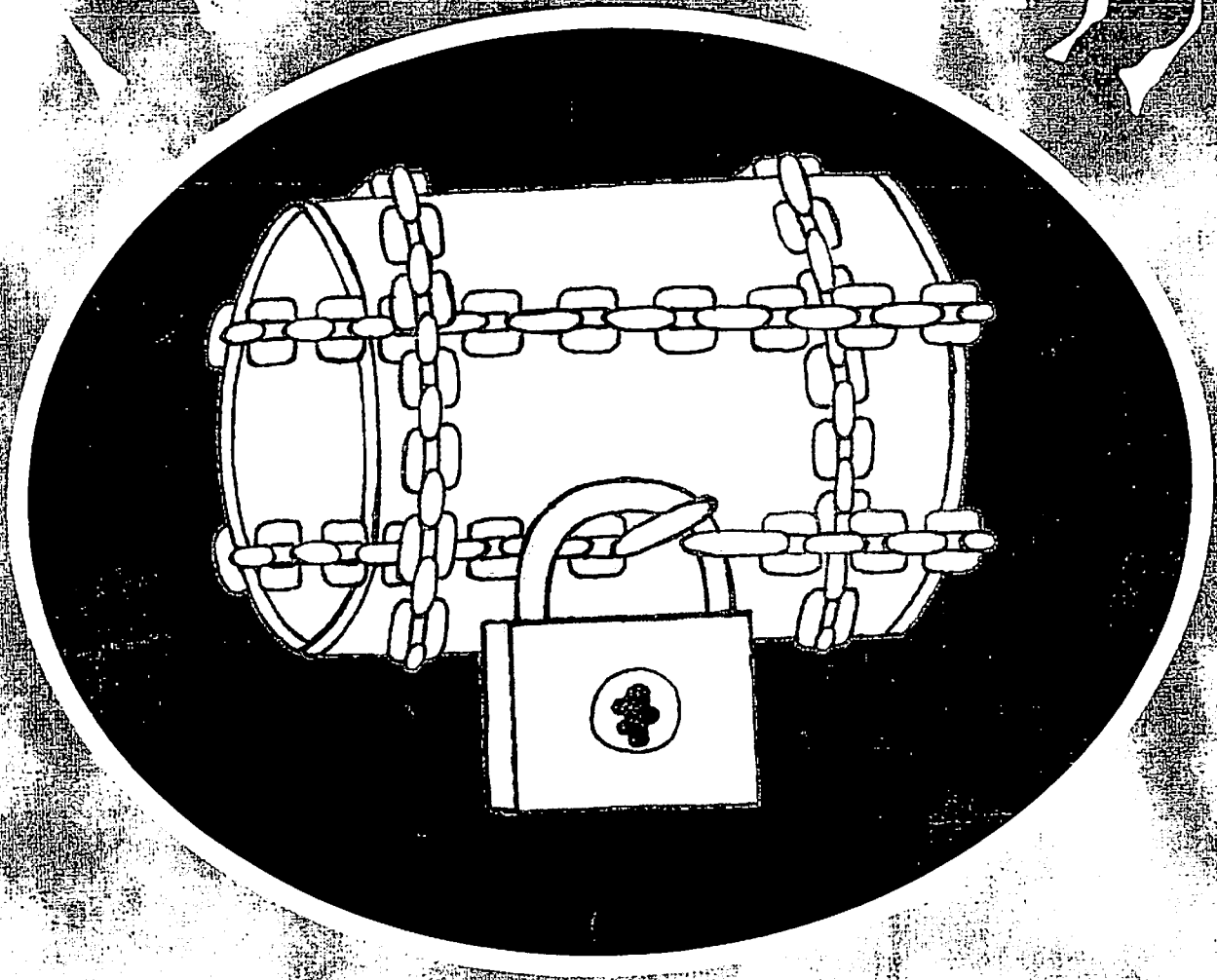


THE DROMA



THE DROMA LETTER

JANUARY 2009

ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER

Letter From The Editor



V.N. Leschenko has taken over from Vincent Penny as an editor of "The Drum," and offers a somewhat different perspective:

Shortly after landing this job as an editor I was leafing through Out of Bounds, a magazine published in William Head Institution, seeking ideas that might beef up our newsletter. As I turned pages it struck me that all prison publications have one thing in common - the content is predominantly complaints about how we were mistreated by police, the courts, our lawyers, or prison staff. Fact is we all have complaints; personally, there were times when I felt that every member of the judicial system was having a bad day and taking it out on yours truly. But so what? How many want to read about it? Two such letters and my mind is running in another direction.

I once read that a complaint becomes constructive criticism if you offer a solution to the problem.

Which brings us to the purpose of this editorial: We hope to publish a newsletter that imparts information, entertains, offers insights, and suggests ways to better ourselves and our situation. To that end we are seeking submissions, a call you've heard before, the difference being the content and an explanation as to why you should take the time to put pen to paper.

