

CRACKS AT

HOTEL CALIFORNIA

EXPOSING THE REALITIES OF COOK COUNTY JAIL

WOMEN'S ISSUE #2

CENTURIES OF MEDICAL NEGLECT

Issue #10

March 2026

It's well known that CCJ is Hell on Earth. Since March is Women's History Month, and March 8th is International Women's Day, we

thought it was important to focus on some of the issues women face while locked up. In the last few issues of Cracks, we went over some history of the mass incarceration machine, so we'll start with a brief look at the history of medical care for women.

The parts of the female body have been a mystery for more than centuries. There are myths traced back to ancient Greece of the uterus being able to move throughout the body, and the belief that it would at times 'invade' the head or heart, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PROCESSED AT HOTEL CALIFORNIA

On January 3rd, 2026 I was arrested outside CPD's 10th district station, just 2 miles away from CCJ. I was protesting 1 year of no justice since the murder of Timothy Glaze. Timothy was 57 years old and suffering from multiple types of cancer when he was gunned down by Alejandro Urbano Mateo and Salah Saleh in the hallway of a senior

living building run by the city. Timothy's partner Charlotta called 911 for help and police responded with a hail of bullets, shooting him 16 times while he was having a mental health crisis. Charlotta and Dare to Struggle's demands at the protest outside the precinct were to charge Urbano Mateo and Saleh with Timothy's murder. Instead of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A SPRING SURGE TO MELT ICE

Police and politicians are protecting ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and thousands are suffering in detention centers. Only the people can stop this and make them pay for what they've done. Dare to Struggle is leading defiant resistance against ICE across the country. We must spread the opposition picking up in Minneapolis and coordinate actions that escalate the fight against ICE terror.

Both Renee Good and Alex Pretti were bravely confronting immigration agents in Minneapolis when they were murdered.

On January 7th, 2026, ICE agent Jonathan Ross shot Renee three times point-blank in her face in front of her wife. After shooting her, ICE agents pointed guns at people who tried to give her medical assistance. Renee was a mother of three.

Before ICE opened fire, Renee's car was a barrier between ICE and their intended target: Somali residents of Minneapolis, who have been the latest fixation among reactionary hacks and their smooth-brained social media army. Renee had been hounding ICE, and not just as a legal observer as the "protest peacefully" crowd has insisted.



Just seventeen days later, Alex Pretti was shot 10+ times by CBP agents Jesus Ochoa and Raymundo Gutierrez while pinned to the ground and surrounded by 7 agents. He was filming agents and trying to stop them from assaulting 2 women, even as agents shot pepper spray directly into his face. In witness

CONTINUED ON 5

create what were later called symptoms of 'hysteria'.

Hysteria is a diagnosis that was used primarily in the 17th and 18th century for a variety of symptoms (such as headaches, seizures, depression, anxiety, or even feelings of independence, creativity, etc). By this time, doctors realized that the uterus didn't wander the body in the way the ancient Greeks described, (but there were still ideas that the uterus could be moved 'out of place' with blunt and traumatic force). The diagnosis of Hysteria was believed to be a psychological illness, a sickness of the mind.

If hysteria had a multitude of symptoms that didn't correlate with each other, what was the purpose of the diagnosis?

It was used as an explanation for those (mainly women) who didn't want to comply with social norms. It was a label you could easily attach to people with undesired behavior, or behaviors that dared to challenge the status quo. Oftentimes women suffering from postpartum depression, women who were outspoken feminists and activists, and men who were considered 'effeminate' and therefore 'homosexual', were all placed under this same diagnosis in an effort to find a 'cure' to these behaviors which were considered to be abnormal.

This was the foundation of modern medicine and diagnostic practices as they pertain to women, and women were persecuted for doing just about anything other than conforming to the will of men (the long history of women being oppressed by men is referred to as patriarchy). While witches might not be real, the witch hunts certainly were, and countless women were accused of being witches and murdered for daring to defy the unjust rules of society.

There is another foundation to these practices that go hand in hand with hysteria. Many white, affluent, if not middle-class women were diagnosed with hysteria and were then considered to be 'higher risk', more 'fragile', and less likely to give birth. This led to stereotypes that black women were 'hardy', 'fertile' and had a higher pain tolerance than the white women. Doctors of the 17th and 18th century believed that because of the genetics of their race, black women were unable to contract the same hysteric illnesses as white women.

