

Loss of tender system cause of killings, TDC official says

Associated Press
HOUSTON — When a federal court abolished the building tender system in Texas prisons, it left a power void that gang members are killing one another to fill, a state prison administrator says.

The escalating warfare has resulted in seven killings since Labor Day and led prison officials to order 17,000 inmates kept in their cells in a widespread lockdown.

James E. Riley, deputy director of operations for the Texas Department of Corrections, says gang activities are posing a "critical problem" that must be dealt with.

The tender system, in which inmate-guards had authority over other prisoners, was outlawed about five years ago by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice as a reform in a suit brought against the TDC by inmate David Ruiz and others.

"We fully intend to comply with everything that's in the Ruiz litigation," Riley said. "We're a very fast train moving down that road."

Riley said a prime problem today is weeding out gangsters and violent inmates. He said there is "an inherent risk" and no guarantee that violence won't happen.

"Texas has always been known as having one of the best prison systems in the country, and I think we're going to go back to that," said Riley, who joined the TDC last year after 22 years in the U.S. Army.

"There's not another state (prison) in the nation that has the magnitude of litigation the TDC is under right now," he said. "We really are the forerunner. What happens in Texas sets the trend in what happens in the entire nation."

Riley said violent inmates constitute about 3 percent of the total prison population of about 37,500.

Although the number of knifings in prisons has fallen this year, the quest for clout among gang members has produced more homicides this year than for all of 1984, he said.

"There will always be groups struggling for power," Riley said. "We'll never eliminate that, but I think we're going to have control over those groups down the road."

He predicts peer pressure will reduce gang activity.

"I've talked to a number who are tired of the bloodshed — tired of being what they call 'hogged' by other inmates," he said. "I think there's going to be a turnaround by the inmates themselves from peer pressure brought on them."

10,000 satanists in Texas, prof says

Associated Press
ODESSA — A college professor and reserve sheriff's officer who has researched satanic cults says there are probably 10,000 devil worshippers in Texas.

Gayland Hurst, who has also collected satanic literature and other materials, said one work, "The Book of Shadows," gives a glimpse inside the world of devil worship.

The manual contains a step-by-step guide to rites and symbols of satanic groups and its parchment pages warn satanists that losing it will cost them their lives, Hurst said.

Hurst, who doubles as an Ector County Sheriff's reserve deputy captain, said he recovered the book as evidence following a suspected crime in Odessa.

Experts estimate that there are 10,000 devil worshippers in Texas.

said Hurst, who teaches a five-hour segment on satanism to students in Odessa College law enforcement classes on "Deviant Sexual Behavior."

Hurst, 50, said he taught similar classes throughout Texas and also served as consultant on about 30 Texas, Florida and Illinois crimes that investigators linked to devil worship.

Dade County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Charles Wetli in Miami, Fla. said that he wrote letters on the subject to Hurst after the Odessa school showed an interest in Miami's occult-related crimes.

"Very rarely do we see anything we can definitely relate to satanism," Wetli said, adding that Miami police often notice "all kinds of strange beads and related things, evidence of animal sacrifice."

But a recent spate of grave robberies in Dade County left Florida officials speculating over ties to the occult.

"The heads (of corpses) had been taken off" for use in cauldrons by worshippers of the dead, Wetli said.

Odessa Police Detective Sgt. Richard Hirst, supervisor of the Crimes Against Persons Section, said he found Hurst's instruction on satanism "interesting."

Tony Cordova, former Fort Stockton police chief, said Friday that he called on Hurst's expertise to identify devil-worship cult members living in Fort Stockton during the 1970s.

"Some transients that were into satanic cults set up residence here for a while," Cordova said.

Group lends comfort to prisoners

By KAREN KROESCHE
Reporter

When most people go to prison, it's for all the wrong reasons — that is, crimes they have committed and must serve time for.

But not these people. The volunteers who make up the Prison Fellowship Ministries go behind bars to reach out to those who have committed crimes, offering them friendship and understanding.

"Hope and reason to live is what Prison Fellowship is all about," volunteer Jay Elder said Saturday at Central Texas Prison Fellowship Night in College Station.

"We don't do it because we are more superior or more righteous than those behind bars," Elder said.

He emphasized that prisoners are just ordinary people who have made a mistake, not hardened criminals completely without hope, as the system encourages society to believe.

Former inmate Ron Cosby reiterated this point, saying that everyone suffers from greed, the very fault that leads criminals to commit crimes.