Effective writing is a skill as valuable as speaking coherently, the only method of communication that permits us abundant opportunity to select precise words. Entrepreneur Magazine reports that many corporations now screen potential employees by administering a test to determine writing prowess; in some high profile jobs the test is more specific, measuring one's ability to read technical material and condense it into writing a layman can understand. Statistics reveal that those who master this ability become superior problem solvers. Stephen King averages \$10,000,000 per novel, the Guild minimum for a screenplay is \$25,000, magazine and newspaper articles influence public opinion, a well-crafted letter to the Parole Board outlining your release plans might make the difference between success and failure. Clearly, writing is not a skill we should take for granted; we need to work at it, just as with any skill that enhances employment opportunities.

Beginning with this edition there will be a section in the newsletter titled "Opportunity Knocks" that focuses on non-traditional methods of earning income after we are "reintegrated." Tell us about a knock you wish you would have answered; entertain us with your small business experience, what you did right and what you did wrong; maybe you bred budgies and can offer tips on how to clean up the mess . . . whatever.

Write something that will elicit a smile, or make us think, or teach us something.

The Editors

Tom Eojen

V.N. Leschenko

KITCHEN NEWS & UPDATES



Best to you guys in the New Year. As previously stated we will include the nutritional facts and breakdown of some of our major food stuffs over the next several months.

For the new guys, please do not throw away your plates and bowls, if you are not pleased with the meals, or you are mad at the world. The Food Service Administrators are already getting ready to start "portion trays" for all meals meaning you'll lose your cereal bar, salad bar and condiment inserts everybody will be eating like Remand and Prince Albert. Please realize that this is the best you'll get in food/portions/selection anywhere except the street or minimum security.

The guys in the kitchen are doing their best and would appreciate if you would clean up "your spot" when you leave. None of us like cleaning up after other cons, so come on, let's try to make the "dining room experience" good for everybody.

J.R.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

ITEM	CAL	FAT	SAT/TRANS	CHOL	SALT	CARB	FIBRE	PROTEIN	VIT-A	VIT-D
Beef Burger	250	17g	7g/1g	70mg	420mg	4g	0	19g	16RE	0
Angus Beef Burgers	262	21g	6g/1g	61mg	400mg	1.8g	.3g	16g	10RE	0
All Beef Franks	160	14g	6g/.5g	30mg	500mg	2g	0	7g	2%	0
Margarine	50	6g	1g/0g	0	50mg	0	0	0	8%	20%
Splenda Sweetener	0	0	0	0	0	.5g	0	0	0	0
Krispy Squares	120	5%	8%	0	5mg	11g	1g	2g	8%	25%



Hill Top Education Centre

G.E.D.

A brief reminder that the next writing of the G.E.D. will be Jan. 24th to Jan. 30th, 2008.

OLD THANGS ©

Six-pack was the last guy to rob a bank on a horse. He ran into some Texas Rangers known for their marksmanship and came away from the experience a few holes short of the Guinness World Record for perforations in a human body-had a couple that never did heal quite right and were still leaking, forty years after the fact. Even so he could hit a baseball like it had dimples, and he was Tiger Woods.

As a graduate of the "Deep in the Heart of Texas" Department of Corrections, he referred to others from that fraternity as old thangs, with a twang on the "thang." He also used words like "damnation" and "tarnation," which was somewhat disconcerting coming from the mouth of a man who so closely resembled Hoss of Bonanza fame. I figured he liked those words so much he borrowed them from some Southern Baptist Minister who frequented the backwoods counties in which Six-pack was raised.

I was present when he heard that his cousin Jake Higgenbottom was arrested for selling to an undercover agent enough LSD to alter the consciousness of every resident of Fort Worth, Texas. After a heartfelt "damnation" and a few choice words sometimes used to describe barnyard behaviour, he drawled, "Ol thangs don't have the sense God give snapping turtles," assuming right off I'd know that a snapping turtle had no sense whatsoever, would bite down on a proffered stick and refuse to let go even when carried off to some fate unknown.

Took me a while to understand that Six-pack was lamenting his own choice of a life in which danger lurked around every corner. He had a habit of saying things related to his own situation, using others as examples and metaphors that included some critter behaving in a manner that was contrary to accepted human behaviour. Sometimes, if the subject was one he considered worthy of the effort, and he felt my comprehension wasn't all that it should be, he'd compose other clues and play them like notes on Guess That Tune.

I came away from our relationship with a better understanding of myself, and wondering whether snapping turtles reconsider the lure of the stick once they find themselves in hot water.

A REFLECTION FOR PRISONERS

A Quote From "Making It Right"
A Common-Sense Approach To Criminal Justice.

WE WANT THEM TO HAVE SELF-WORTH...

So we destroy their self-worth.

WE WANT THEM TO BE RESPONSIBLE...

So we take away all responsibilities.

WE WANT THEM TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY...

So we isolate them from the community.

WE WANT THEM TO BE POSITIVE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE...

So we degrade them and make them useless.

WE WANT THEM TO BE TRUSTWORTHY...

So we put them where there is no trust.

WE WANT THEM TO BE NON-VIOLENT...

So we put them where there is violence all around them.

WE WANT THEM TO BE KIND AND LOVING PEOPLE...

So we subject them to hatred and cruelty.

WE WANT THEM TO QUIT BEING THE TOUGH GUY...