This, of course, is just racist ideology rooted in white supremacy in the era of straight up slavery. There are no significant biological differences between races, as race is a construct created by white supremacy. Unfortunately, these stereotypes drew harsh, dehumanizing, connections to animals that then allowed for the horrific experimentation on black, enslaved women. Many of the medical practices in gynecology during these times were practiced over and over again. In some cases women were involuntarily under the knife of horrific experiments up to thirty times.

In summary, medicine as the practice we know today has its origin in the oppression of women, especially women of color. We can see this in birth control and other temporary sterilization medications being tested on and advertised to impoverished women of color in the U.S. and countries afflicted by colonialism. Oftentimes the testing and use of these medications is paired with some financial reimbursement from the government, encouraging women in extremely tough financial situations to sterilize themselves (with the promise that it can be reversed, despite doctors not necessarily being willing to perform the procedure to reverse it).

Insufficient medical care, and the lack of it, is still baked into society today. If you're insured, you might not get the care you need and fall into crippling medical debt. If you're uninsured, you might not be able to access care and die at the hand of this rotten system. If you're locked up in a place like CCJ, medical care is at the discretion of the staff and they have a horrific track record.

Aside from the all-too-typical medical neglect people inside face, such as being deprived of medications, having health concerns mocked, minimized, or ignored, women are further subjected to neglect when being denied basic feminine hygiene products. In October 2025, women in the CCJ Division III Annex (this facility was condemned by city inspectors) went over a week without access to feminine hygiene products. This couldn't have been an accident considering the jail is required by law to provide them. Using makeshift hygiene products can cause serious health risks that lead to infections, life-altering surgeries, and in some cases, death.

We have to build a movement to fight the inhumane conditions at Tom Dart's jail, and it is going to require people on the inside and the outside to build it. We can't rely on politicians or non-profits to fix these problems; we have to do it ourselves. If you're ready to be a part of this movement, hit us up.



arresting the murderous pigs who are back on the streets, the pigs thought it best to throw me in jail instead. I spent the night at District 11 alone. In the morning, I was put in a paddy wagon along with a dozen other women who were picked up across the city's police stations to be transferred to Cook County Jail (CCJ). When we arrived, we were placed with another dozen women in the bullpen for a full day of processing, a first appearance in court, and more processing.

Discussions around what brought us to CCJ came up pretty naturally. One woman in particular had no problem openly and lightheartedly asking everyone who came through the bullpen "Welcome! What did you do?" It was a time to spill the tea around the circumstances that led to our detainment. Many of the women had domestic battery related charges. In many, if not most of the domestic cases I heard about, it was the woman who was the victim and yet they became the alleged perpetrator and thrown in jail. Violence against women is well-documented and all too common in today's society, and elected leaders and public officials do their fair share of talking about it, but have done little to stop the epidemic of patriarchal violence (patriarchy is the oppression of women by men). In reality, the system strengthens patriarchy by punishing women for defending themselves. For example, in 2012 Marissa Alexander fired a warning shot into her ceiling as her ex-husband attempted to break into her home, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison for assault with a deadly weapon. In 2018, Chrystul Kizer, a Black teenager from Milwaukee, killed a white man who was already under FBI investigation for making child pornography of Chrystul and many other Black children. She was held in county jail for years and in 2024 sentenced to 11 years for homicide. Her case has



since mostly disappeared from the news. (These two examples were pulled from a pamphlet called "Domestic violence: patriarchy behind closed doors," write to us or hit us up on GTL if you'd like us to mail you a copy)

