

FLORIDA DEATH ROW ADVOCACY GROUP



Working to maintain and improve living conditions
on death row in Florida



FDRAG NEWSLETTER

Volume #29 — January 2011

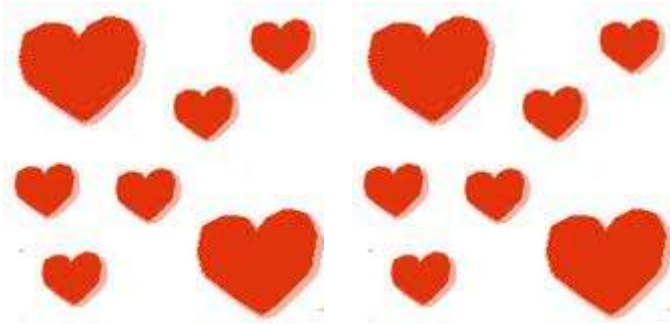
PUBLISHED BY FDRAG

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FDRAG Newsletter
Florida Death Row Advocacy Group
South East Station
PO Box 15731
Washington DC 20003
fdrag.kk5.org

The Inside Cover

To all my brothers,
I wish you all the very best.
Don't give up on hope and faith.
Love, David Lee Thomas



His Life Story

Age has caught up with me
The days are passing by
They'll soon run away
In remembrance of memory.

I view shiny stars that appear
Throughout my world,
Dark clouds that attack
And shatter.

Those charitable and affectionate
Golden roses
That appear within time

Now the nights get cold
Struggles and fears embrace and
Kiss my life
But it will soon be my day when
Life travels
A lonely road
Where serenity and
Tranquility will be
My partner and friend.

It's time to greet the darkness
That comes.

Author: Meryl McDonald, Florida

To all you brothers at UCI on death row. I beg you to hear my plea. "united we stand, divided we fall! With each month that passes, the powers that be continue to take more from us and try to make our already bad situation intolerable. Stand up, we were not sentenced to hard time, our sentence and punishment is death by execution. We are simply here being "detained" until our sentence and punishment is carried out. There is no justifiable cause for any of us to have to endure any further punishment beyond what the courts have sentenced us to. Our hobby crafts have already been taken and reduced to crappy finger paints and other such junk only a child could use. The rule in which we are to wear class A uniforms between 8:30 am - 5 pm was for the purpose to avoid female employees from seeing us semi-nude, yet now they parade us in the hallways wearing nothing but our boxers to get shaved, which is directly where all the female employees are stationed to work. Our razors have been taken. We lost our chicken, and now we have lost our sausages too! They have been taking the lids from our trays and expecting us to put the trays in the hall for pick-up by sliding the trays sideways through the bars with no lid. Foods & liquids fall to the floor and stick to the cell bars. Make them open the feed slots, that's what they were designed for! Most recently the Warden put out a memo stating our TV's will be turned off for count. Since no clarification was made as to which count, or for how long, our power outlets inside our cells are being turned off every 30 minutes just for a walk through. Power isn't being turned back on for 20-30 minutes, and sometimes longer! Situations like this continue to increase because we are not challenging the changes in numbers. Come together and work as one, help each other and follow the chain of command for the grievances procedures. This is a peaceful protest. Take your fight to them on paper. Do not become the vigilantes in which they are trying to make us out to be. Use FDRAG and other resources available and willing to help. Unite now and fight to keep what we still have, before it's too late and we have nothing left to fight for. Take heed to this message and pass on the word.

Your brother in the struggle, R "Saint" B

PS. If you would like to file a grievance on any of the following issues, these are the officials who issued the memos:

Lt. Clark - memo stipulating shaving procedures
Colonel Blalock - memo taking our razors

FDRAG is thrilled to announce that we now have a website thanks to Giusi Branca. The address is: "fdrag.kk5.org"

We encourage you to invite your friends and family members to visit the site to keep up with what's going on with FDRAG and how to help out.

If you have a blog or a website send us the link and we will post it on the site. We will post your art work, or poems, or anything else that you send, as long as it's legal! Please keep written pieces to 1,000 words or less.

Also, we will be posting life stories on the website for anyone who writes one.

The section is titled "Faces of Death Row" and we want to show who you are other than a death row inmate. There are a few guidelines to the story. The pieces should be 1,000 words or less. Nothing that would appear in a pen pal ad should be included in the story, i.e. physical description, hobbies, personal preferences etc.

Do not discuss your case or make references to innocence or guilt.

This is a story about you and about who you are. Where did you grow up, what was your family life like, what was life like for you growing up, what did you do before you were arrested, what do you do with yourself these days, who is in your life now? That sort of thing...

Please be careful not to make this into a pen pal ad, since we are not allowed to publish those and don't want to go outside the rules. (As a rule of thumb, if you would work in a pen pal ad, leave it out of your story).

You can also send pictures of yourself, your family, that car or dog you so loved, or anything else that you feel would be of interest and would help to show who you are. We will scan and return them to you as quickly as possible.

If your friends or family have pictures that you would like to include, please have them contact FDRAG to make arrangements.

FDRAG needs stamps!! Can you help?

A request

FDRAG is a small group of hard working volunteers. We depend on donations for all of the things that we do. Donations that we receive are often given to us for very specific purposes, i.e.; necessities, postage, etc.

We have an obligation to use the donations for their intended purpose.

Whenever we receive a request for assistance, we have an obligation to check the trust fund balance.

We now also check property supplies.

