

July 24, 1990

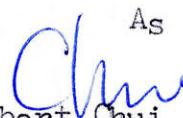
Dear Sue,

The Louisiana State Penitentiary consists of 18, 000 acres of farm land. Once antebellum plantation land, its so to say, home for 5,000 (or more) state prisoners, the bulk of whom is confined to dormitories. The remaining few are confined to Cellblocks, which falls in the category of one man Cells or two man Cells. Currently, there aren't any designated area here at Angola, where only HIV positive prisoners are confined and/or restricted. And matter of fact, of the 94 HIV positive prisoners here at Angola the majority of them are stationed in dormitories. Which means that they are able to freely congregate or intermingle with hundreds of non-HIV positive prisoners every day, seven days a week. There are five prisoners with AIDS living at the prison hospital, and allegedly, there are a few prisoners with AIDS confined to Camp D, Hawk Cellblock lockdown. Sometime in late 1987 or early 1988, two prisoners (Herman Wallace and Harold Vincent) filed a civil suit against the prison officials, accusing them of endangering their life by refusing to segregate a known HIV positive prisoner (Ronnie Waymyer). During the testimony of Warden Richard Peabody, it was disclosed that there were something like 94 known HIV positive prisoners here at Angola, who weren't being tailed or segregated. Around this same period the prison officials (in collaboration with the Federal government) distributed leaflets to us explaining what AIDS is, how it can (and cannot) be contracted, and ways to avoid catching it. They also forced the vast majority of us to watch a BOP (Bureau of Prisons) made video on AIDS and the likes.

Since then there have been absolutely no effort to educate or update us on AIDS or the progress in fighting it. And to my knowledge incoming prisoners are not educated about AIDS. In November of 1987, I were confined to a Cell, next door to a Gay prisoner diagnosed with having the AIDS virus. It was one helluva experience. Ronnie Waymyer stood under daily verbal and physical attack by the other prisoners confined to this tier and compound. When Waymyer would use the shower no one would use it after him, until it was G.I. the next day. No one! He would shower one day and forsake his right to shower the next day. So terrify about the thought of catching AIDS by casual contact, these prisoners went on a hunger strike for three weeks. They later filed civil suits against the prison officials and wrote the Press at large concerning the need to isolate Waymyer or transfer them. (Of the several individuals who filed suit only one made local publicity (the newspapers and the likes). It was filed by a prisoner by the name of Alfred Flowers. Basically, he claimed the same thing that Herman and Harold claimed in their joint suit. It was later dismissed.) Eventually they cooked up a scheme that was successful in forcing the prison officials in transferring him to another tier, a tier formerly used to punish prisoners found guilty of violating one or more of the rules and regulations of the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Subsequently, Waymyer was transferred to Angola's Psychiatric Cellblock lockdown, where he stood for several months. Everywhere he ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> lived he have been besetted and bombarded for being a victim of AIDS. (Incidentally, Waymyer have been allegedly caught engaging in sex with other prisoners on several occasions. This is one of the principal (and common) excuses given by the homophobes for attacking him. They say that he is too sexually promiscuous and reckless.)

And because of his inability to intellectually defend himself,  
the prison guards has been indifferent in protecting him  
from the aggression of the Gay bashers and homophobes.

Hopefully, this information will help you in your task.  
And you can use my name and whereabouts. I'm a prison  
activist.

As always,  
  
Albert Chui Clark  
79909  
CCR, D-Tier, Cell 4  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

70712

Sue,

If possible will you consider sending me a copy of your article once printed.

Sometime in 1987, the Angolite (a magazine printed and published here at Angola), did a story on Angola prisoners with AIDS (which Waymyer was featured in).

For further information concerning AIDS here at Angola, contact Israel Izra Perkins #107028, Camp J, Shark 2-R, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, La. 70712. I'm told that he have been doing some work in this area to better inform the community at large about the plight of Gay people here at Angola.

, Lastly, I'm sorry if this letter and information reach you too late.

In struggle,

Chui

Albert Chui Clark  
79909  
CCR, D-Tier, Cell 4  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Angola, Louisiana

70712



Ms. Sue Rochman  
c/o IRC  
PO Box 713  
Ithaca, New York

14851

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Not Responsible for Contents  
La. State Penitentiary

JUL 28 1990

LA. STATE PEN.  
AN ALL MALE PENAL INSTITUTE

Dear Sue,

1 Jan '91

Hey now, happy New Year, how was your Christmas? I haven't seen your article in the Advocate, or even mine, so I'm writing to see what happened, or if you changed your mind and decided against printing my story or what.

Maybe now that I'm finally out of that isolation, after 9 months, if you want to change any of it, or get up to date data, like now I'm into my 7<sup>th</sup> month taking AZT, - my T-cells count went from 283 in June to 594 in Aug, to 444 in Dec, and now out of Controlled Housing since 18 Dec 90, maybe I'll get back to my weight lifting routine and feel more like a person again.

I was given 4 more months onto my May '91 release date, so now I'm getting released around Labor Day this year, so far, ain't no telling about these people, but so far it's Sept I can look forward to, so that's what I'll try and count on.

Pat Califia has been keeping in touch and got my subs for Advocate Men, Male Pictorial, and The Advocate for Christmas gifts this year, so that was real nice of her. And she turned me on to one of her fellow workers, Dan Torres, Credit Manager, who's been writing me too, so least I'm getting good pen pals to write.