A handful of women I was held with had visible wounds. They were emotionally raw, physically in pain either from harm caused by their abuser and/or the police. They were processing the deep betrayals by the people closest to them and/or the injustice of their arrest. There were plenty of sentiments cursing CCJ and the oppressive role it was playing in these women's lives and in the system at large. One woman piped up to a CO, "You know you have a room full of victims in here?" to which the CO deflected, "I'm just doing my job," to which I then piped up "but you're playing an active role in this." One person said "you can't even call the police anymore" when referring to another woman who was locked up after calling 911 on her husband who was attacking her. We complained about how disgusting the "food" was. We expressed how inhumane our treatment was and that we were being treated like animals. They made us go outside in the cold to have a canine sniff us; we expressed how unnecessary this was given we

had already been searched at least 2 times, and we cracked jokes about the dog smelling nothing but our musty asses. They transferred us a dizzying amount of times: starting with the detainment at a police station, then paddy wagon, then inspection, then bullpen, then mugshot, then bullpen, then electric scanning, then another bullpen, then outside canine inspection, then back in the bullpen, then to speak with public defenders, then back in the bullpen, then to the court bullpen, then inspection, then to the 2nd court bullpen, then to the release bullpen (where the women who were ordered to remain in detention went, I don't know). When people asked me why I was there, I told them I was protesting the murder of Timothy Glaze. One of the women said they'll tack any bogus charge on someone to lock them up, and I took the chance the draw out the contradiction that cops can murder and get away with it, yet we get locked up for bullshit.

Here are some of the people I met:

- Alyssa, a Puerto Rican woman in her 30s, was very vocal about the brutality that led to her arrest. She was driving with her brother when she was pulled over for a problem with the license plate registration. Officer Wong demanded the 2 get out of the car. They both complied, and her brother then fled the scene and was chased down and arrested. Officer Wong snapped at Alyssa to get in the car. Confused by which direction to follow (step out of the car? get in the car?), she did a one foot in, one foot out position, which agitated Wong. The situation ended with Wong calling for back up and Alyssa tackled and her back severely fucked up (she was already suffering from a herniated disc from a previous car accident), and the brutal arrest hospitalized her. Her arrest happened downtown on State St with multiple witnesses. At

least one person recorded and Alyssa announced her full name and what was happening to her to bystanders.

- Biana, a 30-something year old Black woman who was arrested for cussing out a bus driver. When she saw another bus was pulling up behind, she decided to get off to hop on the next bus. But it was too late: the CTA bus driver called the cops on her, and when Biana hopped off the bus to get on the next one, she heard "freeze and put your hands behind your back." Biana maintains her innocence for the bogus battery charges and said she didn't lay a finger on the bus driver, and the bus cameras can prove it. Biana has been arrested 21 times.

- Sheri, an elderly white woman who is homeless, requested a ride from the cops back to her shelter. The cops ran her info and arrested her for a warrant from 2019. The warrant is from a man named Vincent who pressed charges on Sheri (battery or something of that nature). Sheri doesn't know who this Vincent guy is and was terribly pissed off at the whole situation.

- Special, a 21-year-old Black woman from Indiana was pulled over for tinted windows. They ran her plate and found she had a warrant for her arrest in Indiana.

- An 18-year-old Black woman was charged with domestic battery after her mother called the cops on her while they were having a verbal argument, and the young woman took her frustration out on a closet door. We talked extensively about her strained relationship with her mother and the unfair treatment she receives from her mother as the only daughter of five children. Her four brothers have punched several holes in the wall of their house that have been boarded up for the time being, but none of those holes prompted a call to 911. We talked about how patriarchy is perpetuated through family

dynamics. For example, when boys are never told "no" by their caretakers or don't receive any consequences for their harmful actions, it oftentimes creates violent, narcissistic men. Regarding the jail in particular, she noted how the system is designed like this to cycle people in and out of this legal process with no restorative solution.

- A 50-something year old white woman who called 911 on her abuser who was drunk driving and physically aggressive with her in the passenger seat. Cops arrived on scene and arrested her off the mere "proof" that he had visible marks on him and she didn't. She said "I will never call 911 again."

- A 50-something year old Black woman who was arrested for a warrant from 2012. Her ex husband, a known sexual predator, pressed charges on her for "kidnapping" their children after she took them back from him after he kidnapped them. He was attempting to rape their daughter.

- There was a young Black woman locked in an isolated cell enduring an intense mental health crisis. Blood-curdling screams and violent threats towards anyone who looked her way. Most people cracked jokes about the woman crashing out, but the 18-year-old I chatted with sympathized with her situation. We talked about how jail is the absolute last place that would be a helpful environment for someone who is going through a tough time mentally.

