

IN RESPONSE TO THE WAY I SEE IT

In reply to Mr. Watson's editorial I have a number of comments to make. I hate authority as much as the next guy, especially whenever it comes into contact with me. However, I got caught and came under its control, so I am naturally anxious to get out and away from it.

The L.U. system was obviously designed with the intention of providing a better assessment of an inmate's acceptance of authority. The petty rules we all hate are merely a test of our willingness to cooperate and submit to authority (ugh!). Recognizing this, you have two alternatives. First, you can bolster your ego, resist authority and display your unmitigated contempt of it at every opportunity, in which case you'll probably spend most of your life here, or some place worse. Or: You can try and beat them at their own game, swallow a bit of that rebel pride and show them your ability to 'conform' and organize your life within legal parameters, in which case you can use the rapport provided by the L.U. system to your own benefit. Even if you still hate the "system" and know deep down you will never really "conform". This is still the smart strategy for getting out as fast as possible. (As someone who has spent more than 5 years under concentration-camp conditions as a result of being betrayed by his own country, I probably harbour as much resentment toward the Canadian government as anyone)

Despite the obnoxious personalities of a certain small minority of L.U.'s whose names seem to be on everyone's lips, we must be careful before we extrapolate a criticism of individuals to a criticism of an entire system. Upon objective evaluation it provides certain advantages to anyone who is smart enough to take advantage of them.

I too enjoy being left alone, and I was... all the time I was in Kent. But a little interaction with the L.U.'s seems a small price to pay for the privileges that we enjoy here. It can be very satisfying to complain about how the system infringes on our rights of privacy and so forth, but before becoming too critical, we should consider the alternatives. I think Mr. Watson worded his question incorrectly. If he had asked the first 20 people he met if they would prefer to be in Kent or Millhaven, I think he would have received an entirely different set of responses.

J.P. Michaud

Note from the editor: I was surprised to see an 'inmate' taking a position to defend the system. I was expecting a L.U. to do it. However, it seems that one of our 'friendly L.U.'s' disagreed with George Watson's editorial since none of them replied to it--and then had the opportunity to do it--although I still saw a couple of them acting as usual, searching--head first--

a bag of dirty laundry from the kitchen for the inmates staff, or asking me to throw away half a banana in the trash can because the resident's handbook specifies that a maximum of 2 fruits can accompany a prisoner walking out of the kitchen--all this while members of the security staff were shaking their heads not believing what they saw or heard.

Nevertheless, I must admit that you have balls. It takes a lot of guts to take position against the quasi-totality of PRISONERS. I respect you for that matter and invite anyone wishing to reply to our editorials to do so. I also think you're right; hypocrisy is a sure way to end up here directly from Kent. And if George Watson had learned to play the hypocrite he would probably have not spent 19 years in jail (6 in Millhaven). The one out of 20 who said he liked his L.U. was me--I just can't dislike the guy. I never talk to him, he never talks to me, we have a wonderful relationship. Even then, I'll never turn my back to him; I don't have your confidence in the system.

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LAUNDRY SCHEDULE CHANGE: Because of power being shut off from 13:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs, please take note of the following change:

<u>THURSDAY</u>	-	<u>OCT. 25</u>	-	<u>7:30-8:00</u>	(# 121 - 202)
		2 sheets		towels	
		1 pillowcase		T-shirts	
		socks		u/wear shorts	
		*	*	*	*

KITCHEN: If you take an extra dessert (and you should wait after the line is totally served), TAKE THE PLATE TOO!!!

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SOCIAL: Two months went by since our last social, when is the next one???

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CANTEEN: The profit from the canteen for the month of September was \$390.02

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SCHOOL: The GED Program's English section has just undergone a re-write job. The English instructor, Betty Dobler, says that if she can genuinely help one person to learn a little more about English and pass the GED test she will have achieved her goal for being here. Are you interested in taking the test or upgrading your knowledge of English, see Betty NOW.