Ask FDRAG for what you need, and for what you want, and we will do our best to provide. If you need or want canteen money, ask for that. We do have a waiting list and we rarely get funds for canteen (or funds donated for "any" purpose) but whenever we can we will provide canteen funds.

Please do not, however, ask us for money for thermals (for example) if you really want it for canteen.

If your situation is a bit unusual, please explain it to us when you write to us with your request.

We look over each request carefully.

Thank you!!

..IMMA TRY"

[New Year's Resolution)

' Imma Try to stop cursin'-

On the strength to become a better person.

Imma Try not to be so quick to judge--
Besides it's bad for the ulcers to hold a grudge.

Imma Try to stop seeking revenge, in fact,
Imma stop dwelling on cats I wanna get back at.

Imma Try to improve my relationship with God--
Despite the opinions of those who think it's odd.

Imma Try to be the first to practice what I preach--
Which should increase the credibility of what I teach.

Imma Try to be quick to listen and slow to speak--
And let the voice of experience guide my feet.

Imma Try to be more open-minded--
For understanding rewards those who find it.

Imma Try to think the best of those who've died--
Instead of harboring their mistakes inside.

Imma Try to have a better attitude--
Because negativism is just the same as being rude.

Imma Try to love others as I love
Those who are free, and the human beings in penitentiary.

Imma Try to feel the next man's pain,
For at the end of the day we're all the same.

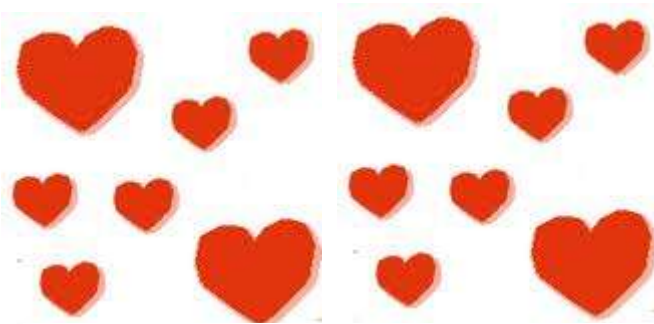
IMMA TRY!

Anthony Mungin

January 1st 2008

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To Bill, "Love is a serious mental disease!"
all my love, your secret admirer



Happy Valentine for mijn lieve schat Bear
Your Irene

All DOC replies to e-mails have been
bolded throughout the newsletter.

The Correctional Medical Authority (CMA) is still in existence. However, its role, while it includes doing surveys of healthcare provision at our institutions, does not include oversight of any of the Florida DOC healthcare facilities.

I suggest, therefore, that if you have a concern about healthcare delivery in any of our institutions that you contact the Chief Health Officer of that institution or the Warden. Of course, if you feel that your concern has not been satisfactorily dealt with you may write to me or Dr Johanson, the assistant Secretary of Health Services (Clinical), and we will channel your concern to the relevant Regional Medical Executive Director or relevant official in the Office of Health Services.

Sincerely,

**Olu Ogunsanwo, MD
Deputy Secretary of Health Services
Department of Corrections
2601 Blairstone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500
(850) 410-4223 {W} (850) 487-7996 {F}**

Rick Scott's Prison Budget Ideas

In just over a month, Governor-Elect Rick Scott will take office. At the top of his agenda, a cost-saving overhaul of Florida's prison system. Reporter Troy Kinsey takes us inside a plan critics are already attacking as a threat to public safety

Nov 30, 2010, Updated: Dec 1, 2010

Reporter: Troy Kinsey Email: news@wctv.tv

Tallahassee, FL - Here in Florida, life behind bars can be lonely, depressing, and expensive. With more than 100- thousand people locked up, the state's spending almost two-and-a-half billion dollars a year on prisons. If Governor-Elect Rick Scott has his way, they'll have to get by with a billion dollars less.

Scott says, "We'll measure it every day, and we'll come up with things - we'll eliminate ineffective programs, we'll eliminate inefficiencies."

Not surprisingly, the former health care executive wants to privatize inmate clinics. He's also calling for 'market-based salaries' in the prison system, but Matt Puckett with the state's law enforcement union says realistically there's no way to cut a billion dollars without jeopardizing security.

Puckett. Florida PBA, says, "Where are you going to get the other money that it's going to require to take that cut? We think that it's going to be closing facilities and letting inmates go, and that's a prescription for disaster, and we don't agree with that and we will fight it."

Attempting to save money through privatization is nothing new, but, this is. The Governor-Elect wants prisoners to grow their own food, potentially cutting the state's grocery bill by tens of millions of dollars.

Rob Weissert with Florida Taxwatch calls Scott's plan an innovative way to bring a bloated bureaucracy down to size.

In fact, he says the state can save even more money by letting would-be prisoners join work-release and drug court programs.

Weissert says, "The idea that we need to maintain prisons in order to maintain public safety is a myth; we don't. There are many programs that are actually more effective, that actually enhance public safety."

There's no question the Scott plan would *unshackle* big money, but the question is whether it would mean a hidden cost when it comes to your safety.

This and That

If you can, please let us know if the holiday gifts were received by the children they were sent to.

Due to lack of funds, FDRAG was not able to offer an Angel Tree visit this past holiday season. We hope to offer it again at the end of this year.

Thank you

to everyone who returned the food survey. We apologize for not having included a copy of the master menu along with the survey. We thought that there were enough copies of it around for people to share. We are including one with this newsletter.

It never changes, so hang on to it.

