

# 38 Hours In County Jail

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** Following last week's riots at the Contra Costa County Jail, Beta F. Balin's attack on the sheriff's management of the institution, the News-Gazette obtained this exclusive inside report. This is the first of a series on the facility, its operation, and the people inside. Today's story is the result of an entrance to the jail was made by a newsman without the knowledge of the Sheriff's

Office and gives a picture of conditions as they exist today.

By RICHARD GAIKOWSKI  
News-Gazette Managing Editor

MARTINEZ-The Contra Costa County Jail is not a hotel for wayward souls. It wasn't designed to be one. In fact it does not even compare to the skid row hotels that cater to the wayward.

It is a prison, designed to hold people against their will who have or allegedly have commis-

ted some type of offense against society.

It is a tough place under normal circumstances and it's even tougher now following the riots. I know, I've just spent 38 hours inside as a prisoner of the County of Contra Costa. Normally may be returned to here by this weekend if there are no further incidents.

**SURVIVAL PLAN**  
When it was first decided that I would attempt to get inside the jail the first thought was to ap-

proach the Sheriff's Office and ask to be locked up. But this approach had two problems. First, the sheriff might not have granted permission, and second, we did not want him to know I was attempting to get in jail.

The only other alternative was to commit a crime and get arrested, taking a chance that none of the deputies would recognize me. This was a very big chance since I've had only slight contact with most of the deputies assigned to the jail.

It's not easy to get busted for a beef by the bulls and locked up on the inside as most dudes think.

## PRISON SLANG

"Busted" is prison slang for arrested, a "Beef" is an offense, a "Bull" is any lawman and the "Inside" of course is the county jail. "Dude" is the prisoners' term for themselves.

Most dudes think the bulls are everywhere, ready and anxious

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