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NEPA NEWS

The Voice of the New England Prisoners Association



Shut Down Bridgewater

Ralph Geary, Jeffrey Kaelin and Others have filed suit in federal court against Frank Hall, Mass. Commissioner of Correction, and Charles W. Gaughan, Superintendent of MCI-Bridgewater. The suit seeks to close Bridgewater, is being heard now in mid-December and is expected to last for two weeks.

Earlier, James Bel, Jr., a NEPA member incarcerated at Bridgewater, filed suit to close the Bx Unit at Bridgewater. While Federal Judge Garrity has not yet ruled to close, Federal Magistrate Willie J. Davis found that Bridgewater violated the Eighth amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment in the Bx Unit.

Since a large portion of the Bel suit contained data and arguments relevant to all of Bridgewater, prisoners in B'water

Two sinks and three toilets must serve the needs of some one-hundred and ten plus residents....K ward has two toilets one of which has to be flushed with a bucket.

7. MEDICAL ATTENTION--The quality of medical attention consists of being placed in a "punitive segregation cell" in I building....Punitive because there is a temporary loss and suspension of privileges while and inmate is confined in that cell, which may be any length of time.... If the inmate is not seriously ill the doctor responds with what seems to be experimental treatment....Many times the medication is thiorazine, stelazine, melleril or a related drug.... The doctors are unqualified and are not licensed to practice outside of MCI-Bridgewater....

abuse. Inmates legitimate grievances and complaints about the conditions and treatment in the wards is either ignored, appeased or given unfulfilled promises of relief. No remedial action has been taken. ...

16. LOUNGE AREA--....All the inmates in the ward are cramped into one smoke filled, noise saturated, tension filled room all day....There is no freedom of movement except within the smoke room....

17. RECREATION--Some forms of recreation are allowed depending on the particular whim of the officer present....Inmates pace the wards all day while over-drugged and to the point of being zombies.

18. FOOD--The quality and preparation of the food is intolerable....The dining area is dirt-laden with bugs and roaches roaming at times. The dining area also serves as a garbage disposal room and usually has the aroma of a garbage can....

V. LEGAL CLAIMS

19. Plaintiffs have been deprived of their federal civil rights, due process of law, equal protection of the law, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment.

20. Plaintiffs have been deprived Due Process of Law...by the defendants failure to provide them with treatment. *Wyatt v. Stickney*, 325 F. Supp. at 785.

21. The beatings and harsh treatment... constitute "Cruel and unusual punishment". ..The beatings amount to punishment without due process of law.

22. Failure to provide medical care to plaintiffs constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment" and punishment without due process of law.

23. Inmates are not being compensated in accordance with the minimum wage laws...

24. The forcing of medication constitutes a violation of the fourteenth Amendment "Equal protection of the laws".

25. Plaintiffs being summarily punished without any form of due process whatsoever constitutes a violation of the fourteenth amendment "due process of law" and F ward constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment".

26. The living conditions constitute a violation of the fourteenth amendment "equal protection of the law" and "due process of law" and the eighth amendment "cruel and unusual punishment".

SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS RELIEF

The plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief which if granted would declare that the defendants' acts, policies and practices described herein violate plaintiffs rights under the United States Constitution. MCI-Bridgewater would be placed under the department of mental health. Other relief would order the plaintiffs, their successors and others from retaliating against the plaintiffs, prohibit the defendants from transferring the plaintiffs without plaintiffs permission, and require the defendants to allow the plaintiffs "to engage in any oral or written communication which is reasonably related to the conduct of this action" and to allow plaintiffs "to confer with co-plaintiffs" and anything else reasonably necessary to conduct the suit.

Other important relief would initiate a Human Rights Committee to review all research proposals and rehabilitative programs "to ensure that the human rights of inmates are preserved". The brief further requests initiation "of a program "minimal Constitutional Standards for the adequate treatment of the Mentally Ill" similar to that in *Wyatt v Stickney*."

Finally the plaintiffs seek compensatory damages of \$100,000 and punitive damages of the same to each of the two plaintiffs, a jury trial on all issues triable by jury, plaintiffs costs of this suit, and "such other and further relief as this court deems just, proper and equitable."

A memorandum is attached to the suit that states "The United States Supreme Court has ruled on the right to treatment *Robinson v California* 370 U.S. 660 (1962) where a court held that a person cannot be put in prison because of mental illness. Bridgewater is a prison with some 416 guards; the department of Correction is operating a defacto maximum security prison."



and NEPA supporters outside worked on pulling together a new suit, this one seeking to close the whole dungeon. James Bel prepared the suit for Geary, Kaelin and Others.

Bridgewater has long been notorious as the worst of prisons in the N.E. area. "Ticut Follies", a Fred Wiseman film about Bridgewater, has been banned in Mass. for over five years. A case seeking to allow the film to be shown in Mass. is now in court. The film's supporters maintain the film was banned for political reasons as the state did not want its citizens to know that it ran a prison as totally abhorrent as is Bridgewater.

What follows in this article are excerpts from Geary, Kaelin and Others v. Hall and Gaughan. Based on the favorable decisions of Magistrate Davis, NEPA feels a strong probability that the Federal court will order Bridgewater shut down. That would be a strong step forward for both prisoners in Massachusetts and for all of us in the prisoner movement.

IV. FACTS. 5. Plaintiff(s) contend that defendants have caused and are causing them "irreparable harm" that is both "great and immediate" by creating, maintaining, and continuing to maintain the deplorable, sub-human and totally unacceptable conditions and treatment at the State Hospital for the Criminally Insane at the Mass. Correctional Institution at Bridgewater. More specifically but not inclusive, the extreme concern and anxiety over the existing detriment to health and medical condition, lack of treatment, lack of psychiatric treatment, constant harassment by guards and brutality by guards, and generally unsanitary conditions which promote disease, forcing medication and drugs. In addition, all of which are diminishing or threatening to diminish the plaintiff's human dignity.

6. SANITATION--The sanitation facilities are inadequate and sub-standard. There are no sinks or plumbing in the cells...

8. PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT--There are no licensed or qualified psychiatrists and the only time that a resident will see one of the so called psychiatrists who are neither licensed nor qualified is when he is to be committed. (*This in a state hospital for the insane--ed.*)

9. WORK ASSIGNMENT--The jobs available to inmates: ward working which consists of cleaning halls and rooms. The only pay is a pack of cigarettes or a candy bar a week. The laundry is paid a shower a day. The kitchen is paid a shower a day and a candy bar a week.

11. FORCED MEDICATION AND EXPERIMENTATION--If a resident refuses to take his medication he is taken to F ward and given an injection forcibly. In both cases the inmate will not be informed what the medication is.

12. F WARD--F ward is an isolation ward used for discipline and observation. Inmates are not afforded any of their due-process rights. They are brought to F ward and stripped of all clothing and placed in a cell consisting of only a mattress without sheets, a plastic cup or jar or container to excrete into.... Inmates are sometimes given beatings upon arrival at F ward. Inmates are not given water for periods of up to four days and not given showers regularly....

13. SUMMARY PUNISHMENT--Summary punishment, without a hearing, is imposed in the form of what is called "early bed", involuntary....for a reason which the officer deems to be an infraction or non-compliance of any of any rule or order or reason, said officer or guard considers sufficient....If an inmate should decline to go to early bed in this type of situation, he is forcibly taken to his cell or to isolation ward F and or beaten.

14. ASSAULTS BY GUARDS--Inmates are assaulted at the whims of sadistic guards.

15. ATTITUDES--The general overall attitudes of the guards toward the inmates is one of benign neglect, belligerence, indifference, verbal abuse, and physical

Hartford: The Urban Fortress

by Monty Neill

Urban Pacification

Among the worst atrocities of the Vietnam war was the "forced urbanization" of the peasantry, in which peasants were placed in new "towns" surrounded by barbed wire, walls and armed troops. Today, in America, drawing on its experience in South east Asia, the U.S. government, in the form of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), plans to force similar outrages on Americans: the "Urban Fortress" and the "Urban Village."

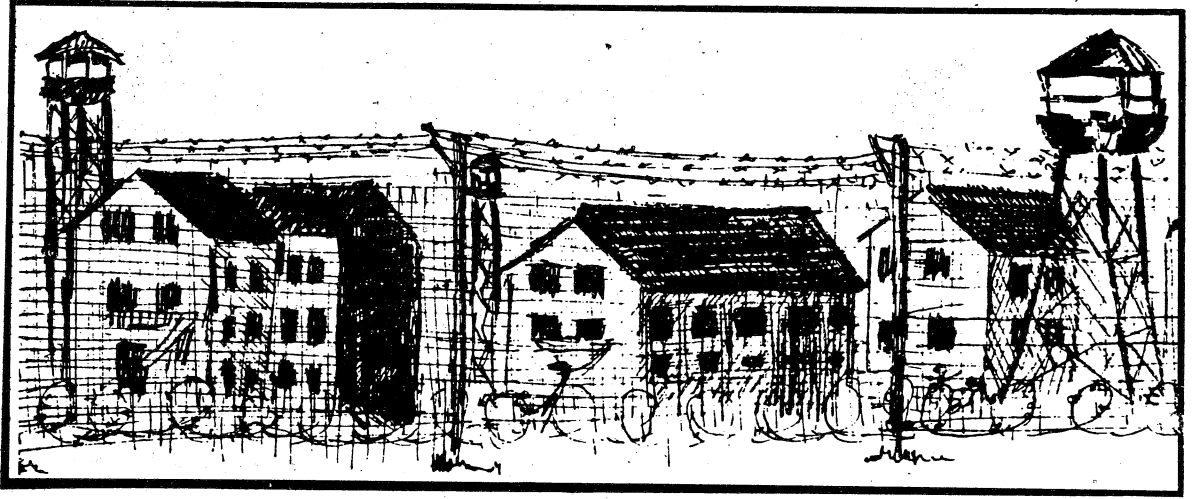
The LEAA receives billions of dollars in taxpayers' money, supposedly to fight crime. But rather than use its billions to help solve the causes of crime, LEAA would rather turn our cities into mazes of forced ghettos, barbed wire, walls and hordes of police.

In Hartford, Ct., a local news reporter stumbled onto the minutes of a meeting of the Hartford Institute for Criminal and Social Justice (Institute), in which a proposal was discussed to fence-off certain "high crime" areas of the city.

Faced with hostility from almost all segments of the community, the Institute backed down. But the "Urban Fortress", a term actually used by the Institute in its application for LEAA funds, is not dependent solely on fences. "Urban planning" can also do the job. Current Institute plans call for isolating the Asylum Hill area of Hartford from the North End by tearing down the Sigourney Street bridge and making other streets one-way or dead-end.

Hartford is certainly not alone in such plans. "Urban renewal" in Boston has worked in the same direction. With the "high spine" skyscraper system from downtown to the Prudential tower, followed up Huntington Ave. by the Christian Science Church complex (which forced out hundreds of families), a large part of the city is literally walled-off. Meanwhile, hundreds more families were displaced when a large section of the South End and Roxbury (a matter of blocks from the Church complex) was torn down for the "Southeast Expressway corridor". This corridor would be an eight lane highway split by the high-speed Amtrack railway. The South End itself is undergoing "renewal": poor, mostly black and Puerto Rican, people are being driven out to make way for the middle and upper class, which is tired of commuting from the suburbs.

The results of this planning are middle and upper class neighborhoods "protected" from the poor and their high crime rates. A frequent side-effect of such plans is that inner-city blacks and Puerto Ricans are



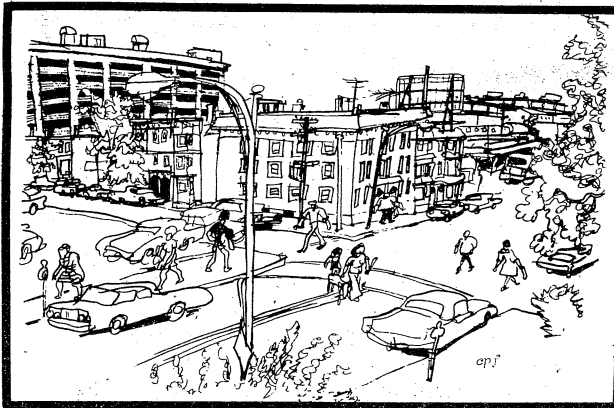
driven out into previously all-white poor neighborhoods, such as parts of Dorchester. The "planners" hope that the racial tension will be high enough so that blacks, Puerto Ricans and whites will forget who benefits and who loses, who plans and who gets planned.

This sort of human destruction is exactly what LEAA thrives on. When they are not busy buying tanks, grenades, machine guns, dogs and dum-dum bullets for the pacification programs of city and state police, they pay for "research" such as that done by Hartford's Institute.

People Fight Back

Hartford residents, like people elsewhere, aren't taking "pacification" or the "Urban Fortress" passively. On November 15 a demonstration called by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party saw 150 people in front of City Hall protesting the fences.

The Connecticut Defense Coalition called for a Dec. 6 demonstration in opposition to the following: 1) the use of magnum (dum-dum or hollow point) bullets by the state police which have already claimed victims (they are outlawed by the U.N. for warfare and a suit is being prepared against their



use by the Conn. Civil Liberties Union); 2) the demand by Hartford Police for more shotguns and police dogs (to be funded by LEAA?); 3) the concept of physical segregation of Hartford neighborhoods to "control crime"; 4) the current discussion underway to restore the death penalty on a broad basis in Connecticut.

These plans can be combatted. In Boston, the Southeast Corridor plan has been scrapped and the black community is taking the lead in planning how to rebuild the destroyed part of town. The plan was scrapped solely because of unrelenting community opposition from many segments of the city's population.

As we can see, the "war on crime" is a war on poor, third world and working people. LEAA is the agency in charge of this war which complements other wars against the poor by the government, a government which saddles us with inflation, unemployment, prisons, poor schools, poor medical care, racism, sexism and all the other things we have to protect with our \$80 billion defense budget.

The solution to crime, says "Freedom/Libertad", the newsletter of the Connecticut Defense Coalition, is that "the need for crime must be eliminated--this means employment programs must be set up, mental health clinics and useful drug rehabilitation programs be implemented or broadened. In other words, the needs of the people must be met to lift the pressures that lead to crime."

The people of Hartford are responding to this call. They have shown that they do not need or want the "Urban Fortress", the Institute or the LEAA.

Thanks to "Freedom/Libertad" for much of the information used in this article. For further information, contact the Connecticut Defense Coalition, P. O. Box 17222, Bishops Corner Stn., W. Hartford, Conn. 06117.

Machine Guns in Quincy

The fifteen police officers in special units in the city of Quincy, Mass. added shotguns and submachine guns to their arsenal. The 12-gauge shotguns will be kept in cars, but the 9mm Smith and Wesson machine guns will be kept in the station, and used only in situations such as shoot-outs, kidnappings, or to shoot out the tires in getaway vehicles.

In stories in the Boston Globe of Dec. 11 and 12, the stories of the weapons' procurement came out.

"We are serving notice on anyone who decides to commit a crime, whether it's running a red light or committing an armed robbery, that they will be dealt with severely," said Mayor Walter J. Hannon.

The Mayor said that the new weapons were added to try to stop a recent increase in hold-ups. In fact, according to the Quincy police, the number of hold-ups increased from an average of 9 per month from September to November in '73, to an average of 12 in the same period in '74, an increase of 3 hold-ups.

"If they're going to use machine guns in a robbery in progress in an urban area--Jesus Christ!" stated John W. Roberts of the Mass. Civil Liberties Union.

In a statement, the Union said, "The

Walpole Cons Seize Hostages

Eight Walpole prisoners held three hostages for a little over a day and issued a list of 18 demands. The hostages were released after promises to negotiate came from Commissioner Frank Hall, and after D.A. Burke promised to not press serious charges such as kidnap against the prisoners, but lesser charges such as holding a hostage (which can draw up to five years). Negotiations are underway as we go to press.

The list of demands are essentially the same as have been demanded time and again by the prisoners at Walpole. Among the demands are:

--No out of state transfers, no transfers to 9 or 10 block, no reprisals.

--Ralph Hamm (President of the NPRA), John Parker and William Somers to be returned immediately from 10 block to 3

introduction of heavy weaponry into the arsenals of local police departments dramatically illustrates both the need for state weapons standards and the need to involve the citizenry in the process of setting policy on police operations."

The Union is currently engaged in a campaign to outlaw the use of dum-dum bullets by Mass. policemen, and the Ct. Union is doing the same.

And about the use of machine guns to shoot out radial tires with steel belts: a 9mm has less velocity than a .38.

block.

-- Meaningful programs under Chapter 777 (the reform bill which has never reached Walpole) to be implemented immediately.

--Stop harassment of prisoners' visitors; 7-day-a-week visits, night and day.

--Stop guards from stealing prisoners' personal belongings.

--No messing with prisoners' mail.

--Due process in disciplinary hearings.

--Investigation and report of present administration's policies at Walpole.

--Free movement of prisoners from the minimum sections to the maximum sections.

Once again the prisoners at Walpole have asked to be allowed to live in an environment fit for humans, to be free from harassment, and have a chance at the programs granted them by law. Time and again the Department has made promises and again the prisoners have seen the same old lies and unkept promises. And once again the Walpole prisoners have turned to a dramatic act to demonstrate their plight and to seek redress of their grievances.

We call on Hall, Waitkevitch, Sargent and in-coming governor Dukakis to act up to the law, to implement the programs, to stop harassment, and to take the steps that can lead to the elimination of a blight such as Walpole.

Police Brutality in Portland

by Monty Neill

At one AM on a Saturday night in Portland, Maine, a woman sits in a police station, repeatedly asking about her arrested brother. Too many questions. The cop pushes a button setting off a piercing siren. He jumps the woman, handcuffs her, punches her in the face.

This same cop takes her to the county jail. On the way she "falls", needing four stitches along her left eye, having a gash along her nose and bruises all over her body. Meanwhile, her brother sits in a cell, bruised from head to toe, but with no major cuts.

Of four people in the police station that night, three are members of SCAR (Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform). If tradition holds, all four will be arrested for either assault on an officer or interfering with or resisting an arrest. The injuries the victims sustained will be "falls" or the use of "justified force". Eventually, the charges will probably be dropped or filed. Only if the victims seek redress through the courts of the press will the charges be pressed.

The brutality exhibited toward the SCAR members is no more than one example of what is becoming a common occurrence in Portland. It has reached the point of cops forming a death squad of the sort pictured in the film "Magnum Force" or the TV movie "Death Squad".