What is to be done?

My day inside Cook County Jail was, at worst, a major inconvenience and a failed attempt by the ruling class' piggies to squash a rebellious spirit fighting alongside families demanding justice for lives stolen by law enforcement. But for many who get sucked into CCJ—who have

jobs on the line, medical conditions to treat, kids to go home to, or no home to go home to at all—a trip to Hotel California results in serious consequences to their lives and leaves them in a constant state of crisis. The ruling class uses incarceration to keep the masses' lives in chaos to prevent them from raising their consciousness and fulfilling their true revolutionary power. Behind every oppressive tactic the ruling class uses is a fear of what might happen if the masses actually came together and decisively fought back against them. The 'divide and conquer' strategy of the rulers is simultaneously one of their most powerful and weakest strategies. It's powerful when it keeps the people being crushed by this rotten system fighting with each other for scraps. It falls apart when people understand they have a common enemy in this system that's designed to exploit and oppress people. The rulers stoke divisions between the people along racial, gender, geographic, and political lines. They look for cracks to fill with hate toward other people who are suffering under this system. Getting organized is easier said than done, but it's the only way to flip the script and try tear down what we have and build something better. In the words of George Jackson: Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution.



video, an agent is seen removing a gun from Pretti's waist before his execution. There are several angles of this deadly encounter, and not a single one appears to indicate Pretti had any intention of using his weapon. Pretti was born just outside Chicago in Park Ridge and was an intensive care nurse at a VA hospital.

With modern-day Gestapo terrorizing our cities, we need more than observers right now. We need fighters. Renee and Alex made the heroic decision to intervene, to face down ICE, and do everything they could to stop them. Other protesters taking similar action, like Marimar Martinez in Chicago last September, have been arrested, brutalized, and shot. Marimar saw ICE in her neighborhood, chose to follow them and warn people in the area, and was then shot five times by an ICE agent. She was then smeared in the media and taken into custody when charged with assaulting federal immigration agents. After she refused a deal, the US attorney's office dropped the case after it came to light that ICE was lying. The courage of protesters in the face of intense risks should be an inspiration to us. Renee's family and all other victims of ICE terror deserve justice.

ICE agent Jonathan Ross shot Renee in her car in cold blood. CPB agents Jesus Ochoa and Raymundo Gutierrez murdered Alex for being unafraid. There have been at least 10 ICE shootings in recent months targeting both immigrants and protesters. This indicates a pattern in immigration enforcement to shoot at people to deter them from fleeing. Jonathan Ross, Jesus Ochoa, and Raymundo Gutierrez should rot in prison, and while in prison they deserves the same fate as killer cop Derek Chauvin.

Federal immigration agencies are leading the violent suppression of

protests in recent days. We need to beat back every case of repression to strengthen our ability to fight back harder.

Protests that Dare to Struggle led on Friday, January 9th, days after Renee's murder, in San Francisco, Santa Ana, and Albuquerque were brutally repressed and ended in six arrests. On Saturday, a protest in Austin resulted in seven more arrests, bringing the total to 13.

In Santa Ana, CA, agents from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) jumped one protester unprompted, and they shot another protester point-blank in the eye with a "less lethal" munition. They dragged this person bleeding from their face into a building. In Albuquerque, DHS agents and private security brutally arrested one protester and left him bloodied. They later charged the crowd, including one agent holding a rifle, to snatch a protester who wasn't on DHS property. In San Francisco, protesters outside the ICE field office downtown confronted the people responsible for kidnapping, tearing families apart, and aiding and abetting murderers. DHS and private security pounced and arrested two protesters and pepper sprayed the crowd. And in Austin, Austin PD used pepper bullets and teargas, charged at protesters, and a bike cop ran someone over when they were already walking away on the sidewalk.

So far, one protester from San Francisco is facing a felony charge, one is locked up in Santa Ana, two from Albuquerque are facing charges of assaulting a peace officer, and protestors in Austin are getting charged with obstruction of a motorway. We will fight each charge with everyone who wishes to, and we'll stand with every person facing any repression from our protests.



