

Solitary confinement can be inhuman treatment

OTTAWA (CUP) - Hell is 23½ hours a day in a prison hole.

This is the summation of Inger Hanse, the federal prisoners' ombudsperson, who described solitary confinement as something that can be cruel and inhuman treatment.

"Imagine a cement garage," she said in her report released this week. "Divide it in half by a wall which contains a solid, noisy metal door. A naked light bulb hangs from the ceiling and along one wall is a platform the size of a single bed. There is a toilet bowl in a corner..."

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Three meals a day are provided on paper plates; the utensils are plastic. The meals have been sitting on the plate for between 15 minutes and half an hour before they are brought in.

In most cases the person spends 23½ hours per day in this room. Exercise for the other half hour usually means walking outside,

alone, generally in a small enclosure."

She presented the testimony of prisoners A, B and C who told of the whole day, from waking up around 6:00 a.m. until supper about 3:30 p.m., the lights out at 11:00 p.m.

Some excerpts:
"Having been down here approximately three months, I have yet to have my first hot meal.

"It's chilly so I pace in the cell to keep warm... My mail was held up for a lengthy period of time unjustly, my visitors were harassed and delayed for hours at a time for no apparent reason except to discourage visitation. There is no system for alarm, or illness or fire..."

"There is nothing to do these long hours but pace the cell or lie on our bunk. After a prolonged period of lack of exercise, poor hygiene facilities and light, one is inclined to become very tense or succumb to a state of melancholy.

"The only variations in routine consist of a shower period on Wednesday and a half hour difference in breakfast on weekends. I cannot express too strongly the deplorable conditions which exist here."

A prisoner in dissociation must

contribute to the Inmate Welfare Fund although he is forbidden to take part in any of the fund's activities.

"He is taken off all physical fitness and recreational programs; no running, weightlifting, badminton, hockey, soccer or broom-

ball.

"In other words, not content with forcing people to live in an environment that is already dehumanizing, a total void is created around the inmate in dissociation in order the better to destroy him..."

Marxist-Leninist profs may be dismissed

WOLFVILLE (CUP) - The head of Acadia University's sociology department has recommended the dismissal of two Marxist-Leninist professors in the department because they do not have doctorate degrees and have decided to discontinue further graduate studies.

Department head S.J. Schrag said his decision to recommend the dismissals had nothing to do with the professors' political beliefs. However, Larry Fredericks and Ron Brunton, the two professors involved, think otherwise. They claimed that the decision is inconsistent because Brunton wasn't hired according to any policy demanding doctoral ambitions; and they also pointed out that there are many other professors in the university without doctorate degrees whose contracts are being renewed.

Schrag's word is not law regarding the future of Brunton and Fredericks at Acadia;

however, recommendations of department heads are usually accepted by the administration. If Schrag's suggestion is accepted, Brunton and Fredericks will be dismissed at the end of the academic year.

Schrag said the decision was made in accordance with department policy, and denied the

allegation of inconsistency pertaining to Brunton's hiring.

In an attempt to get the decision reversed, Brunton and Fredericks have gone to the faculty grievance committee, and although they haven't yet filed a formal grievance, the committee has discussed the subject.

One percent levied

PETERBOROUGH (CUP) - The Board of Governors at Trent University has decided to levy a one per cent monthly interest charge against overdue accounts.

The interest will be levied against all university accounts which includes students with outstanding telephone, bookstore, tuition, and residence bills.

The Board voted for the increase which will take place at the end of February, 1975 because they had \$300,000 in overdue accounts at the year end in April and had to borrow money from the bank.

For students in residence it could mean an extra cost. If a student at

Trent pays by the installment plan and splits their residence-tuition fees payment in August and February 3 a one per cent interest charge will be levied against the outstanding balance after February 28.

Students who paid their tuition-residence fees all at once will also be levied the interest charge after February 28.

All outstanding bookstore and telephone bills will be liable to the interest charge on February 28, 1975 if brought up until September 31, 1975. Current month charges will be ignored until the following month.

Kangaroo beats up patrolmen

CHICAGO (CUP-CPS) - A gray kangaroo, between five and six feet tall has been reported loose in Chicago.

The animal is living somewhere in the northwest part of the city, raiding garbage cans to stay alive. Reports of sightings were received by the police beginning October 16, but after a check of all the Chicago zoos, police could find no missing marsupials and assumed the calls to be part of a hoax.

That is, until two patrolmen were beaten up by the kangaroo while trying to wrestle it into

submission.

"We got him in a corner and punched him in the head a couple of times," reported Patrolman Michael Byrne. "But his punch was brutal." While they failed to capture the beast, Byrne and his partner managed to convince their superiors that the kangaroo was real.

One local zoo veterinarian, Eric Maschgan, has suggested that it will take at least three officers to catch the animal. One for the tail, one for the forefeet, and one for the hindfeet.

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