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Fishing Trip, Money, Time, and the Parole Board (BUZZARDS)

Title of Work
Money, Time and The Parole Board (Buzzards)

Although there has been a 20% decline in the prison population over the last ten years, Michigan continues to keep a staggering number of inmates past their early release date. In this painting the scale represents the justice system. The gold bars and bags of money is what it cost us to live in and get out of prison. The clock keeps track of the amount of time we do. The BUZZARDS are the parole board. We live in a jungle high in the trees, isolated from our loved ones.

The state of Michigan spends two billion dollars annually to house over 40,000 inmates at 31 prison facilities. The MDOC employs over 14,000 people, making it the biggest employer of state workers. Every prisoner would like to go home, but between prison and home is the BUZZARDS. More prisoners equals more state jobs, so the BUZZARDS want to keep us in as long as possible, past our release date. One way the MDOC does this is to delay our required programs before we go see the board. That can add up to 12 months or more to our sentence. Inmates and their families spend ~~their~~ their money do the time, But the BUZZARDS just want to keep us in so they can all have jobs. That is just one way the MDOC mis-uses tax dollars.