantly mingled with light conversations, children's laughter, and the constant yapping of someone's pet dog.

It was truly a festive and gay atmosphere that immediately put a person in good cheer. The light summer wind presented delightful smells of food, perfumed flowers and summer foliage, which swept through the towering oak trees and elderly-looking elms, to attack our senses. "Smell them onion rings?" asked Frank, as we walked around looking at several concession stands and colorful people.

"Yes, I do. And I believe I'd like to get an order!" I replied, my mouth watering at the thought.

"Well, by George, let's have at it!" agreed Frank. And so we went to the nearest food booth and ordered some onion rings.

While we were eating, I noticed a small crowd gathering about, near a snow cone stand. I couldn't make out what all the fuss was about, so I said to Frank, "Let's go over there and see what's happening," nodding in the direction of the gathering crowd.

"Alright," was Frank's terse reply.

As Frank and I drew near the crowd, we heard a man with a gravelly, but jolly voice, speaking. "...peppers in Hill County, and the proceeds generated here will benefit a local children's charity organization, so step up, one and all, folks, and let's contribute to this great cause." The pleasantly gruff man speaking had a name tag on his shirt which read, ALBERT, and he had similar features to the actor Don Knotts.

"If Albert were to shave off his Kenny Rogers - looking beard," I remember thinking, "and his face wasn't so ruddy, he'd be the spitting - image of Don Knotts."

"What's going on?" asked my pal, Frank.

"Seems like a jalapeno - pepper eating contest." I answered.

"Whoo-doggie!" crowed Frank, while slapping his Texas Rangers baseball cap against his leg. "I don't reckon I could stand to eat a jalapeno pepper without anything to eat or drink behind it," Frank mused, out loud.

"Me either," said I, "but it's a wonderful cause the money benefits, so I think we should contribute." The crowd was milling about, like cattle after a time at the trough, wondering what brave souls would step up to weather this fiery contest.

"Yes, Jerry, ol' pal, I believe you're right," said Frank suddenly. And so he and I elbowed our way to the front of the crowd and loudly declared ourselves contestants, laid down our entry fees, and collected our very own name tags.

The winner of this heated contest not only contributed to a great charity fund, but also won a beautifully stylized Flame-Retardant tongue trophy and Hill County bragging rights, which says a lot in Texas.

The only other contestants in contention for the prize were two women and two men. They each paid their fee and collected name tags, while volunteers



dispensed paper plates teeming with sausage-looking jalapeno peppers, on a long wooden bench that looked as if it had crossed the "pond" on the Mayflower.

Albert, whom I personally dubbed Kenny Knotts, read out the contest rules, which were quite simple: "Eat the most jalapenos in the two minutes allotted to each contestant; win the prize."

The sharp, arresting scent of the jalapenos overpowered the senses and made one's mouth water as if the fat pods were freshly sliced lemons instead of pungently oppressive jalapeno peppers. It was akin to taking a direct sniff from a bottle of vinegar, and the plump fireballs were menacing and foreboding to look upon while lying in their tranquil state; dressed to the nines in their olive suits.

Once we contestants were seated in our respective places, I briefly took in my pepper-eating opponents. Sitting next to me was my pal, Frank, whose boney frame and friendly smile, made one think of a greyhound or an underfed horse. Next to Frank, was Owen. Owen, whose most distinguishable feature was his well-trimmed Van Dyke beard, looked like the moon, personified. OR what I presumed the moon would look like had it taken a notion to morph itself into the human form.

Next to Owen sat Harold, whose overalls and straw hat gave him the appearance of a scarecrow. I couldn't help but think fleetingly of Harold standing amid acres of corn, repelling crows and other corn-stealing birds.

Opposite the four men sat Ruth and Penelope. Ruth, who was seated directly in front of me, wore gold-rimmed pince-nez glasses and sported a short curly do, which comically resembled a silver poodle. Penelope appeared to be short and corpulent, with a high nasal voice and an accent native to New York, or maybe Boston.

The spectators gathered about to cheer on their favorite contestant or to instill courage in those who were having second thoughts about the intelligence of eating perfectly good peppers (peppers which seemed to be minding their own business), but Judge Albert erased all of these futile thoughts

from our minds by placing a two-minute timer in the center of the bench and abruptly yelling, "Go!" And go, we did!

I immediately armed myself with two of the fattest rascals I could see on my plate and thrust them both into my mouth and bit down near the stem and vigorously began to chew, while reaching for two more peppers. My mouth instantly transformed itself into an inferno. No longer was my mouth smooth-flowing and quite functional, but rather the epitome of Hell itself, and my breathing became labored and my vision blurred.

A river of fire seemed to roil and rage within my mouth, and the fire and brimstone laid waste to all living creatures and burned all the bridges within my self-made Hell; a Hell that had once been a normal mouth.

At that moment, I would have drunk deeply from anything available, whether it was from a free-flowing river of mud or licking dew from early morning grass. Anything to extinguish the flames. The fiery little demons stole my breath, and awakened tear-ducts long thought dormant. I could feel my sinuses breaking loose into liquid form, which threatened to run, and run fast, if I didn't hurry and apply a tissue.

I could literally feel beads of perspiration dot my forehead and top lip, like a glass of ice water sweating beneath the fierce rays of the sun on a hot summer day. A small trickle of sweat lurched its way down the small of my back and tickled my sensitive skin. With my watery green eyes temporarily impaired, I relied on my keen sense of hearing to inform me of my opponents' progress, or the lack thereof.

Through incessant laughter and yelling of the spectators, I could hear the ragged breathing of my pal, Frank. And if I could have mustered enough sense to laugh, I would have. But I was at a point where laughter was hardly at the fore of my convoluted mind. Every so often, I would hear Frank grunt or emit a hissing sound through clenched teeth, a sound something akin to air being released from a car tire, and I heard him sniff several times, but this was a collective sound at this point.

I heard Owen stifle a cough and Harold exhale loudly and proclaim, "Dern, these things are hot!"

Over on the opposite side of the bench, the two women doggedly continued to eat the hottest peppers a reasonable person ever had occasion for, and their discomfort rarely crossed my ears. But I know the ladies had to be feeling a bit out of constitution because the only way a person could muster through an ordeal as hot as the one we were currently engaged in and remain neutral of temperament, was if that person enjoyed complete immunity over his or her senses, or if that person were half insane.

Finally, over the sniffs and coughs, laughter and chaos, and an excruciatingly long two minutes, the timer rang. I felt elated. I don't believe there was ever a more beautiful sound in the world, than the one that ding-a-ling-a-linged from that dime-store timer. The contest was finally over. Through blood-shot eyes and runny-noses, we awaited the tally of the remaining jalapenos and the declaration of a winner.

Ruth, the human poodle, won hands-down. E

Smith Unit fireproofs marriages

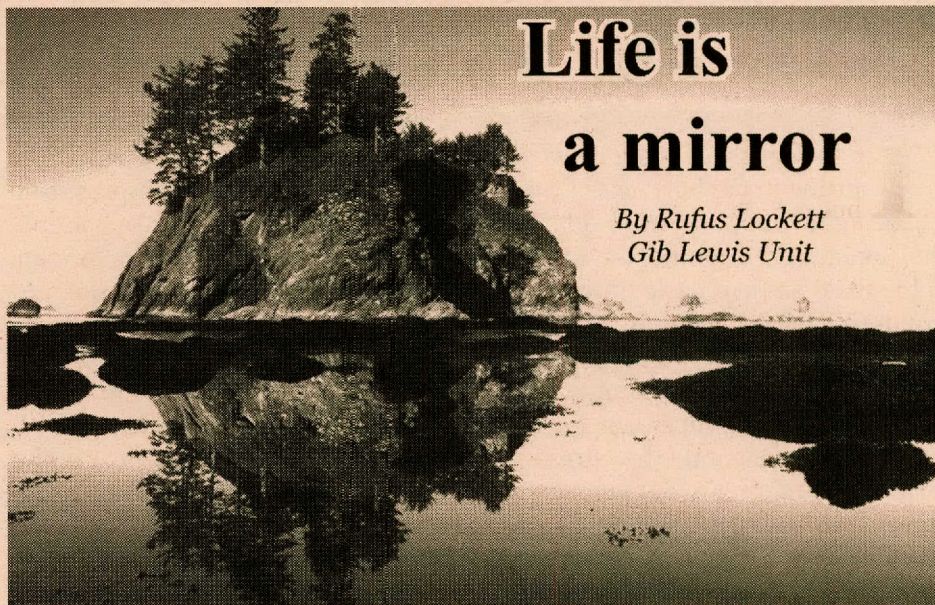
By Craig S. Whitley
Smith Unit Reporter

Thanks to the chaplaincy department's continued support of the program "Fireproofing Your Marriage", a class of 19 graduates has come away with a new perspective on what marriage is truly about. This course teaches success through Biblical principles that are used in marriage and all relationships with family members, friends, co-workers and employers.

Through the collective efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Warren, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown, along with offender Derek Bailey and previous graduates assisting the volunteers, this class reached 19 new men in a way they didn't expect.

At the end of the class, the men were given three questions: 1.) What did I learn and expect? 2.) Why did I take this class? 3.) How will I use this class?

As I sat listening to all the men answer these three questions in front of the class, I saw and experienced their emotions. It was truly an experience not soon to be forgotten. I believe that this class has been designed to help these men become better husbands, whether married now or planning to wed in the future. God is good — all the time.



Life is a mirror

By Rufus Lockett
Gib Lewis Unit

Like attracts like. The way we hope others will respond to us is the manner in which we must express ourselves.

