

Notes: Suicides at P4W
Gayle K. Horii

TYPED COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED BY THE PRISONERS' COMMITTEE MAY 10, 1988 FROM MARLENE MOORE (SHAGGY) IN SEGREGATION.

Gayle: the nite I slashed I went to the hospital under. (unconciuous) When I come back at 3 AM I put my mattress under the bed [Marlene couldn't stand the bright light shining in her eyes, so she always put her mattress on the concrete floor and slept under the wooden slab bed] & my cell was cleaned out, but they left the thing I slashed with inside my cell. What are they trying to tell me. Keep doing it.

TYPED COPY OF NOTE "FISHED" (PASSED THROUGH THE BARS WITH A COAT HANGER) TO ME DURING A 10 DAY LOCKDOWN AT PRISON FOR WOMEN. PAT BEAR WAS IN THE CELL NEXT TO ME AND KEPT SAYING SHE HAD TO SLASH. SHE COULDN'T TAKE IT.

Oct 6th 86

Dear Gayle: Hi! So houz it goin? fine I hope. People push & push till some one gets hurt like me Gayle I can only take so much than after all that it's beyond my control I'm not responsible for my actions that's what it says in my record And people think I use that for my actions I don't know I'll wait for a few days than if they don't hear anything about being out after 3 days after this note I'm goin to seg I don't know anymore
Gayle
Pat slashed and security took her to segregation.

Sincerley

Pat

The topic of slashing and suicide at Prison for Women was studied and a report filed to the Correctional Services of Canada in January, 1990 from a preliminary study done in February, 1989. Three more women killed themselves after this report was released. The most evident misreading about prisons by those outside of the prison "cystem" is the naive belief that security forces will give up control if a rational explanation is provided for doing so. In most prisons those promoting the necessity for tight security directly destroy lives, minds and senses. Any excuse for more security is easily "approved". In the words of one high ranking woman, "This is my fucking prison and I'll run it anyway I want."

Though the author, Jan Heney (1990), displays compassion and insight into the causes of suicide at Prison for Women, her inclusion of the opinions of the very guards who had contributed to the despair of these dead women serves to further degrade the truth about the suffering of incarcerated women.



FEAR AND SHAME

TYPED COPY OF LETTER TO FRIEND AT PRISON FOR WOMEN BY MARLENE MOORE, DATED TEN DAYS BEFORE HER SUICIDE THERE ON DECEMBER 3, 1988.

Names * have been purposefully deleted to protect the surviving women incarcerated at Prison for Women. Some details of Shaggie's illness (xxx) have been deleted to protect her privacy and dignity.

Dearest *

Hi Sweetie. Thanx for comin to the door. I reelly miss & love you - I aint doing so good *. I dont no - xxx - I dont feel good at all.

Im sorry *. I juss screwing up i feel like shit - But i am trying now.

I got 40 days - sent over to reginal for approval - But i also got a lawyer & a serious medical problem - they cant except it. Tell ** i said thanx for getting me the lawyer - he is doing wonders - Believe me. Also tell her i send my love - As well as *,*,*,*,*,*,*, my little Putt Putt - And *, * - i juss miss you guys so much. *, *, *, everyone that counts! * they had the hoses out - ready to handcuff me - shackel me - juss becuz i wouldnt move from one cell to another. 1230 at nite. Kish - Nataleetso, Winston - and about 10 other gaurds. juss becuz i slashed - well this is getteing me down xxx.

So after the cops got prepared to hose me down & there all in space suits & crash helmets i said ill walk - well when i got over here the cops

threatend to get the men over from K.P. to handcuff me to the bars. fuck. ive pulled i juss did today since i seen my lawyer.

They want me back in the hospital - shit they wanted that a long time ago. But i said fuck it - i got seg time - ill do it.

My other 40 days is up we been in here since the beginning of October. Im finished my time tomorrow the 15 & Reply hasnt come back reginal - But lawyer & medical is involved.

They cant do it. Anyway i got another charge of throwing blood at Nataleetso - got my lawyer on it.

fuck - check this out - * got charged becuz she warned me - they told her not to say nothing - she said fuck you copper & she yelled - Shaggie there coming - she said Nataleetso got the fire hose. Nataleetso terned around & said - your on charge for inciten Moore what da fuck is that. its like inciten a riot. All becuz she fucken warned me. Pigs im really pist off about that.

the Assholes. Leest she warned me. I was happy about that.

Shes gotten her lawyer on it ya no. Hope she jams it rite up the coppers ass.

Anyway i was in big trouble. Im fucken sick * im gonna try to go to the range - But I dont think theyll let me cuz xxx. i dont no what im doing.

im reelly fucked up over whats been happenen in here.

All i can say is try. Dont be mad at me *. Tell * & Putt Putt the same - im juss reelly fucked up over this xxx - ask * She saw what she took out of my cell.

im sorry you guys i dont mean to xxx - i cant stop xxx

im reelly embarrest. ashamed. hurt. i began to hate myself. ya no.

cuz i think whod want a person like me around you no what i mean. i isolate myself cuz of this.

ill try * & * i will. im juss so mad at myself cus i cant stop.

Anyway you guys take Special Care - ill put in for a visit that bullshit - Bad influence.

Fuck i didnt need anyone to help me fuck up. when they wanted to cuff me to the bars. its Bullshit the fucken goofs - ill seen them & remind them that it was my own doing & noone else was here.

Look sweetie you take Special Care of yourself i love & miss you guys alot & watch over Putt Putt for me - i no she had some bad news & im reelly concerned about her. ill rite soon again. * said hello & is nuts as ever - no - juss sometimes.

Shes ok - for a wong out Person. Ast to pass a message - first tell * i said a big hello & hope shes doing ok. Also * asted to tell her she said hello & she loves & misses her & that she hopes shes doing ok. Let her no that * is trying. Thanx *. im gonna sign off cuz i feel rotten - But remember i love & miss you.

i love all you guys.

Stay Strong

& im reelly sorry for keep screwing up. Some of my diagnois are coming threw & im reelly scared *. dont let alot of people no ok. i even hung myself - thats why i couldnt look at * the last time i saw her i got a rope bern reelly bad around my neck.

i aint happy - But im gonna try. Make sure * is ok. for me. She'll always be apart of me. i love her for allways. let her no ok.

Be cool K *

With Much Love & Respect
Always Your Buddy (Marlene Moore)
Shaggie XOXOXOXO

Shaggie never signed with her name, Marlene Moore, so when she printed it in brackets (the rest of the letter was written), we knew that this letter was a goodbye. Though all of us tried desperately to prevent Shaggie's tragic death, we were all powerless and prevented from intervening.

When I checked out of segregation I promised Shaggie I would visit her every day, if she would go to the hospital (because a woman she loved deeply had killed herself in the P4W hospital eight years before, Shaggy hated the hospital). The next day she agreed on the condition that she could have visitors every day. When I asked permission to visit her, the Deputy Warden, Julia Hobson, said "I'll think about it". Three days later, Shaggie killed herself. This material and another 12 typewritten pages were sworn to by me and notarized by a lawyer before I left Prison for Women, hoping that the presentation of it at Shaggie's inquest would place part of the blame where it was deserved. It was not admissible.