"I don't care who you are or what you're like, you can relate to people in prison," Cosby said. "That's our brothers and sisters behind bars."

Cosby is one of three former inmates who shared their stories with the audience.

"I smoked my first joint when I was 15 years old," he said. "By the time I was 19, I was a drug addict and an alcoholic."

Cosby said he tried several times to kill himself and committed many crimes before he was finally convicted of aggravated armed robbery in 1981.

But Cosby said while he was in prison his life changed by coming into contact with the Prison Fellowship Program.

"The Lord took what was supposed to be a horrible experience and turned it into a blessing for me," he said.

The Prison Fellowship Program was founded in 1976 by former aid to President Richard Nixon, Charles "Chuck" Colson. Upon his release from prison, where he served time for a Watergate-related offense, Col-

son said he was haunted by the solemn faces of his fellow inmates and decided to start a program that would minister to prisoners and their families.

Since then the program has grown into a global network ministry and has expanded to include the families of prisoners as well as former inmates.

And according to the brochure "You Make the Difference: An Overview of Prison Fellowship Ministries," the need for reform in the prisons has never been so great.

Seventy-five percent of the men and women released from prison commit new crimes that result in their return to prison, according to the brochure.

"Prison overcrowding and budget restrictions foster mounting tension among prisoners," the brochure explained. "Prison costs — an average of \$70,000 to build one medium-security cell — are increasingly burdensome to budget-conscious government bodies and inflation-pinched taxpayers."

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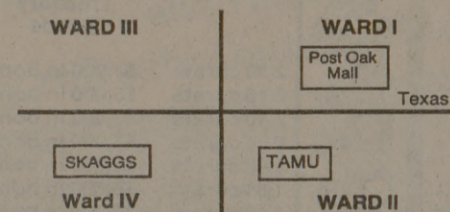
Requirements Of A Student Senator:

- (1) Attend all senate meetings. Fall schedule: Sept 25, Oct 9, Nov 6, Nov 20, Dec 4 7:30 PM 204 Harrington.
- (2) Participate on one of five legislative committees (Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Finance, Rules and Regulations, Student Services).
- (3) Report to a student organization that is representative of your constituency.
- (4) Maintain a GPR of a 2.25 or higher and post at least 2.0 every semester while in office.

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If you have any specific questions about the senate or student government in general, please feel free to call us.

Laurie Johnson, Speaker of the Senate (696-0760)
Miles Bradshaw, Speaker Pro Tempore (696-4387)
(Deadline is 5:00 PM Friday Sept. 20th)

8 things a man does on a first date that make me want a second.

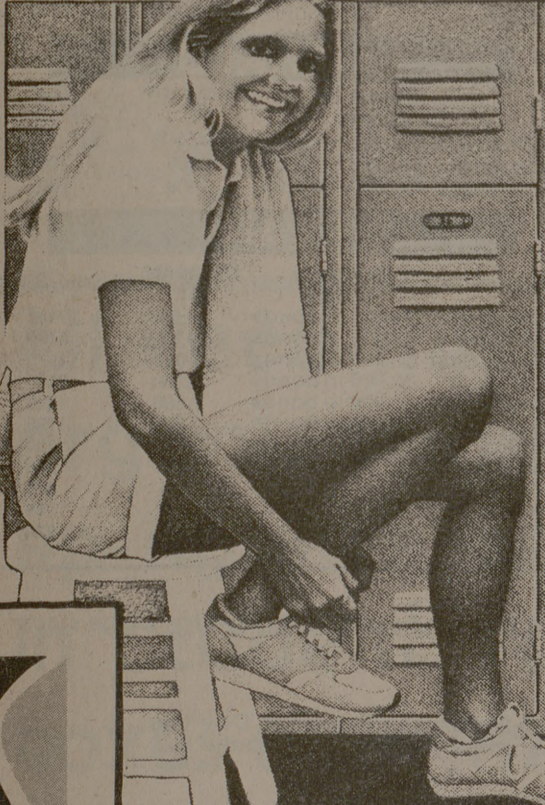
1. He loses arguments gracefully.
2. He opens doors for me and follows other rules of chivalry without flinching.
3. He can handle his liquor.
4. He doesn't care if all I want is a salad and a white wine spritzer.
5. He shaves.
6. He discusses anything but point spreads over dinner.
7. He has enough confidence to compliment me, and doesn't expect me to immediately return the favor.
8. When he asks me up for an after-dinner drink, he serves up Cafe Irish Creme.



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