2.

So far I haven't developed any of the common symptoms relating to AIDS so since having my 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of being HIV (18 Oct 90) I'm still asymptomatic which I guess is a good sign too. And keeping a better mental attitude now that I'm out of that ISOLATION, I think I'll be OK. Still taking it one day at a time, I'm hoping I'll live for many years to come, but reality also tells me to accept things as they develop with all the courage I have, cause I know the evident result will arrive before old age does.

MAYBE the miracle vaccine will happen in my lifetime, where I'll benefit from it, so that's one thing to hope.

Any way, just thought I'd drop a line to say Hi, let you know I got out of that dreadful Hole, and on the road to a better life and a more comfortable future.

Sincerely,

Richard C Nelson

RICHARD C Nelson  
US#78826-012 - Austin Unit  
P.O. Box #1010 - FCI  
BASTROP TX. 78602



Sue Rockman

C/o IRC

P.O. Box # 713

Ithaca, New York 14857

David Fletcher

Rivers

David Fletcher

Works at Rivers

for River Health Org.

Talk about that

718-626-3414  
X354

Each Bld has its own clinic  
7 diff Blds

Someone in Adv stages  
transferred to special AIDS Divs  
+ get better care there  
want to be there

Riters

David Fletcher

Each Bld has its own clinic

+ diff Blds

Someone in Adv stages

transferred to special AIDS Dom for special care

+ get better care there

want to be there

Note: For David Massey - must use pseudonym. He never gave ~~Almas~~ permission to use his name.

July 27, 1990

Sue Rochman  
Advocate Newspaper  
2145 mecklenburg road, #5  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Ms. Rochman,

I am a recovering addict and a Person With AIDS (PWA's), I am also a prisoner in the California Department of Corrections.

As a prisoner who's been incarcerated for almost 2 years now, having had definitely a positive diagnosis to the AIDS anti-body, I feel I am qualified to relate my views about the AIDS situation inside of the Del Norte Special Program Unit (SPU) here at the California Institution for Men - East Facility. It is one of the California Department of Corrections' AIDS Units. They have two.

This Facility, in concerning itself with the healthcare of inmates with the HIV Virus and AIDS is the same as the old French prison known as Devils Island!

It is segregation in California State Prisons, with the notion that prisoners diagnosed HIV+ would benifit by living in one, segregated unit and the facility here (CIM-SPU) would meet our needs, which it has not done at all.

The empathy that I feel for my fellow prisoners and myself is not unique and comes from losing close friends to this loathsome disease. Very often friends are losing friends and that is bringing us together to join forces in improving the prison living conditions that often drive these men to lose hope and give up on life.

Prisoners of this state and mostly of this facility, (SPU) know and are afraid of the fact that a single unit such as this, only serves to stigmatize, ostracize and de-humanize this specific group of inmates.

There are needs which we know are most important to us, nutritionally balanced food, medical/clinical and improved living conditions. The main aspect toward prolonging life for PWA's, is the knowing that someone is there that cares.

It is essential that something be done, quickly, because the situation in this facility is looking more and more grim, with men dying and others on the verge of panicking.

cont. page (2)

It is frustrating when I think about the unnecessary hindrance which is placed upon us in dealing with this issue. I cannot give the C.D.C one iota of credit, no matter where I look, because the progress that has been made in this ~~STATE~~ has been initiated from us, The Prisoners.

~~STATE~~

There is much ground that needs improving, especially in the medical department. In spite of the fact that there are medical personal and one Doctor working in this unit, the job they tackle is immense considering the alarming number of prisoners with a positive diagnosis to the HIV virus and/or full blown aids. Every prisoner here in Del Norte is privy to the information that NOT ONE of the medical personnel that treat us here in this unit is qualified to competently deal with the disease. We need a certified specialist in the field if Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome!

It has been related to me that approximately 125 to 150 men are currently taking AZT. The treatment of the opportunistic conditions that come from the HIV Virus are below poor in this facility. Additionally, I have been informed that the medical staff indicates 35% of the prison population are sero-positive. The medical staff, I believe, should be the one's that monitor the food that is prepared and served, if for no other reason but the medical aspects of life. They do not care, (medical staff) nor do the Correctional Officers. This Unit should be staffed with those who are concerned! Prisoners with AIDS need a good balanced diet, they need competent medical personnel (as all people with AIDS do), that are qualified in the field of AIDS, both for daily treatment and for hospitalization of those who need more serious care.

I say again, we need an AIDS Specialist! It is a matter of life and death. We are dying under these conditions! A life is a terrible thing to waste!

Furthermore, to help alleviate this problem, and as a show of mercy and compassion for your fellow human being, the Governor of our state must consider granting "Clemency" to the "Terminally Ill" prisoners of the California Department of Corrections (CDC).

The hospitalization numbers in this facility are rising and as this prison epidemic becomes more of a reality, we will reach a stage of widespread panic. Competent medical personnel can bring these numbers down by knowing how to isolate the problems and treat them before they become critical and warrant hospitalization.

