



THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE

April 29, 2010



It couldn't be me...

Last week I had the opportunity to view "The Farm: 10 Down," a poignant documentary about maximum security Angola Prison in Louisiana. The film revisits the surviving subjects of the Emmy-winning documentary, "The Farm."

It provided me with an education about the prison system that I didn't know that I needed. Growing up in Louisiana, I've always known that was the place where people went for a very long time. I didn't realize that most of the residents of Angola are long-timers.

The film provided an interesting perspective on what happens after we throw away the key. And with so many prisoner re-entry programs focused on rehabilitating them after release, I thought we should know about what rehabilitation looks like on the inside of Angola.

Pictured (left to right) Jonalyn Cain, Warden Burl Cain, Mara-Michele Batlin, David Deniger, Jonathan Stack and Leah Klein - Picture courtesy of Highest Common Denominator Media Group

Why should I be concerned about prison reform?

Since 1999, prison incarceration has increased by 18%.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

1 in 31 Americans will be incarcerated.

Stay in Touch!



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Reaction to The Farm: 10 Down

By Brandi Richard

The message of the film resolves with a focus on moral rehabilitation of prisoners through faith-based programs run by the inmates. At the core of the program is Warden Burl Cain's ethos of respect and consequence. [I spoke with him after the film and took some candid video for young professionals.](#)

After the movie concluded, movie viewers were asked to participate in a panel discussion. Here are a few memorable quotes:

Joyce Ann Brown, previously incarcerated, says **"after viewing the film, the employees and inmates respect the warden...causing change"** in the system.

When speaking about how two of the victims profiled in the film were able to begin healing from the crime committed against them...and how inmates who are found to be wrongly convicted are able to live peaceably on the outside.

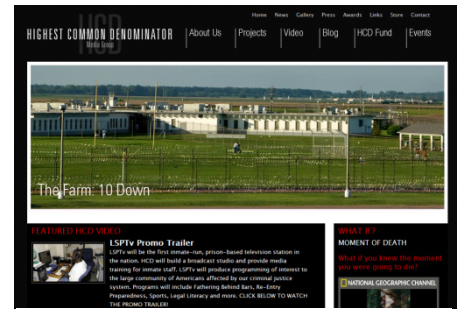
"Forgiveness is the only true form of freedom."
- Mara-Michele Batlin, Highest Common Denominator

Angola Warden Burl Cain then offered his thoughts on prison reform.

"Inmate-victim reconciliation is the key to rehabilitation of inmates."

"Moral rehabilitation is the only rehabilitation."

"There's only one boss in my prison and that's just how the mop flops."



[Visit the film website...](#)

Angola Strategies for Success

Cursing is outlawed.

The prison campus is dotted with churches and bible institutes.

Inmates are taught to be fathers to their children through Daddy days with their kids.

"Making gang leaders, toilet orderlies and divorcing the homosexual population every six months, violent acts have been reduced by 74% at Angola." – Warden Cain

Angola Prison, LA - Picture courtesy of Highest Common Denominator Media Group





THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE

Young Professional Events

Early Voting Begins in Texas

Monday, April 26, 2010 -
 Saturday, May 1, 2010
 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 Sunday, May 2, 2010
 1:00 – 6:00 PM

Voting Day in Texas

Saturday, May 8, 2010
 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Elections are coming up in your area, be sure that you exercise your right to vote. Early voting often works well for busy schedules.

Urban Empowerment Gala and VIP Awards Reception

An Evening of Sophistication – Black Tie Affair
 Saturday, May 1, 2010
 7:30 PM – 1:00 AM
 August Wilson Center for African American Culture
 980 Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA

YP214 Professional Development Series

Tuesday, May 4, 2010
 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
 Center for Community Cooperation
 2900 Live Oak St. Dallas, TX

The Central Florida Urban League Young Professionals

I am the Future, I am Empowered
 Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Future
 Tuesday, May 4, 2010
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 Disney Entrepreneur Center
 315 East Robinson St. Orlando, FL

Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals

General Body Meeting
 Tuesday, May 10, 2010
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 Center for Community Cooperation
 2900 Live Oak St. Dallas, TX

For more information or to share your events, visit us at [The Young Professional Advocate Facebook group](#).



What is Green Grass Generation?

Green Grass Generation is the first initiative of the Young Professional Agenda. We seek a new culture of sustainability to transform our learned habits into habits that will support a healthy earth.

Goal:

The goal of the **Green Grass Generation** is to educate everyday people on how to add sustainable practices into their everyday lives. By doing so, we hope to reduce the carbon footprint, one person at a time.

What You Can Do?:

- * Take the Green Grass Generation Pledge.
- * Pledge to make your business or organization sustainable.
- * Volunteer to support our upcoming Green Grass Generation Expo.
- * Join us in developing a grass roots green strategy

with **Green Grass Generation**.

Email info@greengrassgeneration.com for more information.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Green Action Alert:

The League of Women Voters is monitoring climate change legislation.

One aspect of their environmental strategy is:
 Investments in a new **clean energy economy**, including wind, conservation and efficiency programs that will secure energy supplies, foster innovation, and create new jobs.

[Visit this link for more information on their plan.](#)