Some people have asked for additional copies of the survey. We need to process the results of the surveys that we did receive and cannot handle anymore at the moment. We also need multiple responses to the same served meals in order to rule out what could be considered as individual taste.

As stated in the e-mail sent to Regional Director Cannon by LOLITS, on behalf of both LOLITS and FDRAG, we are enclosing information for Correctional Officers.

We ask that you please pass it along.

FDRAG receives many letters requesting legal help. Unfortunately none of the FDRAG volunteers are lawyers, or have sufficient legal knowledge to be in a position to respond to those letters.

In the next few newsletters we will try to provide you with the addresses of places you can contact.

FDRAG is researching issues having to do with TV sets that have been sent out for repairs and not yet returned.

We will contact everyone individually with news

We printed the wrong contact information for Giusi on the last page. She can currently be reached by e-mail at

concerned234@hotmail.com

If anyone with access to the internet has comments, questions or suggestions for the website, please e-mail Giusi directly. We will publish details of the website in future newsletters.

They will take advantage of you

Hand me the wrench, he said.
I picked up the tool. It was cold in my hand. Here, I said.
He looked up at me from the motorcycle he was working on.
There was a line of grease across his nose where, he'd scratched an itch.
He took the wrench. People will take advantage of you, Padre, he said to me.
His attention went back to the bike, and he looked at a nut he meant to tighten.
He fit the wrench to it, and slowly began to turn.
They don't know you like I know you. I know where you've been.
I lived those streets you've walked. I've been there.
I looked at him.
They can have whatever they want, I said. It makes no difference to me.
He looked back to me. Then he gave me the wrench, and I put it back where I had found it.

~ Father Luke
Written February 4th, 2008 - 11:26:10 PM



Welcome Secretary Buss

From everything that we have heard,
we are truly blessed that you have
taken the reins of the Florida
Department of Corrections.

We look forward to working with you
along with other advocacy groups and
members of the religious community.



Comments about Mr. Buss

...the prisoners [in Indiana] are in an up roar over [Mr. Buss] leaving as he is such a great person, there are also some prisoners that still write to him about things as he is the only person they trust, on one death row, they can mix with each other (i.e. go into each others cells) and they are allowed to adopt cats and keep them in there cells, plus they play games on there own Xboxes. Their cell is nothing like a Florida cell, it's like a normal kind of bedroom with posters on the walls, the cell was loaded with stuff, books, magazines etc,,,,,,,,, as for visiting,,,,,they seem to have more visiting days then in Florida, but because of the (more) freedom they have, there death row does seem to be on lockdown alot more.

From a former IN DR inmate;
Eddie Buss is a great guy (sometimes) he is willing to work with you on all kinds of programs cats in cell housed food was from Aarmark sucks try and block it if you can good commissary, family vists at church fanilts can come have picnics etc..
Respectfully Herbie Underwood

Information from the food surveys is being compiled and FDRAG will be following up with the DOC regarding the results. We will publish the results in a future newsletter.



Future Newsletters will have a very different format. We will be eliminating the cover page and they will be much smaller in an effort to get them to you on a timelier basis.

If you have something for a future issue send it to us and we will include it in the next available newsletter.

The meeting of the canteen review team, originally scheduled for February 4th, was held on February 25th. They reviewed 2 less expensive TV sets and a converter box. The recommendations have been forwarded for approval. We hope that 2 new TV's appear on the canteen list in the near future.

Editorial comment: Everyone thought that Hospira had made a moral decision to stop the production of sodium thiopental. It turns out that they only wanted to move production to a factory in Italy. Italy staunchly opposes capital punishment so Hospira was unable to implement their plan. But not for lack of trying. Shame on Hospira and bravo to the Italians for opposing this effort.

Jan 22, 2011 Written by **Andrew Welsh-Huggins**, AP

COLUMBUS, Ohio -The sole U.S. manufacturer of a key lethal injection drug said Friday it is ending production because of death-penalty opposition overseas — a move that could delay executions across the United States.

Over the past several months, a growing shortage of the drug, sodium thiopental, has forced some states to put executions on hold. And the problem is likely to get worse with the announcement from Hospira Inc. of Lake Forest, Ill.

Hospira said it decided in recent months to switch manufacturing from its North Carolina plant to a more modern Hospira factory in Liscate, Italy. But Italian authorities demanded a guarantee the drug would not be used to put inmates to death — an assurance the company said it was not willing to give.

"We cannot take the risk that we will be held liable by the Italian authorities if the product is diverted for use in capital punishment," Hospira spokesman Dan Rosenberg said. "Exposing our employees or facilities to liability is not a risk we are prepared to take."

Italian Health Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

All but one of the 35 states that employ lethal injection use sodium thiopental. In nearly every case, they use it as part of a three-drug combination that sedates and paralyzes the inmate and stops the heart.

There are other, similar sedatives on the market, but substituting one drug for another would require new laws or lengthy administrative processes in some states, and could also lead to lawsuits from death row.

Similarly, switching to another manufacturer could invite lawsuits from inmates demanding proof that the drug will not cause pain in violation of their constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment. Hospira is the only sodium thiopental-maker approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Because of what Hospira described as problems with its raw-material suppliers, sodium thiopental is already scarce in the U.S., and any batches Hospira made before it suspended manufacturing more than a year ago are set to expire this year.

In Texas, the nation's busiest death penalty state, the Department of Criminal Justice said Friday it is exploring the use of another anesthetic. The state has four executions scheduled between now and July but has enough sodium thiopental to carry out only two February executions, spokesman Jason Clark said.