The transfers into this unit, however are not irrational. Nevertheless, the department of Corrections must look for solutions. We are most concerned with these aspects of care at the moment;

1. Properly prepared and balanced meals.
2. Certified specialist in the field of AIDS.
3. Proper treatment and medications.

( . )

Cont.

4. hospitalization.

5. Clemency (release of mercy) to those who are  
"Critically Ill".

Dispensing medical care, of this magnitude, is new to the CDC. Nobody wants to die in prison, let alone die at all. Those of us who have not given up as of yet are doing what we can to bring the attention of our existance to the outside world. We need your help and intervention on this matter in a very serious way.

We are doing our best to sustain the will to survive, but how long can we go on before someone hears our pleas for help?

I feel that something can be done to end the dying that goes on in prison due to the AIDS crisis.

Respectfully submitted to your office,

*David Massey* C-22426

David Massey C-22426  
M.A.C. Vice Chairman  
Del Norte S.P.U.  
P.O. Box 500  
Chino, California 91708

et. al.

M.A.C./slj

David Massey C-22426  
Executive Vice Chairman  
Men's Advisory Council  
P.O. Box 500  
Chino, California 91708



LEGAL MAIL

CONFIDENTIAL MAIL

Ms. Sue Rochman  
Advocate Newspaper  
2145 Mecklenburg Road, #5  
Ithaca, NY 14850

W. Smith & Co

CONFIDENTIAL MAIL

7/28/90



DEAR SUE,

2 Aug 90

Hi, got your letter today, and knowing deadlines can always be a bitch, I'll get right on it. I have no qualms about my real name used, honestly I prefer it. Pat Califia said I may hear from you, so I had no idea what to expect. He didn't tell me you were a writer, but that make it all the more nicer. I don't relate to females very well, being gay all my life, I have little experience with them.

My DOB is: 29 Nov '47, born of triplets, I and my other brothers born with me went to a military academy in Coral Gables, Florida all 12 yrs of grade & High School. Christmas, Easter, and Summers I spent at my parents Clydesdale Ranch & Dairy Farm in New Jersey. I discovered I was gay about age 8. Going to school with 6,000 boys helped me along, and having 13 brothers & 5 sisters at home on holidays, with about 300 all male workers on my parents 148,000 acre spread helped me along too. I went to Rutgers in 1963, 4 yrs later grad. with a degree in Nursing, and went right into the U.S. Army, via ROTC prior. I went to Vietnam and to West Germany my 6 yrs commitment, obligation, and honor-discharged in '73. Between '74 & 80, I was in and out of California Prisons, cause I fell in love with men who were drug users and crooks. My family helped me and them out of many negative trips and court trips, but I

2

LET my CROTCH CONTROL my THOUGHTS AND OTHER CROTCHES. — IN 1980 I ENTERED THE FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM, FOR BANK ROBBERY IN Miami, Florida, GOT 3 SENTENCES, 5, 3, & 12 yrs ALL RUNNING CONSECUTIVE. I SERVED  $\frac{2}{3}$ 'S OF THE 5,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the 3, NOW I'M INTO THE 12 YEARS — WITH A RELEASE OF NEXT YEAR THIS TIME, JULY '91

ON 15 Oct '85, I WAS TOLD IN THE MAX PRISON IN Lompoc, (USP) United States Penitentiary, THAT I WAS HTLV-3 VIRUS POSITIVE, AND IF my FOLLOW UP CAME BACK (WESTERN BLOCK) POSITIVE, I'D GO TO MCFP SPRINGFIELD Missouri, THE FED PRISON HOSPITAL. 22 NOV '85 I WAS TRANSFERRED TO MCFP SPRINGFIELD FOR BEING ARC. — 5 DAYS LATER I WAS TOLD I WASN'T ARC, JUST SERUM-POSITIVE, (HTLV-3)

IN FEB '86, THEY ISOLATED ALL AIDS INMATES AND UNHEALTHY INMATES HTLV-3'S IN #10 BLDG, — BUT NOT ME, CAUSE I WAS ASYMPTOMATIC AND VERY HEALTHY. OTHER POSITIVES WEREN'T ISOLATED EITHER. IN MARCH '85 I WAS REDESIGNATED TO FCI OXFORD, WISCONSIN, WHERE 4 WKS LATER I WAS SERIOUSLY BEAT UP AND SPENT 4 DAYS IN THEIR OUTSIDE HOSPITAL IN MADISON, WI, — WITH A TUBE SURGICALLY INSERTED IN MY CHEST TO RAISE A COLLAPSED LUNG, AS A RESULT FROM THE FIGHT. — I WAS JUMPED ON FOR MERELY BEING AN AIDS VIRUS CARRIER. — BEFORE I LEFT SPRINGFIELD I ASKED MY DOCTOR THERE WHAT SAFE SEX I COULD HAVE?

3,

HE SAID AS LONG AS I HAD NO  
OPEN SORES OR CUTS IN MY MOUTH, I COULD  
GIVE ANOTHER MAN ORAL COITUS, WITHOUT  
TRANSMISSION. - BUT IF I WERE CAUGHT,  
THE FEDS WOULD LOCK ME UP INDEFINITELY.  
NO OTHER SEX WITHOUT A CONDOM.