Perhaps you have heard it said that a child's behavior reflects the manner in which he or she is treated. If he is treated with love, he becomes loving. If she is treated spitefully and ridiculed, she becomes cruel and spiteful. To some extent, the same is true in our lives. We get from others what we give. This is a basic function of our personalities.

Life is a mirror that reflects your expressions. If you smile, it reflects a cheery disposition. If you are spiteful, it shows a true picture of your contemptible self. In essence, what you say of others is said of you. You will find nothing in the world that you will not find in yourself first. Nature takes on your moods. If you rejoice, the world rejoices. If you trust, you are trusted. If you love, you are loved. If you hate, you are hated. You will cast your own reflection.

Etiquette continued from page 1

It is crucial, therefore, that those who do not want to make this place an integral part of their retirement plan begin to modify their current behavior—at least as it pertains to these two critical rules of etiquette.

The first is fairly simple. The book defines a conversation as being "when two or more people discuss different topics, exchange ideas, share information, and give each other an opportunity to contribute." Those paying attention will notice that nowhere in this definition does the phrase "shout at the top of your lungs" appear. See, I told you it was simple.

This second point is perhaps the most important to those of us who hope one day to be successful in some future entrepreneurial endeavor. According to *Etiquette for Dummies*, "Eye contact is the glue of a conversation. When you look directly at a person and pay attention to the conversation (rather than letting your eyes roam around the room in search of other social opportunities), you give a signal that, for the moment at least, the person you're talking to is the most interesting person imaginable."

Anyone who has been in prison for more than a month knows that this is certainly *not* the case among prison inmates. On the contrary, unless you're screaming at the top of your lungs (see rule #1 of this article), the person you're talking to is often paying more attention to everything in the dayroom *but* you. And vice versa!

Now, while this may work well in here (because let's face it, most of what's discussed in this place just isn't worthy of anyone's undivided attention), it's a good way to tank a job

interview in the freeworld. I mean, just picture it; there you are, sitting across from an individual who will determine whether or not you will be hired, and your eyes are on everything you see through the window behind his desk. Since this negative habit will follow you into the office of bank loan officers, you probably won't be borrowing very much money.

Then there's that whole dating-scene thing. The penitentiary attention span is not at all likely to make you very popular among the opposite sex. People on the outside actually enjoy being paid attention to. Go figure—right!

There were hundreds of other rules of proper behavior, but the above two could very well determine whether you will be a successful parolee. As a parting thought, I'd like to mention that the book points out that "the rules of etiquette were created as a way to show respect for yourself as well as for others." Now, I'm always hearing old-timers bemoan the fact that youngsters in prison no longer show respect. Whether respect is something that has ever been displayed in prison is, fortunately, not for me to say. But I've been here for 19 years, and *I've* never seen it. At any rate, the complete lack of respect that is considered acceptable behavior in prison will not work in the freeworld unless everyone you associate with has done time. So, rather than concerning yourself over those who don't show respect to you in here, take every opportunity you get to show respect to *them*. The bad habits that you develop in here will follow you into the world. Fortunately, though, so will the good ones.

Quest continued from page 1

The relationships between wife, sons, daughters and family are important physically and spiritually. The course concludes with participants creating and sharing their own manhood plans.

The Jester III Unit Quest for Authentic Manhood program, under the sponsorship of Chaplain Tom Lowe, graduated its second group of participants on Jan. 21. Graduation was held with facilitators D. Turner and O. Balogun giving parting advice.

"When you're committed to something, faithful to something, people

will know you were here. This certificate you receive means nothing unless you are a man," Turner said.

"You are somebody!" added former offender C. Farris. "Build on your past and never give up on yourselves. You can reach the future by never stopping to reach for what God has for you!"

All participants left with certificates of completion but, more importantly, a solid plan for looking back and projecting forward.

"The volunteers came here to make us better men," said offender A. Yancy III.

..... SUDOKU

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Difficult

A memoir

By Richard Luna
Clemens Unit Reporter

In the spring of 1998, I was sitting in the barracks of Echo Company, 219th Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga. I was in the third week of basic training, wondering what I had gotten myself into. There were only 10 more weeks to go, and our company commander was lamenting the upper echelon's decision to incorporate the "stress card" somewhere into our curriculum.

I remember we got a basic run-down on how they work, but were informed it was best for us to keep it put away. Fine with me; I didn't join to be issued a stress card anyway.

For what it's worth, before the military I didn't know anything about stress cards, or saltpeter for that matter.

I remain the only one in my company to get a counseling statement (minor case) and 15 days extra duty for climbing the rope and ringing the bell. I wasn't an Army Ranger, I

was an 11-M. That was my M.O.S. (military occupational specialty), and it meant that I was an infantryman who specialized in Bradley Fighting Vehicles. In other words, I had no business on that rope. So I got in a lot of trouble over that incident.

My grandpa did his best to make me feel better by telling me how he nearly got court-martialed in the Army Air Corps in 1944 for emptying a dump truck load of Italians onto a tarmac of a German airport. "They wouldn't get out of the truck, and I got tired of asking," Grandpa said.

I just wish I could have been there when someone finally told him they couldn't understand English. I've always laughed at the thought of someone on the other side of the world

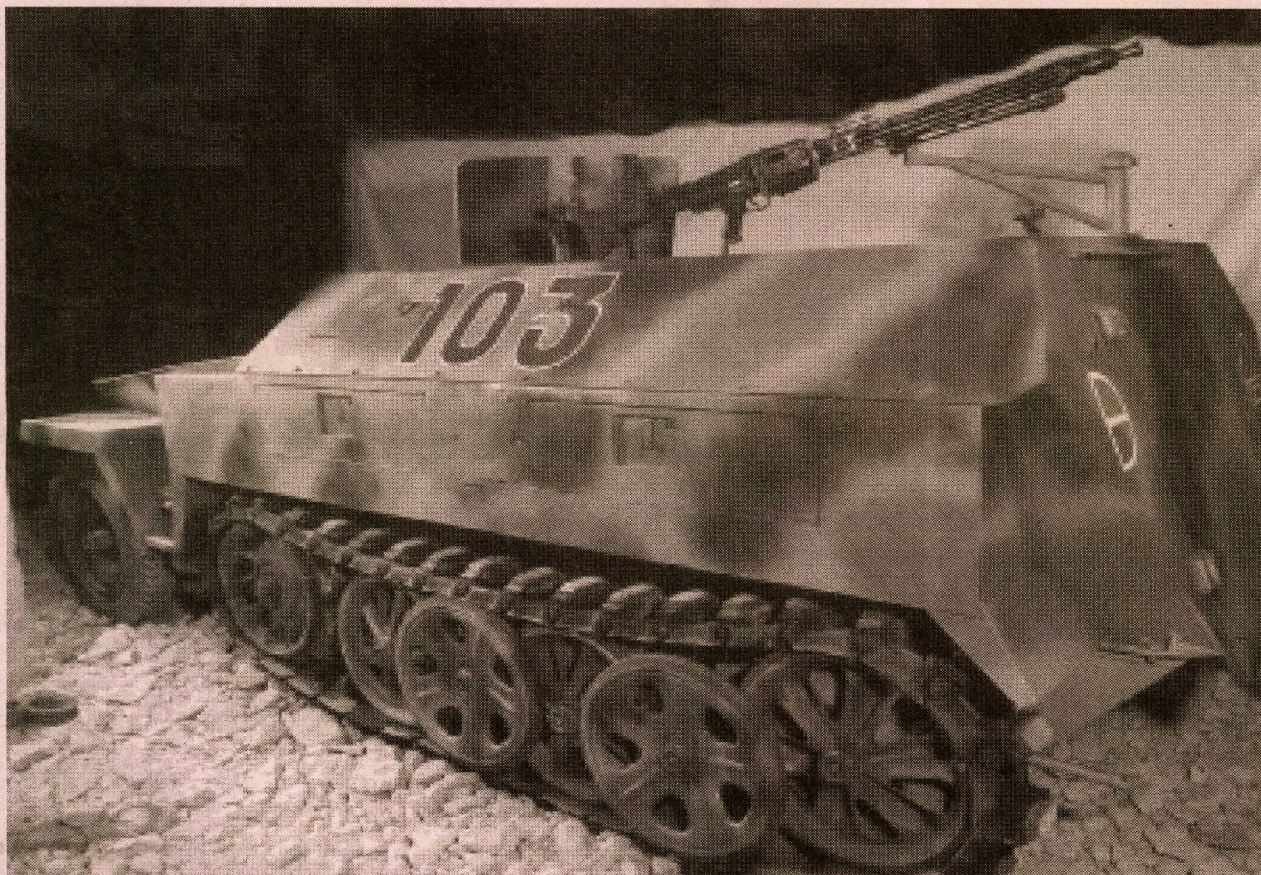
telling his grandkids about some crazy American soldier jumping from the cab of the dump truck they were riding in, yelling at them in a foreign language, and then dumping them and their tools all over the place.

For all the crazy things that have happened to me, I'm proud to have been where I've been and learned what I've learned. And not just in the military (where, among other things, I learned that it was possible to get a Lieutenant Colonel's Humvee stuck in less than a foot of water), but also in life. Don't feed the bears; a cape won't help you fly when you jump off

in prison, or that I've been duped by more than one person claiming to be my friend. By penitentiary standards, I'm considered a "mark." My dad just smiled. I was surprised at first, and then disappointed in myself for doubting my parents.

"When you start fitting in there, don't bother coming home," dad said.