Ohio has enough to carry out a Feb. 17 execution but will not comment on its supply after that, or on Hospira's announcement, said Ohio prisons spokeswoman JoEllen Smith.

Hospira has long deplored the drug's use in executions but said it regretted having to stop production, because sodium thiopental has legitimate medical purposes as an anesthetic used in hospitals. Hospira continues to make two other drugs used in executions — pancuronium bromide, which paralyzes, and potassium chloride, which stop the heart.

Without providing details, Rosenberg said the company's state-of-the-art Italian factory was the only plant capable of manufacturing sodium thiopental.

Like most other European countries, however, Italy does not have capital punishment and opposes the death penalty. Italy's Radical Party brought a motion to Parliament, which passed overwhelmingly on Dec. 22, requiring Hospira to ensure that the drug would be used only for medical purposes and would not find its way into prisons.

The current shortage of the drug in the U.S. has delayed or disrupted executions in Arizona, California, Kentucky, Ohio and Oklahoma.

In the fall, states including Arizona, Arkansas, California and Tennessee turned to sodium thiopental made in Britain. But that supply dried up after the British government in November banned its export for use in executions.

Oklahoma went a different route, switching to pentobarbital, an anesthetic commonly used to put cats and dogs to sleep. The state has conducted two executions with that drug.—

AP Business Writer Colleen Barry in Milan contributed to this report

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New Florida prisons boss has pedigree

1:10 A.M. — TALLAHASSEE - When it comes to Florida's newest prisons boss, it's tempting to think Barney Fife, the overmatched Mayberry deputy in the 1960s television sitcom "The Andy Griffith Show."

Don't be fooled, say colleagues and national experts on prison reform who have worked with him.

As Edwin Buss takes over Florida's Department of Corrections, he's impressed the Sunshine State's powerful prison-guard union with his track record and promises to make cuts in administration, not the front line.

He'll be running a prison system much larger than Indiana's. Florida's prison system has nearly as many employees as the Hoosier State has inmates.

In Indiana, Buss had a \$658 million budget and oversaw 29,000 inmates. Florida's Department of Corrections commands a \$2.4 billion budget and locks up 102,000 prisoners.

But Buss has the right combination of training, temperament and political skills for the job, say those who know him best.

"Congratulations on bringing him to Tallahassee," said Michael Thompson, director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, who has worked with Buss on prison reform. "Florida won the Buss sweepstakes."

Buss has helped convince law-and-order Indiana legislators to consider dropping rigid sentencing guidelines that flood prisons with low-level drug offenders and others who could be better served in treatment and more cheaply housed in lower-level supervision, Thompson said.

An Army veteran who began in the system as a front-line corrections officer, Buss spent the last 23 years working his way to the top.

In November, Buss told Indiana lawmakers, "politicians have gotten pretty good at playing politics with the criminal justice system."

Buss warned legislators they must rethink their throw-away-the-key mentality. It's possible to spend less and make the public safer, Buss argued. He had the facts and figures to back it up, Thompson said.

"It's a really hard thing to do to convince lawmakers, especially in a place where it's popular to shoot the messenger," he said.

Buss trimmed budgets and cut a staff of 7,500 by 1,000 mostly middle managers. He also consolidated facilities to open up 2,100 new beds and save Indiana taxpayers \$200 million.

"I've been here 20 years and I've seen governors come and go, and I've seen corrections commissioners and secretaries come and go," said Jim Gondles, executive director of the American Correctional Association.

"Ed, in my opinion, is one of the up and coming leaders in American corrections."

Buss also is a believer in rehabilitation and reform, Gondles said.

"Just about everybody we put in prison is going to get out," Gondles said. "We have to lock up the people we're afraid of, not the people we're mad at."

'We're impressed'

Kellie Meyer, criminal justice director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Indiana, worked with Buss when he was in charge of one of the state's largest prisons in 2004. Buss adopted a NAMI training curriculum that taught staff how to deal with inmates struggling with mental illness.

"Assaults against officers and use of force decreased by 70 percent," Meyer said. "I'm an advocate. I'm the one who speaks up for the people. Commissioner Buss has been innovative enough to work with us. He gets it."

If newly elected Gov. Rick Scott scored a coup by recruiting Buss, he's not eager to tout it. Scott has ordered his appointees not to give interviews.

Scott's criminal justice transition team has proposed many of the same reforms Buss was pushing in Indiana.

A day after Scott's Jan. 4 inauguration, Buss was in Florida asking for a meeting with the Florida Police Benevolent Association. It was an unusual request.

Scott has vowed to trim the state work force by 5 percent and slash the Department of Correction's budget by \$1 billion, putting him in opposition to the powerful police union.

When the PBA endorsed Scott's opponent, executive director David Murrell warned Scott's budget cuts would put serial killers back on the streets. But the PBA is backing off after two of its top officials met with Buss.

"Originally, everybody said, 'Hey, wait a minute, this guy is coming from a much smaller state,'" said PBA spokesman Matt Puckett, who attended the meeting. "I think it's safe to say we were very much impressed."

Buss pledged staff cuts will come from middle management and front-line workers, prison guards and probation and parole officers, will be preserved, Puckett said.

Revolving door

The Florida Department of Corrections has had two secretaries in the past four years. Jim McDonough, a former Army colonel and drug czar who worked in the Clinton White House, had impressive credentials and was brought in to right a ship plagued by scandal.