EVERY AIDS ARTICLE AND RESEARCH  
ITEM I COULD READ ABOUT THIS HTLV-III  
VIRUS, - NOW CALLED HIV, - I BECAME AN  
EXPERT. I HAVE A GAY FRIEND IN SONOMA WHO'S  
LOVER OF 15 yrs DIED OF AIDS, 4 yrs ago;  
WHO'S WRITTEN ME AND STAYED FRIENDS ALL  
THROUGHOUT THESE 10 yrs. - I'VE HAD SO,  
SO MANY FRIENDS AND PREVIOUS TRICKS DIE  
OF THIS AIDS, I GOT PARANOID EVERY TIME  
I PICK UP A MAGAZINE. I STOPPED MY SUB  
FOR BAY AREA REPORTER<sup>(S.F.)</sup> (BAR), WHEN I READ  
OF AN EX-LOVER/FRIEND CHUCK ARNETT DIES  
OF AIDS COMPLICATIONS. WHEN I HEARD MY OLD  
FRIEND JOHN HOLMES DIED OF AIDS, I CALLED HIS  
MOTHER AND WE CRIED OVER THE PHONE TOGETHER.

25 JULY 86 I ARRIVED HERE AT FCI  
BASTROP, THINKING I'D BE A-OK HERE cause  
OF THE ALMOST 800 INMATES, OVER 1/2 WERE GAY,  
AND THE LIVING CONDITIONS WERE VERY VERY NICE.  
HAD A KEY TO THE DOOR OF MY ROOM, HAD AN  
AIR CONDITIONER IN THE SUMMER, THAT CONVERTED  
TO A TERRIFIC HEATER IN THE WINTER, NO GUAR  
TOWERS, BUT TRUCKS PATROLLING THE PERIMETER,  
VERY LARGE 200-MAN UNITS, WITH 6 TV ROOMS PER  
UNIT, A FABULOUS COMMISSARY, HBO, NON-VIOLENT TYPES,

4

IT WAS VERY NICE, — TO NICE! — SOMETHING WAS WRONG. I DISCOVERED THE HARD WAY OVER 85% OF THE INMATES WERE HERE FOR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, MOST WERE GOVT INFORMANTS, THERE WERE DOZENS<sup>OF</sup>, EX COPS AND FBI/DEA AGENTS DOING THEIR SENTENCES HERE, AND THERE WERE OVER A HUNDRED HIV POSITIVES HERE, MOST SECRETLY. — AFTER GETTING BEAT UP ONCE, LOOKING AT A TUBE IN MY CHEST FOR 96 HRS, TAUGHT NOT TO EVER ADMITT ANYTHING EVER AGAIN, AND LIE WHEN CONFRONTED. — AS LONG AS I ONLY SUCKED COCK, I WAS SAFE, I THOUGHT.

THEN I MET MEN WHO WANTED TO FUCK AND DIDN'T CARE IF I HAD AIDS OR NOT. AND WHEN YOU WATCH MEN GETTING SACKED OFF IN TV ROOMS, ON THE YARD, IN THE WEIGHT LIFTING AREAS, IN THE GYM, AT WORK PLACES, — YOU WONDER WHY ALL THE OPEN SEX? THE ANSWER, LOTS OF DRUGS AND HOME MADE WINE, AND THE AVERAGE AGE WAS LATE TWENTIES, — MID-THIRTIES, — VERY HORNEY SET OF MEN,

25 MARCH 90, I AND MY WEIGHT LIFTING FRIEND GOT CAUGHT NAKED IN THE SAME BED, CUM ALL OVER CHIN, GOING AFTER HIS THIRD LOAD. HAVING FULL DENTURES, NO TEETH AT ALL, MAKES FOR GOOD COCK SUCKING, AND BEING HUNG VERY WELL, ATTRACTS OTHER HUNG UGLY MEN, BEING A BODY BUILDER WITH HUGE ARMS, BROAD CHEST, FRECKLES, LOOKS LIKE CHUCK CONNORS & KIRK DOUGLAS, I CATCH VERY WELL. BEING HIV+, I'M LIMITED, SO I STICK TO MUTUAL & OROG SEX.

BEING HIV+ AND FOUND GUILTY OF ENGAGING IN SEX, I WAS PLACED IN SEGREGATION/ISOLATION PENDING A CONTROLLED HOUSING HEARING. ON 13 JUNE 90, AT MY HEARING, I DISCOVERED THE BUREAU OF PRISONS BELIEVE ANY SEXUAL CONTACT IS TRANSMISSION OF HIV, SO REGARDLESS THE FACT NO ONE HERE AT THE PRISON HAS TESTED POSITIVE FROM ANY CONTACT FROM ME THE FOUR YEARS I'VE BEEN HERE, THE FACT I WAS IN A SEX ACT IN FRONT OF AN OFFICER, I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO CONTROL HOUSING INDEFINITELY FOR THE DURATION OF MY SENTENCE, TO BE REVIEWED EVERY 90-DAYS.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS I NEED TO REGROUP MY THOUGHT-PLAN AND CONVINCE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR AFTER A LENGTH OF TIME OF MAYBE 6-MONTHS THAT I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT, AND AGREE AND DISPLAY A CHLICATE ILLUSION AND PASS ON TO OTHERS, NO SEX IS SAFE WITHOUT USE OF A CONDOM. THE FEDS DON'T AND WON'T ISSUE CONDOMS, CAUSE THEY DON'T CONDONE ANY SEX ACTIVITY AT ALL. IF I WERE INFECTING ANY ONE BY GIVING HEAD SOLELY, THEN THERE HAS TO BE AT LEAST ONE PERSON TO TEST POSITIVE HERE. I KNOW INMATES HERE I'VE SUCKED OFF 4 YRS AGO, WHO TEST NEGATIVE TODAY, BUT THE FEDS FEEL IF THEY AGREE IT'S OK, IT WILL GET OUT OF HAND AND ANAL SEX WILL ENTER INTO THE SEXUAL INCIDENT AND TRANSMISSION WILL TAKE PLACE, "TO MANY-IF'S"

