

WORLD OF PRISONS

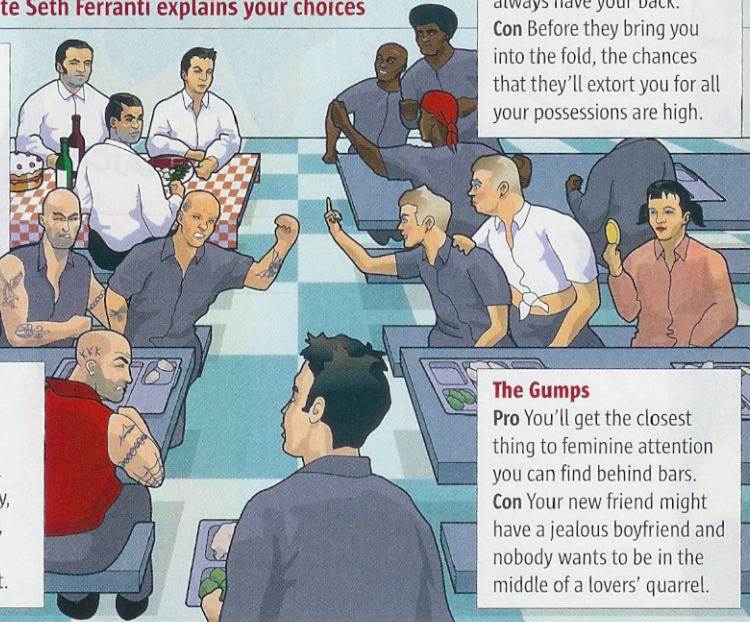
A look behind bars, without the orange jumpsuit and cavity search

FRATERNIZATION

CLIQUE IN THE CLINK

Like in high school, your prison cafeteria seat determines your social life. Inmate Seth Ferranti explains your choices

The Wise Guys

Pro Mafia men get respect in prison. Plus, they make pasta in their cells.**Con** You can get stuck doing their dirty work, like getting tomatoes from the cafeteria for the pasta sauce.

The Skinheads

Pro Master tattoo artists, they can give you sweet skull and demon designs.**Con** The ink is poor quality, so the tats will fade. Plus, you'll have to shave your head and become a racist.

The Thugs

Pro Very loyal. Once you're part of the group, they'll always have your back.**Con** Before they bring you into the fold, the chances that they'll extort you for all your possessions are high.

The Gumps

Pro You'll get the closest thing to feminine attention you can find behind bars.**Con** Your new friend might have a jealous boyfriend and nobody wants to be in the middle of a lovers' quarrel.

RIOT-BE-GONE

Expecting a prison riot? Buy some SA-200s. Used to lock down prisons



while avoiding serious injuries, the weapon fires 180 rounds of pellets that release a pepper-spray-type irritant upon impact. Like paintball, but with more burning.

CIGS FOR STUFF

Smoking in the free world makes you look cool. In prison, it gets you what you need

ONE PACK gets one piece of chicken**FIVE PACKS** gets your laundry done for one month**TEN PACKS** gets a guy to beat someone for you**FORTY PACKS** gets one pair of sneakers

'I SPENT A YEAR IN THE HOLE'

Michael Dickens survived the worst solitary confinement had to offer

"I was falsely accused of selling drugs in prison and sentenced to 12 months in the hole. After 11 months and three weeks, they admitted the error and reversed it. Until then, I lived in a cell the size of a walk-in closet. The hole is all about breaking you



down. It held a bed, a sink and a toilet. That's it. You couldn't talk to the guy next to you, so you could hear a pin drop. I read, wrote letters and did calisthenics. We showered once a week. Lights go

out at 6 p.m., so there isn't much to do after that. The guards wake you at 4 a.m. for an hour of rec in a yard the size of a dog kennel. But you don't want to miss it because you can stretch and breathe fresh air."

CLUB FED

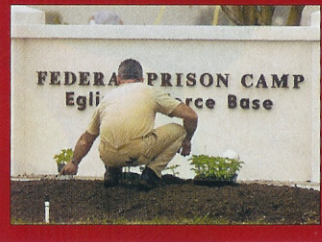
David Novak was an inmate at the original Club Fed, Florida's Eglin Prison. Now he preps rich felons for prison camp. Here's his advice

Do a trial run

"Stay in a six-by-eight-foot area of your den," Novak says. "You'll soon live in a space that size with another man."

Try not to escape

Eglin has no fences, so it's easy to walk away. "That can make it more emotionally difficult," Novak says. **Blend in** "When I got there, my bunkie told me, 'If you're different, you're wrong,'" Novak says. "Be observant. Mimic others. Above everything else, don't whine."



PRISON SPEAK

Your Webster's won't help you once you're in the pen. Learn the terms that will make you sound like a lifer

Big Willie *n.* A prisoner with status or money: *Them Mafia dudes are Big Willies.*

Dance floor: *n.* The visiting room: *I'll be with my people on the dance floor this weekend.*

Hot: *adj.* Of or relating to a rat or a jailhouse snitch: *That dude deserves an ass rapping. He's hot.*

In the cut: *n.* A corner or area out of sight of prison cameras: *I shanked that dude back in the cut.*

Kite: *n.* A note sent from an inmate in one joint to an inmate in another via a transferring prisoner: *I sent my homey a kite about that hot bitch.*

BY THE NUMBERS

21 billion
Dollars spent per year in the U.S. on prison construction and maintenance

6 million
Dollars Texas saved in 2003 by cutting cons' daily calories from 2,800 to 2,500

1.4 million
Estimated number of male inmates in U.S. federal and state prisons

100,100
Estimated number of female inmates in U.S. federal and state prisons

36,500
Average annual salary in dollars of a federal prison guard

22,517
Average annual cost in dollars to incarcerate a federal prisoner

28
Length in months of the average prison sentence in the U.S.

