



Brush Fires

"It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds." – Samuel Adams, Father of the American Revolution.

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21st Century Revival of the Inquisition

In *Brush Fires # 2* we first reported that a growing number state prison systems, under the guise of "STG" policies, are subjecting prisoners to what can only be called brainwashing programs. Some prisoncrats inflict these programs upon prisoners because they crave federal grant money for implementing them. Others have a more sinister motive. Self-appointed thought police who arrogantly style themselves "politically correct" want to mask repression of the right to freedom of religion as "security issues."

Last year's US Supreme Court decision in *Cutter v Wilkinson*, 123 S.Ct 213, 161 LE2d 1020, 2005 USLexis 4346, eliminated any legal defense prisoncrats had for repressing the right of prisoners to believe in and practice religions hated by "pc" thought police. These fanatics are more shrill in labeling religions as "security threat groups" or "STG." Among the more obnoxious of the newer "STG" policies is the one adopted in March by the Arizona Dept of Corrections (ADOC). Under "Arizona Dept Order Manual 806," if a group or association lacks "a documented history" of violent or "gang-like" activity, ADOC thought cops may still label it "STG" if, in their warped view, it "possesses resources, skills or potential" to become what they want to deem a "STG." The policy has no provision for a group or association to administratively challenge a "STG" label falsely put on it. However, those who are not prisoners are not subject to the restrictions of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), and are legally freer to file civil actions if some jailer interferes with their long recognized constitutional right to communicate with or send literature to prisoners or to operate prison ministries.

A prisoner accused of being "STG", before he is "validated" (that's the term ADOC uses), is drug before a "validation committee." If the prisoner refuses to "renounce" his alleged "STG affiliation" before this thought crime tribunal, even if the so-called "STG affiliation" is a legitimately recognized (by the courts) religion, he is confined in a "Special Management Unit" under what the policy calls "protective segregation status." While under this classification, the prisoner is denied good time credits and parole, and isn't allowed to be released from "protective segregation status" until he completes to the satisfaction of ADOC thought cops a "re-education" brainwashing program called "STG Step-Down Program." The discriminatory and irrational agenda of ADOC's new "STG" thought crimes policy is revealed by the point system it uses. The more points, the greater the "security threat." In their twisted view believing in Asatru warrants seven points while being in a black or mexican prison gang merits none.

The "anti-STG" brainwashing program of Washington's Dept of Corrections (WDOC) had been operating much longer. WDOC's notorious "Victim Awareness" program initially appeared innocuous enough. It was set up with the co-operation of outside "victim groups," and at first it did discuss the effect upon actual victims of actual offenses. Then WDOC thought cops stepped in and re-wrote the entire course. "Victim groups" were no longer involved. Rather than real victims of real criminal offenses, the "victims" of which those coerced into this program were to be "aware" were the special people more equal than you perpetual "victims" of "racism, xenophobia, homophobia" and of

the other new Orwellianized buzzword, "intolerance." As revealed in "Cult of Victimhood," a 2005 report by political prisoner and LibRA member Michael Nelson, WDOC's "Victim Awareness" transmogrified into a coercive indoctrination program to impose "pc" ideology and preach anti-Eurofolk race hatred.

Nelson has continued to challenge WDOC's "offender change" programs and other abuses of its "STG" policies. He updated "Cult of Victimhood," subtitled it "Special Report to the 2006 Washington Legislature Corrections Committee," and filed with the Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, which is responsible for the oversight of such programs as "Victim Awareness," a "Request for Audit of the Curriculum of the Victim Awareness Education Program As Administered at WSP Walla Walla." He cited state statutes and terms of the contract this program violated. Nelson contacted me and asked for letters of outside support to be sent also requesting an audit of "Victim Awareness." In June, this board announced that "Victim Awareness" is being discontinued. A report which included the updated "Cult of Victimhood" was sent to my e-mail list. Those without Internet access may obtain a copy for \$1.25 or its equivalent in postage stamps or #10 size postage paid envelopes.