ODD AS IT MAY APPEAR, I KNOW DOZENS OF MEN HERE WHO'LL FUCK ANYONE, AND NOT CARE IF THEY CATCH HIV OR AIDS, OR NOT. I USED TO LOVE TO GET

6)

GET FUCKED BY A MASCULINE MAN WITH A BIG PIECE OF MEAT. I ALSO DIG GETTING FIST FUCKED, AND I PLAY WITH SHAMPOO BOTTLES, SHOVE HAND BALLS, TENNIS BALLS, APPLES, BARS OF SOAP IN PLASTIC BAGS, - UP MY ASS, AND JACK OFF. I HAVEN'T BEEN FUCKED BY ANYONE SINCE I WAS TOLD I WAS POSITIVE, 5YRS IS A LONG TIME.

I CAUGHT THIS IN PRISON, CAUSE I'm NOW 10YRS IN PRISON; - 5YRS BEING HIV+, I DON'T PLAN TO CAUSE ANYONES' DEATH FOR my SEXUAL PLEASURE. AND OTHER HIV+ INMATES I KNOW HERE AREN'T /WEREN'T INTERESTING TO ME FOR GETTING FUCKED, SO I'VE BEEN USING TOYS AND SIMILAR DILDOE OBJECTS AS my NEEDS SAW FIT.

ON 1 JUNE 90, I BEGAN GETTING AZT FOR my T-4 HELPER CELL COUNT IS UNDER 500, I'm STILL ASYMPTOMATIC, BUT THE FEDS HAVE A LAW SAYING AN INMATE UNDER 500 T-CELLS, TO BE PUT ON 500mg RETROVIR DAILY, TO BE INCREASED AS SYMPTOMS PROGRESS. - THE FOUR MONTHS I'm BEEN IN ISOLATION I've GAINED 35LBS, BECOME LESS AND LESS DEPRESSED, GETTING USED TO LIFE WITHOUT TV, ICE CREAM, SODA's, THERE'S NO WEIGHT ROOM HERE IN ISOLATION SO I've LOST SOME OF MY SIZE IN MY CHEST & ARMS, - BUT I'll GET IT ALL BACK AS SOON AS I'm ABLE TO LIFT WEIGHTS AGAIN, - I'll START DOING Room EXERCISES SOON, AND NOW 4-MONTHS WITHOUT ABLE to SMOKE ANY CIGARETTES, I DOUBT I'll EVER SMOKE ANOTHER CIGARETTE EVER AGAIN.

I HAVE A Sony HEAD PHONE SET RADIO

7.

I LISTEN TO, AND LIVING BY MYSELF I DON'T HAVE ANY ONE ELSE TO DEAL, SO MY ROOM ACTIVITIES ARE OF MY OWN PLANNING. THEY LET US TAKE A 15 MIN. SHOWER MON, WED, & FRI, WHERE I ALSO SHAVE, AND 5 HOURS EXERCISE OUT DOORS IN A CAGED IN AREA, - PER WEEK, THE FOOD IS PASSABLE BUT I SLEEP TOO MUCH AS THE WEIGHT HAS INCREASED. I SENT AN APPEAL TO WASH, D.C. OF THE HEARING, ASKING TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CALIFORNIA WHERE MY RELEASE WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT YEAR, SO I CAN BE WITHIN SENSEABLE RANGE FOR VISITS, - BUT AFTER TEN YRS. IN THE SYSTEM I DOUBT I'LL GET TRANSFERRED.

BEING A VIETNAM VET, HONORABLY DISCHARGED, I HOPE THE VA WILL COVER MY ACT EXPENDENCES ONCE I'M PAROLED, CAUSE I HEAR IT'S COSTLY. BUT I'LL BE 43 yr old WHEN I GET OUT, BESIDES MY NURSING SKILLS, I'm ALSO A VERY GOOD WOOD WORKER, CARPENTER, FURNITURE MAKER, - BUT HAVING SPENT MORE TIME BEHIND BARS IN MY LIFE THAN WORKING, MY FUTURE APPEARS TO BE BLEAK. AND BEING HIV+ NOW, HOPEFULLY I'LL GET OUT OF PRISON BEFORE DEVELOPING AIDS, AND GOING THROUGH ALL THE CHANGES THAT CURTAILS.

I GET A MAGAZINE FROM N.Y.C. CALLED PWA COALITION NEWSLINE THAT HAVE THINGS FOR THEIR RESIDENCES TO GET HELP THROUGH, SO I ASSUME THERE'LL BE SIMILAR SERVICES OPEN FOR ME IN LOS ANGELES, WHEN I'M PAROLED. I WRITE TO ABOUT 5 FRIENDS IN THE STATES, AND

8.