In Minneapolis, 29 people were arrested Friday evening. In Portland, there have been seven arrests since Thursday. We want to put out a call to the people facing down the enemy and facing charges: Fight that shit to the end, and don't let lawyers or feds intimidate you into taking a deal when you stand a strong chance of winning your legal battle.

Protesting the US government puts us on a path in direct antagonism against it. They will try to repress us every step of the way. Fighting and overcoming this repression is how we stay on that path. There is no other way. We're not lawyers, but we will stand with you to take this on so hit us up if you want to hear from our experiences beating charges.

Leftist organizations are forging ahead with their M.O. of "safety of our bodies over the safety of immigrants."

Following the murder of Renee Good, organizations like FRSO (Freedom Road Socialist Organization) and PSL (Party for Socialism and Liberation) immediately rolled out their tired playbook: Organize protests (more like parades) with hundreds of people that sidestep direct confrontation with key political targets, like ICE detention facilities

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

and offices, and aggressively intervene to “peace police” righteous protesters away from facing down police and the feds. In New York City at FRSO’s protest Thursday evening, we staged a takeover and led 50–60 people to march back to an ICE facility in lower Manhattan. Earlier in the protest, we were at this building when protesters began confronting the NYPD, shouting them down for collaborating with ICE and protecting the deportation machine. Right on cue, peace police in yellow vests, alongside at least one NYPD officer, shoved into the confrontation and pushed the crowd of people getting feisty away from the building entrance, away from the police, and up the street to begin marching again.

At our protest Friday evening in Santa Ana, California scumbags from FRSO stopped by to split the crowd from those of us closest to the federal building, urging peaceful protest away from the ICE facility. When DHS attacked, much of the crowd was standing at a distance. Then when a news outlet interviewed FRSO, they patted themselves on the back for their passivity and didn’t have a word of support for the protesters left bleeding and hospitalized by DHS. Multiple people heard a FRSO member say, after she saw protesters get arrested and shot, “Let them get what they fucking deserve.” This is especially interesting considering many of these organizations frequently talk about how “We keep us safe.”

Slogans that Leftist organizations have taken up, like “ICE out of [insert city]” and “Stop ICE terror,” are bluster without substance when we hold them up to how these groups are moving in the streets. To zoom out our perspective, there’s a long history of the role of mass protests around the world to channel rage, aggression, and grief

at those in power (we recommend reading Vincent Bevins’s *If We Burn* for a compelling narrative of protest movements of the 2010’s). Beyond just letting out our rage, the most explosive protests led by the people at the bottom of society have led to rapid gains in material reforms and meaningful, if brief, chances to change who holds political power. But the US Left’s particular brand of protest culture—a uniquely docile, police-friendly strain of protest—punishes expressions of rage and deters the masses from joining them.

We typically avoid Leftist protests entirely. We’d rather eat our own vomit. But when mass protests erupt, we can’t ignore the choking grip that Leftist organizations have over them, fast-tracking the outrage to ritualistic demonstrations that change nothing, and indoctrinating people in passivity and their weird way of talking and behaving. Following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, protests rocked Minneapolis and the whole country, forcing the system to charge Derek Chauvin with murder and throw him in prison. People decided those risks were worth it. But coming out of the 2020 rebellions against police brutality, many oppressed people arrived at a destructive conclusion: Protest changes nothing, so it’s not worth the risk. For that, we primarily have the organized Left to blame. Because of the Left’s pernicious control over all protests against injustice, we will continue to contend with the Leftists who stand in the way of the masses overthrowing the system, until they are politically neutralized. We can’t take lightly how difficult it will be (and has been) to rebuild the trust, self-confidence, and faith among the masses that they have the power to transform society.

Democrats are standing back and letting ICE rock.

The Democratic Party has long served a crucial function in the mass deportation machine. They offer tepid criticism, keep the gears turning, and keep their careers and paychecks intact. Even when they manage to utter the word “fuck” in their press conferences, like Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner did this week, they always stop short of escalating the political battle against their associates in the Republican Party. And since we’re mentioning Krasner, we’re obliged to point out this progressive potty mouth still hasn’t freed political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Free Mumia, and fuck all the Democrats standing in the way of Black political prisoners walking free.