I'd much rather endure ridicule from strangers who are just reacting to their insecurities than become just like them and lose the respect of my family members who *know* I'm not a mark. Thanks, dad!



the roof of a house; brown cows don't give chocolate milk; the list goes on and on.

Every once in a while, I catch myself daydreaming about where I've been. There's a common theme that rings through all of the episodes of my life. I recognize it every time I hear Bob Seger's "Against the Wind." In a recent phone call to my dad, I was reminded of how lucky I've been over the years. My dad taught me what a true friend is, so now I can recognize a phony long before he knows that he's been discovered. My ma has taught me how a woman of character is supposed to be.

I thought my dad would be ashamed when I told him how difficult it's been for me to fit in here

And then there's the question of how to differentiate between adapting and fitting in. One entails keeping the peace with your surroundings, while the other requires excuses for your actions. "How do you think I'll make it when I get out?" I asked dad. To which he replied, "You'll land on your feet; you always have."

It's been said that things happen for a reason. It's easy to say that when good things happen. It's a little harder to accept, though, when the bad stuff starts. I don't know if my brother knows how much I love him, but I'm thankful I got to tell him before he died last year. He was a beautiful person who was taken way too early. In so many ways, I wish it would have been me instead of him.

No one is promised tomorrow, and death comes for everyone sooner or later. In that respect, it's hard to plan for the future. However, it's safe to say that if you don't change your negative habits and take time to truly educate your mind (which, by the way, involves so much more than just taking classes), or if you continue to use superficial things like *Dungeons and Dragons* or dominoes to rehabilitate yourself, you're already working on your next trip here.

I'm thankful every morning when I wake up and see myself surrounded by all of the so-called "gangstas" and "playas" and the many ways they try to beat the system with their thug life. It lets me know that somewhere there is a district attorney who did the right thing. If I could wish for one thing, it would be that when your friend asks you to join a gang, or teaches you how to be a "playa", you'd realize that he is *not* your friend. If only you could see what all of those tattoos are going to look like when they are old and wrinkled.

I've been told on numerous occasions that it's not right to judge others. I object. I have every right to judge another by his character. And if I don't like what I see, I have every right to stay away from that person. Experience has taught me that only I have my best interests at heart, and that's true for everyone. Moreover, the best way to avoid making mistakes is to ask yourself if what you're about to do is worth the consequences. And never forget that, when a man you don't know comes up to you and asks you about the weather, keep your hand on your wallet.

In prison, just as in life on the outside, pain is necessary. Suffering, on the other hand, is optional. Whether we're here for six months or six decades, the seasons of our lives change; people change; circumstances change. Time waits for no one, and that's not always a bad thing. My ma doesn't even know it, but she taught me the most important lesson I'll ever need when she taught me that life's journey is just as important as it's destination, and that no matter what season has just passed through your life, don't cry because it's over. Instead, you should smile because it *happened*.

I love you, Ma and Dad. E

HELP WANTED



Help wanted for units Truck Drivers

Manufacturing and Logistics (M&L) is accepting applications for offender truck drivers. Qualifications are:

- Must currently be a G1 (only outside trustees need apply)
- Must possess a clear valid Texas Class A CDL (List all endorsements)
- Must have a minimum of 12 months left to minimum release date
- Must at least have a GED
- No medical restrictions that would inhibit job performance
- Will be relocated as needed

If you are currently assigned to a transfer facility, you must meet the above qualifications and also have no DWI conviction.

Interested offenders should send an I-60 that includes name, TDCJ number, current job assignment and driver's license number to:

**Freight Transportation
BOT Headquarters
Huntsville, Texas**

Huntsville Unit maintenance seeks technician

The Huntsville Unit maintenance department seeks a Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Recovery (HVACR) technician with at least five years experience in the service of all types of air conditioning equipment, including chill water, split systems, package units and window units. Must have experience in refrigeration equipment, including ice machines. Troubleshooting skill is a **must**. Applicant must be eligible to transfer to the Huntsville Unit.

Only G1 (outside trusty) offenders need to apply. Interested offenders should send their qualifications to the name and address below:

Regular mail:

Mr. J. Thraikill
Supervisor — Huntsville Maintenance Dept.
Huntsville Unit
815 12th St.
Huntsville, TX 77348

Truck mail:

Mr. J. Thraikill
Huntsville Unit Maintenance
Huntsville Unit (013)

Invisible like me

By William Chaplar
Staff Writer

In 1952, a novel by Ralph Ellison was published entitled *The Invisible Man*. The book's theme centered around the fact that, in America, blacks were ignored. While this may well have been unfortunate when applied to an entire race, being ignored is not *always* a bad thing.

For the past 19 years, I have been an invisible man. I have gone almost completely unnoticed by TDCJ officials. I like to maintain that I've spent my entire prison sentence "flying under the radar." But how, one might ask, is it possible to go unnoticed in prison? It's actually a fairly simple principle; the eye can't detect what it can't see.

Anyone who has seen the movie *Jurassic Park* may recall how, when confronted with the T-Rex, everyone was told to remain absolutely still because the dinosaur could ostensibly only detect movement. Now, while I would never pretend to know whether a reptile that lived millions of years ago was forced to detect its prey through movement rather than smell, I can say that, in prison, detection is most definitely based on a type of movement.

You see, correctional officers have a tendency to detect only bad behavior. If, for example, you are walking down the hallway talking, it's a fairly safe bet that you will attract the unwanted attention of one or more officers. If, on the other hand, you are silent, no one will know you are even there. It's sort of the reverse of an often posed philosophical riddle: If a tree falls in the woods and there is no one around to hear it, does it make a sound? In prison, if an offender walking down the hallway doesn't make a sound, will there be anyone around who will *notice* him? My

contention is that they won't. So I am the Invisible Man, not because I am transparent but because I do nothing that is detectable to the eye that is trained to react to bad behavior.

No one can see me *not* talking in the hallways; no one can see me *not* stealing food from the chow hall; no one can see me *not* cutting in the commissary line. In that respect, I am indeed invisible.

As I implied earlier, invisibility in prison is not necessarily a bad thing. Indeed, in the 19 years that I have been incarcerated, I've never received a case—either major or minor. You can't write up what you don't see, because it hasn't happened.

I speak from years of experience when I say that invisibility in prison isn't nearly as difficult as most might believe. It doesn't require a Harry Potter-esque cloak nor does it involve a potion that has been concocted in the lab of a mad scientist.

In fact, it only requires one thing that each of us has the potential of possessing: maturity!

I am of the firm belief that disciplinary cases in prison are more about immaturity than anything else. So, if one acts like they are 30 years old as opposed to 15 years old, there's a pretty good chance that they can be invisible. To *not* believe this (for me anyway) would be to believe that I am somehow special. And no one will ever make believe that I am special.

So if you've grown sick and tired of the whole cell and commissary restriction scene, why not give invisibility a try? It's worked for me for nearly two decades now. Maybe it'll work for you.



My paradise

Submitted by Rhonda Simpson
(Published in Fall 2010 Journal of Arts)

Following the sounds of Spring Fed Creek,
seeing the meadow and the water meet.
Walking barefoot
through the grass,
watching the wind mak-
ing the colorful wild-
flowers gently blend.
Smelling the soft
scent of sunshine
and spring,
Hearing the
songs of birds
that sing.
By myself
but not alone-
Crossing the
stream over large
smooth stones.
The large oak trees,
roots stretching
into the water.
Reminding me
I am God's child,
his very own daughter.
Laying in the shade, closing my eyes to reflect.
Letting go of past mistakes and of regrets.
Knowing I have been forgiven-
Just as Christ died and was risen.
My soul is filled with joy and peace
Feeling God's love for me,
that will never cease.



Prison people

Submitted by Lisa Kerr Brown
Plane State Jail

Different people
together with rage
Stare out the window,
trapped in a cage.
Don't know the person
who sleeps beside you;
Can't believe
what they say is true.
Some are funny,
some are sad,
And some seem
like they have
just gone mad.



Some just sit
quietly on their beds;
All kinds of schemes
running through their
heads.
Some do anything
to get attention;
They get real crazy
and end up in detention.
So if you think you want
to come to prison,
Think about
what I didn't mention.