McDonough stressed rehabilitation and many of the same money-saving reforms Buss pushed in Indiana, but with little success in the Legislature.

He clashed with the corrections culture that bristled at his rigid leadership style, Puckett said.

"He wanted everybody to be Army Rangers, even though they weren't hired to be Army Rangers," Puckett said. "He thought he was going to come in and dictate changes without bringing everybody to the table and people would just obey."

Buss will replace Secretary Walt McNeill who had impressive credentials as a former Tallahassee police chief, but little corrections experience and not enough time on the job, Puckett said.

"Part of the problem is that nobody's been there for more than two years," Puckett said. "We give football coaches more time than that before we decide how they're doing."

"Originally, everybody said, 'Hey, wait a minute, this guy is coming from a much smaller state,'" said PBA spokesman Matt Puckett, who attended the meeting. "I think it's safe to say we were very much impressed."

Buss pledged staff cuts will come from middle management and front-line workers, prison guards and probation and parole officers, will be preserved, Puckett said.

We have received a converter box and two less expensive TV's from the vendor that will be presented to the Canteen Review Team for consideration in January 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Terrell @ (850) 410-4278. George B. Sapp Deputy Secretary of Institutions and ReEntry

Hello Mr. Terrell, We are wondering what the results are of the January review team meeting mentioned by Mr. Sapp? We are anxious to let the guys know about the new TV and converter box options that will be made available. Thanks in advance, FDRAG

On Mon, Jan 24, 2011 at 12:38 PM, Terrell, Charlie <Terrell.Charlie@mail.dc.state.fl.us> wrote: A Canteen Review Team meeting has been scheduled for February 4, 2011, and a converter box and new TV are on the agenda for review. If you have any questions, please contact Charlie Terrell @ (850) 410-42

Mr. Terrell, You say "a converter box and new TV". Mr. Sapp had said there were 2 less expensive TV's to be reviewed and we're hoping that it's just a matter of the words that you used? Will you still be reviewing 2 less expensive TV's at the meeting? And if they are both good sets, will you offer both of them as options for purchase? Thanks, FDRAG

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In response to contact from both convicts and Correctional Officers, LOLITS contacted Regional Director Timothy Cannon on behalf of both FDRAG and LOLITS. Below is a summary of the e-mail exchange. We await word from those of you who live and work inside to let us know if Mr. Cannon missed anything while on the tour.

LOLITS - As you know I usually work with the open population. However from time to time I do get messages from inmates and families on Death Row. I used to work closely with a group called FDRAG that is mostly for Death Row at UCI and FSP. I have received a few calls from families of guys at UCI and also have spoken recently with FDRAG members. I want to share with you our combined issues.

DOC - Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the issues that you have presented. I will attempt to address each issue individually. I personally visited Monday, January 10, 2011, and will continue to visit unannounced.

LOLITS - The power is being shut off for count time without warning (on some wings) and the fuses on the TV's are blowing out when the power is turned back on.

DOC - The power is not being shut off at count time; however the inmates are required to turn their televisions off during count which is required by count procedures.

LOLITS - They will be advised the power is not being turned off, it is their duty to turn off the TV's during count

LOLITS - There is a new rule in place mandating that only one thing can be out of a locker at any given time.

DOC - We are not aware of any rule that restricts the inmates to having only one item out of their locker at a time. Lt. Adkins was interviewed regarding this allegation and he advised that he is not enforcing such a rule and that he is not aware of any of his staff doing so either. If you have specific incidents or names of staff that are enforcing such a rule, we would be glad to revisit this allegation again.

LOLITS - I will tell FDRAG to let the guys know that the one thing at a time is no longer in effect and if they are told this to get the name of the officer and report back to them or me.

LOLITS - The men are told they must be fully dressed "when it gets cold".

DOC - Lt. Adkins was also interviewed regarding the allegation that the inmates are required to be fully dressed "when it gets cold". He advised us that the inmates are required to be dressed during business hours, Monday through Friday, regardless of the temperature. This is done in an attempt to have the inmates presentable during higher traffic times on the wings.

LOLITS - We will let the guys know they are required to be dressed during business hours Monday through Friday so they are presentable during the higher traffic travel in the wings.

LOLITS -The clippers are not being properly cleaned or sanitized between uses.

DOC - Clippers are being used in Death Row now as a means to save money and increase safety and security. The clippers are being sanitized and maintained in accordance with established procedures.

LOLITS - The food trays that are passed to the men through the bean flaps, must be passed back through the bars as the officers will not open the flaps to receive the trays. Since there are no lids on the trays, food and liquids are spilling onto the floor. The floors are not properly cleaned.

DOC - Warden Reddish advises that he has personally observed the feeding process on several occasions and the inmates are delivered their trays through the cuff ports. When the inmate runners return to pick up the empty trays, the cuff ports are not typically opened because the death row inmates pass the empty tray back through the cell bars vertically. In those cases where something may get spilled, the inmate runners are available to clean it up.

LOLITS - Hopefully in the future the runners will be told to clean up the spills from the trays as it happens

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LOLITS -- The showers are filthy and many of them have mold.

I personally inspected several showers and wings during my visit on Monday. The showers were clean and the wings were found clean and quiet as well.

LOLITS -- There is now a procedure in place where the security staff has to line up and stand at attention at one or the other of the gates at certain times, for unclear reasons.

For a short time, Administrative Security Staff were required to be in formation for an inspection at the beginning of their shift. This practice is not being used at this time.