TO A COUPLE OF FRIENDS IN WEST GERMANY,  
SO I STAY IN TOUCH WITH PART OF THE OUT  
SIDE WORLD. OCCASIONALLY SOME ONE WILL SEND  
ME A FEW BUCKS FOR STAMPS AND COSMETICS, BUT  
AS SOON AS I'M OUT OF THIS ISOLATION, I'LL  
TRY TO GET MY JOB BACK IN THE FACTORY HERE,  
WHERE THEY MAKE MILITARY HELMETS. I'M  
USUALLY VERY INDEPENDENT, SO THIS ISOLATION  
PERIOD HAS DISRUPTED MY FINANCES TERRIBLY.

—BUT I'M NOT A QUITTER, SO I TRY TO KEEP  
MY HEAD TOGETHER, AND HOPEFULLY MY TURN  
WILL COME TO LEAVE PRISON, —HEALTHY AND TRY  
TO ENJOY WHAT TIME I HAVE LEFT OF MY LIFE  
BEFORE AIDS TAKES OVER I'M PUT IN THE GROUND.

HOPE THERE'S SOME THING IN THIS ESSAY  
YOU CAN USE FOR YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE  
ADVOCATE. HOPE I WAS ABLE HELP, —SORRY  
IT TURNED OUT TO BE SO LONG, BUT WHEN IT'S  
ALL TYPED UP, IT MAY NOT BE AS LONG. I'M  
6' 210 LBS, BRN EYES, BLOND/WHITE HAIR, HAIRY  
CHEST, FRECKLES ALL OVER ME, DIMPLES, HAVE A  
SQUARE JAW, AND CLEFT CHIN, THINK I'M GOOD LOOKING,  
AND MY ONLY TATOO IS ON MY ASS, A SWASTIKA  
WITH THE WORDS TOOTHLESS PIRANHA OVER? UNDER  
IT, MY NICKNAME. SOMETIMES BEING CALLED  
PIRANHA, SOUNDS BETTER THAN RICK NELSON. NO, I  
DON'T PLAY A GUITAR OR SING, I GOAN A LOT!!  
MAY IF THIS IS PUBLISHED YOU OR PAT WILL SEE TO IT  
I GET THAT ISSUE?