History of Brutality

Let us go back a few years. On Sept. 5, 1970, John Vallyely, 18, was beaten nearly unconscious and thrown in a cell. Six days later, City Manager Menario promised an investigation and gave a "vote of confidence" to the city police. At the same time, neighborhood youths were charging that the cops were taking off their badges and challenging the youths to fight.

At the time the call went out for a civilian review board. Police Chief Steele termed this demand "a sign of a breakdown of Law and Order."

Menario's investigation was done by a Chicago-based firm, which, in its report, called for equipment and personnel increases, a 5'7" minimum height requirement, and a community relations division. In essence, the report called for more firepower and a new, shinier coat of blue paint to throw over the whole issue. Menario's own investigation of the Vallyely case concluded, "There is no reason to believe that Vallyely was beaten."

On 12-1-71, Public Safety Chairman A-mergian complained about receiving too many complaints about police brutality. He was accused of "witch hunting."

Within the following two months of officers Devoa and Ryder were charged with assault and robbery. Ryder was convicted and given a 1½-year sentence.

On May 18 of '71, Parolee Gardner Corey was beaten with a nightstick and thrown from a cruiser. The arresting officer was charged, then the charges were dropped.

On Sept. 2, 1971, three community activists were beaten, one receiving a broken nose, another needing crutches.

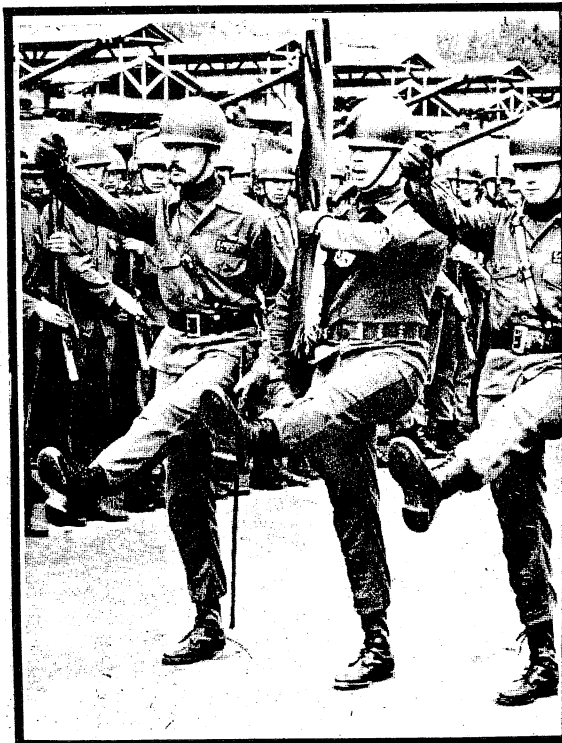
The beatings continue through the next several years, and even escalate. But Menario's report calling for more firepower did not go unheeded, unlike the call for a civilian review board.

In 1968, the budget for the Portland Police was \$973,000. In 1973 the budget was over \$2,000,000, a five year rise of over 100%. The number of cops has doubled.

The Feds have pitched-in as well. Between 1968 and 1971, LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) contributed \$150,000, and in 1972 an additional \$75,000. The money has gone for riot gear, cruiser expansion, drug work, waterfront patrolmen, special training manuals, televisions, cameras, video equipment, an undercover "mod squad", shotguns for all cruisers, more patrolmen and still more cruisers.

The inconsistency of police statements throughout the period is instructive, as is the role played by the press, particularly the Portland Press Herald.

On Sept. 2, 1971, the police announced a 25% reduction in juvenile crime. Two days later the cops announce plans for a



\$3 million "Public Safety Headquarters". At the end of '71, the Herald called for more cruisers.

Two days after Fred Warren was shot by cops in his own apartment on March 1, 1971, the Herald ran an article titled "Major Crimes Keep Cops Busy." In June of '72, the local papers said Portland is "gripped in a crime wave." On Sept. 2 of that year, they said something needs to be done to "discourage the use of force against police." Later that month, Federal statistics showed a low crime rate in the area. In October, the press reported, "it's a crime wave."

Death Squad

What could be considered the logical result of a police force that is into brutality and does not police itself, that is ever-expanding, that is encouraged and covered for by city council and local press, has exposed itself. The Death Squad arrived.

The story of the death squad, or at least what has come out, if what has come out is true, is both confusing and at times contradictory. But it does indicate the development of the cops' attitude of "We are the law."

Testimony was taken at two Civil Service hearings on November 12 and 16, and are detailed in the Dec. 6 issue of the Maine Times. According to testimony, Edward Foster was the moving force in the plot, involving officers Bertel Serfes, William Bettes and Louis Dye in a series of meetings.

On June 30 of 1974, the four met for two hours while driving around in a car. The plan was to tail the victim for 2-4 weeks, grab him in a side street, drive him to an access road off the turnpike, blow his head off with a 12-gauge shotgun, bury him, and then return. Serfes said Foster would buy the gun as Foster

was "going to get the pleasure of watching the subject's head roll down the road."

Meanwhile, Dye had decided to turn the information over to Police Chief McLaren. Dye and Serfes apparently both agreed the plan had gone too far.

Foster was arrested at his home in Saco by Portland police, shipped to Maine Medical Center in Portland and held for 22 days psychiatric observation. He has been dismissed from his job, but has filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the Portland Police, claiming his rights were violated.

SCAR chairperson Al Caron and others feel that what came out at the hearings just scratches the surface, stating, "We have the feeling Foster has taken the fall." The idea advanced here is that Foster was pulled into a well-designed plan, felt things were getting out of hand and planned to blow the whistle. The group's real founders then moved first and dumped Foster. Caron said that if a real hearing was held, they could blow the lid off the whole story.

Part of the reasoning behind this is the assessment by SCAR that a major reason for the growing police brutality is the increasing number of Vietnam vets on the force. Betteres and Serfes both served in Vietnam, Foster did not.

To quote one of several articles on police brutality in the December SCAR'd Times: "In Vietnam, anyone who wasn't 'toeing the line' was the enemy...The answer to everything was brutality and death. The American soldier represented absolute authority...he was free to commit nearly all acts against the native population without fear of reprisal... As these men have entered the force and seen that they are similarly protected in their use of violence against poor people, they have pushed it even further."

Another reason for the growing police brutality cited by SCAR is that "cops who see brutality and beating as part of being a cop will react more quickly and more brutally all the time." This is enhanced by internal police force competition to rise in the ranks.

Why Police Brutality?

A fundamental reason is built into the complex of relations internal to the police, to society and to the relations between police and society.

Police are supposed to prevent and deter crime, and to catch those who do commit crimes. Put simply, they can't and don't do the job. Cops tend to blame this on "permissive courts". However, of 100 crimes, only 4 or 5 lead to an arrest, and less than one to a conviction. So even if everyone the cops arrested was guilty, which is undoubtedly false, they would still be getting only 4 or 5 %.

This fact is not doubt frustrating and, quite possibly, ego-shattering. Cops are supposed to be good at what they do.

At the same time, America as a whole
BRUTALITY continued on page 5

Freedom is a Constant Struggle



Progress and Repression

by Wilson Leavenworth

The Maine State Prison at Thomaston appears to be a prison in which progress and repression walk hand-in-hand in the day-to-day life of the prisoners. Thomaston is often viewed as one of the better, cleaner, more relaxed prisons in the east. However, the prisoners do have many very basic grievances--legal, financial and personal.

In the history of Thomaston, violence against either the officials or other prisoners has been very low. The only murder of an employee was at least 55 years ago; the prisoners haven't lost a man in over three years, and few before that. The prisoner-to-prisoner violence is rated as one of the lowest in the country. This may be due, in large part, to the racially homogenous make-up of the population. Currently there are two blacks and one Indian.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Thomaston is its parole system. The typical sentence to Thomaston is a 1 to 5, and 94.6% of the prisoners make parole, the highest rate in the U.S. Further, the assistant chairman of the parole board is an ex-con from Thomaston, Francis Jackson. Prisoners are among the few people who take an active interest in the affairs of prisons, and the appointment of Jackson two years ago is a step in the direction of more prisoner participation in controlling their own lives.

Currently a bill is before the Maine Legislature which would create a one-third good-time reduction for parole and toward the maximum sentence.

Thomaston has a "damn good" library, according to one prisoner. The gym and the golf course were also spoken of highly. The building is relatively new, consisting of cell tiers, dormitory and, of course, solitary.

The prison fortunately does not have a behavior modification center, but does have a pill line with one hundred or more prisoners taking a daily dose of one or more sedatives.

The prison has a work farm release center near the prison, and another one in Bangor, Me. Educational and work-release also exist.

Internal programs include woodworking, crafts, license plate making, high school equivalency, sports and college courses. Films are shown, family days are held, and the visiting room is relaxed.

But Thomaston has problems, aside from the fact that it is a prison. Even the warden, Garrell S. Mullaney, has admitted that probably 85% of the men shouldn't even be there. But this article deals with the day-to-day functioning of the prison, and will now turn to some of the problems.

Out of about 450 prisoners, only about 50 are involved in any program to express or educate themselves. The opportunities provided by the prison are limited.

Previous to Mullaney's arrival, the prisoners had produced an internal paper, The Coastline. Mullaney closed it down,



Good Indian
-Ann
Lucas Men's Reformatory

saying it was too costly to produce. Currently, prisoners are struggling to get a new publication going, and again finances are a problem. Further, \$2000 is needed to lobby for the "good-time" bill before the legislature, but the warden must approve the expenditure of funds.

In the mechanic-training program, a prisoner must have only six months left to serve to be eligible. Six months is a short time to really learn a trade such as auto-body or mechanics. The prison also has a boxing program, with much participation, but one source said that the warden would not let in a martial arts program, not even a demonstration.

The music room at Thomaston is always located in too small an area, and is perpetually being moved. Better rooms are supposedly available. The films are run-of-the-mill hogwash for the most part. Personal tutoring in the arts, crafts and trades is needed for some prisoners, but is not available.

In general, many creative things are done by the prisoners at Thomaston, as by prisoners elsewhere. But, like most prisons, the money is not available. Apparently most of the \$2 million annual budget goes to security, to guarding the men, 85% of whom, at the least, ought not to be in a prison. Why isn't the money put into education and training? Why is the art department lacking in facilities, money and encouragement.

Wardens, legislators and governors must learn that rehabilitation does not and can not come from more guards, better locks and new vehicles every year. Rehabilitation, better expressed as a per-

Zombie Juice

On a recent visit to the Maine State Prison at Thomaston I uncovered some disturbing news: close to half of all the brothers there are taking part in the constant doling out of drugs such as thorazine and valium. Given the fact that the use of such drugs, voluntary or otherwise, is so prevalent, and knowing that thorazine is commonly referred to as 'zombie juice', I though I'd do some checking up on them.

The results were startling, to say the least. While thorazine does relieve the obvious tension and anxiety that comes from prison life, according to the Physician's Desk Reference long-term usage has caused psychological dependence, skin discoloration, incurable nerve disorders, even DEATH.

While reading the following, one has to remember that adverse reactions do not always follow the use of the drug.

HYPOTENSIVE EFFECTS: drowsiness or even fainting may follow after the few first injections.

PERSISTENT TARDIVE DISKINESIA: may appear after long term usage or after disuse. The risk is higher in elderly patients, especially females. The symptoms, which are persistent and in some cases irreversible, are characterized by involuntary movement of the facial muscles, chewing motions, or involuntary jerking of the arms and/or legs. There is no known cure.

CEREBRAL EDEMAS: fluid build up causing great pressure has been reported.

CONVULSIVE SEIZURES: have occurred, mostly inpatients with EEG abnormalities.

DEATH: has rarely happened, but is possible since thorazine dulls the cough center and, as a result, the patient asphyxiates.

PIGMENT CHANGES: though rare, have taken place, mostly in women who have been taking 500-1500mg daily for a period of three years or more. The skin can turn the color of slate, even a violet hue. Ocular changes are more prevalent than skin changes, and are the result of fine particles of matter located in the lens and the cornea. Visual impairments are also on record.

Now that some of the facts have been brought to light, I hope the takers will be more careful in the future. Being strung out all the time is only another way of submitting yourself to further control by the officials. If you take it voluntarily, do you really need it? If it is not voluntary, do the medical or other authorities have the right to subject you to such a clear danger?

son's ability to develop themselves, is in education and self-expression. Perhaps that is a hopeless quest in an institution designed essentially to warehouse humans in cages. But until the people decide the walls and bars must come down, certainly better use of the money can be made than to pump it into security and warehousing.

Brutality

faces a crisis, one manifestation of which is rising crime. Class divisions are sharpening as inflation, unemployment and the rest of the woes set in. And cops are, fundamentally, hire to protect the rich first. Portland cops have been known to call residents of poor neighborhoods "scum, good for nothing, lazy bastards." So an antagonistic relationship has developed between public and poor, a relationship which has taken the form of rapidly escalating police brutality on one hand, and a response of viewing cops as the enemy on the other.

If the problem has its roots in social ills, the solution is in curing the social ills. Other approaches can be tried. The status quo can be left as is. Of LEAA's approach can be tried, the approach of massive numbers of cops and military hardware, coupled with extensive computer networks with info on most everyone, sectioning off poor areas of the city, and topped off with more and more prisons.

But neither of these situations is tol-



erable. The crime rate is too high for people to accept. The LEAA solution, basically, shows no indication of working. Even if it would work, it would require a police state to be acceptable, and the people would find a police state unacceptable.

The solution, then, is nothing less than a restructuring of society. So we need a society that tells everyone, every day, they have to get rich to get all the goods they can? Do we need ads telling us that women are alluring things to be seized at a male's whim? Do we need a society whose leaders spend billions to exterminate Vietnamese, or prisoners at Attica? Do we need jobs so monotonous and hateful the workers turn to drink and drugs? So we need a society of mind-bog-waste that keeps over 25% of its population at or under a starvation level?

All of these factors cause crime. All of these factors must be changed if crime is to cease. All of these factors can only be changed if the premises of society (dog eat dog), the power of society (for the few), and the wealth of society (for the same few) are not rearranged, and a new system and culture put in place.

Clearly, this task is not easy or simple. It requires humble beginnings, but basic beginnings. SCAR and others such as STEP have held demonstrations at the death squad hearings. They have had meetings with the people of the communities where the brutality has most occurred. They are working at organizing the community. Slow steps, necessary steps, steps in the direction of halting the brutality through the organized power of the people, a power that can be built by the people not only to stop brutality, but to call an end to a system that demands brutality as the cost of its existence.

(The latest issue of SCAR's Times, December, is available from SCAR, 374 Fore St., Portland, Me. Free to prisoners, 25¢ per copy, \$3.00 for a 12-issue sub. Thanks to SCAR's Times and the Maine Times for material used in this article.)

Vermont's Public Defenders

The Argersinger v. Hamlin Supreme Court decision (407 U.S.24-1972) states that all "needy persons charged with offenses involving imprisonment have the right to adequate and competent legal representation. Vermont's Defender General's Office, consisting of nine public defenders, five deputy public defenders and four post-conviction defenders was enacted July 1st, 1972, to uphold this supreme Court decision. Based on Vermont's Department of Budget and Management's calculations, which determine the optimum caseload a public defender can represent annually, this office is not sufficiently staffed to provide competent legal defense. This is due primarily to inadequate funding.

Caseloads

Public Defenders represent cases involving imprisonment, post-conviction relief, juvenile convictions and mental health commitments. In fiscal year 1974, Vermont's Public Defenders represented approximately 3300 cases. These cases "are almost entirely made up of murder, breaking and entering, grand larceny, fraud, forgery, assault, robbery, escape and other similar serious offenses." Due to changing social and economic conditions in Vermont, the Defender Generals' office has projected that it will represent 5500 and 6600 cases respectively for fiscal years 1975 and 1976. According to the Department of Budget and Management's figures, one full time public defender can adequately handle 226 cases annually. In accordance with this formula, for fiscal year 1974, the figure is 205 cases per public defender. For fiscal year

Source of Funds	actual f.y.1974	est. f.y.1975	est. f.y. 1976	est. f.y. 1977
Vt. General Fund	488,915	554,966	707,671	716,686
LEAA	15,048	177,489	152,384	152,384

1975 it has been projected that as presently staffed, each defender will handle approximately 305 cases. (When considering these figures one must be aware that not all employees of the Defender General's Office are capable of representing cases in court, therefore my estimates are low.) Upon this premise, the Office of the Defender General has requested from the Vermont General Fund income for an additional five deputy-public defenders and three secretaries for fiscal years 1976-1977. (Collectively, this adds \$85,000 to the budget)

Funding

Vermont's Office of the Defender General is primarily funded through two sources: state revenues (Vermont General Fund) and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA, a federal agency). While the majority of its income derives from Vermont's General Fund, amounts requested from LEAA have increased sharply for fiscal years 1974-1977. LEAA funds have assisted the Defender General in initiating a post-conviction defender program, but will not continue after an initial period, at which time this program will be funded through the General Fund. Currently, these funds are being used to implement the legally required responsibility of the state so that any person in the custody of the state has the right to "continued access to the courts."

As indicated by the statistics in the chart Vermont's General Fund will be forced to continue funding the post-conviction defenders after fiscal year 1977.

