

The Citizen

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SINCE 1816, THE NEWS THAT HITS HOME

The Citizen.

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OPINION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004 •

to reform this discriminatory form of taxation, but no current legislator is willing to sponsor such legislation.

This is sufficient reason to re-elect nobody.

LEE GAMLEN
Aurora

Jail takes away freedoms, but also an inmate's dignity

I'm writing this letter from a cell in the Cayuga County Jail. I am from Lyons, but several inmates here get The Citizen. I thought I would take the time to write with the hope of making members of the community aware of the conditions here.

As an activist for Family Law Reform, I have been involved in peaceful civil rights actions that sometimes result in small jail sentences. I sacrifice my freedom in support of my cause. Many of the people here have lost their freedom for drugs, alcohol or other selfish crimes.

Having lost our freedom, do we also lose our dignity as human beings and members of the community?

I am hungry — even though I just finished lunch. I went to bed hungry after supper last night and I expect to do the same today. Someone who works in the kitchen told me they intentionally serve smaller portions, to save money. I saw a very young man who was tall and

thin — he would lick his tray after a meal. It should be an embarrassment to us all!

I was bothered taking showers in the dorm area where female guards were on duty and had an unobstructed view of showering male inmates. It is an indignity.

I was also surprised to see no scheduled religious services offered at any time. Are there no priests, ministers or deacons in the area who can sacrifice the time on a regular basis? I have been in jails in Onondaga County and seen how an effective chaplain program can help people change their lives. Does anybody care?

I hope this letter will cause the community to take a closer look at your jail and how your mothers, fathers and children are treated.

I will be here until Nov. 5; I welcome your visit.

JOHN MURTARI
Sennett

Murtari is coordinator of www.AKidsRight.org

Bush is a Catholic in Methodist's clothing

What has not been drawn to the public's attention about President George Bush:

- One of his first acts as president was to ban the heinous crime of infanti-