

CHOWCHILLA:

by CHRYSTOS

There are over 2,000 roses
planted in a straight stern line
in front of the last row of barbed wire
around the prison
for the pleasure of the passersby

I am a gardener whose roses cost \$10 apiece
at the discount store
The usual fee for landscaping labor is \$15 an hour
The irrigation system through this hot dry country
cost a minimum of \$5,000
Our taxes paid for these roses you might never see
The women locked inside Chowchilla
whom we have been brainwashed to fear
for their poverty or their race
or their drug addictions
or their love of a man the kops caught
are dying and in pain from lack of medical care
In California there are more prisons than any other state
Per capita, it imprisons more people than any other place worldwide
The cost of a college education there
has risen 500% in 5 years
This money is used for prisons
Once it was in the top 10 for universities
it now ranks 41

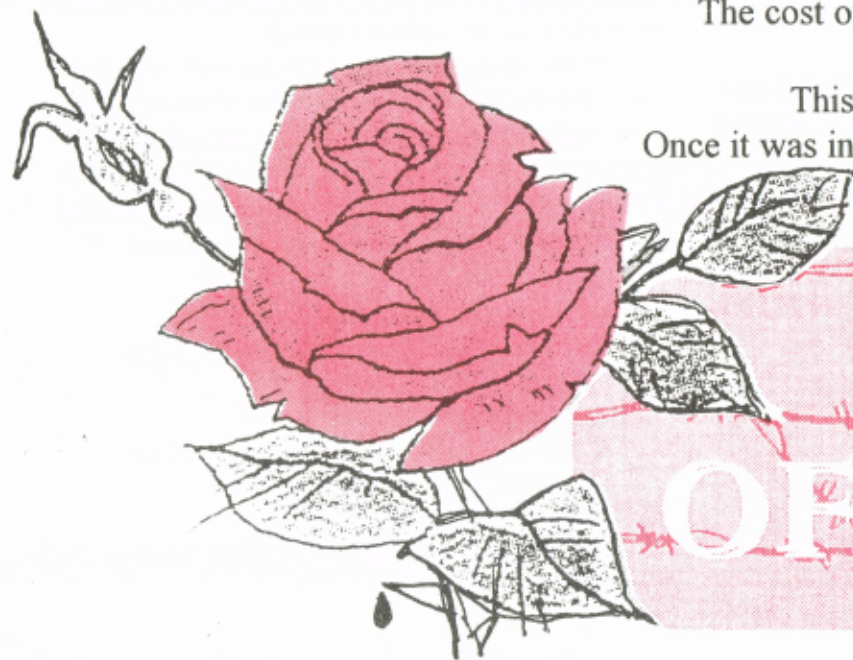
Gateway to Prosperity

In a 2-square-mile area over 6,000 women
will be locked down with no doctor employed full-time
Health care costs each prisoner \$5 per visit
with a guard trained in a first aid course
The strongest pain medication given
even for those dying of AIDS/SIDA
is Tylenol
Starting salary for a guard
the majority of whom are male
& often sexually abuse their powerless female prisoners
is \$30,000 a year plus benefits
also paid for by our taxes.
All prisoners are required to work
-- even those mentally ill --
for wages as low as \$6 a month.
The roses and irrigation system could have paid
a year's salary for a woman doctor
Have I become a thorn in your side yet?
or will you pass by the trazor wire of these words
looking to smell the roses?

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**STOP THE MURDER
OF WOMEN PRISONERS!!**