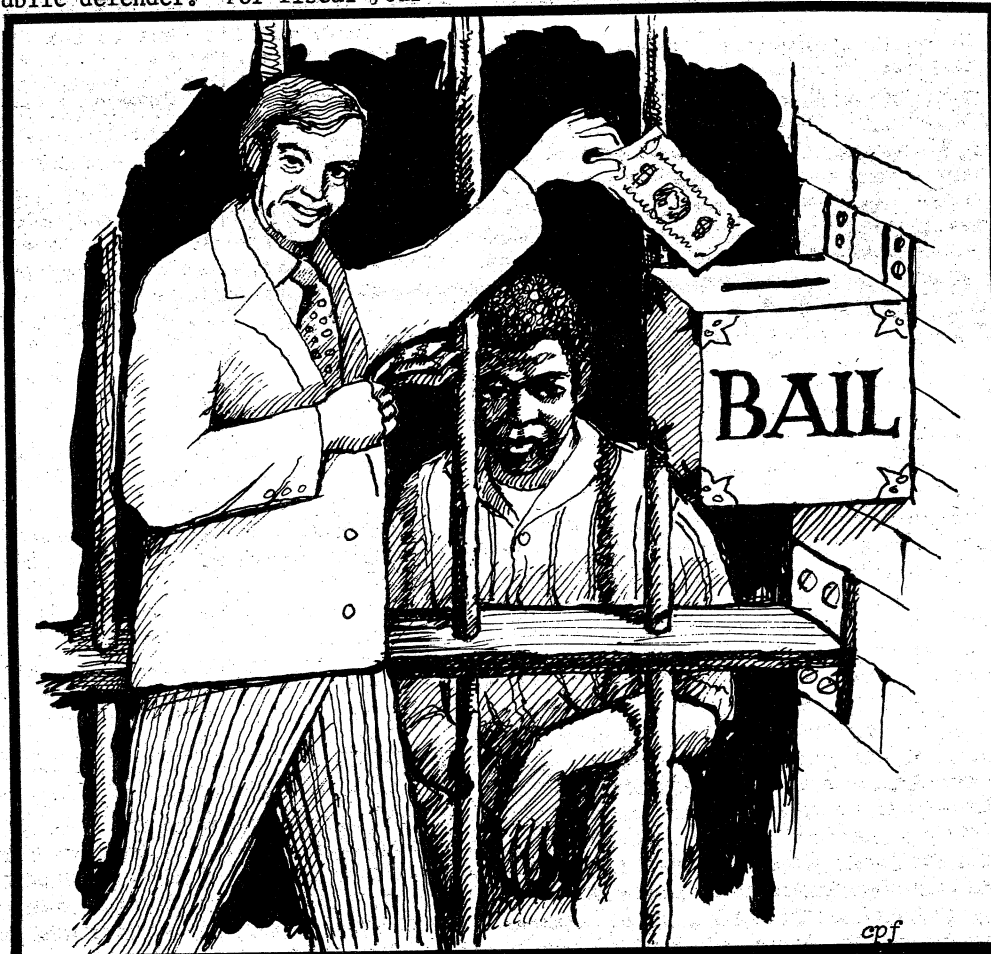
Considering the increasing caseload expectancy and the difficulty in finding sources for funding, Vermont's Public Defender program is operating against impossible odds. This is further illustrated by the fact that all its cases involve defense against the state with its many staff investigators as well as several hundred state and municipal police. Their request for five additional deputy public defenders (generally young and as yet, inexperienced lawyers) if granted, will enable the office to continue operating at minimal efficiency. According to the Department of Budget and Management's formula for efficiency, the program requires seven additional deputy-public defenders for fiscal year 1976 and thirteen additional deputy public defenders for year 1977. If the state does not provide more funding to this program it will be forced to accept fewer cases. In doing this, the state then must supply payments for private counsel for those subsequently rejected. This would increase costs to Vermont's taxpayers and in doing so, detract needed funds from the Public Defender program and other state agencies.

Vermont's Public Defender program is not alone in its struggle to uphold the people's constitutional rights. By examining its problems one can amplify the general problems of the American criminal justice system. For example, witness its increased caseload. This could be due to two problems: first, current laws cause many citizens to break antiquated and useless laws, or, due to the economic inequities of the American capitalist system, more people are to be considered "needy persons" thus causing them to employ public as opposed to private counsel.

Second, consider the program's problem of funding. The lack of funds could indicate that tax revenues are mis-spent, or simply that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to grant liberal decisions in "favor of" the people but, at the same time, does not consider the economic realities of its decisions.

It is a matter of priorities in this case. America continues to invest billions of dollars into defense mechanisms to insure national security, but refuses to invest an adequate amount into the system so that it is worth security. The resulting economic and social dislocation leads to increased crime and a higher need for public defenders, while at the same time preventing enough money from being available for the public defenders.

(This is the first of a series of articles on the Vermont Public Defender Program. We wish to thank all those at the Defender General's Office in Montpelier, Vt., who took the time to help.)



Quigley Railroaded

We live in a society based on the profit motive through competition. Such a society produces winners (generally the rich) and losers (generally the poor), creating frustrations for rich and poor alike. The winners need to protect what they have won, and the losers struggle to get their fair share. In this struggle both rich and poor engage in illegal activity, but almost without exception, the poor are the ones who go to prison.

This is the case of Donna Quigley, a widow and a mother who, while waiting for her social security check to come through, received extra checks from Welfare and was charged with welfare fraud. Her checks were adjusted by the Welfare Department before the charges were made, but she wasn't charged until after she was outspoken at a hearing organized by PACT (People Acting for Change Together) against

the new general assistance regulations now being challenged in court. Donna is a loyal and hard working PACT member, but a coworker's statements were weighed unequally to statements made by a previous landlady, and a former employer. Of the people interviewed Donna said, "Except for one, all the people they spoke to are people who have at least middle incomes, and are better able to support themselves, because they go along with the bureaucrats." Probation was denied and she was sentenced to 60 days at Woodstock Correctional Center, forcing her to leave her 6 year old daughter with friends.

This is an unusually harsh sentence for a first offense. At the time of sentencing, Judge Costello implied that because Donna was able-bodied she didn't need welfare, even though she had a small child. Donna said later, "Welfare doesn't pay enough for

people to live on, and the economy in this state is in such terrible shape, people cannot find work to support themselves. Even if we could find jobs we couldn't afford to pay someone to take care of our children. It costs more to keep me in prison than on the outside. I may be behind bars, but they cannot keep me quiet."

We know that while many people are struggling to survive and are competing with their neighbors the real criminals like Nixon, a Watergate conspirator, and Agnew, convicted for income tax evasion, get off scott free.

We know where we can turn to for help, this winter, when they shut off the electricity, when food prices go up sky high, and when we can't afford telephones anymore. Nixon and Agnew are not there to help us and never were, but Donna Quigley was.

Now she is in prison, while they are free. We demand that she be pardoned and released so that she can continue working for the people. Donna and her daughter have suffered enough.

--from the Burlington Star

John Yancey Rally in Portsmouth, N.H.



by the John Yancey Defense Committee

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the John Yancey Defense Committee (JYDC) held a march and rally in Seacrest Village, Portsmouth, N.H. The purpose was to support John in particular and to support the struggles of prisoners in general. John is facing charges of two counts of assault with a deadly weapon stemming from an attack on him by guards at the N.H. state prison in December of 1973.

John has always been outspoken about the horrible conditions at the prison and about the racism against him and the other black prisoners.

After a short march through the community, a rally was held in a local school playground. The first speaker was a member of the JYDC. She laid out the facts of John's case and then said that just as John Yancey is a threat to the authorities in the prison, so we are all a threat to the state if we speak out against the repression that is coming down on more and more people every day.

She linked this repression directly to the economic trouble the state and the whole country is in. As their crisis grows, they take it out on us. "They are like a cornered rat, lashing out desperately in every direction."

The next speaker was Alan Caron, chairperson of the Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR), a Maine-based group of prisoners and ex-prisoners fighting for reform of the prisons. He spoke of the many defense committees across the country supporting prisoners and their causes and said that we've been on the defensive too long; it's time we took the offensive.

The third speaker was Attica Brother Roger "Champ" Champen. He linked the struggle of prisoners with those of people on the outside too. "Their walls", he said, pointing to the broken-down housing in Seacrest Village, "are economic conditions."

Messages were read from the NHSP. One from John himself appealed to people to

"help fight the injustices that I've learned to hate and fight...against discrimination of races and prisoners and humanity."

The major shortcoming of the rally was that less than 50 people attended. People in the JYDC feel that this was due, in part, to our own lack of experience in building support in the community. We plan to continue to try to build that support while at the same time raising funds to pay for John's lawyer. We have started a John Yancey Defense Fund and would appreciate contributions of any amount, large or small. Checks can be made out to the John Yancey Defense Committee and sent to Box 401, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801.

Photos of the first John Yancey Demo by Jim Ryan

Martel Mistrial

by Jaan Laaman, NHSP-NEPA NEWS Bureau
After five days of trial, Joe Martel, a brother at NHSP, won a mistrial verdict this month. Unfortunately, the state intends to re-try him in January. Meanwhile, Joe was finally released from the 23½-hour-a-day lock-up status that he has been in since November of 1973, when the administration claimed he was responsible for the stabbing of another prisoner. This other prisoner is fully recovered.

The trial itself brought out many contradictions on the part of the prison administration. (After Joe's trial in January we will report exactly what the administration tried to do.) All of us here are glad that he won the mistrial, and although he will be subjected to a whole new round of court procedures, we are hopeful that he will win this too.

Joe has indicated that he intends to sue the administration because, as he said, "I hope that it will put a stop to all this harassment for me and the rest of the brothers."

Granite State Alliance Meets

N.H. NEPA members attended the first meeting of the Granite State Alliance in Enfield, N.H. on Saturday, December 7. About 75 persons, representatives from many groups as well as interested individuals, came together to discuss a wide range of issues.

Presentations were made by groups including the Natural Organic Farmers Association (NOFA); LISTEN, a community group in the Lebanon, N.H. area; NEPA and others.

Workshops were held in the morning and the afternoon. Morning workshops were held on community organizing, building a new political party, prison reform, and food self-sufficiency. The food workshop continued in the afternoon and was joined by workshops on women's issues, worker's self-management, and land use and housing.

Reports were then made on the workshops

to the group as a whole. The publication of a monthly newspaper was discussed and the first issue is scheduled to come out in February. People in N.H. are encouraged to send in publishable material and to aid in the distribution and sales of the paper. The next meeting of the Alliance will be in March.

In all, the participants found the conference stimulating and informative. The major hope for the next meeting is that many more persons and groups will attend. NEPA distributed leaflets and papers and gathered names on a petition supporting legislation NEPA will introduce in the next session of the N.H. legislature. (The legislation and the petition drive will be detailed in the next issue of the NEPA NEWS.)

Anyone interested in working on the paper of the GSA contact Charley Calley, Box 378, Grantham, N.H. 03753.

Woodtsoc k

Over the past few months our brothers at the Woodstock Correctional Center have been trying to form a prisoners' counsel. Their efforts met with resistance from the administration, and at the present there seems little or no visible work being done in pursuit of that goal.

As in the past, the Correction Department used transfers to break up the movement. Transfers have long been the major threat used against those who stand up for their rights and want something better by the Corrections Department. Little or no advance word is given about an upcoming transfer. Usually the first time a prisoner knows of this is at his transfer hearing. At the hearing the superintendent or someone appointed by him will read the transfer order and give the reason for it. The person being transferred has the right to speak in his behalf, but what can he say? The cuffs are on and

the car is waiting. This whole process takes less than 5 minutes and is witnessed by 2 or 3 other staff for the administration. Transfers take place for two different reasons: security and treatment; most transfers are made to the Vermont State Prison at Windsor, Vt. Security? Treatment? Windsor?

With the ringleaders transferred the Department feels the movement has been stopped, and it's back to "normal" around Woodstock. The Department sees a counsel as a threat to its institution and the programs. As it is easier to deal one on one than with a group, it will continue to use transfers as a way to break up any prisoner movement.

Along with the movement for the counsel came eight demands and grievances for basic human needs, such as sufficient doctor care, dental care, clothing, haircuts and rehabilitation programs. There has been no action on the above grievances by the Correction Department and programs remain the same, with medical coverage virtually non-existent.

Petition

Dear Mr. Jordan:

We the undersigned feel that our most basic rights to privacy are being infringed upon by the presence of an out of state (resident) observer, namely Karen Smith, without due process, purpose or cause. Further, it is our feeling that since the above mentioned is not in any way to be considered trained or licensed state facility personnel, the removal of the same is imminent. Your soonest possible consideration and disposition in the above matter will be appreciated. Anxiously awaiting your reply,

The undersigned majority,
s/8 women at Woodstock Community Correctional Center, Vermont
cc: Atty. James Flett
NEPA NEWS
David Jordan, WCCC Supervisor

Official Vandalism in Rhode Island

By Shelly Killen

American Cross

"Convicted criminals could be given an opportunity to choose between conventional jail sentence or some biological equivalent. For Example: one year or ten pints of blood; 5 years or one kidney; 10 years or one cornea. right now, prisoners are parasitic drains on our society. By harvesting these organs these same convicts could become a great national resource."

Letter to N.Y. Times from Donald A. Windsor, Norwich, N. Y., November 3, 1974

"Rabbi Baruch Korff said he has received hundreds of calls from people wanting to donate blood to the former president. He told callers to go to the nearest bloodmobile and give blood designated for the Long Beach, California Memorial Hospital. THE DONATIONS ARE CREDITED TO THE HOSPITAL AND ELIMINATE ANY CHARGE FOR THE BLOOD THE FORMER PRESIDENT HAS RECEIVED IN TRANSFUSIONS."

Providence Journal - November 3, 1974

"Prosecutors, courts and parole boards must face the fact that some violent offenders cannot be rehabilitated."

Attorney General William B. Saxbe

The most violent offender of man's right to inhabit this planet and life in harmony with his fellow-men is the former president of the United States, Richard Nixon. As lackey and representative of the mega-machine of industry and the military, Richard Nixon was responsible for an untold loss of life and increased misery among the poor, the outspoken, and the vulnerable members of society. If the attorney general is correct and some violent offenders cannot be rehabilitated, then we might follow Donald Windsor's suggestion and have the ex-president offer all of his organs and blood to needy individuals and thereby repay his debt to society.

There are two sets of laws in the United States of America - one for the rich and one for the poor. The poor are crucified daily, incarcerated for petty offenses, sold death-rendering drugs, denied work, food, housing, education, and are then scapegoated by the all-mighty machine men for the crime of struggling to survive or escaping from an impossibly inhuman world through the use of drugs.

One of the images that recurs again and again in the painting of prisoners is the figure of the cross - the central symbol of Christianity, emblemizing the prisoner who was crucified for defying the harsh laws of the state and speaking for brotherhood and love. As painted by a young boy from the Training School in Cranston, R. I., the cross blocks out the sun - an appropriate symbol for our penal institutions which deny life, light, and liberty to those who have been chosen as sacrificial victims for the Great God Money.

In the ancient world, it was not uncommon for Divine Kings to ritually kill themselves during time of famine, flood, or natural disaster; or when they had failed to serve the common good of the country. Since we are clearly not a Christian nation, perhaps we should return to this ancient rite and rather than sacrifice the young, the poor, and the outsider, have our Divine-King Presidents offer their blood to the ancient gods of "justice".



Editor's note: Shelley Killen has been involved in several art projects for prisoners. She taught art at the ACI in Cranston, R.I. until she exposed brutality during a lock-up and was fired. She then began an art project at the Boys Training School in R.I.

A few months ago she reported on a fire at the BTS which claimed the life of one of the youth's incarcerated there. Since the fire, fire and the arrogant behavior of officialdom has been an integral theme in the murals done by the youths. The officials at the BTS then proceeded to whitewash over the murals.

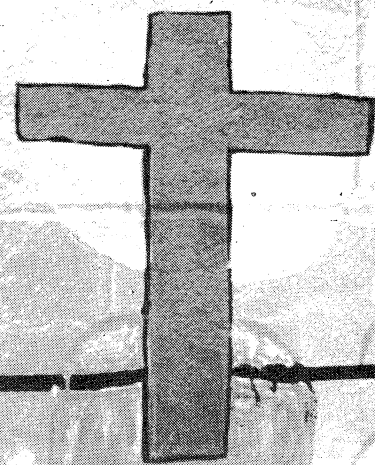
Another fire has since occurred at the BTS, this time with no casualties. Shelley's status as a teacher at the BTS may be in jeopardy. We at NEPA NEWS thank her for her constant strong efforts on behalf of prisoners. In addition to teaching at the BTS, she also sends us from two to four articles a month. We asked her if she would like to join NEPA NEWS as a staff correspondent, and she said she would be honored. We, too, feel honored to have her join us.

OCTOBER 1975							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER			
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	
	1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31	
27	28	29	30	31			30										

Death of Silence

As part of their ongoing policy of negating life and denying individuals the right to mature and take responsibility for themselves, the Boys Training School administration has refused to cooperate with the Youth Commission formed in the Maximum Security division of the ACI. There are many ways to kill and the preferred method at the Training School is total indifference to human need, and rejection of any voice coming from those they have imprisoned.

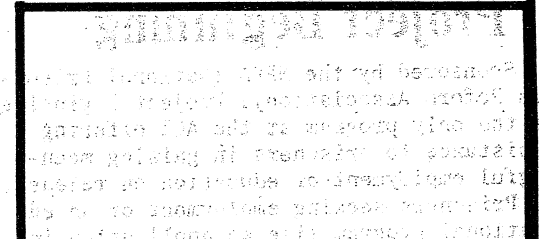
Until administrators at the Training School are held accountable for their acts, they will continue to destroy life, negate proposals for self-determination, and retain their policy of locking the door and ignoring the youth whom society has already failed. The wanton destruction of murals painted by boys in the Training School was a clear way of saying "you are nobody, what you do is worthless, you do not exist to us." There is perhaps no more dreadful way of killing life and destroying individuals than acting as if they do not exist. Adults within the penal system have formed organizations, created publications, and found some way of reaching the public. The young who are incarcerated are even more gravely deprived than older people, and it is essential that adults lend them a hand and assist them in giving voice to their intrinsic rights. By refusing to cooperate with the ACI Youth Commission, the Boys School administration has succeeded in silencing many voices. How many fires before they hear?



Whitewash

Repression and censorship are twin traits common to all tyrannical institutions based on force and the denial of life. By extinguishing all forms of expression, the tyrant hopes to enforce conformity and adjust life to his own perverted vision of what is correct. All authentic art is antithetical to tyranny in that it is an expression of life, the impulse to communicate, the impulse to celebrate, and the impulse to deepen consciousness through the creation of new forms. The vast growth of the arts within the American prison system bears witness to our need to affirm life through the creative act. The negation of the creative impulse is a crime against all of humanity for it is counter to the intrinsic nature of life.

Since September of 1973 boys from the Rhode Island Training School have been painting murals in the recreation rooms of their cottages. Last week all of these murals were destroyed by official edict. This act of administrative vandalism is expression of the deplorable cruelty and ignorance that is characteristic of prison bureaucrats. Art like life is experienced by some officials as a threat to the system of living-death. By white-washing the walls officials assure themselves that the truth of experience has been destroyed and they can continue denying the reality that they are incarcerating human beings and not numbers.