Confused

Submitted by Forrest Shane Mabrey
Hughes Unit

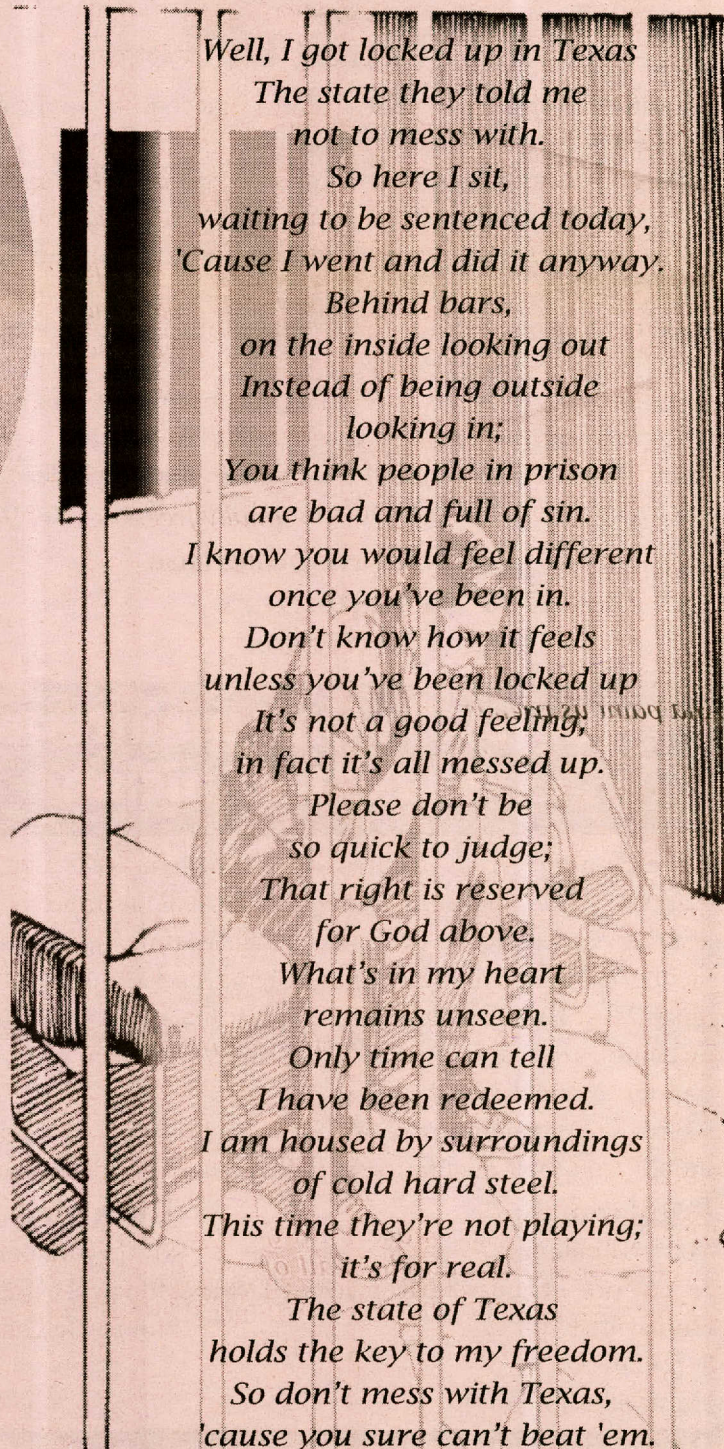
The author of confusion,
He is nothing nice,
Sneaky like a thief,
Creeping in the night.
Lurking in the shadows,
You think he's not there.
He comes to steal your soul!!
But do you even care?

Day after day,
You steadily live in sin,
Your mind doesn't fathom;
When you die, life begins.
You think you're very clever?
You think you're smart too?
Well, the author of confusion
Most definitely has confused
you!!

TEXAS BARS

Submitted by Patricia Siqueriros
Woodman Unit

Well, I got locked up in Texas
The state they told me
not to mess with.
So here I sit,
waiting to be sentenced today,
'Cause I went and did it anyway.
Behind bars,
on the inside looking out
Instead of being outside
looking in;
You think people in prison
are bad and full of sin.
I know you would feel different
once you've been in.
Don't know how it feels
unless you've been locked up
It's not a good feeling,
in fact it's all messed up.
Please don't be
so quick to judge;
That right is reserved
for God above.
What's in my heart
remains unseen.
Only time can tell
I have been redeemed.
I am housed by surroundings
of cold hard steel.
This time they're not playing;
it's for real.
The state of Texas
holds the key to my freedom.
So don't mess with Texas,
'cause you sure can't beat 'em.



The painting

Submitted by Larry Forrester
Dominguez Unit

Let us take the paints down from our shelves.
We are the artists of ourselves.
We've painted sadness in our lives
With endless shadows and darkened skies.



We control the weather
in this painting

Then stand in
the rain and
say, "Gosh,
it's raining!"

Today, why
don't we
paint us
new
With
more
sunshine
and skies
so blue?

In this
painting,
there's you
and me.

The weather's
good, and we're
finally free.

There are many colors that we could choose,
But "love" is the color that we will use.

Let's be the artists of each other

And paint us friends, family, sisters, and brothers.

Leaving this prison

Submitted by Melissa R. Drake
Woodman State Jail

Now it's time for you to go home,

But know that you are never alone.

You will always be in our hearts,

Which means that we will never part.

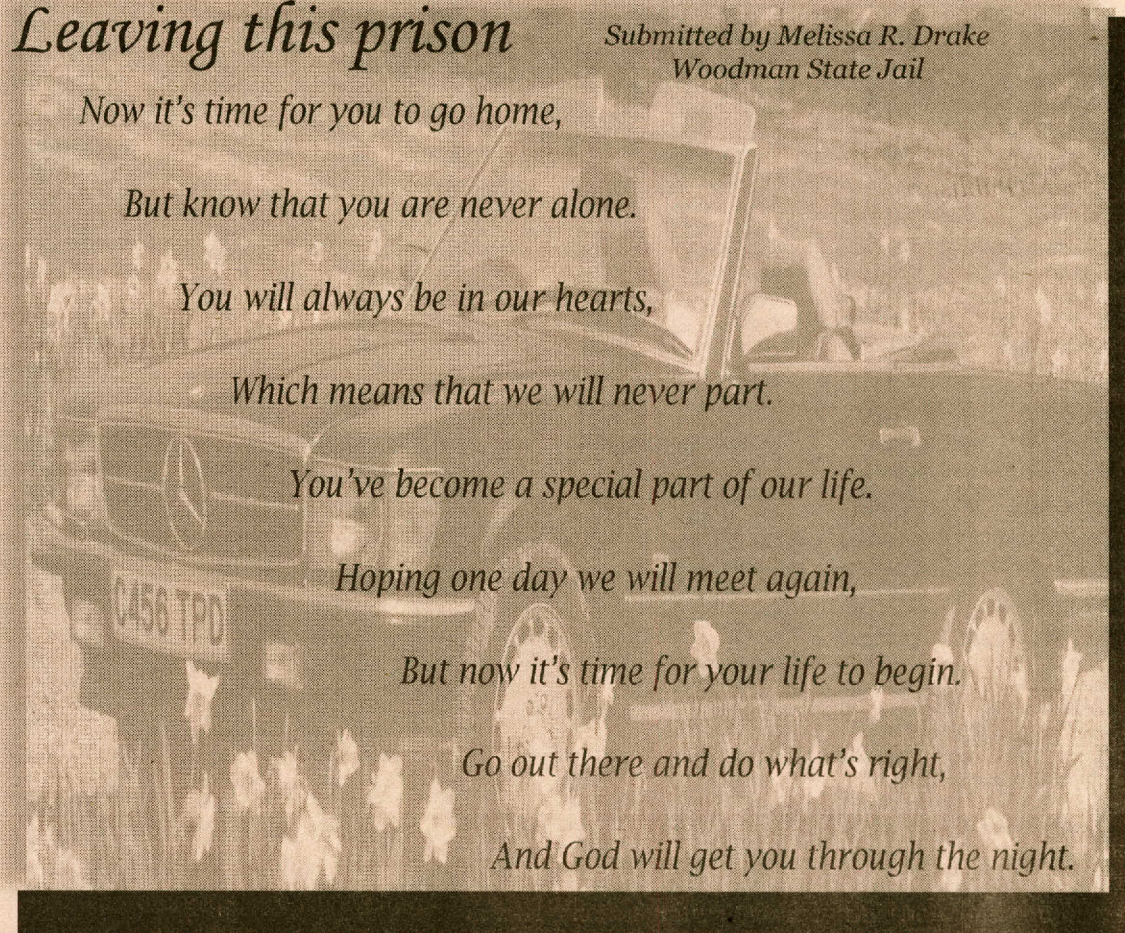
You've become a special part of our life.

Hoping one day we will meet again,

But now it's time for your life to begin.

Go out there and do what's right,

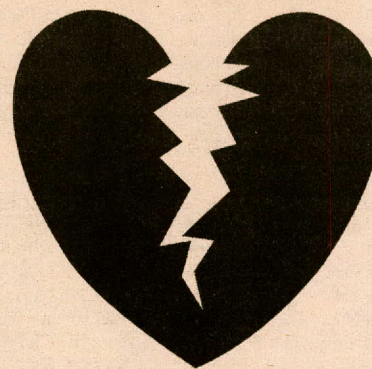
And God will get you through the night.



Torn

Submitted by Shawn Lawrence
Estelle Unit

I often drift
from this place
With tears
in my eyes,
Remembering your
warm embrace.
You said through
thick and thin;
You said through
five or ten.
Even fifteen, you'd be
there 'til the end...
Broken down
inside myself,
Anger controls
my every day.