Take care, and be good to yourself,  
Rick Nelson  
(PIRANHA)PA

RICHARD C. NELSON  
US# 78826-012-S.H.U.  
P.O. Box #1010 - F.C.I.  
BASTROP, TX 78602

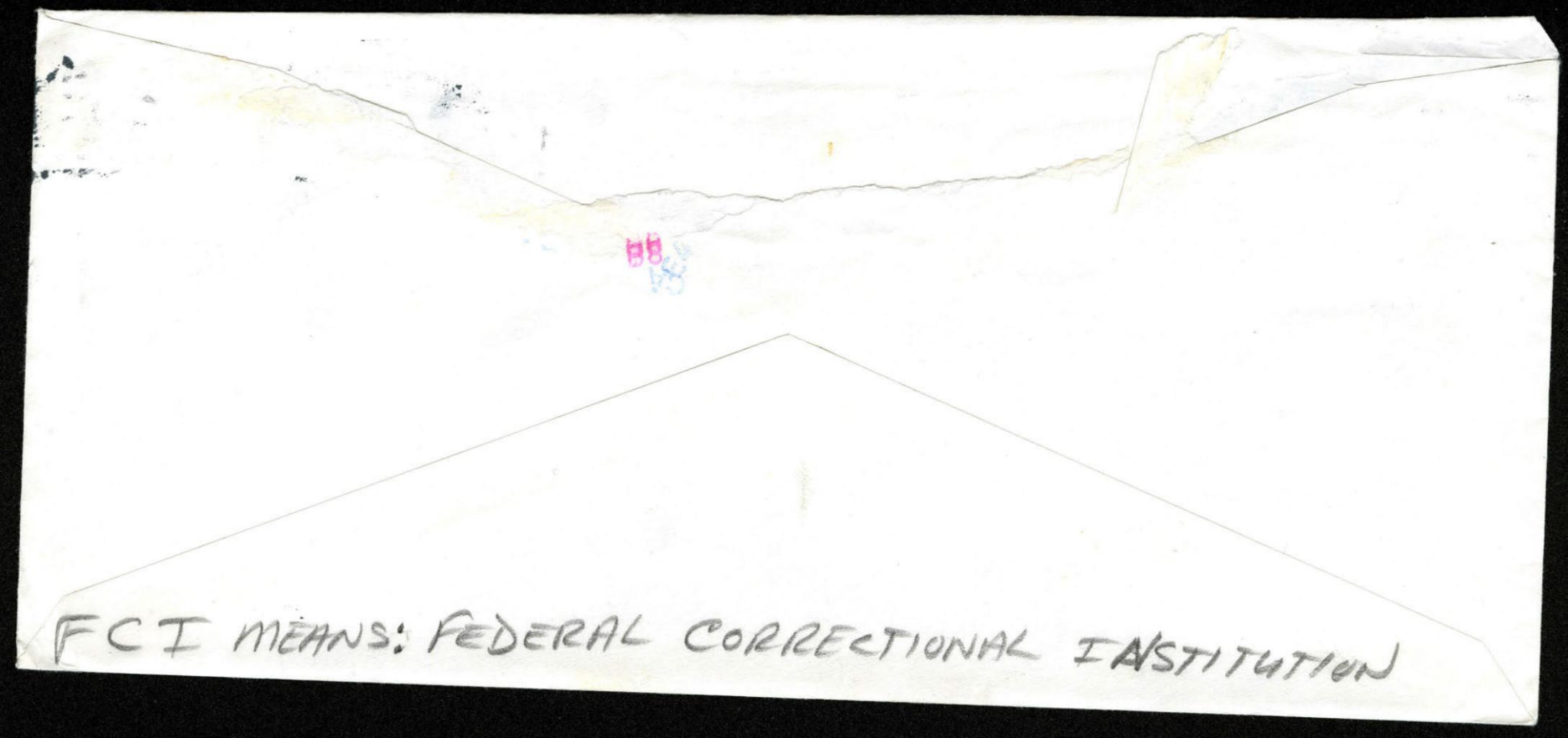


SUE ROCHMAN

% IRC

P/B Box #713

ITHACA, NEW YORK 14851



FCI MEANS: FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

August 7, 1990

Dear Sue,

Something that I neglected to mention in my letter to you concerning the plight of HIV prisoners here at Angola, was that the prisoners who filed civil suit against the prison officials for endangering their life by not isolating Waymyer were not as homophobe as they are reluctant to accept the prison officials word that AIDS cannot be contracted casually: it is non-communicable. This is so with most prisoners here at Angola. Their attitude is that the government, the state and its agents cannot be trusted, since they have used germ welfare (and the likes), to cripple and defeat their adversaries on numerous occasions.

IN struggle,

CHUI  
Chui

Albert Chev Chalk  
ANGOLA PRISON  
RODEO

1990s

EVERY SUNDAY  
IN OCTOBER

CCR, Petitioner Cell 4

Louisiana State Penitentiary

Angola, La.

2071b

INDIGENT



Ms. Sue Rochman  
C/6 1RC  
P.O Box 713  
Ithaca, NY 14851

**NOT CENSORED**

Not Responsible for Contents  
La. State Penitentiary

AUG 10 1990

LA. STATE PEN.  
AN ALL MALE PENAL INSTITUTE

July 20, 1990

Ms. Sue Rochman  
c/o IRC  
PO Box 713  
Ithaca, NY 14851

Dear Ms. Rochman:

Greetings. I've just received your letter and I am honored and pleased with your interest.

To begin with, I must admit that at first I had some reservations about providing another writer with information they are after. You see, in the past my experience with individuals writing on the issue has been somewhat exploitative. Writers obtain the information, articles are written, published and once again our struggles remain by the wayside. Nevertheless, after some deliberations, I feel obligated to expose the plight of my peers by whatever means possible. Hopefully, this will prove to be a more productive opportunity. There's also another and more selfish reason for my coöperation and it concerns my wish to publish a small autobiography of my experiences in which you may be of assistance. More on this later.

For now I will try to answer your questions. On how HIV+ and prisoners with AIDS are treated here at Attica: to say they are treated insensitively would be putting it mildly. The truth is there is no regard here for the betterment of prisoners nor the improvement of conditions in general let alone the care and treatment of HIV+ and prisoners with AIDS. You must understand that Attica is a facility plagued by past riots bred in racial undertones. The majority of HIV+ and prisoners with AIDS are black and hispanics from the NYC area. Besides, being designated a facility for punitve asignations, the atmosphere of unrest is designed to allow correction officers and union officials — who have the last word — to make the premise of "security" sacrosanct and above all else — inlcuding the health, care and well-being of "those who have brought this disease upon themselves and therefore deserve what they got."

Once an inmate is diagnosed HIV+ he is "marked" as these people (i.e., security, medical and civilian staff) have no respect for confidentiality laws and believe they have a right to know who has AIDS. One officer personally informed me that he knew of two inmates who worked with me that had AIDS because he was told by the medical department.

If the diagnosed inmate is either too ill to remain in the general population or unprepared to deal with the psychosocial issues of the disease, he is placed in the back of the 2nd. Fl. hospital dorm.

(3)

Other guys see us and suspect us doing what

"He can do it, what's up" / this?

Let them know I could also be in their shoes

Let guys know this concerns all of us

guys stated coming around

about 15-20 guys in group (not HIV)

David Gilbert  
founder PEP/A

More difficult to start, more confined

don't see whole population

more contact w/ all the other blocks

10000  
1000

Group: let guys know we care  
know that they aren't alone }  
assist them physie./psych./emot. }  
offer assis.

Proposal - for each block by block -

AIDS educ. training. -

General info.

It's criminal  
what they put  
anyway

"We should look out for one another  
but Albany officials have responsibility that they aren't meeting.  
How to make them respond to our needs.  
Or sit back. & change.

Not enuf interest from outside public. Not enuf pressure from  
outside. Society needs to take more of an interest. get more involved

They are criminal "what they got away w/".

Stuff on paper, & going on - talk to prisoners not admin.

To see what's going on

Sex' Day use - dependent on city 85-90% day related

at prison does happen

seen homosexual activity take place. early 70's more, not so much

& still happens.