In April, 2005, the head "STG" thought cop of the Ohio Dept of Rehabilitation & Correction (DORC) reportedly slipped into the Southeast Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility (STSRFC) in Pikeville to tour that prison's "STG" housing unit with its own coercive "anti-STG" brainwashing program. In June, 2006, cell blocks which had been kept empty for over two years in the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF), Ohio's max prison in Lucasville, began to be filled, first with "protective custody" prisoners transferred from other Ohio prisons and confined in K7-8. On June 30, prisoners labeled "STG" were moved first to K6, then to other ranges which housed only "STG" prisoners. Prisoners who complained about being locked down in a "STG" block were told by prison officials who maintained straight faces that there is no official "STG" block, there is instead a "separation" block. DORC spinmeisters also told the media, as reported in various TV news broadcasts around the state on July 20, that all these moves were made "due to overcrowding."

Checking the DORC website page for SOCF, one can view a list of programs at this prison. Under "Unique Programs" is one with a familiar name, "Victim Awareness," which according to the site "is designed to sensitize inmates about the issue of victimization." Like the Washington DOC program of the same name before "pc" ideologues "improved" it, SOCF's program so far does address the effect of criminal offenses upon real victims and has involved outside "victim groups," but this program isn't mentioned in the "victim services" section of DORC's site.

There is speculation that DORC employees have tried to be secretive about their new "STG" "separation" block because of pending litigation. LibRA members Brian Mann, Alfar Kynwulf and others have filed *Eberle v Wilkinson*, case # 2-03-272, in the US District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. *Eberle*, which has survived motions to dismiss, challenges anti-Eurofolk discrimination in prison disciplinary proceedings and DORC's "STG" policies as selectively enforced. *Ratcliff v Moore*,

case # 1:05-CV-52, filed by LibRA members Jason Ratcliff, Alfar Kynwulf and others, challenges DORC's "STG" policies in its entirety as unconstitutionally vague and overbroad and which disproportionately targets Eurofolk prisoners, particularly those who are Asatru or of other EuroFaith religions.

This report, which is longer than usual for this newsletter, has undergone several re-writes to make it shorter. Information which we are receiving from several states will be included in a special report we are planning on the proliferation of these "anti-STG" brainwashing programs and on "STG" policies which thinly veil repression of constitutionally protected religious rights, and I ask our members to continue to provide us with factual reports. Legal challenges are also in various stages of preparation.

Tiwaz: That Which Symbolizes LibRA Best

The proposal to adopt the Tiwaz rune as LibRA's logo met with overwhelming, some times enthusiastic, approval. Many of our members voted to adopt this rune because its use as our logo would be uniquely ours. Those knowledgeable of the meanings of different runes all stated that LibRA could not use anything which would better symbolize our purposes, what we stand for, and what we are striving to achieve.

Tiwaz represents such virtues as honor, integrity, perseverance and courage. An important meaning of Tiwaz is victory in battle for a just or righteous cause. In modern times this meaning has been applied more to legal or political battles than to martial ones. Tiwaz was also an Old Germanic name for the Norse god Tyr, who was revered as a war god. Tyr, who was also called upon to witness and oversee oaths and for guidance in deciding what today would be called legal disputes, would give victory only to those whose cause was just, those with right on their side.

Of significance for our political prisoners, Tiwaz also symbolizes selfless courage and worthwhile self-sacrifice, not for oneself but for others, for one's folk and kin. This meaning comes from one of the more well-known Eddas in which Tyr plays a key role, the saga of the Fenris wolf. Fenris was the offspring of Loki, who, in the Eddas, initially was a prankster, sort of an Eddie Haskell of the Norse pantheon, but who became progressively more deceitful, harmful and vicious until out of malice he manipulated the murder of one of the most beloved of the gods. Loki was prophesied to lead the assault by the enemies of Asgard at Ragnarok, making him an archetypical traitor to one's race.