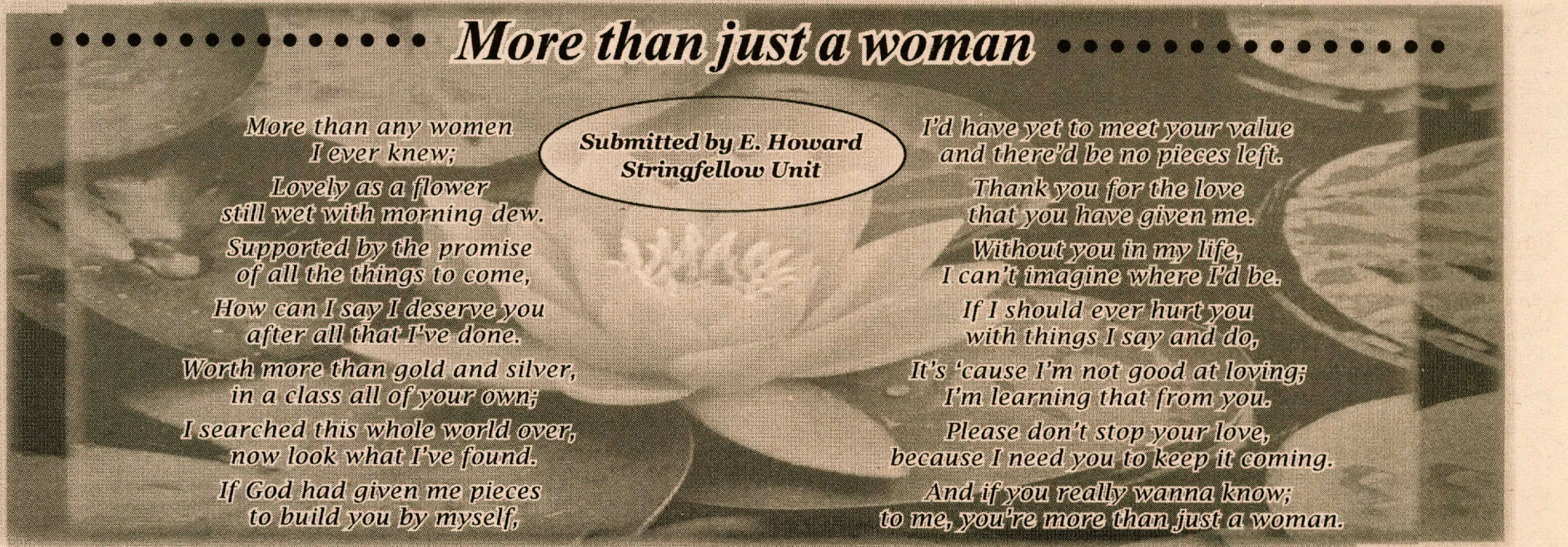
When are you going
to write me telling me
That everything
is okay?
Locked away
inside this misery,
Why can't it be the
way it used to be?
Thoughts of you
being true,
And our beautiful
children too.
Do you know how
much I love you?
Being torn, I wonder
if you do.

More than just a woman

Submitted by E. Howard
Stringfellow Unit

More than any women
I ever knew;
Lovely as a flower
still wet with morning dew.
Supported by the promise
of all the things to come,
How can I say I deserve you
after all that I've done.
Worth more than gold and silver,
in a class all of your own;
I searched this whole world over,
now look what I've found.
If God had given me pieces
to build you by myself,

I'd have yet to meet your value
and there'd be no pieces left.
Thank you for the love
that you have given me.
Without you in my life,
I can't imagine where I'd be.
If I should ever hurt you
with things I say and do,
It's 'cause I'm not good at loving;
I'm learning that from you.
Please don't stop your love,
because I need you to keep it coming.
And if you really wanna know;
to me, you're more than just a woman.



ARIZONA CARDINALS

Sept.11 Carolina 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Seattle 3:15 p.m.
Oct.2 N.Y.G. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.9 at Min. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 Pit. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.30 at Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 St.L. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.13 at Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at S.F. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.27 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 Dallas 3:15 p.m.
Dec.11 S.F. 3:05 p.m.
Dec.18 Cle. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Seattle 3:15 p.m.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept.11 at Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Phi. 7:20 p.m.
Sept.25 at T.B. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.2 at Seattle 3:05 p.m.
Oct.9 G.B. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.16 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.6 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 Min. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Dec.15 Jac. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.26 at N.O. 7:30 p.m.
Jan.1 T.B. 12:00 p.m.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Sept.11 Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at St.L. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 N.Y.J. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.9 BYE
Oct.16 Houston 3:05 p.m.
Oct.24 at Jac. 7:30 p.m.
Oct.30 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 at Pit. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.13 at Seattle 3:05 p.m.
Nov.20 Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.24 S.F. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.4 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at S.D. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.24 Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept.11 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Oak. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 N.E. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 Was. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.6 N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 at Dallas 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at Miami 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.18 Miami 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 Denver 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at N.E. 12:00 p.m.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sept.11 at Arizona 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 G.B. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 Was. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 Min. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 BYE
Nov.13 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at N.O. 12:00 p.m.

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept.11 Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 G.B. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.2 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Oct.10 at Detroit 7:30 p.m.
Oct.16 Min. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.23 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.7 at Phi. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.13 Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.27 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Dec.4 K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at Denver 3:05 p.m.
Dec.18 Seattle 12:00 p.m.
Dec.25 at G.B. 7:20 p.m.
Jan.1 at Min. 12:00 p.m.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept.11 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Denver 3:15 p.m.
Sept.25 S.F. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 at Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 at Seattle 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 at Ten. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.13 Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 Houston 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Bal. 12:00 p.m.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept.11 Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Miami 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 BYE
Oct.16 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.23 Seattle 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 at S.F. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.8 at Pit. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.18 at Arizona 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 at Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Pit. 12:00 p.m.

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept.12 Oak. 9:15 p.m.
Sept.18 Cin. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.25 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at G.B. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 at Miami 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 Detroit 3:05 p.m.
Nov.6 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.13 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.17 N.Y.J. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.27 at S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.4 at Min. 3:05 p.m.
Dec.11 Chicago 3:05 p.m.
Dec.18 N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 K.C. 3:15 p.m.

DETROIT LIONS

Sept.11 at T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Min. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Dallas 12:00 p.m.
Oct.10 Chicago 7:30 p.m.
Oct.16 S.F. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 at Denver 3:05 p.m.
Nov.6 BYE
Nov.13 at Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Nov.24 G.B. 11:30 a.m.
Dec.4 at N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 Min. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Dec.24 S.D. 3:05 p.m.
Jan.1 at G.B. 12:00 p.m.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept.8 N.O. 7:30 p.m.
Sept.18 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Chicago 3:15 p.m.
Oct.2 Denver 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 at Atlanta 7:20 p.m.
Oct.16 St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at Min. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.6 at S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.14 Min. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.20 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.24 at Detroit 11:30 a.m.
Dec.4 at N.Y.G. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.11 Oak. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.25 Chicago 7:20 p.m.
Jan.1 Detroit 12:00 p.m.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept.11 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Pit. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.3 at T.B. 7:30 p.m.
Oct.9 K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at N.O. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.30 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 BYE
Nov.27 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at N.E. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.11 at Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.22 Houston 7:20 p.m.
Jan.1 at Jac. 12:00 p.m.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Sept.11 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.24 Bal. 7:30 p.m.
Oct.31 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 BYE
Nov.13 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 Houston 12:00 p.m.
Dec.5 S.D. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.11 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.15 at Atlanta 7:20 p.m.
Dec.24 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Ind. 12:00 p.m.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept.14 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at S.D. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 Min. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.31 S.D. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.6 Miami 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 Denver 12:00 p.m.
Nov.21 at N.E. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.27 Pit. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.4 at Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 G.B. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 Oak. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Denver 3:15 p.m.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept.12 N.E. 6:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Houston 3:15 p.m.
Sept.25 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 BYE
Oct.17 at N.Y.J. 7:30 p.m.
Oct.23 Denver 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 at N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 Was. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Nov.24 at Dallas 3:15 p.m.
Dec.4 Oak. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 at N.E. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept.11 at S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at Chicago 7:20 p.m.
Oct.23 G.B. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.30 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 BYE
Nov.14 at G.B. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.20 Oak. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 Denver 3:05 p.m.
Dec.11 at Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Chicago 12:00 p.m.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept.12 at Miami 6:00 p.m.
Sept.18 S.D. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.25 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Oak. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 N.Y.J. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.16 Dallas 3:15 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 at Pit. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 N.Y.G. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.13 at N.Y.J. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.21 K.C. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.27 at Phi. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.4 Ind. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.11 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Denver 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 Miami 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept.8 at G.B. 7:30 p.m.
Sept.18 Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Houston 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at T.B. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.23 Ind. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.30 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 at Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 BYE
Nov.28 N.Y.G. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.4 Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Min. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.26 Atlanta 7:30 p.m.
Jan.1 Carolina 12:00 p.m.

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept.11 at Was. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.19 St.L. 7:30 p.m.
Sept.25 at Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Arizona 3:05 p.m.
Oct.9 Seattle 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 Miami 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 at N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.13 at S.F. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.20 Phi. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.28 at N.O. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.4 G.B. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.11 at Dallas 7:20 p.m.
Dec.18 Was. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 at N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 Dallas 12:00 p.m.