There, he is isolated and prevented — both by wishes of officers and the indifference of administrators — from participating in programs of any kind.

The treatment by "guards" borders on the obscene. They abhor these men and constantly demonstrate their distaste with jeers, snickers and/or snide remarks. The less they have to deal with them the better.

Those inmates who have not received a minimal amount of basic AIDS education — which unfortunately includes a greater part of this population — display their ignorance at a more subtle level but nevertheless made felt by those HIV+ or with AIDS. At the present time two of my comrades and I are in the process of producing an AIDS Awareness Seminar (see enclosed materials) which we hope will help us bring about a sense of understanding, responsibility and caring among the prison population.

Thus far, what little education has been offered has been put forth by my two associates and I in the form of small presentations to those groups and/or organizations who have provided us the opportunity. Whatever training the administration has conducted has been solely provided to officers and staff.

I became concerned and involved with the AIDS in prison crisis when I met my dear friend Jose (Tito) Rodriguez in the hospital dorm of Green Haven. It was then 1985 and many of my other companions were getting sick, going to the hospital and not seen again. This and Tito's illness (may he rest in peace) — which I experienced firsthand — caused me to reflect on my past behavior and allowed me to realize that but for the grace of God, the ravishes my young friend suffered were my own. I sent away for literature on the subject, listened to as much as I could whenever it was talked about and basically educated myself. At the time I was also involved with Transactional Analysis and Pastoral Care and Counseling which allowed me to re-evaluate past conditioning, modify my behavior and transform beliefs.

I then proceeded to gather the necessary materials on the stages of the disease, the social and psychological aspect of the same and the general climate of my immediate surrounding and finally came up with the "buddy and peer counseling program." Needless to say I received an unduly amount of hassles and oppositions which are mirrored in the files of correspondance with prison officials. I would be glad to share them with you should care to inspect them.

② Officers ignored illness of guy AIDS so ill had to carry him on stretcher, in cell on floor  
pol. would have let him die there."

"Once there can't take part in other phys.

no counseling - "

get AZT-pentamidine

"No educ. at Attica

trying to get AIDS 101 - have at Greenhaven  
for whole population

"say how can I get involved"

Only thing - "one video did i absolute"

A Bad Way to Die

"no discussion"

has trained some stuff - Offer prisoners ✓

"Most prisoners act ignorant, whispering, shunning -  
(or hem alone, make jokes, etc)"

"Guy went to hosp. cuz of how treated

he got run away by other peoples reactions

not that much compassion"

2 or 3 guys in group not +

③ Green Haven - training sessions non social, ethnic orgs  
to put on seminars pass the word you i flat to accept  
more educ, cultural > fairer < compassion

Ms. Sue Rochman  
7/20/90

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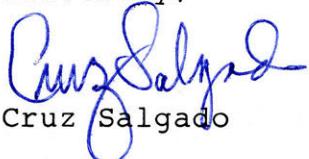
The present support group here at Attica got off on a bad start due to the unfortunate and violent death of a fellow prisoner caused by officers and the subsequent demonstration by the inmate population. The prison was closed down as a result and many of the pioneering members were transferred out which caused the group's schedule to fall-back and forced us to recruit and regroup our efforts. We now more strongly view the intended seminar as the ideal means of introducing the group and advancing our purpose.

This brings me to the second half of your request. The most qualified and reliable source at Green Haven who I believe can be of assistance to you would be Juan Rivera, #86A3200. He worked closely with me and is adequately prepared to write in length on the subject.

Finally, as I mentioned above, it has been a major interest of mine to put my experience on paper in the form of an autobiography. However, due to my lack of experience in this area, I find I will need the professional guidance of a qualified and experienced author. I realize this is a major undertaking and one which entails a great deal of work but, with six years left of a 15 to life sentence, I believe the project will be a rewarding accomplishment. Besides, I don't think anything of this nature has been published from inside the wall. As I also mentioned I have an extensive file of letters, reports, articles, proposals, etc. (some of which have been enclosed), which may prove helpful. I would like to discuss this further and in length with you and therefore hope you are interested.

In closing, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you likewise for the honor of making your acquaintance. If permitted, I will try to call you on a day and time which you've specified. You are free to use my name.

Sincerely,

  
Cruz Salgado

Encls.

HIV+

#5

- ① ~~Denver~~ Wouldn't allow anyone to visit before program.  
at Greenhaven - "no idea at first what he had"  
Sick for 18 mo.
- "Indifference,"  
medical dept. no ready  
transferred - accrd. seminars - saw leadership potential in that
  - this Morning - "group established - 3 or 4 months  
Meet Weekly"
  - "Frustrating - trying to get needs across  
not prepared, medically, professionally
  - "Officer will not give room to speak in private  
if do ask - nurse just as indifferent as officer"
- can be tested - 4 months or longer till know diagnosis  
"nurse said - you're positive - tried to get info.  
Sick now w/o. no counseling  
angry couldn't get info.  
knows supposed to get counseling & then  
needs to be new Mental Health prof.  
not prepared to deal w/ psych / AIDS
- "No psych. esp. for AIDS patients  
trained to deal w/ that problem  
problems getting psych. people in -  
Peer Counseling - avail. but need diff. to accept group

Planned agt.