LOLITS - The floors are not properly cleaned, other than the "tour wing" that we are told is the only wing that Warden Reddish visits on death row.

Mr. Reddish tours the institution on a regular basis and spends time interacting with staff in their respective areas. He does not conduct rounds in P dorm on a "tour wing". He randomly tours different wings to ensure that cleanliness and sanitation is being maintained and to afford the inmates an opportunity to speak with him about housing conditions, visitation regulations, etc.

LOLITS - The guys will be asked to let us know about the opportunity of talking to Warden Reddish when he tours their wings

LOLITS - The staff are concerned about various issues, but are afraid to say anything for fear of being written up and losing their jobs.

Staff are always encouraged to address their issues at the local level through their chain of command. Some staff have done this and the Administration has listened and afforded them the opportunity to be heard. If they are not satisfied with the response they receive, they can speak with the next person in their chain of command. We are always concerned with staff morale..

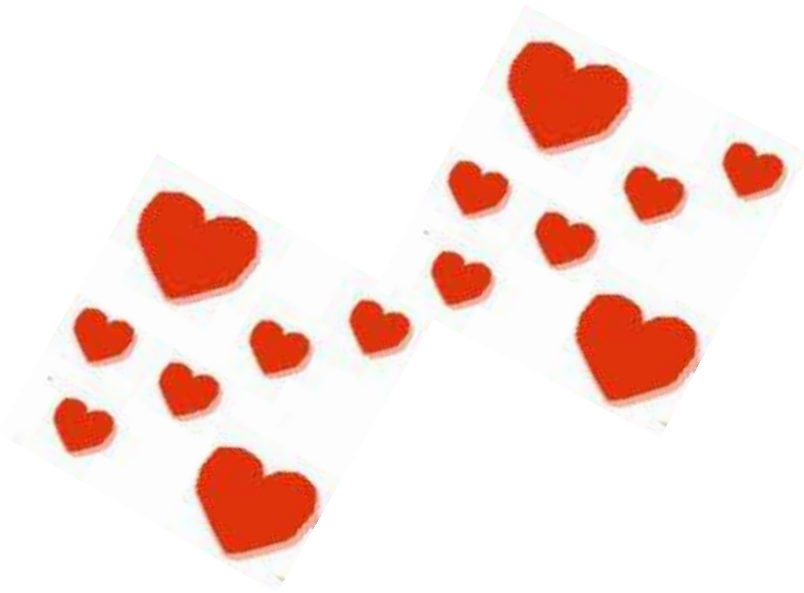
If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Linda Luther, Executive Secretary,
On Behalf Of Timothy H. Cannon, Regional Director of Institutions, Region II**

UCI concerns

We are hearing that there is to be a new policy that will result in lights out at 11:30pm. While we have no real objection to having "quiet time" on the wings at night, we are concerned that this will also mean that the TVs and fans will not be operable either. Is that true?

I have reviewed your concerns and we are going to continue to allow the TV and fans to remain on throughout the night. Thanks, B. Whitehead, Assistant Warden, Union C.I.



Institution food

Following is the e-mail exchange that has taken place to date between FDRAG and the DOC about food.

Can you please send us (or tell us where we can find) the list of ingredients in the food that is served to death row?
Can you also send us a copy of the current master menu as well as the upcoming one? Thanks, FDRAG

There is no difference in food served death row inmates and inmates in general population. Please find the attached copy of the menu. There are no planned changes in the menu at this time.

Albert Thigpen, Food Service Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections

Thank you for your reply and for the copy of the master menu.

FDRAG has a few questions as follow up and we appreciate your time in advance.

1. What is NCNP milk? **Milk for the National Child Nutrition Program.**
2. Every breakfast comes with both fruit juice as well as a breakfast beverage. What exactly are those?
 Fruit juice is 100% fruit juice, breakfast beverage is a non-dairy product with the same nutritional value as milk.
3. What are the actual ingredients in the following lunch items?
 burger patty **Turkey and texture vegetable protein (TVP)**
 turkey hot dogs **Turkey**
 veggie chicken salad **Chicken flavored TVP**
 carrot pineapple salad **Carrots and pineapple**
4. What are the actual ingredients in the following dinner items?
 baked chicken leg quarter **Chicken leg quarter**
 turkey ham **Turkey**
 dinner stew with LF gravy...both what are the ingredients in the dinner stew and what is LF gravy?
 LF gravy is Low fat gravy. Dinner stew is a beef flavored TVP with vegetables added
5. Are we reading this correctly that the alternate entre for dinner is always either dried beans or peanut butter, and what is LS peanut butter? **There is always a non-meat, non-TVP alternate available at lunch and dinner.**
 LS Peanut Butter is Low Sodium peanut butter
6. Does this 4 week menu rotate continually, or is there a different 4 week menu every 4 weeks (or every now and then)? **It rotates continually**

Also, If you have the requirements for the calorie count for each meal (as well as each item on the menu) we would appreciate receiving that. If you don't have that information, we would appreciate if you can tell us where we need to go to get it. **I have a weekly average and have attached.** FDRAG and **Mr. Albert Thigpen**

Can you please provide us with the ingredients of the texture vegetable protein (TVP) which appears to be included in a number of the meals? **TVP is Textured Vegetable Protein and is soy bean based.**

Also, can you tell us how the DOC monitors the actual food preparation and service, who does the monitoring, and how often? **Each meal preparation is over seen by staff assigned to the institution, and service is monitored and recorded on a per meal basis at the facility. Central Office staff assigned to each region monitor each kitchen on no less than a quarterly basis and more often if issues are present. Department of Health inspects each kitchen on a quarterly basis.** **Albert Thigpen**

