

From behind the wall

by William Elliott

As I sit here in this cell of concrete and steel I take my pen in hand and try to relate on paper some profound thought, some "right" combination of words that will reach down into the very guts of people, to mobilize them toward taking action against these concentration camps that are perpetuated and constructed in their names. As I reach in desperation for the "Key" to unlock their minds and hearts, I am reminded that it has all been said before. George Jackson, Attica, Malcom X, Martin Luther King, Angela Davis, Bobby Hutton, Eldridge Cleaver, Jackson State, the Four Little Black Girls in that church in Alabama. To Black people oppression is nothing new. Here at Oregon State Penitentiary, which has been allegorized as the most "progressive pen" in the

country. Black people are again confronted with the "Key" term in capitalism, racism! They do nothing unless it is repress. Attitudes of the administration here when they are confronted with Black people's demand and aspirations have become "standard" policy.

The stepped up oppression of Black people in America stems directly from the economical plight of this country. We are all aware of the concept of last hired and first fired which leads to first in prison and last out (if you are lucky). But in looking at prisons have you not yet flashed on the fact that prisons have indeed progressed since their creation? Progressed from a place of doing sentence to a big business that would put Ford motor company to shame! People who scream about 'do away

with prison' are not taking into consideration the number of people whose livelihood is bound to the existence of prison. Taxpayers are told of the outrageous cost of keeping a man or woman behind bars but is that the truth?

Prisons are self-autonomous, our cloths are maintained by convicts; the food we eat is grown and raised on farms maintained by convicts; so where is all the money that goes into prison going? Oh! I know, the rehabilitation programs, right? But what is rehabilitation? It is a term that I find hard to come to grips with. An individual was "habilitated?" Were that the truth there would be no need of prisons for we would "all" be happy and well-adjusted and sharing in the fruits and wealth of America, right? If we are

going to have programs that are oriented toward creating an environment that is conducive toward human development, this is the concept of rehabilitation.

This is where you, community, come in, for it is you we will be living with after our "debt" to society is paid. It is also you who will be replacing us in these cells as the situation out there gets worse if we don't move now to deal with the Lion in his den. We the Black convicts of the organization UHURU, here at O.S.P., are striving to set up lines of communication with the community in order to relate the "objective" realities as we live them day to day so as to combat some of the "subjective" white-wash that is spouted by those who have vested interest in these slave-labor camps.



Left to right: Mrs. Coretta King, Miss Bernice I. Sumlin, National President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Mrs. Christine King Farris, sister of Martin Luther King Jr. and Co-Chairperson, Advisory Council of the M.L. King Jr. Birth Home, admire plaque awarded the sorority in remembrance of their donation.

Kappas support Home

High on the agenda of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Atlanta Conference on Reading Experience, was the visit of more than 300 members to the birthplace of the late Martin Luther King Jr., listed with the National Register of Historic Places. Miss Bernice I. Sumlin, National President of A.K.A., presented a \$3,300 check to his widow, Mrs. Coretta King, an honorary A.K.A., for the continuing upkeep and refurbishing of the national shrine.

At a late reception given by the King family for the Sorority at famed Ebenezer

Baptist Church, Mrs. King, in presenting a plaque to the Sorority, said that, "This generous gift added to the \$20,000 already given by A.K.A. at their 1972 Denver Convention, was the largest single contribution to the birth home by any organization." In response, Miss Sumlin stated that, "It is a rare opportunity for Alpha Kappa Alpha to have the privilege to honor the greatest moral leader of our time and we will continue to give financial assistance to this wonderful venture."

Day camp registration opens

Day camp registrations are now open for the fifteenth season of camping at Optimist Acres Boys' Camp operated by the Boys' Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area, a United Way Agency. This year's season of five one week sessions will begin June 23rd and run to July 25th.

The camp located thirty-five miles southeast of Portland on the Molalla River is open to all boys seven thru fourteen years of age and has a capacity of eighty boys a week. Camp fee is \$10.00 per week which includes transportation and meals during the overnight event held each

day of each week the campers stay on the grounds overnight taking part in campfire programs and camping out.

Campers are housed in cabins, teepees and a bunkhouse depending on camping experience. Each living group has counselor supervision.

The campgrounds of fifty acres is provided by the N.E. Optimist Club and Crown Zellerbach Corporation, which lease the property to the Boys' Clubs of Portland. The camp is accredited by the American Camping Association and affiliated with Boys' Clubs of America.

Boys may sign up for Thursday.

