

Date: Tue, 14 Jan 1997 22:30:04 -0800 (PST)
From: JusticeNet Prison Issues Desk <prisondesk@igc.org>
Subject: Transgender Prisoner Sexually Assaulted by Corrections Officer
To: Prison activist list subscribers <prisonact-list@igc.org>
Sender: owner-prisonact-list@igc.apc.org

**TRANSGENDER PRISONER SEXUALLY ASSAULTED
BY CORRECTIONS OFFICER**

Mid-Valley Support Coalition, a human rights organization dedicated to breaking the silence about psychiatric assault and promoting humane alternatives for people in emotional crises, is monitoring a case of transphobic sexual violence in the Washington state prison system. We have taken an interest in this case because our friends in prison are neglected, marginalized, and stigmatized in some of the same ways we as psychiatric survivors are; and transsexuals are oppressed by institutionalized medical neglect both in prison and in the "free" world.

Donald Merlyn Snook is an electroshock survivor, a prisoner in the Washington state prison system, and a paralegal. He is an old friend of Crystal, a pre-operative transsexual prisoner who was sexually assaulted by a prison guard. When Don and Crystal began litigation against this guard, whose name is Robert Mitchell, prison officials waged a relentless campaign of sexual harassment and intimidation against Crystal. According to the article Don has written about this case, many prison officials were involved in this malicious and illegal retaliation, from the Dept. of Corrections Superintendent all the way down the hierarchy to the prison librarian.

Crystal and Don have filed a CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION against Robert Mitchell and other Dept. of Corrections employees. They have obtained a lawyer who is educating himself about transgender issues. Incredibly, the Washington state attorney general's office is illegally using taxpayer dollars to defend Robert Mitchell.

A tentative trial date for Crystal's and Don's CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION has been set for JULY 14th, 1997. We hope to publicize this between now and then, all over the country but especially in the Northwest, so that people will protest the Washington state prison system's brutal treatment of Crystal and other transgendered prisoners. The trial will be in Walla Walla WA.

**PROTEST FOR CRYSTAL IN JULY 1997! SEND US ADDRESSES OF TRANSGENDER
ACTIVISTS, ESPECIALLY IN WASHINGTON! PHOTOCOPY THIS FLIER AND GIVE IT TO**

ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FIGHTING RAPE, TRANSPHOBIA,
HOMOPHOBIA, AND PRISON ABUSE OF ALL KINDS! GET A COPY OF DON'S ARTICLE AND
SPREAD THE WORD!

Prison regulations require that correspondence use Crystalís birth name:

Douglas W. Schwenk #902875
Airway Heights Corrections Center
P.O. Box 1839 N-B-9-L
Airway Heights, WA 99001-1839

Donald Merlyn Snook #627618
Washington State Penitentiary
1313 North 13th Ave. 1-C-8
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Send letters of protest to:

Nancy J. Krier
Asst. Attorney General
Corrections Division
P.O. Box 40116
Olympia, WA 98504-0116

For copies of Donís article write us at:

Mid-Valley Support Coalition
131 N. W. 4th St. Suite #204
Corvallis, OR 97330
(send stamps if you can)

keywords: queer conditions medical-neglect psych brutality