NEW YORK JETS

Sept.11 Dallas 7:20 p.m.
Sept.18 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Oak. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 at Bal. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.9 at N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.17 Miami 7:30 p.m.
Oct.23 S.D. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.6 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 N.E. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.17 at Denver 7:20 p.m.
Nov.27 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Phi. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Miami 12:00 p.m.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept.12 at Denver 9:15 p.m.
Sept.18 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 N.Y.J. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 Cle. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.23 K.C. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.6 Denver 3:05 p.m.
Nov.10 at S.D. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.20 at Min. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 Chicago 3:05 p.m.
Dec.4 at Miami 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at G.B. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 Detroit 3:05 p.m.
Dec.24 at K.C. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 S.D. 3:15 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept.11 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Atlanta 7:20 p.m.
Sept.25 N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 S.F. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 Dallas 7:20 p.m.
Nov.7 Chicago 7:30 p.m.
Nov.13 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at N.Y.G. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.27 N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.1 at Seattle 7:20 p.m.
Dec.11 at Miami 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 N.Y.J. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.24 at Dallas 3:15 p.m.
Jan.1 Was. 12:00 p.m.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept.11 at Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Seattle 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 at Ind. 7:20 p.m.
Oct.2 at Houston 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at Arizona 3:05 p.m.
Oct.30 N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 Bal. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.13 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 BYE
Nov.27 at K.C. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.4 Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.8 Cle. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.19 at S.F. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.24 St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Sept.11 Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.19 at N.Y.G. 7:30 p.m.
Sept.25 Bal. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 Was. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 BYE
Oct.16 at G.B. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at Dallas 3:15 p.m.
Oct.30 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 at Arizona 3:15 p.m.
Nov.13 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Seattle 3:05 p.m.
Nov.27 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at S.F. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.12 at Seattle 7:30 p.m.
Dec.18 Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 at Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 S.F. 12:00 p.m.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept.11 Min. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 at N.E. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.25 K.C. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.2 Miami 3:15 p.m.
Oct.9 at Denver 3:15 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 at N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.31 at K.C. 7:30 p.m.
Nov.6 G.B. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.10 Oak. 7:20 p.m.
Nov.20 at Chicago 3:15 p.m.
Nov.27 Denver 3:15 p.m.
Dec.5 at Jac. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.11 Buffalo 3:15 p.m.
Dec.18 Bal. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.24 at Detroit 3:05 p.m.
Jan.1 at Oak. 3:15 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept.11 Seattle 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 Dallas 3:05 p.m.
Sept.25 at Cin. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 T.B. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.16 at Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 BYE
Oct.30 Cle. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 at Was. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 N.Y.G. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.20 Arizona 3:05 p.m.
Nov.24 at Bal. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.4 St.L. 3:15 p.m.
Dec.11 at Arizona 3:05 p.m.
Dec.19 Pit. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.24 at Seattle 3:15 p.m.
Jan.1 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept.11 at S.F. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 at Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Arizona 3:15 p.m.
Oct.2 Atlanta 3:05 p.m.
Oct.9 at N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 Cin. 3:15 p.m.
Nov.6 at Dallas 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 Bal. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.20 at St.L. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.27 Was. 3:05 p.m.
Dec.1 Phi. 7:20 p.m.
Dec.12 St.L. 7:30 p.m.
Dec.18 at Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 S.F. 3:15 p.m.
Jan.1 at Arizona 3:15 p.m.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept.11 Detroit 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 at Min. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Atlanta 3:15 p.m.
Oct.3 Ind. 7:30 p.m.
Oct.9 at S.F. 3:05 p.m.
Oct.16 N.O. 3:15 p.m.
Oct.23 Chicago 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 BYE
Nov.6 at N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 Houston 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at G.B. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at Ten. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 at Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.17 Dallas 7:20 p.m.
Dec.24 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Atlanta 12:00 p.m.

TENNESSEE TITANS

Sept.11 at Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.18 Bal. 12:00 p.m.
Sept.25 Denver 12:00 p.m.
Oct.2 at Cle. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.9 at Pit. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.16 BYE
Oct.23 Houston 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.6 Cin. 3:05 p.m.
Nov.13 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 at Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 T.B. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.4 at Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 N.O. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at Ind. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 Jac. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Houston 12:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept.11 N.Y.G. 3:15 p.m.
Sept.18 Arizona 12:00 p.m.
Sept.26 at Dallas 7:30 p.m.
Oct.2 at St.L. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.19 BYE
Oct.16 Phi. 12:00 p.m.
Oct.23 at Carolina 12:00 p.m.
Oct.30 Buffalo 3:05 p.m.
Nov.6 S.F. 12:00 p.m.
Nov.13 at Miami 12:00 p.m.
Nov.20 Dallas 12:00 p.m.
Nov.27 at Seattle 3:05 p.m.
Dec.4 N.Y.J. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.11 N.E. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.18 at N.Y.G. 12:00 p.m.
Dec.24 Min. 12:00 p.m.
Jan.1 at Phi. 12:00 p.m.

2011 NFL Texas team schedules

HOUSTON TEXANS

Sept.11 Indianapolis 12:00 p.m.
 Sept.18 at Miami 3:15 p.m.
 Sept.25 at New Orleans 12:00 p.m.
 Oct.2 Pittsburgh 12:00 p.m.
 Oct.9 Oakland 12:00 p.m.
 Oct.16 at Baltimore 3:05 p.m.
 Oct.23 at Tennessee 12:00 p.m.
 Oct.30 Jacksonville 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.6 Cleveland 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.13 at Tampa Bay 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.20 **BYE**
 Nov.27 at Jacksonville 12:00 p.m.
 Dec.4 Atlanta 12:00 p.m.
 Dec.11 at Cincinnati 12:00 p.m.
 Dec.18 Carolina 12:00 p.m.
 Dec.22 at Indianapolis 7:20 p.m.
 Jan.1 Tennessee 12:00 p.m.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept.11 at N.Y. Jets 7:20 p.m.
 Sept.18 at San Francisco 3:05 p.m.
 Sept.26 Washington 7:30 p.m.
 Oct.2 Detroit 12:00 p.m.
 Oct.9 **BYE**
 Oct.16 at New England 3:15 p.m.
 Oct.23 St. Louis 3:15 p.m.
 Oct.30 at Philadelphia 7:20 p.m.
 Nov.6 Seattle 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.13 Buffalo 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.20 at Washington 12:00 p.m.
 Nov.24 Miami 3:15 p.m.
 Dec.4 at Arizona 3:15 p.m.
 Dec.11 N.Y. Giants 7:20 p.m.
 Dec.17 at Tampa Bay 7:20 p.m.
 Dec.24 Philadelphia 3:15 p.m.
 Jan.1 at N.Y. Giants 12:00 p.m.

Dopeman—the dream

By Charles Ferdin
 Central Unit

My time behind the wall is something I will never forget. Things I see are things I never want to see again, especially the way life is for a young, minority male. I am a convict, so what should I do when I'm down and out but pick up where I left off before my incarceration. It could be back to the life that led me down the path of destruction, because all I've ever known is the Dopeman dream.

Block to block; interstate to interstate. Crumbs to bricks. One gun; two clips. But is that the life to live? Taking risks on a day-to-day basis. Is it right or wrong? What more do you need but a good team, a street family, a band of brothers ready to do whatever for the dollar. Working hard, playing harder; looking good, feeling better. Hopping

in and out of the nicest clubs. City to city, this is the life. Life is good chasing the Dopeman dream. Or is it?

The Dopeman dream hits the end from time to time. Boys get popped who stay loyal. Those who *don't* stay loyal get popped too. So now what's an individual like myself to do? I reminisce when incarcerated.

Chasing the Dopeman's dream. In the end, is it all worth it? Woe, if I could go back and change it all, would I? Live and learn is my motto. So as I sit here and think on paper, I ask myself: how does my team feel about the situation we're now in? Four out of five of us are incarcerated in state or federal prisons. Only time can tell what is next for a young man like me. As I sit here inside looking out, I ask myself who is to blame for my incarceration. I can't blame anyone but myself and the dream of being the Dopeman. *ε*

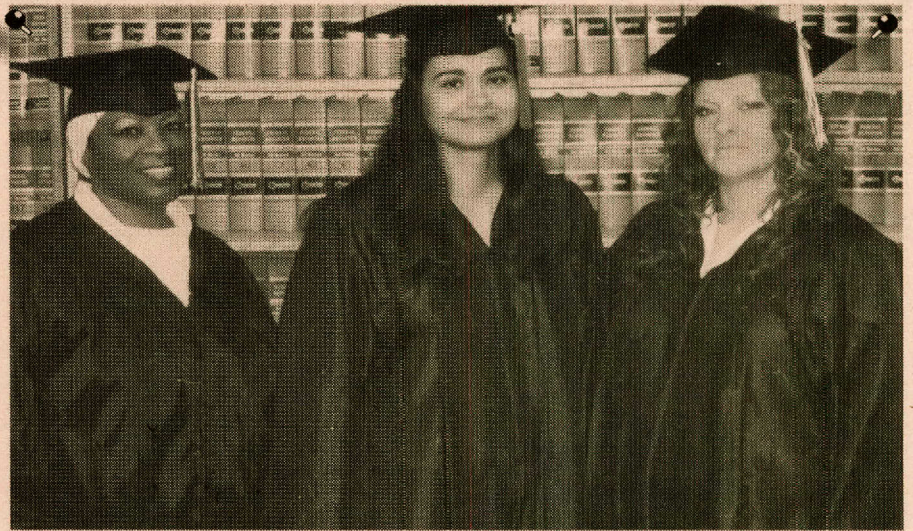
Experiences continued from page 1

It's just a logical decision for us to take advantage of education. It's a choice and an inner desire to want to change from within. Anyone can educate themselves and gain all the knowledge in the world. If a change hasn't been brought about from within, what good have we done outside of educating ourselves?