In the concentration camp of Terezin, Nazi soldiers crushed and mutilated the hands of artists who created images that revealed the truth of what human beings had suffered in institutions politely referred to as "Homes for the Aged." One artist continued to draw with his maimed hand using a lump of coal and with pained, awkward movements created pictures on scraps of paper. In some mysterious way human beings succeed in enhancing life, despite all efforts made to destroy life. We are all the beneficiaries of such men, women, and children.

It becomes increasingly clear that prison bureaucrats breed rage, frustration and misery through their own ignorance and refusal to respect human life. Perhaps it is time that we establish tribunals for the trials of officials who commit crimes against the human condition.

All photos this page of the BTS

Visiting the R.I. ACI

Why is it that upon entering the ACI, to visit an inmate, we are made to feel as if we have suddenly become an inmate? It seems because we are entering a "criminal institution," we, too, are treated like "criminals."

After signing in, it is not just a matter of entering a visiting room. Women must first lock their purses in a locker. That is the first step towards showing us that we are not to be trusted.

Next comes the "electric eye." This is another feature that shows if you have a loved one, friend, or relative to see, then surely you must be as "bad" as he. Why? Because he is incarcerated for committing an act that is known as "breaking the law." The electric eye is made to detect metal objects, such as knives, hacksaws, guns, or other such tools and weapons.... Surely, if you were to try and bring one of these items mentioned into the visiting room, you would be breaking the law.

Have you ever walked through the electric eye to suddenly find that its alarm has gone off? When the detector sounds, it is almost as if you have just been labelled "unsafe" to proceed further. However, it may be that a necklace, belt buckle, or pair of glasses has been the cause for the alarm... You must then take off your belt (let's just hope your pants aren't too loose!), or glasses (can you see without them?), or whatever.

After having your hand stamped, it is then necessary to wait for a gate to be unlocked and opened (electronically). The area you now find yourself in is enclosed on three sides by bars. A uniformed guard stands in that area, and another in an enclosure, where he controls the opening of the gates.

It is not possible to proceed any further until the gate that has been opened to allow you in is safely locked behind you. The next gate opens and closes behind you and the hand that is stamped has

to be placed under a light which makes the stamp visible.

After ascending a flight of stairs, another guard with a set of keys opens another door that is also closed and locked after you. Next comes a walk the length of a room and down a short hall to be met by yet *another* guard with *another* set of keys to *another* door....

Once that door is opened, it is only a matter of descending a flight of stairs (why the climb up only to come down again?) handing over the visitor's pass--and at last you have reached the room where you will spend the visitation period. And the decision of where to sit is actually yours!

Do I make it sound a bit inhumane or degrading? If so, it is only because that is how it all seems. And if we, as outsiders, feel degraded, how then must the inmate who has to spend his time--weeks, months, and years--feel??

It is realized, of course, that some security measures are necessary. But is it necessary to the point of degradation?

During the two hours that the men are allowed to visit with family or friends,

couldn't they, as well as we, be made to feel human? Couldn't we be allowed--for two hours--to be a family rather than an inmate with his visitors?

Upon leaving the visiting room the whole procedure of unlocking and locking gates begins again, in reverse.

Many of us then proceed to the prison "store" to purchase cigarettes, shaving needs, etc., for the man we have just left behind.

To say that the prison store is inadequately staffed is to make a gross understatement! There have been times when it was necessary to stand in line for no less than half an hour in order to purchase a mere carton of cigarettes!

Probably the only aspect of it all that can be put on the "plus" side of the column are the family days. These do allow us to feel more like a family than normal visits.

But it is sad to point out that there are too few of these. Some would argue that we must realize that these men are in prison for "punishment"; therefore, they shouldn't be allowed too much "freedom" or "enjoyment"....

But isn't it enough punishment to these men, to have to spend their time in an archaic structure, in substandard living conditions, being treated as "less than human"???

ACI Shorts

Boxing

A boxing exhibition was held inside the ACI in Cranston, R.I. "Goody" Petronelli brought four of his boxers in to spar with four ACI boxers. Tony Petronelli, fourth-ranked Jr. welterweight in the world, boxed with Tom Goff; "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler, middleweight champ of New England, sparred with one-handed Tyron Powell; Rick Wynn punched it out with ACI's own "Chief" Prout in the heavy-weight bout of the evening; and Philip "Sonny" Pailin went up against ACI's Frank Moore. "Chubby" Gomes was the ref before the enthusiastic crowd of prisoners.

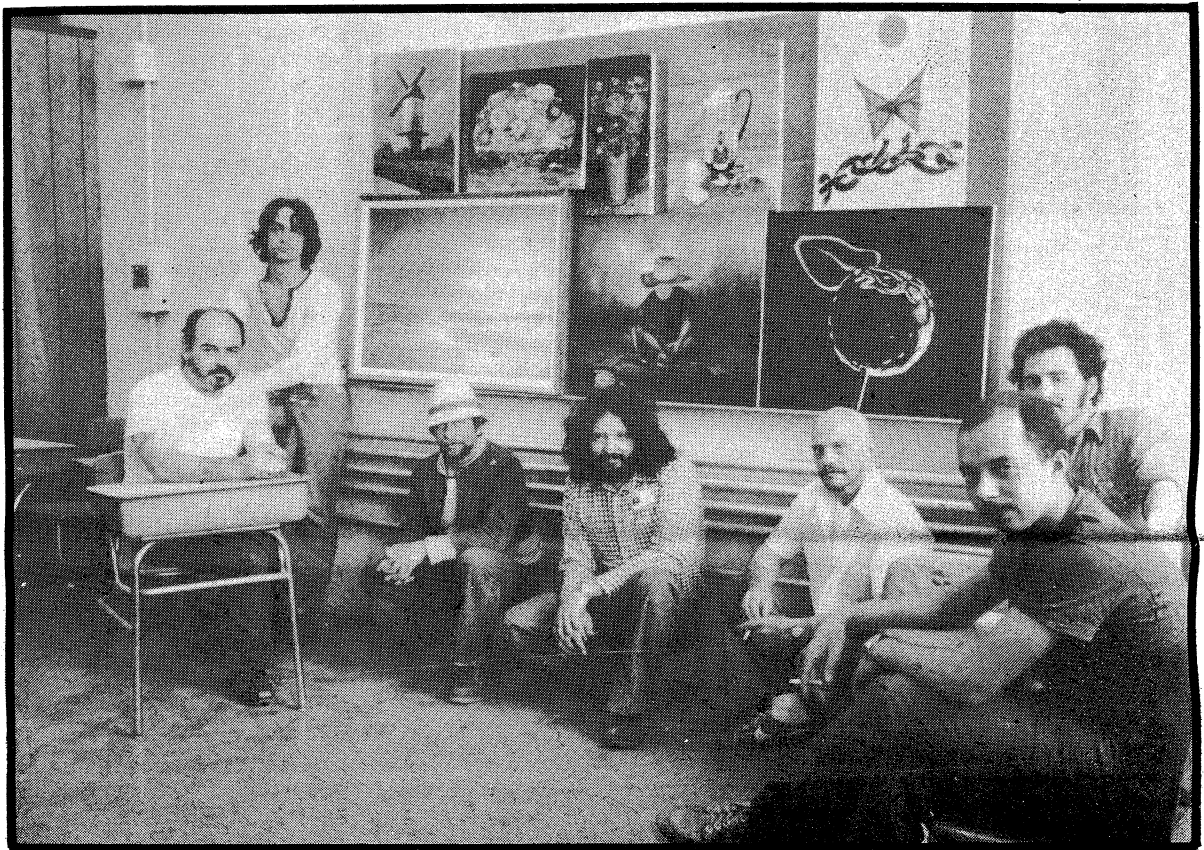
Project Beginning

Sponsored by the NPRA (National Prisoners Reform Association), Project Beginning is the only program at the ACI offering assistance to prisoners in gaining meaningful employment or education on release.

Prisoners seeking employment or an educational program file an application in the Project's office. The office is manned by Sonny Pailin, Pre-Parole Counselor and a prisoner himself. Sonny screens the applicants, provides information on available options both inside and outside, and interviews the applicant.

The other members of the board of the project then decide whether to accept the applicant as a member of Project Beginning. 37 out of 38 applicants have been accepted. The board members then solicit responses and proper sources for the particular needs of the prisoner. Response from prospective employers has reportedly been excellent, and the parole board looks favorably on the work of the project.

Prisoners go through a 2 or 3 week orientation program before they are released to work or study as a part of project beginning. This is a good example of prisoners helping other prisoners to go back to the community with something worthwhile to do and a better shot at not ending up back at the ACI in a few months or a year.



Art Class at the ACI; L to R: Gerald Lachapelle, Michael Roberts, Joe Morris, Victor Johnson-instructor, John Murray, Richard Kelley, Alfred Fortas.

Cons Win Court Suit

Three prisoners at the ACI won a damage suit against three prison officials and two guards in federal court in late October. The verdict was the first in RI and may have been the first in the country in which damages have been awarded to prisoners suing officials on brutality charges. Gregory Isom won \$5000 punitive damages from Fred Chiarni, Deputy Warden in charge of ACI's medium security building in which the brutality was alleged to have occurred. Guard Harold Yahn was ordered to pay \$500 punitive damages to Charles Perry. Nominal damages of \$1 were awarded to Perry, Isom and Kenneth Sims. Out of 13 separate sections of the damage suit, only one was lost by the prisoners. Sims failed to win his action against ACI Lt. Galluci for an unnecessary beating Sims alleged he received.

This case was a spin-off of a class action suit on behalf of all prisoners at the ACI alleging a pattern of guard brutality at the medium security building. After two months of intermittent hearings the only action had been a court order restraining guards from alleged brutality, an order which, however, does not indicate a finding of actual brutality. Lawyers for both sides have until the end of November to file arguments before Federal Judge Pettine decides whether or not to issue a preliminary injunction to bar alleged guard brutality. Such an injunction would indicate the judge believes probable proof of the brutality.

No to R.I. Bond Issue

The 9.5 million dollar bond issue for correctional facilities was among many defeated in the recent election. Once again, the voter showed that unlimited funds are not available.

To single out the cause of the defeat would be much like "Monday morning quarterbacking," but we can offer a selection of probable causes.

The Department of Corrections never really disclosed to the public what definite plans they may have had. No one was made aware of the location of the new prison, if indeed one was to be built. Community-based centers or half-way houses have always been a "sore" spot with the public and politicians.

Contrary to news articles, the inmate population was not in favor of the bond issue. The main reason was that no one knew what definite plans were to be instituted. The small amount of information was contingent on long range plans at best, and, frankly speaking, we cannot wait a long time. We need some type of positive action now, not in twenty years.

No one can deny that the present prison is antiquated, but that is not our most important problem. A new administration is. We need any kind of administration that can administer, not sit on its butt, waiting for new funds to be spent on assinine, ill-run projects. New schools do not make smarter children.

Prisons: Societies Barometer



by Ron Sturup

The American Criminal Justice System, the social institution which is responsible for the care and correction of law violators and for deterring crime, has itself become imprisoned. It is incarcerated within the crippling confines and impregnable walls of ancient, unworkable, inhumane policies and practices. It has become society's most criminalizing factor--its personnel America's most horrendous criminal element.

For more than 150 years, the managers of the American System of Criminal Justice have used force and constraint in an attempt to prevent violation of criminal codes, and have accepted the use of some form of social segregation or limitation of mobility of offenders as an appropriate means of deterring crime and delinquency. The most insidious of these arrangements is prison. Down through the years, law violators have been compelled to exist in Bastille-like institutions in which their lives are totally controlled. Their options for protesting their situation are severely limited. Any attempts at protest are met with swift and severe punishment. American prisons are characterized by harsh punishment, debilitation, demoralization and dehumanization--the inevitable result of dependence upon the same type policies that resulted in such historical horrors as the Spanish Inquisition and the Salem Witch burnings.

The deliberately set fires and explosions, the rash of prison riots and rebellions which began in the late fifties and continue today are natural and normal responses to inhuman conditions, unheard pleadings and ignored protests. It is a refusal to remain invisible and submit to oppression--a sure sign of political maturity. The opposition to oppression which raged through the streets of the American south, the American ghettos and the campuses of American colleges and universities finally, at last, came to the American prisons. It appears that in today's world, oppression, under whatever disguise, will no longer be tolerated by anyone, anywhere. Clearly, prisoners too have somehow become very highly politicized. They no longer accepted the politically imposed definition of themselves as powerless, unworthy and less than the least of American citizens. They said, very explosively, "We are human too. We demand to be treated as such."

The Black Muslims, more than any others in prisons, probably did most to create and perpetuate this politicizing process. In the late fifties and early sixties,

men in the Atlanta Federal Prison stood up straight and tall to face their prison keepers in pursuit of a constitutional and rehumanizing political stance. They refused to accept their captor's definition of themselves. They redefined themselves into an image more consistent with their own feelings, dreams, and aspirations. They took their grievances to the courts, to the administrators, and to the hearts of the many people of good will. Other prisoners soon emulated their Muslim fellow prisoners. Court decisions, benchmarks in their import, added momentum to this politicizing process.

Prisoner managers, locked into ancient theories of penology were caught unawares by this prisoner politicization. They grew frightened. They panicked. The reign of force and brutality escalated. Prisoners were beaten, maced, isolated, killed. Guards were attacked, knifed, killed. Hostages were taken and held captive until certain prisoner demands were heard and met. State Police and the National Guard were worked overtime. Strikes, violence and riots continued at a stepped up pace and in greater intensity. The explosion at Attica placed the ongoing revolution in America's prisons into sharp and painful focus.

Citizens outside the prisons became alarmed. They questioned the managers of the Criminal Justice System. Many demanded to know what was really going on inside the nation's prisons. This caused a serious cleavage amongst prison personnel, centered around the causes of prison riots and unrest. The custodial staff told the inquiring public that the protesting prisoners were "special cases" and needed "special treatment." The public was led to believe that violence is unavoidable because the people in prison are violent and "dangerous to society." They are led to believe that threats of physical violence and "get tough" policies can serve to boost the deterrent factor in prisons and will jolt the "incorrigibles" in prison into acceptable behavior. The guards called for, and received from state and federal legislatures, millions of dollars to buy more arms and implements of repression. Prisons today, with bar-wire topped walls, electrified fences outlined "do not cross" zones and grim-faced uniformed guards displaying a formidable array of weapons are reminiscent of German concentration camps of World War II.

The treatment personnel, social workers, educators, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors and behavioral scientists told the inquiring citizens that the riot-

ing prisoners are sick, misguided and searching for their lost identity. They said that prisoners can't relate. The treatment personnel also asked for and received millions of dollars for "treatment." They hired their professional friends and proceeded to coin new words for old programs and places. Prison was no longer a prison. It had now become a Correctional Center. The punitive isolation cell (the hole) now became the adjustment unit. The term rehabilitation replaced the word punishment. Prisoners were no longer prisoners or convicts. They had now become "residents," and guards were addressed as correctional officers. Sociological gimmicks--classification, group therapy, education (G.E.D. tests), furloughs, gaily colored cells with TV and works of art adorning the walls, half-way and three quarter-way housed, psychiatric counseling, adjustment therapy and behavior modification--were introduced into America's prisons.

Prisoners were redefined as "sick people" in need of treatment. Prison rebel leaders were scooped up in the dead of night and shipped off to state insane asylums. The causes of crime were considered to be rooted deeply in the basic faults and inferiorities of the prisoners rather than in the society in which they were nurtured. The fact that well over 90% of those incarcerated in the nation's prisons are black or poor and come from the ghettos, barrios and deprived areas is seen by the treatment personnel as "proof" of their new theories on crime and corrections.

Millions of dollars were poured into all sorts of treatment programs and facilities. We are now burdened with the inevitable result of such theories: programs of behavior modification and brain tampering which borders upon ghoulishness, barbarism, and near insufferable inhumanity, while crime continues to escalate. Obviously the new theories are no better than the old. To view the prisoner as sick may absolve society of some of its guilt for treating its fellow citizens so inhumanely, but it does nothing to decrease crime. Prisons, like their larger counterpart, the ghettos, barrios, and "socially deprived" areas actually create, nurture and encourage crime and criminal behavior. Prisons, like their other counterpart, concentration camps, force their personnel to commit crimes against humanity; crimes more heinous than those of the inmates they are supposed to be rehabilitating.

Jessica Mitford, in Kind and Usual Punishment, made a similar observation:

"Prisons are similar... to slum community conditions. Goods and services are either non-existent or are in very low quality. Unequal protection pervades. Men hate, pain and human misery prevail. A parable of imprisonment can be used to describe what can happen in the free community if decision makers continue to be indifferent or choose to ignore the obvious. The widespread disorders are revolutionary sounds. Repercussions or the unrest and strife that are going on in prisons today must be looked at in the framework of a political analysis."

Prison guards have regressed from the 17th century back into the Roman Empire days. Treatment personnel have gone from the 17th century off into Disneyland. It would do them both well to become more positive in their response to the enhanced political awareness of prisoners and, if for no other reason than to pursue a response to their crisis in accountability, join them in pursuing more substantial changes in the field of corrections. They should accept the obvious proposition that correctional systems as presently constituted do not accomplish any of the social goals of imprisonment, with the possible exception of pure punishment, and, therefore, prisons have failed as a method of dealing with criminal law violators; that prisons as they currently exist should be phased out, written off as a bad social investment, and viable alternatives should be developed; and that present plans to construct more prisons should be abandoned.

BAROMETER continued on page 18

Ban Guinea Pig Testing

by Flora Haas

Should society allow its prisoners to be used as guinea pigs for medical or psychological research? Foes of this widespread practice in America's prisons will fight to ban it in the coming year while powerful drug firms beef up their lobbying efforts to convince the public that society's most dread diseases cannot be overcome should their researchers be denied entrance to the prisons. Because most prisoners who sell their bodies for research are poor and half the convicts in the country are Black, Chicano, or Puerto Rican, both the Congressional Black Caucus and Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus are now gearing the wheels for a confrontation before the lawmakers. The Maryland Black Caucus will similarly challenge its State Assembly for a legal ban on experimentation in that state. These legislative caucuses are as rigorously concerned about behavioral experiments as about medical research behind the walls: the much feared and protested federal behavioral research center at Butner, N.C., is due to open its \$13.5-million operation soon despite nationwide protests against the clockwork-orange program.