So we put them where the tough guy is respected.

WE WANT THEM TO QUIT HANGING AROUND LOSERS...

So we put all the losers in Prison under one roof.

WE WANT THEM TO QUIT EXPLOITING US...

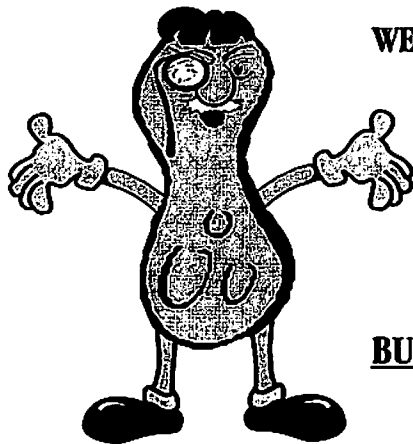
So we put them where they exploit each other.

WE WANT THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES...

So we make them totally dependent on us.

DOES IT REALLY WORK?
YOU BE THE JUDGE ON THAT.

COMMENTS FROM THE PEANUT GALLERY



WE WILL ADD "COMMENTS FROM THE PEANUT GALLERY" AS A REGULAR MONTHLY PAGE TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

PLEASE BRING YOUR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO US.

THERE MAY BE NO IMMEDIATE ANSWERS

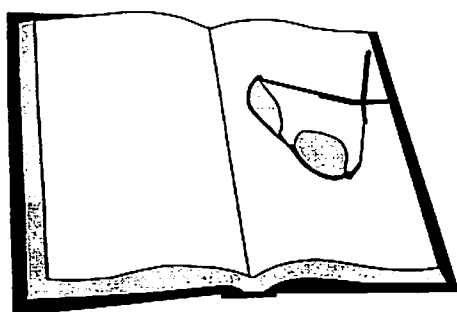
BUT VOICING YOUR OPINIONS MAY HELP BRING CHANGE.

What was the result of the election? Would have been good if the candidates had gone to the gym and talked to the population, giving us some idea of who they were and what they were about.

Considering that it's winter and hard to run outside, how about getting the treadmills in the gym fixed. All they are doing is taking up space, making it harder to find room to work out.

How come prices in the canteen have been raised about 5-10% three times since March? What's up with that?

LIBRARY NEWS



Overdue books can be dropped off in the book bin at the Recreation Center (GYM).

The library is in the midst of moving in the near future to the Cultural Center building. The time frame for this to happen is still up in the air, but it will happen sooner rather than later.

Book orders are still available through Chapters or Books for Prisoners. The time frame for receiving books from Chapters is about 7 days. Books for Prisoners is a non-profit society out of Ottawa that supplies books free of charge. Books ordered from them may take longer and they may not have the book you want.

Magazines you can read in the library: Automobile, MacLeans, Sports Illustrated, Canadian Geographic, National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, Men's Health, and others.

The library is here to help you with books, law research, and magazines. We do not have internet access or a photocopier.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

“I saw a dollar yesterday, but the wind she blew it away.”

Glen Campbell

Wired Magazine has published numerous articles regarding the profitability of monetizing a BLOG, which is simply a website anyone can access.

The way it works:

- ❖ Choose a topic about which you are knowledgeable and write about it, offering how-to advice or a unique perspective.
- ❖ Ask your service provider to monetize the content, which they will do free of charge by inserting related ads that are links to commercial websites.
- ❖ You get paid each time someone who visits your BLOG clicks on one of the ads. The service provider keeps track of all this, bills the commercial websites, and issues you a check each month.

One article focused on a handyman using the alias Freddy Fixer, who began with ten pages of content and over time composed 200 pages of tips on how to repair things around the home. America-On-Line inserted ads for tools and related services and now forwards Freddy a check every month that consistently exceeds \$10,000; at the opposite end of the profitability spectrum, a site set up by a retired barber that contains his unpublished poems and novels earns him a check that averages \$5 a month. The author of the article advises that the most successful sites are those with a subject matter capable of supporting a great variety and number of interrelated ads and are written by someone who has an obvious passion for the topic.

V.N. Leschenko

MY PAST MINDSET

Evil.

It's not a goal that people consciously set for themselves, yet millions . . . billions have been embraced by its seductive coils. It can hide behind a variety of guises:

Power

Desire

Competition

Justification

Self-interest

Though most profess their innocence, each of us has faced it in our lives . . . each of us has touched it, however briefly. The bible calls it sin, and has identified its root:

The love of money.

If the thought of an honest wage to cover honest expenses seems like a sign of stunted growth . . . if it doesn't matter where profit comes from or where it goes . . . WATCH OUT!

Trade and barter are real. Cash can be used for anything and activity; it's an abstract. Money comes from nowhere and promises everything. If your motives aren't clean, money itself becomes evil. But . . . when we don't have enough money, enough evil . . . the word tells us we're losers. So what determines our place in society is not how much kindness is in our hearts, but how much evil is in our wallets.

Typically, we distil effort into value in 2 week batches. We look forward to it. We need it. We call it payday. A lack of this evil can cost us DEARLY.

Isaac