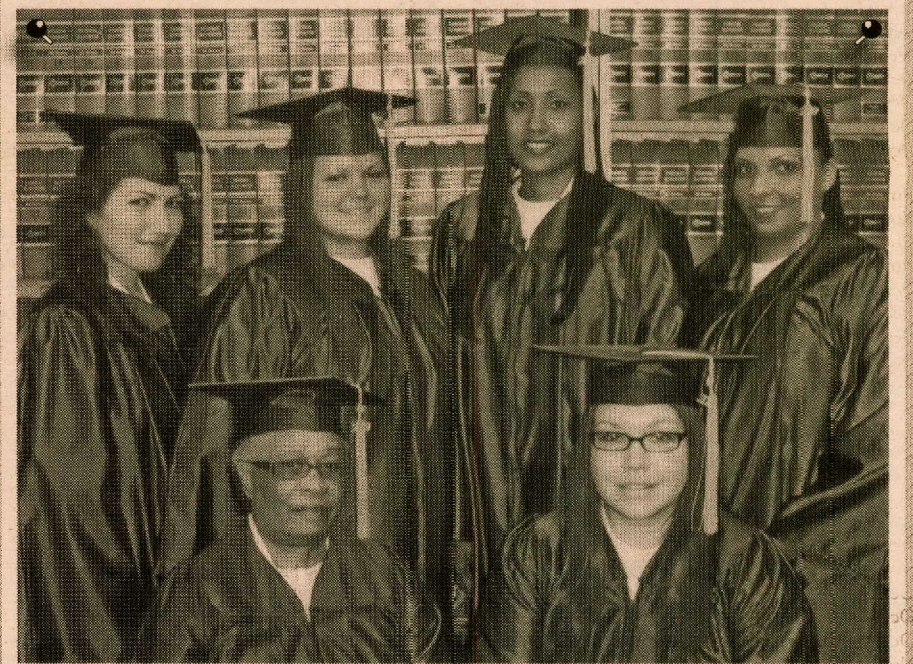
Education is important and imperative, but changing ourselves from within is paramount. If a transformation doesn't take place in our hearts, have we really changed ourselves with a diploma or degree? It's a true life altering choice when a person chooses to change themselves from within. I'm preaching to the choir since I've been to prison four times. I've made bad choices all my life and my criminal record reflects it. I may never get out of prison, but I think I can honestly say that I have made a conscious choice to change from within. Of course, God gets the glory for the change in my life, and He performed a miracle in my life.

So I challenge every individual reading this to make a decision today to do an inventory on their heart and make that change. We control our own reality. Educate yourself with books, and more importantly, change yourself from within. *ε*

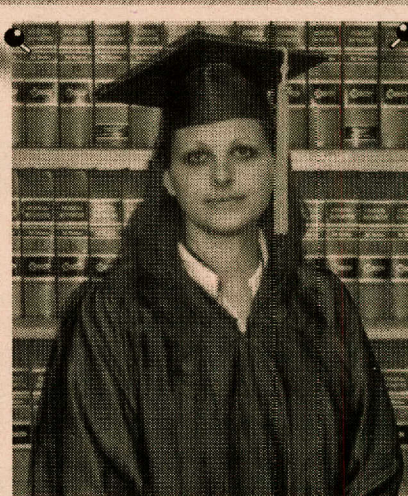
TDCJ/Windham bulletin board



Mountain View Unit Texas A&M @ Central Texas graduates are Geraldine Dixon, Alexa Garza and Eileen Pruitt.

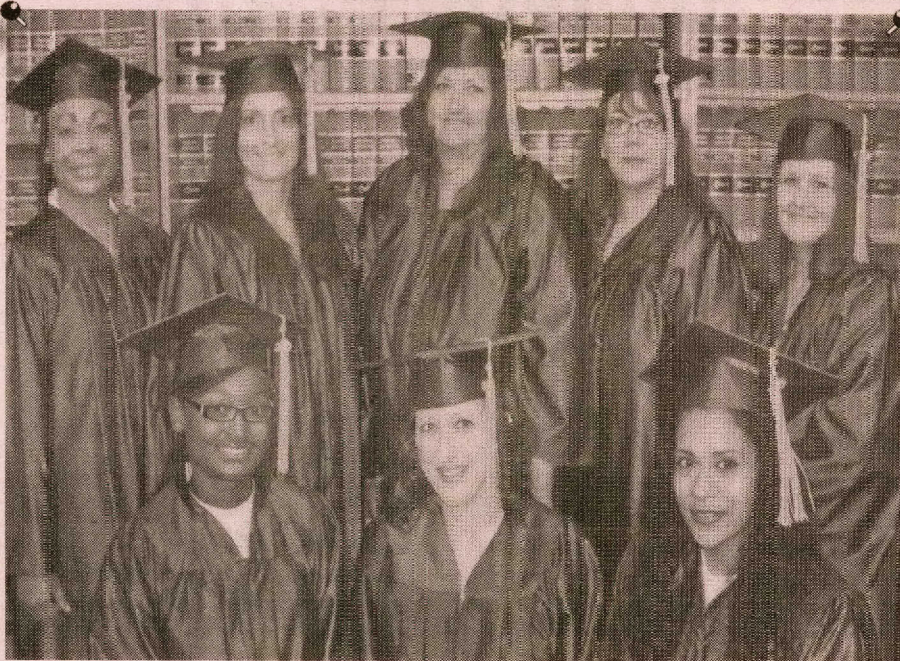


Hilltop Unit Central Texas College graduates are Hazel Tolliver, Billie Winkle, Amanda Doyle, Doris Watkins, Arlene Prince and Melissa Frazier.



Murray Unit Central Texas College graduate is Jamie Hires.

TDCJ/Windham bulletin board

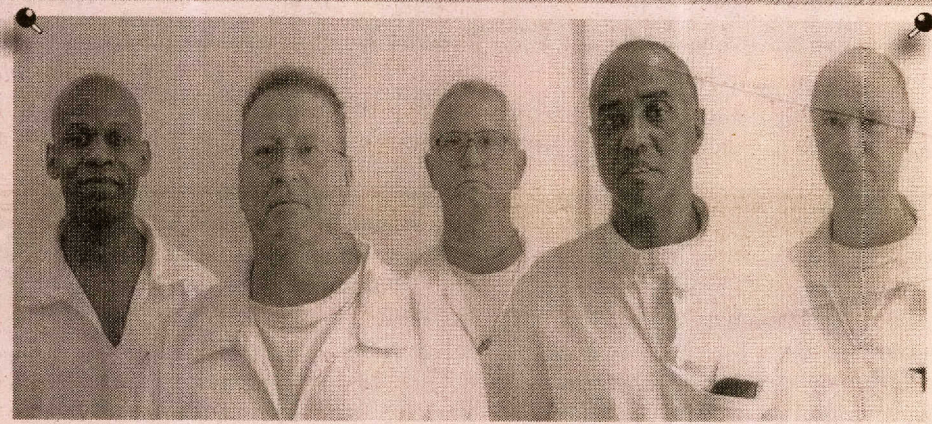
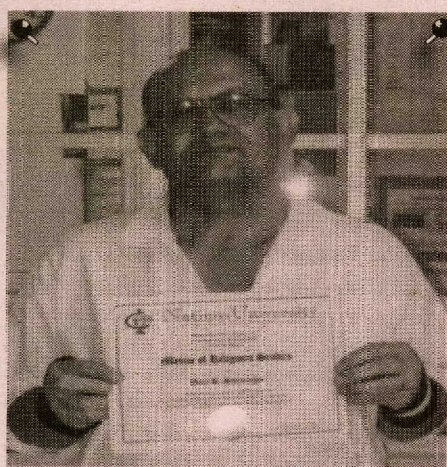


Crain Unit Central Texas College graduates are Stella Aguilar, Michele Morris, Francis Meisinger, Tamesha Booker, Melanie Ward, Sherry Page, Linda Johnson and Tracy Freeman.



Stiles Unit Lamar State College graduates receiving Associate of Arts degrees in Academic Studies are David Lawhon, Shane Hancock, Glenn Taylor, Luis Villarreal, Jason Rich and Zack Cartwright.

Clements Unit Nations University, Louisiana, Masters Degree in Religious Studies graduate is Gary Swearingen.



Clements Unit poetry contest winners are Stanley Pendergrass, James Johnson, Robbie Hardin, Chris Bigham and Robert Hodson.



Allred Unit Cognitive Intervention graduates are Jose Angel Ybarra, Jeremy Estala, Mark Davis, Scott Ballard, Billy Don Jennings, Luis Gonzales, DeVette Wilson, Anthony Marshall, Jermaine Hicks, Conrad Garcia III, Miner Lee Thompson, Henry Green, Michael Mumhrey, Lawrence Faggett, Joe Jones, Brian Keith Mangrum, Adrian Fuller, Jimmy Lee Caldwell and Anthony Bolden.



Crain Unit Texas A&M @ Central Texas graduate is Melissa Agee.

My stay

By Lydia Diaz - Henley Unit

Once upon a time, I broke the law. I did a lot of bad things, so a judge sent me to Henley State Jail for 16 months. I had never really been punished before, so when I got there, I tried my best to get settled in. The first person I met was my bunkie, Grumpy. It seemed like no matter how hard I tried, I just could not get a kind word out of her. A girl named Optimistic came and introduced herself. She gave me the 411 on everything and everybody. Around me were bunkies like Confident, Foolish and Bored. They were all very different in their own ways.

As the days passed, I went on to meet other girls like Disgusted, Frustrated and Miserable. They never seemed to have any good days. One girl named Determined always kept my spirits up, and I always made it a habit to hang around with Happy and Joyful.

I'll never forget the day that I had words with Angry and Envious. They wanted to cut in front of me in the commissary line, and I told them they could go first because they weren't going to steal my joy. Another day, I was able to give words of encouragement to Sad and Confused, and it made me feel good that I could help them. It seemed that I knew everyone in my pod except three girls—Hopeless, Jealous and Pained. I really didn't feel the need to reach out to them.

Everybody was unique in their own way—they were each able to teach me something new about myself. Of all

of the girls I met, though, Karma was my best friend. She taught me how all of the good and bad things in my life were going to start coming back home. She said that it was up to me to do good from this point on or bad things would continue to happen to me. She said I was here because I had to reap what I had sown. She warned me that it would be difficult to deal with, especially with all of the negative things going on around me. She assured me that I could find good in any bad situation. She told me that I had made my bed and I had to lie in it, and that there was nothing wrong with riding my bunk. It would keep me out of trouble.