The Massachusetts Department of Correction has quietly acted on the increasingly controversial question of using prisoners as guinea pigs by placing a moratorium on any new medical experiments coming into the state prisons. Responding to the advice of the Department's new and widely respected medical director, Dr. Jonathan Weisebuch, Correction Commissioner Frank Hall has indicated that the moratorium on such research, which went into effect Oct. 1, will hold until the Department decides whether it will ban such testing outright--or, alternately, try to develop stricter guidelines on medical experimentation behind the walls. But those opposing the practice hold that the controversy must be settled by a legal ban, not by administrative orders alone. They also feel that guidelines furnish no real safety.

The final outcome should, as well, decide whether university researchers or those running experiments for commercial drug companies will be permitted use of county inmates in the Commonwealth. Under the omnibus correction reform act, Ch. 777, the state Correction Department is obligated to establish and monitor standards for the county institutions.

Opponents of prison testing point to permanent, often disabling effects on prisoners and even deaths which have resulted from experiments--as in the instance of a blood plasma project in Alabama. They argue that the prison environment per se is too coercive for a prisoner to ever truly be a research "volunteer".

Because it is almost impossible to monitor what goes on inside the walls, foes of prison experiments feel that no guidelines, no matter how expertly drawn, will furnish a true control over potential abuse. In Illinois, even following a moratorium, the Department of Corrections placed on testing, a malaria testing project surfaced at the Stateville (Ill.) penitentiary. The experiment was shut down in April (1974) by Corrections Commissioner Allyn R/ Sielaff, who declared it "immoral and unethical."

In Massachusetts earlier this year, members of the legislative Black Caucus began to campaign for a state law banning drug experimentation on prisoners. Inmates, many of them under sentence for using "controlled substances" illegally, were being paid by private pharmaceutical companies for submitting to tests using the same "mind" drugs. These are the psychostimulants, also called psychotropics. Or in street language: uppers, downers and trippers.

The Black Caucus's action came after it was discovered that a new anti-heroin drug test was about to start at the Deer Island (Suffolk County) House of Correction under a \$149,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, although its sponsor--Dr. Vernon Patch, Harvard professor of psychiatry at Boston City Hospital--had never applied for state approval. State review of test protocols is specifically required by federal guidelines.

At hearings on the Black Caucus's test-prohibition bill before the Joint Legisla-

tive Committee on Social Welfare, members of the Caucus charged that "four out of 10 drug testing projects underway in Massachusetts" were illegal, pointing to a state law which prohibits human experiments in the Commonwealth's correctional institutions involving untried drugs: "compounds not previously subjected to human trial."

Among the most vehemently debated prison research projects are the "mind" and other drug projects run on Norfolk prison subjects by Medical and Technical Research Associates, of Needham, Mass., a private drug brokerage outfit. The firm represents nine major pharmaceutical companies, including Beecham-Messengill, Robbins, Sandez, Squibb and Wyeth. Over a 14-month period starting from January 1973, Medical and Technical Research Associates ran 42 separate drug tryouts involving 500 tests on 300 inmates to study toxicity or tolerance levels and other effects produced by newly developed compounds.

Frequently, the medical preparation on a given company's drawing board is not actually a new prescription but, rather, a formula being developed by a second firm to compete with another company's product which is already realizing good sales in the marketplace. --"You cannot argue that these experiments are in the name of science or humanity," says one newer breed physician, "It's using cheap convict bodies to stay on top of a competitor's market."

Prisoners taking part in the Norfolk experiments have been receiving \$70 payment for each test, requiring from one to

ists go back to the drawing board to work toward something less toxic. According to accounts given by inmates, the Phase I side effects are sometimes devastating.

The former convict who said "Never again," described his symptoms after being injected with an anti-heroin agent being tested for safe dosage levels: "The stuff hit me like an ax. I got double vision, my legs got weak, I was dizzy. Then I felt I was going to die..."

In July, as part of its inmate negotiations, the Norfolk Inmate Council voted to demand that the drug testing program be terminated.

New guidelines proposed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, if adopted, will limit the payment researchers operating under HEW agency grants can give prisoners to the going rates prison jobs pay. However, where there are not enough paying jobs--an almost universal condition in the jails and prisons--a man who has a sweet tooth or smokes steadily may volunteer for the testing anyway. In the Maryland House of Correction at Jessup 75 inmates have been "volunteers" in a typhoid and malaria test project paying \$2 a day. (Nine former test subjects have a law suit now pending against the Maryland prison challenging the use of prisoners in epidemic disease tests which pose a danger of contagion to all 1600 House of Correction inmates there. Several other states which permit epidemic disease testing stand to be affected by the outcome of the case.)

Federal guidelines can, of course, control only federally-funded research and



three days' time. The inducement to sign up for the research is obvious: \$70 is about as much as a convict can earn at "regular" work at Norfolk in a year. In addition, the outfits carrying out the research have paid a fee equal to 25 percent of the amount paid prisoners, to the institution, as required by the existing guidelines of the Correction Department.

Given the scarcity of jobs available and the fact that prison pay is \$1 to \$1.50 per day for those who can get the jobs for some portion of the year, it is understandable that some inmates have not wanted the Norfolk program discontinued. They need this money for the same items we in the outside world purchase: toiletries, stamps, canteen snacks, cigarettes--plus, when possible, to supplement a wife's income. The inmates who have been most vocal in favor of the program are the few who have fairly well-paying jobs by prison standards, funded by the researchers, in the Norfolk prison hospital research laboratories where drug firms have supplied air conditioners, office machinery, and other relative luxuries.

But some Norfolk inmates who have once been test subjects--because, as one told me, "I was flat broke and needed the money"--have refused to ever take part again. When a new drug causes a too serious side effect in the Phase I (preliminary) test stage, the formula is abandoned and chem-

will not affect the practices of commercial pharmaceutical outfits. The profits of these highly competitive drug producers depend on a ready source of research subjects since the federal Food and Drug Administration will not permit new medicines to go on the market until tried on human subjects. According to Jessica Mitford's investigation, reported in Kind and Usual Punishment: The Prison Business, state and county prisons furnish the entire pool of subjects for Phase I FDA-required testing.

Firms like Wyeth, Lederle, Bristol-Meyers, Squibb, Merck, Sharp & Dohme, and Upjohn--among the 300 largest corporations in the country--have run Phase I investigations on prisoners in Alabama, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as in Massachusetts. Upjohn and Parke Davis have exclusive rights to testing at the Jackson State Prison in Michigan. In the Norfolk prison hospital, as elsewhere, these drug firms have considerable investments both in equipment and in relationships built with prison personnel and individual inmates. One nurse who worked with the federally-funded Prison Health Project in Massachusetts testified that research doctors, paid by drug interests, are able to exercise vast control over prison hospitals because "These doctors furnish even the day-to-day services necessary to meeting--

GUINEA PIG continued on page 18.

News from New England

Shirley

The folks at the Prison Information Center/Correctional Change Group, Inc. of Worcester, Ma. informed us in their newsletter of the following:

The Shirley Pre-Release Center is rapidly approaching the realms of a mini-Walpole Work Release with stringent rules regulating all activities and individual responsibility which we all know is the first step to success on the streets. The Superintendent to date has successfully thwarted community involvement in the "Paper Program". Community involvement is a dirty word in his mind which threatens SECURITY!! In such an atmosphere no positive attitudes can be shaped.

What is needed is YOU! Your involvement will bring the Pre-Release back to MCI Shirley. For more information contact the Correctional Change Group, 932 Main St., Worcester, MA. 01610, 753-7167.

Norfolk

At Norfolk, Ma. Prison the men apparently do not have adequate clothing for winter. There seems some question as to whether the Dept. of Correction has the money to provide the needed clothing. Further, the prison has a lot of "contaband" clothing sitting around which could keep some of the prisoners warm and dry.

Also at Norfolk, some men have been denied entrance to the Sunday night films because they have been a few minutes late. A major cause of late arrivals is that the Moslem prayer group runs over into the start of the movie, so prisoners who attend the prayer meeting are unable to see the movie. The Executive Committee of the Norfolk Inmate Advisory Council will address this problem and hopefully resolve it.

MCCC/MCA

The Massachusetts Council on Crime and Correction took another step in its planned merger with the Mass. Correctional Association. The MCA has moved its central offices to 3 Joy Street, Boston, so both groups now share the same address.

Correction

November 13, 1974

Dear NEPA:

In reference to the October, 1974 issue (Vol. II, #9) of NEPA NEWS, I wish to refer to an article entitled "The Royal Screw". I wrote the article and wish to make a retraction. At no time was I employed by the Prisoners Rights Project, Boston, even though I did some work for them. Although with the best of intentions, I used their name without requesting permission and wish to amend such action.

Sincerely yours,
s/ Bob Narkey

Vermont Cops

Cops in Vermont are in the news in a bad way these days. In Burlington, a committee has been formed to investigate the shooting death of Luis Ponce Rodriguez. The committee has called for a public hearing and is circulating a petition to hold the hearing. Rodriguez was allegedly shot by one Officer Miles. For more information, contact the Liberty Union, 94 Church Street, Burlington, 863-6666.

Elsewhere, the police chief of Brandon, Vt. and one of his officers pleaded innocent to charges of assault. As of now, we don't know the outcome; the chief faces three counts of assault, one of reckless endangerment, and the officer one count of assault. When it comes down to actually busting a town cop, something has got to be heavy in that town.

Forced Work

The Health, Education and Welfare Dept. of the U.S. Government has handed down a ruling giving the green light to forced labor by welfare recipients. The plan will provide the "salaries" of mothers who will work for the state. This ruling will enable the states to get rid of their "welfare burden" and will also enable the states to smash rapidly growing public service employee unions. The cheap forced labor of welfare recipients is already being used to supplant civil service workers in New York. The Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law has already filed suit to stop the new policy.

Peoples Law

The National Lawyers Guild has opened the People's College of Law in Los Angeles, Cal. 48 students (50% third world, 75% women) have enrolled in the first class. Applicants must be committed to "use the law as an instrument for social change; to protect the rights of the oppressed and disenfranchised groups and classes... and to serve as 'peoples' lawyers'."

Wounded Knee

After four months of demonstrations, petitions and rallies, Sarah Bad Heart Bull was released on parole on Nov. 15. A Native American, she was convicted of inciting to riot by an all white jury and sentenced to 1-3 years. The charge grew out of demonstrations in Custer, S.D. protesting the freeing of a white man who shot and killed Wesley Bad Heart Bull, Sarah's son. Her trial was held in an army bunker because the state said it feared an attack by outraged Native Americans.

In a related case, Stanley Neptune, a participant in the 1973 Wounded Knee uprising has been found not guilty of assaulting a federal officer. Neptune, his wife and child, had been dragged from their car by the cops. As Neptune had not had time to put the emergency brake on, the car rolled over the officer's foot, leading to the assault charge.

North Carolina

Prisoners here at the maximum security prison in North Carolina have positive proof that the administration has been doctoring their food up with mind-dulling drugs.

A sample of food from the main line at the prison was smuggled out to a laboratory in nearby Greensboro and the discovery was made.

It has been long suspected that prison authorities in North Carolina had been putting drugs in the food of prisoners, particularly at Blanche and Central Prison. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights recently held a hearing about conditions in North Carolina prisons and the treatment of prisoners. The fact was brought out that drugs were often used involuntarily on prisoners who refused to cooperate and accept dehumanization and savage treatment from prison guards and administrators.

North Carolina prisons are fearfully overcrowded, and there have been numerous activities by prisoners to seek redress of grievances, including food strikes, and in several cases rebellions at the camps, causing untold damages. Also scores of writs have been filed in courts all over the state of North Carolina by jailhouse lawyers, attempting to bring attention to the long-neglected conditions in the state's 72 prison camps, which hold over 12,000 prisoners.

After a disturbance at Central Prison, many of the so-called troublemakers were moved to Blanche, where they are forced to stay in their cells 24 hours a day, except for mealtimes. It was shortly after this transfer occurred that the drugs were discovered in the food.

So far there is no comment from prison officials, but there will be soon. The prisoners are planning legal action.

--from the Southern Patriot

Cover

Our cover this issue is another of Ken Westhaver's Rikers Island prints, this one titled "Rikers Island Madonna". We thank Ken, who is a professor of art at Franconia College in Franconia, New Hampshire.

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and Around

Short Bits

A Federal Judge has ruled that a suit for damages by relatives of the murdered Attica Brothers cannot be heard until the Attica Brothers' trials are over, which could take years.

Every day seems to bring Nelson Rockefeller closer to the vice-Presidency. Almost no one in the Senate or the House seems worried about his wealth, the way he got the wealth or the way he uses the wealth, or his ordering the murder of 43 men at Attica. Guess men who spent billions to kill millions in S.E. Asia aren't very concerned about the death of 43. Water seeks its own level...

Armed forces recruiters have been run off campuses and picketed at City College in N.Y., Stanford U. in Cal, and elsewhere.

Farmers in the mid-west offered grain, no strings attached, to the starving people in Bangladesh. The U.S. Gov't., which usually attaches lots of strings to its aid, refused to let the farmers send the grain.

2000 people came from as far as 250 miles to apply for 400 jobs at a new Sears Roebuck store in Mass. Depression near?

Black activist Alexander Lynn, who was beaten by Boston Tactical Police at an anti-Chilean junta demonstration, plans legal action against the TPF. Lynn stated that he was singled out for a beating because the police are working to heighten racial tension in Boston.

Pre-trial hearings on the Houston 12 begin Dec. 11, the trial is scheduled for Feb. 3. The 12 were hit with felony charges after a group of 25-30 demonstrators were attacked by 100 police armed with dogs, clubs and black-jacks. The 12 have twice before had indictments dismissed, but the state of Texas keeps re-writing the charges and re-filing them. Five of the 12 face life imprisonment for assault with intent to murder a police officer.

Portugal has set next July 12 as Independence Day for Sao Tome and Principe in the Gulf of Guinea. The Liberation Movement of ST and P (MLSTP) has been recognized as the sole legitimate partner of Portugal in the transition government that will rule until July 12. The 61,000 African people of ST and P have been colonized by Portugal for nearly 500 years.

The Peruvian government has kicked out all 137 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers. The peace Corps has been implicated in a number of Latin American and other countries as being used as a cover by the CIA.

The Chilean junta is considering the establishment of "work camps" for 600,000 children and youths whose parents were supporters of Salvador Allende's Popular Unity Party government, bloodily crushed by the Chilean military with aid from U.S. corporations and the CIA.

Virginia

A petition before the Virginia State Legislature reads, in part:

"In separate trials in Virginia Courts, Malcolm Jefferson and James Washington have been condemned to death--by almost all-white juries--for the alleged killing of the same prison guard. No evidence presented during the trials proved that either man actually killed the guard, but according to Virginia law, any prisoner who takes part in a disturbance in which a guard is killed is considered responsible for the killing and the conviction means a mandatory death sentence."

The petition further states that

--Jefferson and Washington are black and poor and therefore did not receive a jury of their peers.

--The two men have been singled out because they have struggled against brutality and racism in prison.

--Of 236 persons executed in Virginia between 1908 and 1962, 202 were black and all were poor.

Info and letters of support to: United Congress Against the Death Penalty, P.O. Box 6282, Norfolk, Va. 23508.

Crime

In the first six months of 1973, two out of three victims of crime did not report the crime to the police, according to Census Bureau data released by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). Projections based on a survey indicate 16,682,600 cases of rape, robbery, assault, burglary and larceny; but only 5,320,000 crimes in these categories were reported.

LEAA administrator Richard W. Velde stated that the survey found people most often said they did not report the crime because "nothing could be done."

Past studies across the country have shown that out of 100 crimes, only one or two leads to a prison term. This survey, which triples the crime rate, indicates that well under one out of 100 crimes leads to imprisonment. Clearly, prisoners are a scapegoat used to provide the public with the illusion that prisons protect them.

Mayday

In late November, the ACLU won a court order forcing ex-president R.M. Nixon to turn over all White House tapes taken from May 1 to May 5, 1971. In that period of time, 12,000 persons were arrested at the mammoth Mayday anti-war protests in Washington, D.C. Eventually, most all of the arrested had their charges dismissed because they had been held without charges, arraignment or due process.

The ACLU is representing 800 of these persons who are seeking punitive damages against the government. The ACLU contends that the Justice Dept. ordered the arrests knowing that they were illegal, and that Nixon was party to the order.

Georgia

On Nov. 4, at Reidville, Ga. Prison, guards shot and killed one prisoner and wounded four others during the second prisoners strike in six months. According to a former prisoner who is in contact with an eyewitness, the prisoners were sitting in the yard when the guards shot, killing instantly Andrew Griffin, a 32-year old black. A group of prisoners then rushed the guards to prevent the tower guards from killing any more. In this attempt, the other four were shot.

The strike was caused by the severe beating of two prisoners by guards. The local press has blamed "integration" for the disturbances, citing "racial incidents." However, blacks and whites both filed the class action suit which led to desegregation; and blacks and whites united and put forth seven demands in the first strike, last June.

Reidville was built to house 1000 men, but now holds over 2700. The administration's response to the second strike was to put 100 men in the hole, then to transfer 22 prisoners who were among the strike leaders. Outside support among blacks and whites is mounting. Demonstrations were held at the state capitol on Nov. 8 and 12.

(Thanks to The Guardian for info.)

Crime Laws

In January, 1973, then-President Nixon introduced a bill to revise the whole federal crime code. This bill, drafted by John Mitchell, continues on after the departure of Nixon. A subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Comm. has completed over a year of hearings on the bill, and its backers want it passed this spring. Among other things, the bill would include:

--a 15 year jail term and \$100,000 fine for advocating or belonging to a revolutionary organization;

--jail terms for people who leak, receive or print classified information; this would prevent future Watergate or Pentagon Paper type leaks;

--outlawing demonstrations outside courthouses while court is in session and all demonstrations within sight or sound of the president;

--mandatory death penalties in capital crimes;

--one to three year sentences for refusal to cooperate with congressional committees such as HUAC/HISC.

This just scratches the surface of a near-endless list of judicial abominations.

The bill can be fought. In October, Ford was forced to sign legislation repealing Nixon's "no-knock" law. Let your senators and representatives now that you will not tolerate passage of such a bill. Get those you know to also write letters, call, send telegrams. For more info on this and other repressive legislation, write NCARL, P.O. Box 74757, Los Angeles, Ca. 90004.