What would escalating the political battle look like? For mayors and governors, wielding executive power over their cities and states could mean ordering police chiefs and district attorney offices to protect the people under attack from ICE, Border Patrol, and DHS invasions. They could get creative and bold, even if it’s not “legal,” and even if it invites the wrath of the federal government. If Democrats coordinated a nationwide political revolt against Trump’s Gestapo regime, would the Trump Administration have the brain cells to figure out a plan to counterattack? With 70,000 immigrants being held in detention in life-threatening conditions, separate from their families and communities, isn’t it worth trying? Instead, Democrats continue to fold, in recent days with slightly sharper tongues than usual. And with federal agencies now taking the lead on repressing protest, Democratic mayors get to wipe their hands of accusations of police departments collaborating with feds, which reeks of its own kind of back-door collaboration.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

SPRING SURGE TO MELT ICE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In this wave of protests, masses of immigrants are not leading the struggle. We have to confront how to break out of the cycle of routine protest that fails to pull in the masses.

The rebellions led by immigrants and Latino youth in Los Angeles last June demonstrated a powerful contrast to Leftist protests. It was the most significant mass protest since 2020 and rippled out to spark mass protest in several other cities. But since there isn't strong political organization among immigrants in LA and beyond—organization capable of pushing spontaneous confrontations against ICE even further to actually stop mass deportations—the protests quickly died down with the deployment of the National Guard. We expect a similar arc with this current wave of protest (we hope we're wrong).

So when the protests ebb, what follows? For one, we need to recognize how painstaking and difficult it is to build organization

and collective political action among the people most oppressed in US society. With immigrants in particular, the federal government's reign of terror has left families and communities isolated and in significant fear of violent retribution if we fight back. But to decide the best we can do is give free food or clothes to immigrants and call it "mutual aid," or to stage our own demonstrations on behalf of immigrants without them taking political leadership, would be to capitulate and remain isolated ourselves.

Instead of this, we can employ a different organizing strategy, starting with doing social investigation among the masses to identify the sharpest conflicts that we can cohere people around fighting. In each of our cities and towns, there are public officials who aren't doing anything to keep armed agents from kidnapping and killing. These are people we can confront and make their lives hell for not lifting a finger to stop

deportations. Or maybe, rather than confronting ICE and politicians, we learn that federal cuts to SNAP benefits and Medicaid are sparking mass outrage among immigrants that proves more fruitful to build collective struggle around. We won't know what moves to make until masses of immigrants are part of the conversation and we spend hours each week among them to learn about their lives, dreams, share ideas, and build trust to start struggling together.

Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Silverio Villegas-González in Franklin Park, IL, and Keith Porter in LA were just four of dozens of people killed by ICE or who died in ICE custody in the past year. The deaths and vicious separation of families will continue unless thousands of people decide to dedicate themselves to organizing collective struggle among immigrant masses. Decide for yourself: Is this status quo okay to you? Or is it time for something drastically different?

CALL FOR YOUR LOVED ONES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH DTS

Dare to Struggle Chicago has been organizing at CCJ since October 2024 and we recently wrote up a year-long summary of our work (shoot us a message or a letter if you want a copy). One of the strengths of our work at CCJ is correspondence with the inside. We are in regular contact with many of you. One area we need to be better at is organizing people on the outside, so we're calling on readers to encourage their people on the outside to get in touch with us. We understand there are countless obstacles to people getting involved - we know some of you have partners and/or families on the outside that have to pick up extra hours or work additional jobs to get by without you, and if you're lucky, they can send you some money for

commissary when they can. We know some of your loved ones drive hours to visit you, or can barely find the time due to difficulties with childcare while you're locked up. Life can be chaotic enough even if you don't have a loved one on the inside, but if we want things to change, we're gonna have to do it ourselves. The politicians don't care and the non-profits offer some relief but without any real change. There is a lot of work to do if we want to see things change, and we're gonna need more support on the outside working in tandem with the inside to make it happen. Have your loved ones text us or leave a message at 312-612-0258. They can also hit us up at daretostruggle.org/contact