Applications and registration is available at the Columbia Boys' Club at 7602 N. Emerald Street, the Pal Boys' Club at 9204 S.E. Harold Street, and the Sellwood Boys' Club at 8210 S.E. 13th Street or by phoning 775-1549.

Supervised by trained adult leaders and assisted by College and High School counselors, the activities of the camp include swimming, fishing, hiking, nature study and conservation projects, riflery, archery, Indian lore, and crafts.

Buses leave the three Boys' Club locations each morning at 9:00 a.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. Thursday. More than one session according to Roy Ciappini, Executive Director of the Boys' Clubs. Ciappini also noted that the campgrounds are used on weekends throughout the year by Boys' Club groups and

other community youth groups by contacting the Boys' Club office at 9204 S.E. Harold Street.

Again this year the camp will also give an opportunity for Neighborhood Youth Corps boys and College Work Study students to gain job responsibility experience while serving as junior counselors in cooperation with the Mayors' Summer 75 program.

Evers honored

Fayette Mississippi Mayor Charles Evers and ABC/Dunhill recording artist B.B. King will host the third annual "Mississippi Homecoming" in tribute to slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers on Sunday June 1st, in Fayette and Natchez.

Since 1973, the "Mississippi Homecoming" has become an annual event in Fayette and this year Mayor Charles Evers has again invited Mississippians of all races and from all walks of life to come to Fayette for a day of reunion and celebration.

According to Mayor Evers, the Annual Affair is significant, since, "it reminds us old folks of the progress that has been made on the racial, political and economic fronts in the last twelve years, and lets our young people appreciate the achievements of their own people. And, it really shows everybody that things have changed a lot since Medgar's death twelve years ago."

SWP candidate speaks

Willa Mae Reid will host a Free Workshop at Portland State University Educational Center, Saturday, May 31st, 1975 at 11:00 a.m.

Willa Mae Reid, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Vice-President of the United States will host a Political Science Workshop

at the P.S.U. Educational Center, 2611 N.E. Union Avenue.

A major afternoon topic will be "Blacks in Government" and a special emphasis will be placed on Ms. Reid's campaign issues.

A question and answer period will follow.

Legislators host meet

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Report Breakfast, co-sponsored by Senator Vern Cook, Representative Glenn Otto and Representative Harvey Akesson in cooperation with the Gresham Chamber of Commerce will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on May 31st at the M & M

Restaurant in Gresham, 137 N. Main. Special guests at the meeting will be other East County Legislators Senator Mary Roberts, Representative Drew Davis and Representative Rick Gustafson. The breakfast is no-host and the public is invited. For further information call 665-8143.

SURPLUS AUCTION

The City of Portland will hold a public auction sale of City-owned vehicles at 1131 S.E. Powell Blvd. at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 7th. The sale will feature sedans, motorcycles, scooters, fire trucks and other vehicles, air compressors, transformers and copper wire.

FREE CAR WASH

Lifespring will give free car washes at the following locations on Saturday, May 31st from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.: the Mobil station corner of NE Broadway and Union; the Standard station corner of SE 82nd Avenue and Stark; the Mobil station corner of Canyon Road and Cedar Hills Blvd. The Reason: Love

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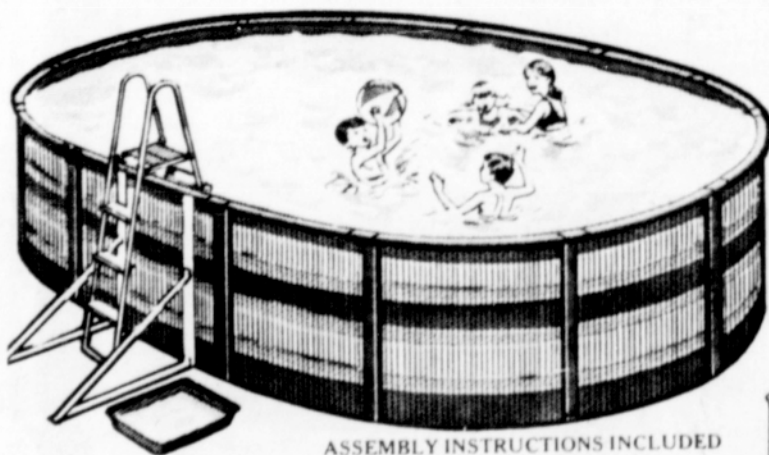
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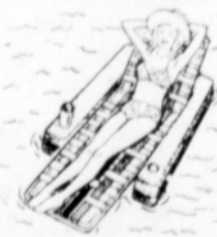
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