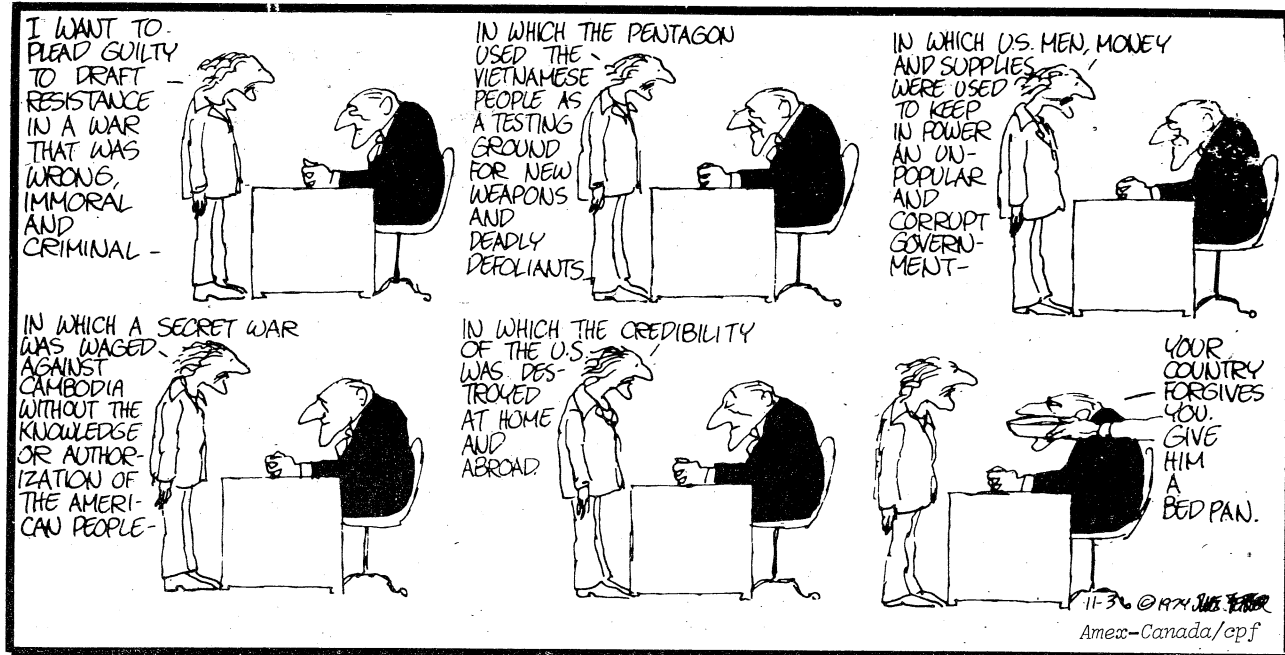
Leavenworth

Two of the seven Leavenworth brothers have been acquitted. Armando Miramon was acquitted by an all-white jury, and the judge directed an acquittal for Jesse Lopez when the state produced no evidence against them. Four other brothers, all black, were convicted by an all-white jury; the lone white died mysteriously in a county jail. The cases stemmed from the seizure of hostages in Leavenworth in order to negotiate with the warden.

Miramon stated in his defense that he suffered from "temporary insanity" due to "sensory deprivation" as he had just been released from a long stay in the hole when he participated in holding the four hostages.

Defense attorney Antonio Rodriguez stated, "The jury told us point blank, that if they had not been presented with evidence of the inhuman prison conditions and the types of behavior which the conditions cause, there never would have been a chance for an acquittal."

It is a victory that the jury understood how the brutalization of prison harms prisoners, but the four convicted black prisoners did not claim insanity (apparently they had not recently been released for the hole) and were not found innocent. What future juries must learn is that prison conditions make rebellion a rational and justifiable act.



'He came in through the bathroom window'

by Shelley Cooper Neill

With the much publicized attention given to the arrest, trial and subsequent conviction of Inez Garcia, interest has been newly activated about the topic of RAPE. This reporter does not wish to see this area of concern in any way reduced, forgotten or left to unconstructive or hysterical debate; and, in doing so, leave us all once again, or until the next "incident", without an analysis of what we are dealing with or without constructive methods with which to find solutions.

Those highly publicized cases, as well as the countless unpublicized cases, must be re-examined again, as often as necessary, in the effort to find solutions. Responsibility for this must be taken on by everyone, and demands for public monies for Rape Crisis Centers, public education on a massive scale, self-defense training, as well as court-monitoring of rape cases, must be recognized as a few of the ways we can all begin to respond to this situation.

This article will recount three cases of rape and will present some hypotheses as to what conditions allow rape to exist on the massive scale it does. We will then examine what preventative measures and support systems now exist or could be built to aid both the victims of rape and the attacker.

Inez Garcia

On the evening of March 19, 1974, Inez Garcia was alone in her home in Soledad, California. Early in the evening, two men came to her home attempting to speak to one of the people she lived with. Inez explained that he was not there, but expected back soon. They decided to wait. He returned, and shortly after his arrival a fight broke out between the three men, in Inez's presence. Inez, concerned for her friend's safety (by this point he had been badly beaten), ordered the two men out of her house. They left, and she followed them out to make sure they would not remain on the premise. Once outside, the two men grabbed her, dragged her behind the apartment house, tore her clothes, beat her, and finally raped her.

Later, back inside the house, she received a phone call from the two men, threatening her life if she told anyone what had happened or tried to make trouble for them.

It was at this point that Inez armed herself with a 22-calibre rifle, and went out to find the men who had attacked her. She found them less than five blocks from her home, once again beating her roommate. She called out to one of her attackers, who responded by taking out a knife and hurling it in her direction. She fired, killing one of the men.

At her trial, Inez pleaded not guilty and claimed self-defense for her actions. Her prosecutors charged her with first degree murder. The judge instructed the jury to disregard the possibility that she might have been raped, in that rape had not been proven, nor was it an issue here. Inez Garcia was sentenced to five years to life. At her sentencing, the judge commented that Inez was a dangerous woman. Inez stated then that she was glad she had killed her attacker, and would do it again, regardless of the consequences.

Joanne Little

(CPF) On August 27, Clarence Alligood, a guard at the Beaufort County Jail in Washington, North Carolina, was found dead in a cell. Alligood had been killed with an icepick normally kept in his desk drawer. His body was naked from the waist down except for his socks, and his shoes were lying in the hall outside the cell.

Joanne Little, the occupant of the cell, had fled. Eight days later she turned herself in to state authorities in Raleigh and told her story.

Little, a 20-year old black, had been in the jail for three months pending an appeal of a conviction for breaking and entering. She was the only woman in the jail, where all the guards were white males. She stated that killing Alligood was self-defense: he had made sexual advances toward her once before, and on the night of the 27th he had tried to rape her.

Little said that Alligood entered her cell about 3 a.m., having taken his shoes off outside the cell, and threatened her with an ice pick. As Alligood was undressing, she grabbed the pick, stabbed him several times, and then fled. Sperm found on Alligood's clothes supports this account.

Joanne Little's case has attracted considerable attention. It raises important

taken to the police station for questioning. She found out later that the men who had attacked her had attacked 2 other women successfully.

Rape-The American Way

Margaret Mead has written that rape does not exist as a concept in all societies. This, coupled with the fact that FBI statistics estimate rape occurs in



questions about racism in the courts and in the jails, about the treatment of women in prison, and about the right of women to defend themselves against rape.

To date the state has treated Joanne harshly. She was held, until recently, in solitary confinement at the Women's Prison in Raleigh. During her bond hearing she was shackled; bond was set at \$100,000. Joanne's lawyers feel that the case may prove a difficult one. For example, although the lawyers have donated their services, they estimate an adequate defense could run as high as \$20,000. Lawyers must also deal with Joanne's earlier conviction. Although she had asked for an appeal, the necessary papers involved in this type of procedure were filed too late. The court has ruled she must begin to serve a 7-10 year sentence.

Another Victim

During the spring of 1970, the following story was told to me. Randi was hitchhiking up Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, Mass. A VW van stopped and picked her up. Randi soon became involved in conversation with the driver and several other male "hitchhikers" sitting in the back of the van. Although she had given the driver directions to her destination, and he had mentioned that he was going in that direction anyway, she soon realized that they were headed in another direction. Beginning to feel uncomfortable, she asked why they were taking this road in that their destination was in another direction. The driver was silent. One of the other men in the back of the van reached forward and put a firm hand around Randi's neck and shoulder. Randi reached for the door handle at her side, but the handle had been taken off. The driver pulled into a vacant lot. She pleaded with the men to let her go, but they refused to listen, remarking how they had done this before and there wasn't anything she could do to stop it. Randi's screams prompted a tenant living in an apartment building across from the lot to phone the police. A police car in the area arrived almost immediately. However, when the police began to question the driver of the van (completely ignoring Randi), the driver explained to them that he and his girlfriend had been arguing, and that she was tripping. The police, apparently satisfied with this explanation, were ready to leave, until Randi blurted out her name and address, begging to be brought home, and repeating, over and over, "They were planning to rape me, all of them." She was brought back to the dorm and the men were

American society every 14 minutes, demands that we begin to ask some significant questions about ourselves, and the institutions that govern our lives.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report indicates that only one in every 10 cases of rape will be reported. Our first question is, Why?

The woman who makes a decision to report a case of rape can expect to be asked some, or all, of the following questions:

- Are you a virgin?
- If not are you presently engaged in a sexual relationship?
- With one or more persons?

Or...

- Did you find any part of the experience (the act of rape) pleasurable?
- Were you aroused or in any way stimulated by the attack?

In some states, a police officer must be present (as a witness) during the doctor's examination to verify that "forcible" intercourse has occurred.

All of the above is considered STANDARD PROCEDURE.

National Crime Agencies report that .04 percent of REPORTED CASES end in conviction and imprisonment. The reality of this contrasts sharply with the view that JUSTICE is being served and, moreover, that the threat of prison confinement in some way deters the would-be-rapist from committing his crime.

This considered, it is equally important to realize still another fact of the criminal justice system. The extreme severity with which some convicted rapists are treated (in some states forcible rape can draw the death sentence) leads the public to believe that both the police and the courts are "doing a good job." In fact, the above mentioned statistics on conviction strongly suggest that the exact opposite is true.

What is to be done?

Public education on a massive scale must be made available in order to counteract already deeply imbedded misconceptions about women.

The reporting and intake procedures involved when reporting rape must be taken out of the hands of men. Further, the degrading and humiliating questions asked of women who have been raped must no longer be asked.

Public funding for Rape Crisis Centers as well as Hotlines, that will serve a dual role, as an aid to women, and as a potential turn-off valve for the would-be rapist.

RAPE continued on page 19

An American Incident

by Ron Sturupp

For public officials to break into the Watergate Hotel, lie, steal and cover-up is, I think we all agree, one thing. For them to murder three black men in the prime of their youth for having had sexual relations with a white woman is something else again. Broken locks can be replaced. We have yet to find a way to replace life.

I was reminded of this the other night when, in a bar, a friend asked me to donate the price of my next three drinks to save three lives. I smiled nervously, then stared ashamedly into the glass of amber liquid before me as my friend related an incident involving Jesse Walston, Vernon Brown, Bobby Hines, an unnamed white woman, the North Carolina judicial system, and racial insanity. Jesse, Vernon and Bobby await death in the gas chamber at Raleigh, North Carolina.

Vernon Brown is 23 years old and lives in Tarboro, N.C. He is a high school graduate and a Vietnam veteran who, before the incident, was enrolled in a technical school studying auto body repair. 23-year-old Bobby Hines, a married man, also lives in Tarboro. He completed the 11th grade, and to support his family worked as a tow-motor operator. Jesse Walston is a 24-year-old high school graduate and lives in Washington, D.C. He has been married two years and has two children, a son 1½ years old and a six months old daughter. He worked in a department store. At the time of the incident, Jesse was visiting his mother in Tarboro. None of the three men have previous records.

According to court testimony, which my friend heard, the three black men were

riding down a road just outside of Tarboro one hot August night last year. They saw a white woman walking along the side of the road and offered her a ride. Several bystanders testified in court that the woman got into the car voluntarily. At the woman's request the men drove her to within one block of her home, where she was seen by several white men as she emerged from the car.

My friend paused. I heard, filtering through the blaring juke-box and chattering, carefree voices, the soft rustle of paper. I continued to stare into my Johnny Walker Red. My friend resumed narration of the



event in the manner of someone reading from a newspaper clipping.

After returning to Washington, D.C., Walston learned in a telephone call from his mother that the Tarboro police wanted him for rape. He declared his innocence and returned to Tarboro to clear his name.

All sides in the case agree that the men had sexual relations with the woman. The question of guilt or innocence of the three men turned on whether the woman agreed to have sexual relations with them. In contrast to the usual victim of rape, the woman was unscratched, unbruised, and physi-

cally uninjured in any way. The jury, 11 whites and one black man, after having spent the night at home, returned to court the next day and found the three men guilty. They received the death sentence, then mandatory for rape in North Carolina.

When the defendants were offered the opportunity earlier to plead guilty for the lesser charge of assault with intent to commit rape, a crime which allows parole in as little as three years, all three refused, contending that they were not guilty of any crime. They continue to assert their innocence to this day.

The men were to die on January 10, but a stay of execution has been granted pending an appeal. The Southern Poverty Law Center, based at 119 S. McDonough St., Montgomery, Alabama, 36101, has taken on their appeal.

After relating the incident, my friend paused, heaving a heavy sigh. From the juke-box a beautiful melody drifted languidly between us. Anita Bryant was singing "America the Beautiful."

I shrugged helplessly and called to the bartender, "Hey, man, how much is your Johnny Walker Red per shot?"

"Dollar and a quarter, Mac," he shouted across the bar.

I handed my friend \$3.75--in the name of justice.

Editors note: Since the "conviction" of the three men, a cruel twist has been added to this case. The North Carolina legislature has revoked the death sentence for rape where life is not threatened, but they have refused to make the law retroactive. Jesse, Vernon, and Bobby now face execution in the gas chamber for what is no longer a capital crime.

People-to-People

by Karl Grunert

The purpose of this article is to inform prisoners throughout the United States regarding goals of People to People, how it works, and some of the problems.

First, the correct addresses of project coordinators are as published in NEPA News, page 16, November 1974 issue. The Post Office has complained of letters to People to People being addressed in error to Rye, New York. Correct address is Rye, New Hampshire 03870. This error resulted from publication of a note about the project in a bulletin called "Yellow Pages" issued by a Connecticut group known as Outmates. Prisoners at locations all over the country are now writing People to People at the erroneous New York address. The Post Office there asks that prisoners be informed of the error. There is no way to do this except via prisoners' newspapers, such as NEPA News and SCAR(d) Times. Hopefully, other prisoner publications, such as "Yellow Pages", will correct their error.

Next, the basic goal of People to People is arranging for regular communication between several outside people and each prisoner who receives little or no mail or visitors. The general goal is to develop and coordinate a system of communication between prisoners and people. The project began January 1974 with prisoners and people of six northern New England states. Prisoners throughout the country are now involved.

Due to the numbers of prisoners asking for help or information from People to People it became impossible during the summer of 1974 to acknowledge letters from prisoners. Not only was the cost of postage prohibitive but the time needed to answer prisoners' questions as to what People to People is is the real reason a coordinator may be unable to acknowledge prisoners' letters. This article is published in hope that prisoners throughout the United States will read it and consider it an answer to their letters. With thousands of men and women in prisons learning about People to People it is easy to see the problem.

HOW PEOPLE TO PEOPLE WORKS

Any coordinator may manage as he or she wishes keeping in mind the basic goals of the project. As the project has grown methods have had to change. The hardest part in getting outside writers for prisoners is

in the advertising and the publicity in newspapers and then in answering letters received from outside writers. Without this, however, prisoners will get no people writing to them.

When a plea is sent to a newspaper by People to People asking for people to write prisoners there is a good response from people in that paper's area. Sometimes it takes the coordinator as long as a month to respond to these volunteer writers.

As many as two dozen prisoners' letters are mailed to each volunteer writer along with a full-page letter about the project. This calls for considerable typing by the coordinator but it insures that the prisoners involved will get maximum response from writer volunteers. Some outside writers start writing to a dozen prisoners and continue writing to those who answer. Some outside writers get friends to take prisoners' letters and write the prisoners. The coordinator makes typed copies of prisoners' letters, wholly or in part, for mailing to outside writers. Accordingly, each prisoners' letter will eventually go to as many as two dozen outside writers. Therefore, it is very important that prisoners' letters to the People to People coordinators be the kind of letter they would send to an outside writer. This is People writing to People from the start. It is hoped that prisoners reading this article will be better informed about the project in order that their letters to coordinators will also serve effectively as letters to outside writers.

When prisoners anywhere write to People to People coordinators it is important that they tell of their need to communicate with someone. That is the most important thing. And next, with the great difficulty in getting outside writers, their letters should be appealing enough to be effective when published in large newspapers. Letters should sincerely mention their loneliness, suffering, and troubles. Letters should mention their prison studies, writing or art efforts, if any. But prisoners' first letters to People to People need not mention cause of imprisonment. Nor should prisoners ask for writers of any specific age, color, or sex. The project is people writing people. It is impossible to arrange for individual preferences, or to keep any record of who is writing to whom. Thus far, the project has more women outside writers than men. This is because no women prisoners respond to People to People. They may not

know of it. Hopefully, they will respond in time. In closing this paragraph, it is again emphasized that prisoners be sure in their first letters to stress their degree of need to communicate with people outside the walls.

Writers have asked for women prisoners, as well as men prisoners, to write to. Due to pressure of work in the project it has been impossible to advertise for women prisoners. It is hoped that, in time, women in prison may write to People to People coordinators just as men in prison have. It is advised that without the aid of various people and groups, particularly NEPA, the project People to People would never have been made known to men prisoners and, therefore, could never have been developed at all.

After reading this article, prisoners prisoners who have had no response from their letters to People to People may wish to write again in a different way. In December 1974, another series of appeals for outside writers will be made in several newspapers in New England. Care must be taken not to over-do such publicity or the response from outside volunteers will be too large to respond to. But good letters from prisoners are very helpful with such publicity. Any prisoner should not hesitate to write People to People for his letter may be helpful in publicizing the project before the outside world. It is hoped that eventually the project may become sufficiently well known as to bring in letters from both prisoners and outside writers without newspaper advertising.

Prisoners are asked to watch for future articles in prisoners' newspapers in regard to People to People.