Thank you for this information, but we are coming back to you because we need even more. What are the actual ingredients in this TVP? Who provides it, who makes it, and how can we get that information? We want to know exactly what it is made of and how to make it ourselves. Again, if you don't have that information, please let us know where we need to go to find it. Thank you in advance. FDRAG

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The TVP is received from US Foods and is manufactured By ADM an American Company that is a forerunner in the use of vegetable proteins. I am unsure of how the product is manufactured, the product comes to us as water add only commodity. There is tons of information on the web about this product. You can goggle ADM and get specific information. Albert Thigpen

Hello again, Mr. Thigpen,

The ADM website lists many types of TVP. Can you tell us please which one is used by the DOC? We get so many complaints about a "mystery meat" which must be this TVP, and we want to put nutrition information about it in the next newsletter. Thanks, FDRAG

We use ADM product # 165-105 Albert Thigpen

FDRAG is continuing to investigate this TVP. We are currently awaiting a reply from ADM with information about product # 165-105 because it is not one of the items listed on their website.

Textured vegetable protein

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Textured or **texturized vegetable protein (TVP)**, also known as **textured soy protein (TSP)**, **soy meat**, or **soya meat** is a meat analogue or nutritious meat extender made from defatted soy flour, a by-product of extracting soybean oil. It is quick to cook, with a protein content equal to that of the meat, and contains no fat.

Manufacturing process

TVP is made from a mixture of proteins extracted primarily from soybeans, but also cotton seeds, wheat and oats. It is extruded into various shapes (chunks, flakes, nuggets, grains, and strips) and sizes, exiting the nozzle while still hot and expanding as it does so. The defatted thermoplastic proteins are heated to 150-200°C, which denatures them into a fibrous, insoluble, porous network that can soak up as much as three times its weight in liquids. As the pressurized molten protein mixture exits the extruder, the sudden drop in pressure causes rapid expansion into a puffy solid that is then dried. As much as 50% protein when dry, TVP can be rehydrated at a 2:1 ratio, which drops the percentage of protein to an approximation of ground meat at 16%. High quality TVP can be mixed with ground meat to a ratio of up to 1:3 (rehydrated TVP to meat) without reducing the quality of the final product, sometimes improving it if the meat used is poor. TVP is primarily used as a meat substitute due to its' very low cost at less than a third the price of ground beef, and when cooked together will help retain more weight from the meat by absorbing juices normally lost.

Properties; TVP can be made from soy flour or concentrate, containing 50% and 70% soy protein respectively, and is relatively flavorless. Both require rehydration before use, sometimes with flavoring added in the same step. TVP is extruded, causing a change in the structure of the soy protein which results in a fibrous spongy matrix that is similar in texture to meat. In its dehydrated form TVP has a shelf life of longer than a year, but will spoil within several days after being hydrated. In its flaked form TVP can be used similar to ground meat.

Uses: Textured vegetable protein is a versatile substance, different forms allowing it to take on the texture of whatever ground meat it is substituting. Using textured vegetable protein, one can make vegetarian or vegan versions of traditionally meat dishes such as chili, spaghetti bolognese, sloppy joes, tacos, burgers, or burritos.

Soy products also are used as a low cost substitute in meat and poultry products. Food service, retail and institutional (primarily school lunch and correctional) facilities regularly use such "extended" products. Extension may result in diminished flavor, but fat and cholesterol are reduced. Vitamin and mineral fortification can be used to make soy products nutritionally equivalent to animal protein; the protein quality is already roughly equivalent.

Textured vegetable protein can be found in natural food stores and larger supermarkets, usually in the bulk section. TVP is also very lightweight, and is often used in backpacking recipes. TVP is often used in prisons and schools for several reasons: its low relative cost, high protein and low fat contents make it ideal, as does its relatively long shelf life, which allows institutions to buy in bulk.

Information from the ADM website

Our Company: Archer Daniels Midland Company is one of the largest agricultural processors in the world. Serving as a vital link between farmers and consumers, we take crops and process them to make food ingredients, animal feed ingredients, renewable fuels and naturally derived alternatives to industrial chemicals. Because everything ADM does begins with agriculture, our partnership with the farming community is vital. Farmers are essential to the overall economy, and that's why we work to be essential to them - creating thousands of products from their crops, hundreds of markets for their crops. Founded in 1902 and incorporated in 1923, ADM is headquartered in Decatur, Illinois, and operates processing and manufacturing facilities across the United States and worldwide. Through our extensive global distribution facilities and capabilities, ADM makes a significant contribution to the world's economy and quality of life

ADM Products & Services: Every day, the 29,000 people of ADM are hard at work transforming crops into renewable products that meet the world's vital needs. At more than 240 processing plants, we convert corn, oilseeds, cocoa, wheat and other crops into food, feed, fuel and industrial products needed to sustain a growing global population. We are proud to play a role in meeting the world's needs for products made from renewable, sustainable sources. Because ADM is one of the world's leading agricultural processors, we're able to serve thousands of customers efficiently and profitably. We operate the world's premier crop origination and transportation network, connecting crops and markets in more than 60 countries. Our customers benefit from ADM's unrivaled global reach, strong relationships with farmers, and extraordinary range of logistical, analytical and technological services.