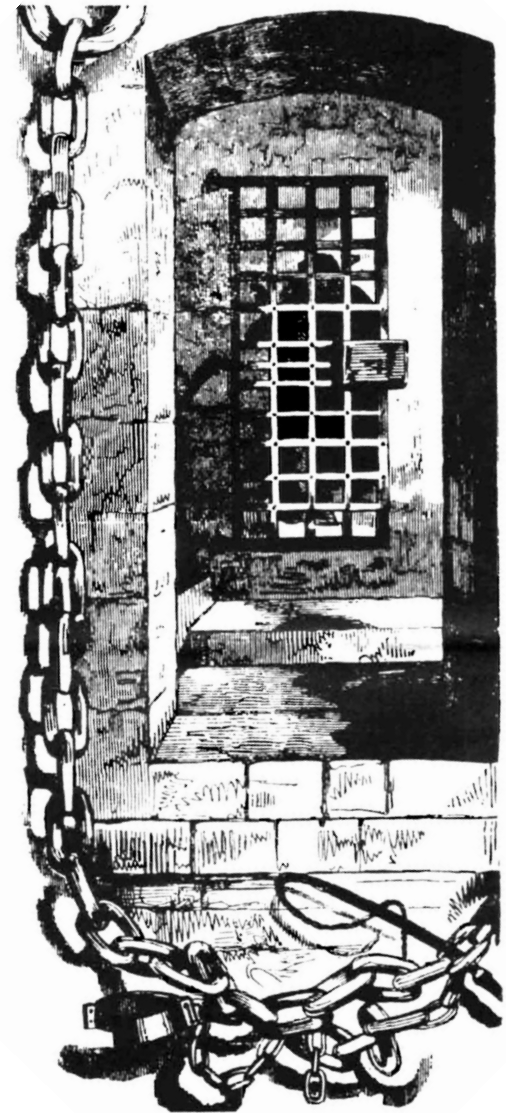
CCJ CO CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO THE JAIL FOR MONEY

In February 2026, a corrections officer at CCJ was arrested and charged with agreeing to smuggle drug-soaked paper into the jail in exchange for \$2k. There was a similar arrest of a CO reported in August 2024. Considering these kinds of behaviors are what land people in CCJ, it's fitting that they'll be getting locked in the cells they once held the keys to. As the literal gatekeepers of the jail, it's clear that COs control the flow of contraband, and are eager to exploit their authority. There's no telling how many other COs are helping to get drugs into CCJ. COs and jail officials like the jail's sheriff, Tom Dart, face few, if any, serious consequences for their actions, even when their actions determine if someone lives and who dies. Whether it's denying basic requests, neglecting medical needs (Alteriq Pleasant), locking known enemies together in a cell and walking away (Raheem Hatter), or outright abuse up to and including murder (in the case of Corey Ulmer), COs exist above the law they're supposed to enforce.

CCJ sheriff Tom Dart and the so-called news outlets are eager to peddle stories of books with drug-soaked pages, justifying spending millions on equipment and dogs to identify contraband, and using drugs as an excuse to unlawfully censor mail to inmates. In reality, COs have been convicted of smuggling drugs in with their lunch. We realize jails are tools of this rotten system to further oppress and immiserate people who already have the boot of this system on their necks, but we think COs should face harsh consequences for breaking the same laws that land inmates in jail. "Corrections officers" should be held to a higher standard, and Tom Dart knows that COs are responsible for many of the horrific conditions at the jail he runs.

Jail Tom Dart!

Jail Abusive COs!



JOIN THE STRUGGLE

Check off the box below



Subscribe to the newsletter



Get organized against conditions & mistreatment

**RIP OFF AND MAIL THIS TAB TO
PO BOX 25087,
CHICAGO IL 60625**

CALL FOR CO WHISTLEBLOWERS

Employees who work inside CCJ are the only people aside from inmates themselves who know what really happens behind those walls. We are certain that there are jail employees reading Cracks (at the very least, the people who are censoring it or delaying delivery), but we're willing to bet there are others. Maybe you're a CO, or do custodial, kitchen, or medical work. We know about staffing shortages and the prevalence of cross-watching

despite it being prohibited by a federal consent decree. We know about frequent medical neglect, inadequate mental health responses, and rotten food. We want to know who lets it happen, and what you think we could do to end the hellish conditions inside. You can hit us up anonymously at our PO box or through our website at www.daretostruggle.org/contact