If you would like to participate in People-to-People, contact one of the following persons:

Karl Grunert
321 Wallis Rd. RFD#1
Rye, N.H. 03870

Rev. Francis Gibbs
Box 14
Concord, N.H. 03301
Rev. Gibbs handles mail from inside NHSP.

Jane Anderson
Landing Apartments.
B12-110 Landing Rd.
Hampton, N.H. 03842

Amy Davidson
311 Temple St.
New Haven, Ct. 06510
Ms. Davidson handles Conn. mail.

Attica

As the trials of the Attica Brothers continue, the state has stepped up its harassment and repression of the Brothers' Defense, and the first trial ended with the dismissal of all charges.

Citing the prosecution's failure "to present sufficient evidence", Judge Frank P. Bavaer dismissed charges of sodomy and sexual abuse against Willie "Cocaine" Smith. Two weeks later, on Oct. 28, Smith was arrested in Buffalo, N.Y. and charged with rape. By charging him with a similar charge as he was found innocent before, the state is hoping to convince the public that he really was guilty the first time and, by extension, so are the rest of the Brothers.

Then, on Nov. 11, Big Black, the National Director of the Brothers Legal Defense, was arrested by four Buffalo police. Polly Eustis, a legal worker, was driving Big Black in a car when the cops pulled them over. Eustis got out of the car at once, but the police ignored her and directed Big Black to get out, calling him by name. An officer then entered the car, reached under the seat, pulled out a bag of marijuana and said, "Here it is." Big Black and Polly Eustis were both arrested.

These arrests indicate that the state has stepped up its harassment of the Brothers. Not only must the state justify the Rockefeller ordered assault which killed 43, but they must also justify spending \$9 million on the prosecution. Through-

out the past two years, the Brothers have been bugged, tapped, assaulted, denied access to information, denied funds for their defense. Not satisfied with its case, the state must make sure the Brothers are unable to present their own case.

At this time, Dacajeweah (aka John Hill) and Charley Joe Pernalalice are on trial for killing Attica guard John Quinn during the rebellion. The first state witness during the pre-trial hearing, Leland Spear, had identified Dacajeweah as striking Quinn during the rebellion. He said the striker had very short hair, and then picked Dacajeweah from a photo taken in 1969 when he had short hair. Yet Dacajeweah was cited in a disciplinary hearing just days before the uprising for having long hair, and continued to have long hair through the rebellion and its aftermath.

Defense Atty. William Kunstler asked another prosecution witness, William Rivers, who also identified Dacajeweah from the 1969 photo, 40 different questions about events that occurred in 1971, and Rivers always replied he "couldn't remember." This is the sort of solid evidence on which the state has based its cases.

In the trial, the defense has filed two motions which are still pending. One would end the grand jury which is still sitting in Wyoming County. This motion is crucial as much of the Brothers defense rests on the testimony of other prisoners who were at Attica during the rebellion, but many of these prisoners are afraid to testify as they believe they will be indicted if they do. The defense introduced affidavits from prisoners to support their contention.

The second motion would prevent the Erie County Sheriff's Dept. from participating in courtroom security. The Dept. was part of the force which beat and tortured prisoners after the re-taking of the prison, and continues to beat prisoners in the halls and cells of the Erie County courthouse.

One motion has been won: Dacajeweah, Pernalalice and the 10 to 15 Native Americans have to rise in the courtroom when the judge enters. The Native Americans say they are a sovereign people and do not have to recognize the authority of the U.S. government; many treaties attest to this fact, and the judge has accepted the Native Americans national rights.

Dacajeweah

(The following are excerpts from a letter from Dacajeweah to the people--ed.)

To the people:

I would like to first ask that the Spirit deliver this message, from the heart, to the love and understanding of those who recognize their oppression, be it physical, mental or spiritual...

I am Dacajeweah (English translation "Splitting the Sky") indicted under the name of John Hill, on trumped-up charges stemming from the 1971 Attica Prison Uprising.

I am of Native American descent (Mohawk and Blackfoot Indian), born on the lower West Side of Buffalo and raised in foster homes, reform schools, prisons and various ghettos....

The reality of prisons is that the rich began to oppress millions of people by exploitation, and the imbalance of opportunity in this competitive society has forced millions of people to obtain their basic necessities of life (food, clothing and shelter) by stealing....

Attica is a perfect example of the American way. An institution built for people who violate the laws of this land are denied years of their lives for petty



charges, while Nixon gets an unconditional pardon for any crimes he may have committed out of Watergate by Gerald Ford, your leader.

Attica was a twin to the average ghetto. The only difference is that the people who controlled your life were free to racially harass, attack, and murder you because you were behind walls and the public would never hear a sound.

On Sept. 9-13th, 1971, a new nation was born, a time when all four walks of this earth came together to make a change for social and human dignity, at any cost even if it meant our lives.

After four days of negotiating with our captors, our demands were met with M16's, sub-tommies, shotguns and dum-dum bullets, brutal assaults--43 dead and many brothers wounded and maimed for life....

Throughout the white man's history, we have been able to witness mass attempts (by this corrupt government) to cover-up

their acts of wrong-doing, such as Kent State killings by National Guard, the My Lai murders of innocent Vietnamese women and children who had no weapons, Wounded Knee 1890 Massacre and Wounded Knee killings 1973 of two Indian Brothers.

Attica is no different. Rockefeller and his henchmen have coerced, drugged and beaten prisoners into making false testimony to an all-white grand jury, making 61 Brothers scapegoats for their killings. They also gave prisoners doing life sentences early parole dates if they would testify against us, we being chosen scapegoats because of our political and religious beliefs.

If the state thought that Charley Joe Pernalalice and myself were as dangerous as they have projected, then why were we given a \$10,000 bail on a capital punishment crime?

In closing, I want to express my feelings pertaining to the upcoming trial... The state is not going to be trying Charley Joe and myself in the name of justice, but rather in an attempt to railroad us as fast as possible, to make us an example to all oppressed people who are fighting for change, and at the same time, giving ex-Governor of New York State, Nelson Rockefeller an excuse for ordering the Attica Massacre....

May the Spirit be filled.

Dacajeweah a/k/a John Hill

by Richard Picariello, Thomaston, Maine

Many Americans have a distorted conception of who the criminals are, due mainly to the schools and public agencies of communication-radio, T.V., and the press. In American society, street crime is constantly under the spotlight. Newspapers and the law focus on crimes such as assaults, vandalism, burglary, drugs and passing bad checks, and the usual law and order rhetoric that goes along with demands for more pigs, larger federal grants, bigger caliber guns, mandatory jail sentences and more prisons. The stigma of crime is imposed largely on the lower socio-economic class and ultimately designed to engulf, exploit and oppress poor people into the criminal justice and prison systems. The media does not express the organized moral sentiments of the community as to white collar crime because these agencies are owned or controlled by the bourgeoisie class.

Criminologists have also contributed to our distorted definition of crime as they have been studying only the rule breaking of the lower classes. As a matter of interpretation they do not apply crime to white collar criminals; some have argued that an act is criminal only if a criminal court has officially determined that the accused has committed a crime. Why is this? Criminologists are paid to study crime by the

The Real Criminals

bourgeoisie class. They cannot conceive of them as criminals, and would not expose their crimes in any case for fear of slapping the hand that feeds them. In addition, they would consider it "unethical" to buck their own bourgeoisie kind.

White collar crimes such as illegal criminal acts of large corporations, restraint of trade, misrepresentation in advertising, infringement of patents, violation of the National Labor Relations law and other financial manipulations, violations of trust, stock market manipulations, stock watering and misrepresentation in the sales of securities, rent gouging, monopoly utility price fixing and consumer fraud are hardly ever heard of, at least not by criminal court judges.

They rarely get to court partly because the presumption of innocence in white collar crime is far greater than that of the poor who is accused. In fact the white collar crimes mentioned above would probably be marked off as an "error" or an injunction might be issued and the corporation's face saved by accepting a consent decree. The violations thus do not involve the stigma that attends indictment, conviction, and

incarceration. The criminality of their behavior was not made obvious by the criminal law but was blurred and concealed by special procedures. Thus differential implementation of the law as applied to corporations eliminates the stigma of crime.

So, when the poor person is convicted of fraud for passing a \$20.00 bad check, he gets sentenced to from 1 to 7 years, while the white collar criminal can literally steal a million dollars by consumer fraud and he will not be tagged with a criminal stigma. In fact in one of the rare studies on white collar crime, it was found that the people involved received an average of one year in jail for every ten million dollars they stole (if they went to jail at all, that is). People like Rockefeller, Mellon, Getty, Ford, DuPont, etc. are never subjected to the laws which they create for the lower class. These greedy billionaires just go on living off the toils of thousands of workers, stealing the people's economy blind, and then some people wonder why there isn't enough left for schools, food, hospitals and housing.

REAL CRIMINALS continued page 17

Letters

Dear NEPA,

Only for the purpose of assuring you the facts as they truly have occurred, in relation to the recent fires and subsequent lock-ups here at the MCI-Norfolk prison. I submit the following:

First the fires were inconsequential--for no inmates were injured. As far as property damage: Well only institutional property and the materials belonging to the select few, who are in such good graces with the administration, that over 2 dozen (24) men have been locked up in the isolation area (R.B.), as a result.

No inmates that I know, have, in any way even discussed the possibilities of a "Deal".

In every case outside of one inmate, most have been re-classified for transfer to Walpole, a few to Bridgewater & one to Concord. One being recommended to stay here at Norfolk.

Those with previous "classification" status for transfer to Pre-Release, have lost such status. My case being one, where my transfer date of Nov. 18, 74 was cancelled.

In all but one man's case, all were forced to attend these "re-classification" hearings, against his will prior to any convening of a hearing to discuss participation, guilt or innocents.

Mr. Meachum (the Super-Screw), has in every instance, refused to comment on the man's alleged Participation other than to state he has it on "Reliable Sources", before the Classification Committee.

Most of these men have been locked up here in the (R.B.) isolation area, in Separate Confinement for over 30 days to date. The cells, & treatment received, are the same as one who is doing board time (being punished). Other than we have our canteen orders and supervised visits.

I suffered a blood poisoning condition while confined here, (with phlebitis) noticeable by the red line which ran from my middle finger to the axillary region of my right arm pit, with accompanying hypoglycemia (blurred vision). I was finally, after much banging and yelling, medicated, but while still confined in the ice-cold steel chamber called a cell.

Mr. Meachum denies anyone is being punished for he is trying desperately to make a case. Which he will fail to do.

In less than 2 weeks I see the parole board, but this isn't in any way supposed to adversely affect their considerations.

I saw the Parole Board last Sept. 74. They recommended a pre-release placement & Post-poned me till Dec. 74. I was accepted by the Pre-Release facility & the day before I was accepted, Mr. Meachum had me and 3 other men locked up. This resulted in my losing the Pre-Release date of Nov. 18th, 74. Yet it isn't supposed to adversely affect me or my up-coming Parole hearing.

All appeals to the Commissioner (Frank Hall) have failed.

Although there is some court action by the confined men, no date of relief is in sight.

One man, who succeeded, is back in the camp. He got relief only when after (in court) Mr. Meachum failed to produce the slimest thread of evidence to support the charges placed against him, by Mr. Meachum. The inmate, only after bringing court action against Mr. Meachum, was finally released. The court also ordered "That all related matter be removed from the inmates files & not held against him in the future."

So it's apparently obvious, that if your not financially capable of financing court action & legal fees (\$500 it cost the inmate), then your dependent on the whims of a fool whose only concern appears to be, not for the 650 residents of this prison, but for the few who drop dimes and win favor at the expense of the rest. The best way to win favorable response from this administration appears obvious. Regardless of the half-truths or deliberate falsification of your claims. "All men are subject to the law," one could also say, "All men are subject to -- Reliable Sources." As I can attest!!

s/ Robert C. Barry



December 4, 1974

Dear Comrades,

A couple of items concerning your article on "Readers Digest Revolutionaries" which appeared in your November issue, either for your own information or for reprinting in NEPA NEWS as you see fit.

First, some minor matters: while VVAW/WSO began as a purely veterans and GI organization, we expanded our membership to include non-vets in 1973. Although we do concentrate much of our work on veterans and GI issues, we are not a "veterans organization" as described in your article. Second, though we recognize the uses of "prison reform," we do not see reform as the answer to the problems of prisons. Justice in the prison system is not possible so long as that system is a part of a larger political and economic system which is based on the exploitation of the many by the few.

We are in full agreement with your analysis of the danger of the Readers' Digest article, particularly given the way in which magazines such as RD are used to mold the thinking of the millions of people who read them. To us the article says a couple of dangerous things: first, by blaming much of the prison unrest on "outside agitators" makes it seem as if prisoners cannot reach the militant unity which has been reached by themselves and, at the same time, wholly omits the repressive conditions in prison which contribute to the unity of the brothers and sisters inside. Second, we see the clear danger of articles such as this being used to prepare people in general for more restrictive rules around correspondence and visiting--thus creating the kind of isolation in which the prison administrators could increase the racism and repression on which they now thrive.

It seems to us that all of us who are working to support the struggles inside prisons must do whatever we can to help counteract this kind of vicious propaganda, to point out what prisons are used for in our society, and to underscore the conditions which we know exist in those prisons.

Yours in struggle,
s/ Pete Zastrow, for the
VVAW/WSO National Collective

To the Editor

During the recent campaign the Republican nominee, James S. Erwin expressed much law and order rhetoric in his customary style. This style is reminiscent of J. Edgar Hoover, Richard Nixon, John Mitchell and all the other law and order advocates, who conceive of law and order for the poor minorities only as a gimmick to be rattled every election time. These crimes Erwin has selected for "special mention" during this campaign are the old favorites of political candidates; vandalism, assault, drugs, and burglary. His remedy is to "appoint more judges who know the way to the state Prison" and who recognize that some criminals are beyond rehabilitation must be removed from society for life. Consequently, part of his automated judicial system is "mandatory jail sentence."

It is obvious that Erwin's remedies for crime are not the result of objective analysis, but a personal reaction which he hopes the taxpayers will finance, despite the fact that his recommendations are completely contrary to every other major gain by Reform and Correctional study groups in this state, such as SCAR, the Governors Task Force and the inmates advisory council at the Maine State Prison.

The Governors Task Force Report on Corrections revealed some salient facts about Maine's prison non-system: There prisons simply are not working to deter crime, nor to prevent the habitual repetition of illegal behavior. The cost per year for Maine's five institutions amounted to \$7,839,450.00, while the total expenditure for the year for the entire Department of Mental Health and Corrections was approximately \$23,936,504. Much of this went to the state hospitals. So a large chunk of taxpayers money is being wasted already on a counter-productive prison non-system.

Erwin's satisfaction with the status quo is really a mask for white collar crime, which points at selected minorities as the crooks.

S/Richard Picariello

Ed. note: (Erwin received only about 20% of the votes in the November election for Governor in Maine.)

X-Mas Fast 74

In 1973 I had the honor to participate in a National Prisoners Xmas Fast with prisoners state and federal around the country. Our fast was called as symbolic solidarity with struggles across the country. Among them were the plight of the Attica Brothers. We could not celebrate while comrades were being oppressed across the world.

Almost a year later in the struggle we have had some victories and some losses. We have also had some comrades killed. But the struggle continues and so does oppression.

At this time I call on all prisoners reading this to announce and organize the National Prisoners Fast 1974. To refuse to partake of the Xmas meal the oppressors put before us to celebrate their capitalist holiday.

As long as there is an oppressed class I am of it and cannot celebrate until the final victory.

In solidarity,
Rafiki Eddie Sanchez
Edward Sanchez
Reg. No. 18827 - 175
P.O. Box 4000
Springfield, Mo. 65802

Real Criminals

Compare the magnitude of these bourgeois crimes to the petty nature of many street crimes. Deliberate abuse of executive positions; the Nixons and the Mitchells; Watergate; students murdered at Kent State-Jackson State; the atrocious armed assault launched by Rockefeller and his state troopers at Attica where 43 people were murdered; the murders at San Quentin and other prisons; thousands of police killings of poor people which are said to be justifiable homicide; war crimes; American military aggression in Indochina that has killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people; planting seeds of American imperialism in other countries like Chile--the list could go on for pages and pages.

The basic point is that crime is not a province of poor people, but prisons are. The American Criminal Justice System is fundamentally unfair because the American Economy System is fundamentally unfair. Prisons should not only be abolished but the struggle must be geared up to take the economy and power out of the hands of the bourgeoisie and have the working people control it.

Free 'Rossy' Murray!

This letter is the hardest I've written in my entire life because it shames me as an individual and a citizen of this decayed society. It is necessary that I send copies of this letter to the 100 persons mentioned at its conclusion; it's tedious, time consuming, taxing, and I am working under severe restrictions. I ask that each of you open your hearts to this most shameful and illegal act of injustice in America. There are many others equally as barbaric, but this one MUST be the saddest. I write as an Italian American and a man with a good sense of right and wrong and, as such, I plead with each of you people to come together and unite in this cause which I now submit to you:

1. ROOSEVELT "ROSSY" MURRAY, a black man born August 31, 1941 in Baltimore, Md., came into contact with the law for the first time in his life in 1958 in Baltimore at age 16.

2. His crime was "taking a motor vehicle without permission" and the penalty would have been a MAXIMUM sentence of 4 years.

3. ROSSY was sent to the Patuxent Institution under the "Defective Delinquent" statute, Article 31B Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, which reads:

"Section 5. DEFINED. For the purpose of this article, a defective delinquent shall be defined as an individual who, by the demonstration of persistent aggravated anti-social or criminal behavior, evidences a propensity toward criminal activity, and who is found to have either such intellectual deficiency or emotional imbalance, or both, as to clearly demonstrate an actual danger to society so as to require such confinement and treatment, when appropriate,

as to make it reasonably safe for society to terminate the confinement and treatment."

4. That statute disallowed ROSSY either a trial, or right to plead guilty and serve the full 4 year maximum penalty. From 1958 to 1973 (15 years!) ROSSY stayed in the Patuxent institution. FOUR TIMES the MAXIMUM sentence he should have served.

5. In 1973 ROSSY had an altercation with a social worker at Patuxent and, amid shouts, one slap and shoving incident witnessed by numerous others, ROSSY was arrested and THEN convicted and sentenced to 5 years. This social worker was a "female" and a so-called "white" woman. No more need be said since it is so very obvious that still another "nigger" (or is it "Negroah"?) was the recipient of the white supremacists' systems shaft; this however, is not an odd occurrence in the region of the Southern Cotton Curtain, utopia for affluent whites and the dung pit for Blacks and poor.

