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a store and more a bartering enterprise. Pills were exchanged for goods and favors, usually delivered through commissary or one's tray. The goal was to get as many meds and combinations of meds as possible to 'leave' jail, if just for a while, and revisit the state of euphoria or detachment one had on the street.

Conclusion

It is not possible to mistake jails or penitentiaries in the United States as being anything more than a community's miserly attempt to control and manage the rabble of its streets. Most are typically crowded, physically worn, under-funded, and programmatically-lacking institutions. It also is not possible to overlook the maleness of these facilities, both literally and figuratively. Women not only constitute an actual minority of staff and inmates, they also are made even more invisible within structures, cultures, and actions distinguished by institutional misogyny. Indeed, one could say that in many ways, these two characteristics associated with penitentiaries — their deprived, male-dominated settings — parallel and even mirror the ghetto streets from which their inhabitants come.

Thus it is, perhaps, not surprising that women's lives in the study site, with its isolating practices, minimal programming, and culture of alienation, mistrust, and meanness, simply produced a 'milder version of the street,' as one observed. What was both sad and heartening, however, were the ways in which women reacted to this setting. For many, the penitentiary had become integral to survival. For others, it was an expected occurrence, a part of lives spent boosting or prostituting, where they rested. Many opted for it rather than 'rehab' as an avenue to obtain much needed services and some, whose families were long gone, derived material and emotional support from 'associates' found inside. Others flourished in the setting, engaging in enterprising modes of survival in the underground economy, an activity usually considered an exclusive male preserve. In the end, the fact that these women who were primarily street-level offenders would exercise the wits, skills, and resilience borne of that world to survive and resist the similarly gendered and marginalized setting of the penitentiary seemed both understandable and particularly fitting. The penitentiary was, after all, as ghettoized and misogynistic as the streets they walked.

Obituary — Kathleen McDermott: Prisons Researcher

Dr Kathleen McDermott, anthropologist and prisons researcher has died at the age of 67 after a long and debilitating illness. Born in the Bronx, the daughter of an Irish American policeman, Kathy first qualified as a Registered Nurse before graduating *Summa Cum Laude* in Anthropology and proceeding to an MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. After a period spent in Hong Kong and the Far East, Kathy eventually found her way to the University of Wales, Bangor, where she directed a study evaluating the effectiveness of programmes to combat youth unemployment under the Thatcher government between 1981 and 1983. After a brief period farming sheep with her second husband in Vermont, where she quickly became a pillar of the community providing voluntary ambulance and other public services, she was enticed back to the University of Wales to play a leading role in two research projects. The first was a comparative study of the regimes in five prisons and the second a study of how prisoners, and above all their families, coped with long term imprisonment.

It was as a gifted prisons researcher that Kathy found her academic *forte*. As an American citizen she was able to play the anthropological stranger in the tightly closed world of prisons, communicating with both staff and prisoners from all races and ethnic backgrounds with an ease often denied to her British counterparts. Her intuitive feel for situations and what likely lay behind them meant that she was almost always the first to understand what was really going on. A sympathetic ear, an outgoing personality, inexhaustible energy and wise judgement made her the near perfect fieldworker and colleague. As a researcher Kathy McDermott made contributions to about a dozen articles, a research monograph and several book chapters, reports and conference papers about prisons in this country. Among other things they drew attention to the dramatic decline in the quality of prison life between 1970 and 1987 and to the need for a better way of dealing with difficult prisoners. These had a profound influence on the way in which prisons policy developed around the time of the Woolf report on the Strangeways riots in 1991. If some of those policies were later

undermined by Michael Howard and successive New Labour Home Secretaries their significance remains and their lessons have not been forgotten by a much beleaguered Prison Service.

Kathy returned to the United States at the end of these research projects to take up a new career as an administrator at Columbia University as its first residential dean where she advised on the study abroad programs, eventually becoming the Director of the Office of Global Programs and an Assistant Vice President of the University. Her passionate oversight of the study abroad programs brought her to Oxford and Cambridge and other leading universities around the world on an annual basis.

Kathy's life, however, was touched by tragedy. When she returned to the United States in 1991 her children from her first marriage remained in this country, Paul at Cambridge and Claire at Oxford. Paul Grandpierre, a brilliant PhD student at King's College, suddenly collapsed and died from an undiagnosed heart defect after a strenuous workout in the College boat house. Four years ago, on one of her many trips to Cambridge and after a convivial dinner with distinguished criminologist colleagues and some of our brightest graduate students, Kathy told me she had just been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, better known in this country as motor neurone disease. Kathy bore this devastating news, and the progression of the illness itself, with the same dignity and fortitude with which she had faced up to the loss of her son. Kathy continued working until a few months before her death by which time she was confined to a wheel chair. When she lost the power of speech, Kathy, who given half a chance could talk ninety to the dozen, continued to communicate by e-mail using eye pointing techniques.

She is survived by her daughters from her two marriages, Claire Grandpierre and Caitlin Bell, and granddaughter Charlotte Soubirous, as well as a sister and three brothers — and countless numbers of friends, admiring colleagues and grateful students — all of whom will miss her greatly.

Dr Kathleen McDermott,

born August 3rd 1944; died October 16th 2011

Professor Roy King