The best day of my life was when I got a lay-in to go to school. I met my teacher, Ms. Wonderful. She taught me how to change all of the things that I didn't like about myself. She gave me courage, wisdom, love and understanding. She helped me get rid of my "stinking thinking." I didn't even know I had it, because I figured that I knew everything.

Ms. Wonderful was the best thing that ever happened to me, and I thank God every day that He placed her in my path. Thanks to her, I will have the *courage* to do bigger and better things; I'll have the *wisdom* to say no; I'll have *love* for myself and others and the *understanding* and *knowledge* I'll need to stay on the right path. Ms. Carroll and her class are truly wonderful. And as my best friend Karma tells me, "It is what it is." E

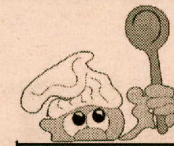
Crespo's chess corner

Richard Crespo
Terrell Unit

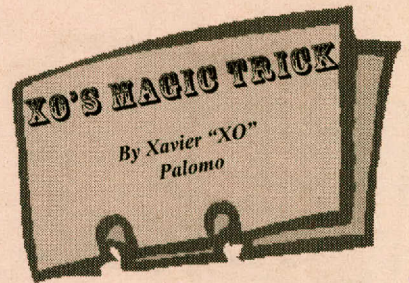
Basic chess rules

Note: these rules are based on the United States Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess.

- Touch-Move** — a player who touches his or his opponent's piece must move or capture it. Exception to this rule provided by first expressing "I adjust", to move one or more pieces on their squares.
- Calling check is not required** — this practice is frowned upon for many reasons. Imagine yourself in a tournament hall with 200 chess players calling out check; it would be rather noisy and distracting. Also, there is no talking in a tournament hall.
- If a player does not realize he is in check and touches a piece, he is still required to play that piece, as touch-move still applies.** If the touched piece cannot make a legal move to address the check, then and only then can he replace the piece to its original starting position and move a different piece.
- Fifty-move rule** — if there is no piece capture or pawn movement, the game is drawn.
- Three-move repetition of position** — if the same position appears three times, the game is drawn.
- Once a piece is touched and moved to another square, the turn is complete and the piece cannot be moved to a different square.** A lot of players have a bad habit of putting a piece on a square, analyzing the position and then moving it to another square. Also, many opponents will take a piece and place it over the square (hovering), to analyze the position without the piece touching the square, so he can claim this piece didn't touch the square and place it somewhere else. This is also illegal as the opponent is doing this to analyze his position by using the piece to look one move ahead in his analysis of the game.
- Distraction** — no player may distract his opponent in any way.
- Illegal position** — if, during the game, it is found that an illegal move was made (ex. King left in check), the position shall be reinstated to what it was before the illegal move was made, provided that it was discovered before both players have made 10 moves. If the position cannot be reinstated to its original position, then the game is annulled. E



RECIPES

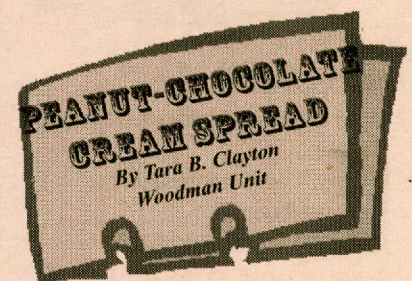


Ingredients:

1 package vanilla cookies
1 energizer mix
1 banana fudge ice cream
¼ cup hot chocolate

Directions:

Separate cookies from filling. Put into two separate bowls. Melt ice cream. Clean back of cup and crush cookies to fine crumbs with it. Mix ¼ of hot chocolate with a little less than ½ cup of hot water in cup. Then pour the cocoa little by little in the cookie crumbs. Mix with your hands then clump it together. Mix until it's like dough. Not too dry or runny. Then mix in the energizer mix and work it in with your hands. Then shape it to the bottom of the bowl, like a pie. After this mix the melted ice cream with the filling. Mix it until it is smooth. Whip it. Then pour this banana frosting on your cake. Now the magic trick: make it disappear!!!

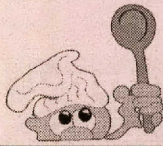


Ingredients:

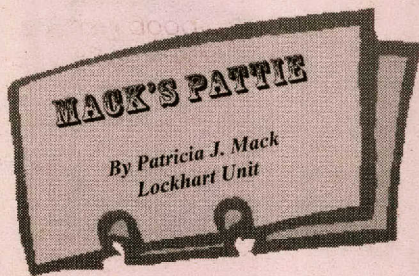
3 tablespoons of cocoa
1 tablespoon of peanut butter
1 tablespoon of hot water
1 nutty wafer
vanilla wafers (or Maria's Cookies)

Directions:

Mix cocoa, peanut butter, and hot water until smooth. Crush nutty wafer and add to mix. Mix well. Place on one vanilla wafer (or Maria's Cookie) and then top with another. Also great on cheese-cake or just by the spoonful.



RECIPES



Ingredients:

- 1 bag of mackerel
- 1 pack of cheese/chive package (crumbled)
- 1 handful of pork skins (crumbled)
- 1 jalapeno pepper (diced)
- 1 chili seasoning pack

Directions:

Combine and mix the ingredients together in a large bowl. Form mixture into a patty. Place patty in a chip bag and heat in hot pot for 30 minutes. (Best if eaten as sandwich when used with mayonnaise...delicious)



Ingredients:

- 1 bag of four-cheese potato flakes
- 1 bag of herb and butter potato flakes
- 1/3 bag of instant milk
- 1 bag of pork skins (crushed)
- 1 package of cream cheese
- 1 package of cream cheese and chives crackers
- squeeze cheese

Directions:

Mix potato flakes and milk together. Add hot water until thin like chowder. Cook in hot pot until good and steaming hot. Pour in a bowl. Add cream cheese and stir. Add hot water as needed to thin out. Add squeeze cheese to taste. Top with pork skins and cream cheese and chives crackers. (Add summer sausage if desired.)

REALITY

By Tim Jordan
Powledge Unit

I should have realized years ago what lay in store for someone who refused to take his responsibilities seriously. Burning through the 70s and 80s, I was driven by drugs and perishing from my own addictions, living from day to day with no feelings or future to speak of. I did the same things over and over with the same results.

As I look around from my 40-year merry-go-round, my liver reminds me that there's not much time left. Mail call and my trust fund reveals how I've trampled on my friends' and loved ones' lives. I've got nothing waiting for me out there. I can't blame them. This was *my* roller coaster ride.

Prison is my home now. Society has no place for losers. Reality hurts when you're sober. You're slapped in the face by the cold, hard facts of life. For many, it's too late. They call it being "institutionalized." If you get another chance in the world, leave your bad habits and addictions behind the fence. Remember, you're doing time; time is not doing you! ϵ

TDCJ Crime Stoppers:



In June of 2007, the remains of a probable Hispanic male possibly between the ages of 15-25 were discovered at 1403 Old Cedar Lane on the northwest corner of Walnut Creek Park in north Austin. The death probably occurred in 2006 or possibly earlier. The male could have been Asian or White, but most probably Hispanic, born 1981-1991. Be aware that hair length, facial hair, etc. could be different than the artist's rendition. Anyone with information on someone missing around 2006 is asked to contact Crime Stoppers.

Unsolved Murder

Crime Stoppers is seeking information pertaining to the shooting death of Pamela Johnson. Ms. Johnson was found on 7/14/97 near the 2700 block of Hunter Ferrell Road in Irving. If you have any information, or know someone that does, please contact Crime Stoppers. You may remain anonymous.

TDCJ Crime Stoppers:

If you have any information on these or any other unsolved felony crimes or missing persons, please contact TDCJ Crime Stoppers at P.O. Box 1855, Huntsville, TX, 77342-1855 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-832-8477. TDCJ Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest, filing of charges, or indictment of person or persons that committed a felony crime or is a wanted fugitive. Crime Stoppers guarantees your anonymity.

Sudoku solutions

Easy

8	6	1	2	9	7	5	4	3
4	3	7	8	1	5	9	6	2
2	5	9	4	6	3	7	8	1
7	2	8	3	5	9	6	1	4
3	9	5	6	4	1	2	7	8
1	4	6	7	2	8	3	9	5
9	8	3	5	7	4	1	2	6
5	1	2	9	8	6	4	3	7
6	7	4	1	3	2	8	5	9

Difficult

2	5	8	1	7	3	9	6	4
4	7	9	5	8	6	3	2	1
1	3	6	2	4	9	8	5	7
3	9	4	6	1	5	2	7	8
5	6	1	7	2	8	4	3	9
7	8	2	9	3	4	6	1	5
9	4	5	3	6	7	1	8	2
6	2	7	8	9	1	5	4	3
8	1	3	4	5	2	7	9	6

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Ombudsman

In 2007, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Ombudsman was established by the 80th Legislature (Texas Government Code §§501.171- .178) and was appointed by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ). The PREA Ombudsman provides offenders, family and friends of offenders and the general public an independent office to report sexual assaults occurring in Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) correctional facilities, and to ensure the impartial resolution of complaints of allegations of sexual assault. The PREA Ombudsman reports directly to the TBCJ chairman and may be contacted at the following address:

PREA Ombudsman
P.O. Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77342

Due to the serious nature of sexual assaults, and in accordance with TDCJ policy on "Zero-Tolerance" against sexual assaults, offenders knowledgeable of an offender-on-offender or staff-on-offender sexual assault that occurs within a TDCJ correctional facility are encouraged to immediately report the allegation to the facility administration or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). ϵ