6. The second week of November 1974, ROSSY got another 3 years by proxy to the previous assault incident. He is now in the Md. House of Corrections serving this added time since a jury ruled he no longer fit the "defective delinquent" category, however, the prosecutor has promised to have him sent back to Patuxent due to this recent conviction.

7. Ms. Cynthia L. Hardy, 47 Florida Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001, Phone 202/387-3871, read about ROSSY's plight in 1973 and has been running herself sick trying to gain this man's freedom. Ms. Hardy attempted to marry ROSSY in 1973 and is now ROSSY's fiancée.

The above are the facts. I urge each of you to involve yourselves in helping to free this man, who has already spent 16 years of his life behind bars. I am a proud man, but not too proud to plead with you to help this cause. I ask each of you who want more facts to call Ms. Hardy after 5 p.m., or write to her, and she in turn can give you more details and channel you to where all the facts can be at your collective disposal. All ROSSY and Cynthia need is just a LITTLE support, and in view of the 16 years Rossy has already spent behind bars, please don't ignore this righteous endeavor. FREE ROSSY. -It can be done if collective interest is shown.

ROSSY can win a pardon through Md. Governor Mandel or the President, but only with your aid. This man is not a criminal. His fiancée is an upstanding citizen who works with our youth in the D.C. area. To believe other than that this atrocity is due to the color of ROSSY'S skin be a gross insult upon intelligence. As they took ROSSY from his loved ones in 1958, so they can come for our loved ones in the morning with the same impunity. Without a lot of rhetoric, I now humbly consign this letter, inadequate and short as it is, to your hearts, minds, and, hopefully, outraged consciences. In Humanity for Justice, Equality and Human Rights, I am,
Anthony Saia, #21500-175,
Box 1000
Marion, Illinois 62959

Guinea Pigs

at a minimal level--the health care needs of the institutions."

Legislators on Capitol Hill and grassroots citizens groups studying the question of drug experiments agree with Jessica Mitford's view that it will not be easy to challenge the power, vesting interests and lobbies of the giant drug corporations. Although, like Mitford, they disagree with drug company "propoganda" holding that convicts are happy to "serve" science and humanity, they foresee investments of considerable sums forthcoming from pharmaceutical outfits and hyped up lobbying efforts to protect their sphere of influence over the incarcerated population as legislation against human experimentation begins to be debated.

An anti-prison research bill proposed by Congressional Black Caucus member Parren J. Mitchell of Baltimore will be an early item of consideration when the new Congress meets. In addition to support from the Caucus, the federal bill will have backing from U.S. Representative John J. Meakley (D. Boston) and from other liberal Democrats like Bella Abzug as well as from some conservative Republicans who co-signed an earlier first-in-the-nation bill

which Mitchell filed but which died this year in the Subcommittee on the Courts of the House Committee of the Judiciary. Rep. "Tip" O'Neill has also promised to give the re-filed measure his backing.

In Massachusetts, Representative Melvin King is drafting a series of state bills which will call for outlawing experiments of both a medical and behavioral nature in the Commonwealth's prisons. Concern for behavioral research is also reflected in Mitchell's draft of the federal bill. The challenge to the new Federal Center for Correctional Research at Butner and to state-run adjustment centers, like the new infamous Patuxent hospital facility for "defective delinquents" in Maryland (presently the "defective delinquent" category is being questioned in Maryland's court on grounds of vagueness--the "defective delinquent" umbrella although somewhat different in Massachusetts, was found equally vague by the Massachusetts courts and wiped out a few years ago) may prove as difficult as confronting the country's major pharmaceutical firms. The vested interests in these well-funded programs is represented by a solid body of behavioral scientists.

Despite the power interests, opponents to the idea of using prisoners as guinea pigs may win their battle with persistency. With its present moratorium, Massachusetts

became the twelfth state to deny medical researchers the use of convicts. Idaho and Oregon statutes make the practice illegal; it is banned by corrections department policy or order of the attorney general in nine states.

Oregon's law is the clearest and most comprehensive to date. Passed in 1973, it reads:

"There shall be no medical, psychiatric or psychological experimentation or research with inmates in penal or correctional institutions of the State of Oregon."

The campaign which led to widespread exposure of the malaria and typhoid live-vaccine tests at the Maryland House of Correction--run by the U of Maryland's medical school for the U.S. ARMY--was put together by Urban Information Interpreters, Inc. People interested in obtaining a blueprint of how UUI waged this successful coalition action--which inspired U.S. Rep. Parren Mitchell to file the federal bill--should contact Urban Information Interpreters, Inc., Post Office Box AH, College Park, Maryland 20742. They will send a list of 13 important pieces of action-oriented research with prices, including the materials on this campaign and a nationwide study of state practices regarding medical experiments in the prisons.

Barometer

Professionals should deplore the courtship the correctional administrators are having with techniques developed by behavioral scientists and make it clear that behavior modification techniques or chemotherapy offer no more hope in resolving the basic contradictions in society and the institutions which mirror and exaggerate than did penitent reflection, corrective labor, education, training, social work, or psycho-therapy when they had their vogue. Professionals in the field of social work should warn prison managers of the ominous implications for general policy in the area of social control and should resist their use of the prison as a laboratory.

After accepting the fact that imprisonment has failed 90%-95% of the incarcerated population, and did little more than contain those that would fall into the lower 5% that could be considered sexually dangerous and possibly require containment corrections managers should aggressively pursue citizen involvement in the correctional process. Managers should realize that it is wrong to delude the taxpayers

by alluding to the dangerousness of the people in prison in order to maintain a system which by all reasonable standards has failed. Taxpayers and citizens should hold correctional administrators at least half as responsible as they hold their educational administrators.

If this were done, correctional managers would, for the most part, earnestly respond to the concerns of the taxpayer or be cast out of business. Advocates, especially correctional counselors, should insist that all civil and/or policy impediments to the ability of both prisoners and ex-prisoners to function in the community should be erased. Prisoners and ex-prisoners should be able to lawfully work for any state or federal agency, an opportunity which is now prohibited in many cases by either law or practice. Impediments to licensing and bonding should be removed. They should also receive the same wages in prison and on the outside as their counterparts doing the same work who have no criminal records. It is clear when we look at mini-revolutions in the prisons that prisoners and ex-prisoners will no longer tolerate our present slave-like correctional process.

The men, women and children in our nation's prisons are saying something about the reality of our society--something very important. One would do well to hear what they are saying. They are speaking not only to the authorities, but also to the masses. Perhaps what they are saying is that the criminal justice system, with its new tools of behavior modification and brain tempering, not only dehumanizes prisoners and prison managers alike, but invariably de-souls those others who, in cowardly apathy, sit by and permit such a system to exist.

Watergate, Attica and Streaking may be much more than occasional deplorable social aberrations. And, if this is true, then one can no longer continue to mumble the old, worn-out excuse, "I didn't know." And, now that one does know, one can no longer pretend ignorance or pass it off with a token gesture of sympathy. Concern and sympathy must, in order to have any reality, be turned into economic, social and political action. Not only for the sake of the prisoners, but for one's own sake--to break one's cowardly silence and passivity, and ultimately, save oneself from a similar fate.

NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES

On April 15, 1973, the New England Prisoners Association was formed as a result of the first annual New England Prisoners Conference held at Franconia College, Franconia, N.H. The New England Prisoners Association is a coalition of prisoner support and prison reform groups as well as a mass membership organization throughout the six New England states. These groups and persons, though diverse in resources and emphasis, are unified around discovering positive solutions to the problems that today's prisons present.

Prisons were originally conceived as a progressive response to inhumane treatment, but to date their hallmark has been one of failure and human destruction. This failure has been costly in terms of human waste and sacrifice, the loss of resources to society and at a great expense to the individual taxpayer.

We recognize the fact that prisons in our society are a by-product of and directly related to poverty, racism, unemployment and the other ills of our society. The programs of the New England Prisoners Association and its affiliates deal primarily with the injustices existing in the criminal justice system. We realize, however, that the problems of prisons cannot be resolved unless they are seen as part of a larger movement for massive social change.

Prisons must be phased out as they are not beneficial to an egalitarian society which recognizes the human and civil rights of all prisoners.

In line with this philosophy the New England Prisoners Association addresses itself to the following areas:

- 1) to work for the abolition of prisons and the prison system;
- 2) to promote and assist ex-prisoner organizations and to coordinate communications among these groups;
- 3) to support prisoners in their constitutional rights to organize collectively;
- 4) to develop educational programs about why prisons exist, how they work and what their actual results are through the NEPA NEWS, speakers bureau, workshops and literature;
- 5) to examine existing prison conditions to determine proper action necessary to alleviate injustices inflicted on prisoners, especially regarding transfers, censorship, visitation, and medical and educational facilities;
- 6) to attack the increasingly widespread use on prisoners of certain psychological and medical approaches including, but not limited to, behavior modification, chemo-therapy and psycho-surgery;
- 7) to organize and assist the families and friends of prisoners;
- 8) to provide means of transportation and communication to families and friends of prisoners;
- 9) to develop quality legal assistance for prisoners;
- 10) to develop and promote legislation consistent with our philosophy;
- 11) to explore and develop existing and possible community alternatives to prison;
- 12) to develop financial assistance to NEPA and its various affiliates;
- 13) to issue news releases, hold press conferences and develop contacts with the press and media.

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Rape (Cont.)

Male judges who all too often view those women who attempt to defend themselves against rape as "potentially violent" (as witnessed by the Garcia Case) or who choose to believe or allude to the fact that because a woman has been raped she must be of "loose moral character," or perhaps encouraged the act in the first place, cannot be allowed to sit in judgement.

Studies that counteract racist pre-conceptions about black men raping women in epidemic proportions must be made available and disseminated. A study done in Philadelphia indicated that of 500 cases reported during 1969, less than 4% were committed by black men on white women. Information we don't have is how many rapes were done by white men to black women.

Courses in self-defense must be made available for all women, and paid for through public funds.

Communities must take responsibility for and allocate monies to women for any and all projects that will prevent rape from happening and deal with it if it does.

These proposals are, however, long-range proposals. Nor am I sure that these proposals in themselves are sufficient. The roots of our society, in which women are the property of men, must be restructured so that no one is the property of another. While massive public education must be undertaken, we should not pretend that a show a week on TV combatting sexism would necessarily be enough to combat pretty, sexy objects selling themselves and their products every ten minutes.

More immediate steps may be necessary, but these steps could prove dangerous. In

China, women freed themselves from their status as cattle in part by simply beating up men who would not listen. Women in America may have to prove to rapists that the act of rape will carry the penalty of bruises and pain.

The dangers are present in such a situation. We do not need to feed racist hysteria (see Ron Sturrup's article on the next page) or incite a vigilante attitude. The contradictions and dangers of this approach can not, I think, be worked out by words on paper; they must be carefully worked out in practice.

Also immediate, but with fewer drawbacks, women can organize groups to patrol their neighborhood. Better street lighting can be demanded at once, though one half of all rapes occur in someone's residence. A group of women on patrol could rapidly increase the risk factor in the mind of the rapist.

In addition to the above listings of affirmative actions and demands we can all make as we take the first steps toward forcing institutions and resources work for us rather than against us, we must also consider the following: The act committed by the rapist is symptomatic of an already sick society. The emotional anxiety and fear that is often masked by arrogance, cruelty and, in some cases, sadism, are all signs of a severe disturbance.

Brutality by the State as a means of dealing with the rapist is no solution at all. The calls of all-too-many police forces and prison administrations for aversion therapy, 20 years in prison, or execution must also be combatted.

Supportive counseling services and environments must also be set up for admitted rapists, or for any men who feel they need help in dealing with the sexist programming that permeates American society.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.

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ADDRESS CHANGE. I am moving to a new address. Please mail future copies of NEPA NEWS to me at the above address.

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I am a con. Enroll me as a member of the New England Prisoners Association.

I am on the outside. Enroll me as a member of NEPA. I enclose \$4 for a subscription to NEPA NEWS and for a copy of the N.E. Prisoners Resource Manual.

I am on the outside, have no funds, but please enroll me in NEPA.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Mail to NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580

Christmas Interchange

FROM THE ASHES I GREET YOU

I walk, with quiet bitterness
These hard winter lands of cage delusions,
Thinking maybe the time
Will ravage itself of thoughts alone,
Feeling cold breath of being stone
To some label that represents numbers
Or pickings out of a fascist dream.

I have this lost sense of it all,
This hidden grin of farceness
Telling me it's Christmas,
Then to stare at some cold soup of a face
Turning my leftover warmth
Into a sickness of contempt.

I puke at the sight of
A Santa Clause warden giving presents
Of orders in his bag of thiorazine mindfulness
As Christmas is to be a holiday--
A coffee break from the monotonous game
We are forced to play . . .

A game of who will control the
jeering idiots of our minds
As we even learn to fight
On their own grounds, experimental
labs, human farms of legal slavery.

I will not ignore the fact
That there is us to content me
Through the jaggedness of my thoughts
That there is a soft warmth of
What real Christmas is.

I look and know my sisters,
Know my brothers,
Know the joy-the world seeks for
And the peace we dream of,
And know us and struggle beyond
for the new year.

And I feel Christmas melts away
In a blaze, in a breath of oppression
And I remember my own elements,
My own gift of extinguishment

John Yancey aka Tokio Suzuki

Addresses

Joanne Little
1034 Bragg St.
Raleigh, N.C.
27601

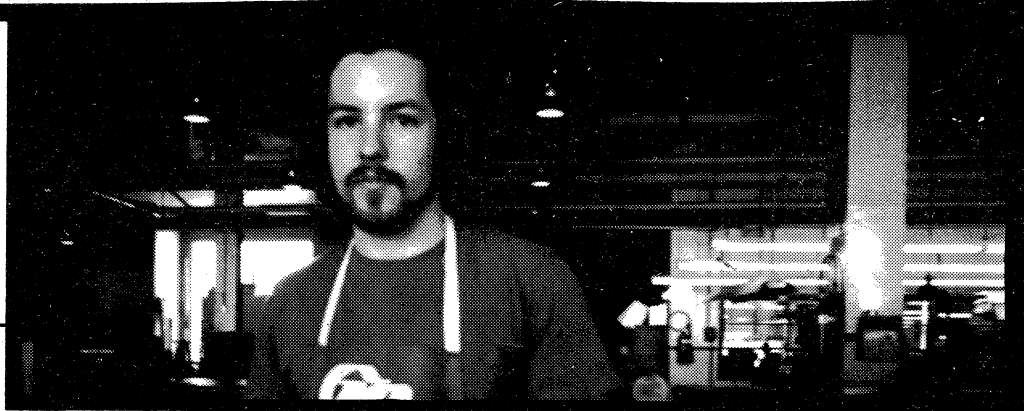
Defense Committee:
Joanne Little Defense Fund
P.O. Box 1003
Durham, N.C.
27702

Inez Garcia Defense Committee:
722 Alcatraz #101
Oakland, Ca.
94609

New Prison Films

With Intent to Harm

A Film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler



WITH INTENT TO HARM is the first film to be shot inside Massachusetts prisons. It evokes a powerful sense of the life of men and women deprived of nearly all human and civil rights. The film details the progress of the prisoner's rights movement in Massachusetts, showing some of the reforms that have taken place since the Attica Rebellion.

"WITH INTENT TO HARM is first and foremost a consciousness raiser: it presents people with a convincing and human view "inside". The very fact that it emphasizes the men themselves as ordinary, credible human beings, making an effort to take control of their lives, says more than alot of horror shots of moldy shower stalls and leaking latrines." --American Friends Service Committee

WITH INTENT TO HARM- 28 minutes, 16mm color, rental/\$35, sale/\$350

3000 Years and Life

A Film by Randall Conrad and Stephen Ujlaki

3000 YEARS AND LIFE is the up to date story of the struggles being waged by the National Prisoner's Reform Association(NPRA) inside Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts. Walpole prisoners are perhaps the most unified in the country, and the NPRA is fighting continuously for recognition as a union. They face awesome forces, but they will not be conquered. In this film the prisoners themselves describe what happened at Walpole when the guards went on strike and the NPRA instituted self-government.

"This is the only documented account of what has been happening in Walpole. It is the most important film of this struggle to date." --David Collins, ex-prisoner, Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Reform, Boston

"This film goes a long way toward explaining how a prison can be run without guards on the inside."--Gene Mason, New England Prisoners' Association

"No one can see this film and think that Walpole prisoners are what most of the established media and State House politicians have been saying they are."-- Ann Hack, Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions, New Haven, Connecticut

3000 YEARS AND LIFE- 45 minutes, 16mm color, rental/\$50, sale/\$400

Vermont State Prison

A Film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

The Vermont State Prison was built in 1809, when Thomas Jefferson was president. This film, just completed, consists of discussions with prisoners at the prison. They describe their unsuccessful attempts to get any meaningful rehabilitation programs into the prison. The prison itself is as close to a medieval dungeon as any operating institution.

"How can we continue to operate institutions like Vermont's maximum security prison and pretend we are building a noble civilization is beyond me. This film gives ample reason why the prison should be closed immediately." --Windsor Prison Vigil Group

VERMONT STATE PRISON- 20minutes, 16mm black and white, rental/\$20, sale/\$125, sliding scale available.

WITH INTENT TO HARM, 3000 YEARS AND LIFE, and VERMONT STATE PRISON are available from:

New England Prisoners' Association
Public Education Program
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580

New England Prisoners' Association
Public Education Program
or 116 School St.
Waltham, Mass., 02154
617-899-8827



STARVATION IS GOD'S
WAY OF PUNISHING
THOSE WHO HAVE
LITTLE OR NO FAITH
IN CAPITALISM...

R. Cobb/cpf

Community Centers

In New England we now have four Prisoner Community Centers, each of which has a different name, but all of which have the same function: to try to aid prisoners and their families with whatever problems are brought to them. Each of these centers attempts to enlist the assistance of volunteers to help. If you have some time to help, or if you need some help, or if you just want to talk, please get in touch.

MAINE

SCAR Drop-in Center
374 Fore Street
Portland, ME 04111
207-772-2303

MASSACHUSETTS

Prison Information Center
932 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610
617-753-7167

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prisoner Family Center
104 North Main
Concord, NH 03301
603-225-2910
Mail: Box 604
Concord, NH 03301

VERMONT

Prisoner Community Center
87 Main Street
Windsor, VT 05089
802-674-2708