ADM Food Ingredients: Many of the world's largest and best-known food manufacturers rely on ADM for hundreds of essential food ingredients. Our high-quality ingredients from agriculture are in many of the products consumers use and enjoy every day, from grains and meats to salad oils, yogurt and chocolate. In 2010 and 2009, ADM was named the most admired company in the food production industry by *Fortune*.

Meat Products: Vegetable proteins can improve taste, texture and nutrition, enhancing the appeal of an infinite number of meat products. And for the latest soy-based meat replacements, you won't find a broader range of ingredient options, expertise and support for soy-based foods than you get with ADM. Vegetable proteins can improve taste, texture and nutrition, enhancing the appeal of an infinite number of meat products. And for the latest soy-based meat replacements, you won't find a broader range of ingredient options, expertise and support for soy-based foods than you get with ADM. Acidulants, Proteins, Lecithin

Proteins: ADM offers an extensive line of versatile, functional protein ingredients – including vegetable proteins, soy protein isolates and concentrates, and wheat proteins – to meet a variety of formulation needs.

Soy proteins: As a leading soybean processor, ADM ensures customers have the highest-quality soy ingredients. Our extensive line of soy proteins includes isolates, concentrates, TVP® (textured vegetable protein), TVC® (textured vegetable crumbles), soy flours and soy grits. Using soy protein allows food manufacturers to fortify their label with the FDA-approved claim linking soy protein to heart health. ADM's NutriSoy® is an all-natural, high-quality, cholesterol-free soy protein ingredient that contains virtually every essential amino acid. Our NutriSoy high-protein crisps, ideal for snacks, bars and cereals, are available in three varieties – 60 percent protein, 80 percent protein and 85 percent protein. Pro-Fam® isolated soy proteins help retain moisture, enhance texture and promote stability in meat products, and their clean flavor and low viscosity make them desirable for use in nutrition bars, beverages and other functional food applications.

ADM, Office of Compliance and Ethics, Vice-President, Compliance and Ethics, Arthur Daniels Midland Company, 1001 North Brush College Road, Decatur, IL 62521; website: www.adm.com

FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

FDRAG has come to understand that there are concerns among some officers about issues relating to the work place.

This issue was raised with Tallahassee and the response from Mr. Cannon, Regional Director, is below:

“Staff are always encouraged to address their issues at the local level through their chain of command. Some staff have done this and the Administration has listened and afforded them the opportunity to be heard.

If they are not satisfied with the response they receive, they can speak with the next person in their chain of command.

We are always concerned with staff morale.”

We strongly encourage you to discuss any issues you may have with the administration in accordance with established procedures.

If, however, you feel that you can't raise certain issues that way, we encourage you to address them either through LOLITS, or FDRAG. You can contact any of the FDRAG members listed on the reverse side of this page or write to: LOLITS, Attn. Bea, P.O. Box 375, Butler, PA 16003

All letters and calls received will be kept completely confidential.

You do not have to sign your letters or include your return address.

We do, however, ask that you create a 6 digit alpha-numeric reference number and that you write it down in the top right hand corner of your letter. Then record that number somewhere else where it can be kept private, but where you won't forget it. If additional information is required from anyone, FDRAG will list the reference numbers in a subsequent newsletter with instructions as to what else you might need to do.

We will not provide actual copies of the letters received to the DOC. Also, we will not quote anything that is written. Instead we will summarize the issues that are raised.

Both of these actions are intended to protect your anonymity.

If the issue that you are raising is discussed in a memo (or any other document) you must include a copy of that document along with your letter. We also need as much information as possible about any issues that you raise - dates, times, what happened, where, who was involved, etc. We need as much information and as many details as you can possibly provide. It may be that you were actually there, or you may have heard about it first hand and are certain that it's true.

If you are not 100% sure about the accuracy or validity of something that you are sharing with us, or if it is only a rumor, please make that clear when you write.

Whatever you do, we encourage you to speak out about any issues or concerns that you have.

Get them off your chest!

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*Visit our new website to find out more about what we do,
about how you can become involved and about the men
and woman on Florida's death row.*

fdrag.kk5.org

What is FDRAG about?

The Florida Death Row Advocacy Group (FDRAG) is made up of family members and friends of death row inmates in Florida as well as anti-death penalty advocates who want to be involved in a different way. We are devoted to maintaining and improving the living conditions of those on the row in Florida.

We also offer support to everyone and anyone affected by the sentence of death.

FDRAG needs your help!!

FDRAG always looks to welcome new advocates and we really need your help.

We do not charge membership fees to be a part of FDRAG.

Anyone who is willing to work for basic human rights is welcome. We are not a political group.

There are a lot of things on our wish list to do, but we are very limited.

We need people who can help with projects, and we need money and stamps and anything that anyone can spare.

Please let your friends and family know about us.

Whether you, or they, can help with a little or with a lot, please contact us by sending an e-mail or by calling.

FDRAG contact information is on the back of this page, or you can reach us by visiting our new website

fdrag.kk5.org

We appreciate anything that you can do.

No offer to help is too big or too small!!

If you are looking to become involved in anti-death penalty activities, we recommend that you join one of the excellent groups already up and running like NCADP, FADP, Equal Justice USA, or Amnesty International, among many others.

You can find links to these organizations and more on our website.

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To:

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All the members of FDRAG speak English, but some speak other languages as well, which are noted above. *Italics* indicates fluency. Your family, friends and loved ones are welcome to contact anyone at FDRAG if they have any questions or concerns about anything to do with death row. We will do whatever we can to help.

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