At first, Fenris seemed harmless enough that his presence was tolerated. In time, he grew into a monster so dangerous and threatening that he had to be dealt with. Fenris thwarted attempts to bind him easily enough, and he came to believe that he could be subject to no restraints. Fenris consented to be bound one more time, expecting to continue to be unhindered by any restraints anyone could contrive to impose upon him. But, suspecting a trap, Fenris agreed to be bound only on the condition that, while the bonds were being applied, one of the gods had to place his hand inside the mouth of the beast. All others hesitated, but Tyr stepped forward and placed his hand inside the open mouth of Fenris. When Fenris realized he couldn't free himself quite so easily that time, he vindictively chomped down and bit off Tyr's hand. Only because of Tyr's selfless act of courage and the sacrifice he made were his kinsmen finally able to be freed of the monster.

For protection and to increase the likelihood of victory, before going into battle Germanic warriors would some times inscribe Tiwaz on their weapons. It isn't difficult to imagine Tiwaz having been inscribed upon some of the weapons, armor and banners of those who fought with Hermann (Arminius to the Romans) against an invading Roman army at the Battle of Teutoburg Forrest. Teutoburg Forrest was one of the most significant battles in the history of our Eurofolk. Because of the Germanic victory in

this battle, the Roman invaders were forever repelled, and Central and Northern Europe was free of the Roman Empire and its tyranny.

The Germanic peoples were fiercely independent and freedom loving with a strong sense of personal honor. This is reflected in what became known as the common law of some of those who descended from them, the Anglo-Saxons. American jurisprudence, which includes the Constitution and Bill of Rights, originally was based upon Anglo-Saxon common law. The courage to stand up for liberty in the face of tyranny-- even when one finds oneself in a minority because so many others are inclined to submit to the threat of tyranny in the vain hope they can remain unscathed by acquiescing to such a dangerous monster when it first begins to grow--is shown in the Sam Adams quote in this newsletter's masthead. A quote from which this newsletter gets its name. Tiwaz admonishes us with a guiding principle some of us have already come to live by, even if articulated differently. Do right and fear no one.

LibRA Official Addresses Prison Pre-Release Program

On July 19 LibRA official Beverly Seymour was invited to come in to the Franklin Pre-Release Center, an Ohio women's prison in Columbus, to address several groups of prisoners as part of a program called "Women On The Move." The purpose of the program was to help prepare prisoners for a successful re-entry into the community after their release from prison. The program combined a job fair with information on how to seek housing, resources for continuing education and help in locating other needed resources.

The program was divided into several classes held throughout the day during different sessions. In her talks to the different classes, Ms Seymour, who was introduced as having positions in both Druids of Danu and in Liberty Rights Advocates, stressed the need for prisoners to not procrastinate but to begin contacting those outside prison now to line up housing, job leads and especially possible sources for financial assistance in attending college. Advice which all prisoners reading this would be wise to heed. The more prepared you are when you are finally released, the greater will be your chances for a successful re-entry and the assurance you will never again return to prison. Ms Seymour's presentations were well received, several prisoners told her they were inspired by her appearance before the classes, and she expects to be invited back to address future classes.

Prisoner Art Project

LibRA, in partnership and co-operation with Druids of Danu, is now starting a prisoner arts project tentatively called "The Da Vinci Road" (pun intended, inspired partially by the legacy of that legendary Eurofolk artist). A number of you produce excellent art work. This project will enable us to help prisoners sell their paintings or drawings, whether originals or prints from their artwork, online or through other means. Much of the net proceeds from sales (after ad fees, shipping, reproduction or other costs) will go to the prisoner, some will go our associations to help with some of the costs of our work. For now, we'll be limiting this to art work but may expand this project to include some crafts later if this is successful enough. Please contact us first to work out details before sending your art work.

Moving Ahead

Preparing this edition, I realized we now have more to report than we have space in our newsletter's current format, and that the time has come to expand the size of *Brush Fires*. The next edition will include reports on religious and other civil rights actions filed by LibRA members in several states and in the federal system, and on other projects and activities.

John W Gerhardt
Administrator