



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Stop brutality at Rocky Butte

Some time ago an extensive study of the administration of Rocky Butte Jail was made. This study, which generally found a lack of policy and procedures and of training for corrections officers, caused a big stir at the time it was released.

There have also been numerous grand jury reports on crowded conditions and other physical problems. Perhaps some of these will be corrected by the building of new jail facilities. Then we have heard for years that there is not proper medical care or attention to the physical and emotional problems of the inmates.

More recently there have been reports of increasing abuse and harassment by corrections officers. Some of these incidents have come to public attention, have been investigated, but have not resulted in criminal indictments against the officers. Suits have been filed and others are in the offing.

Nearly two months ago we asked that the allegations of Bobby Jamieson against corrections officers whom he stated physically and mentally abused him be investigated. Due to a problem within his office, Commission Chairman Clark did not receive Jamieson's request until two weeks ago. Clark ordered an investigation and report to him to be completed within ten days. The result -- increased

pressure on Jamieson, another alleged beating, and the "hole".

Usually this type of brutal behavior is committed by only a few of the guards. Others are more careful, their abuse is more subtle. Of course not all guards are involved in this type of activity -- many are sincere and attempt to do a seemingly necessary job in a proper manner. But there is no excuse for those who abuse men who are locked up and have no defense, who realize that any complaint or question can result in more abuse.

An internal investigation is being made of Jamieson's complaints. We can just about predict the findings.

We call upon Commissioner Don Clark to appoint a committee to look into the treatment of the prisoners at Rocky Butte -- not the overcrowding, the quality of the food, or even the lack of medical care. These are well known and have been documented over and over again. We believe the Chairman is concerned about the men in Rocky Butte, and we call on him to appoint a committee to study the treatment of the inmates and to ferret out those guards who commit the crimes and to gather the evidence needed to eliminate them.

Everyone at the jail knows who they are.

From the publisher

Dear friends,

Tuesday, the day I was presented the Russell Peyton Award -- was the happiest and the proudest day of my life. We have printed on page 6 some of the messages received in order to share them with those who were unable to attend the luncheon.

I was sincere when I said that I accepted the award not just for myself

but for all those who have helped and sustained me in my efforts to serve the community. These include not only close friends and associates, but the members of Bethel who aided me in my ministry in the church and the subscribers and advertisers who have supported the Observer.

Through the Observer we attempt to provide a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to the people, to

provide a voice for those who are not heard and to give some influence to the powerless. This award will serve as an inspiration to continue with the work we have begun and a reminder of the responsibilities such a public tribute bring.

Again, I would like to thank the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for this honor.

A. Lee Henderson

Letters to the Editor Verdict wrong

To the editor:

I am a young adult who has seen much of life's pain and unfairness, but none so much as watching an innocent man found guilty.

The man I speak of is James Babe Wilson, the drug counselor who was convicted of smuggling contraband into rocky butte jail. It sickens me to know of the injustice done, that has put a beautiful man like Babe behind bars. I'm not just speaking of our judicial system, but of his working colleagues also. Please,

keep in mind that I am not a drug addict, and have never been directly involved with drugs, but I had a husband who was.

From my first encounter with Babe, I knew he was a man solely interested in helping others. He always spoke freely of his past life, as to insure that people could change, and that not all was lost. I was skeptical at first, but after listening to Babe and his past, I could finally see real hope for us. His life as a criminal was hard and long, but his life of rehabilitation has been equally hard, and as for

being long, he never got the chance. It goes without saying that whatever he does, he does it to his fullest potential.

In the two years I've known Babe, I've never seen anything but honest and an unexplainable dedication for helping others. He never had time for pettiness in either life, which is just what he has been convicted of. I am a believer in Babe Wilson, for he is a believer in people.

Sincerely,

Tracy Kraus

Protest brutality

To the Editor:

We, the undersigned, witnessed the cruel and inhuman punishment done to Bobby Dean Jamieson on Saturday, February 19, 1977 at Rocky Butte Jail. We are concerned about Bobby's wellbeing and others' in this tank, C-4.

Thursday they skin searched everyone in this tank and went through the whole tank while everyone was at dinner. After they took Bobby on Saturday, they also rolled-up another inmate, Walter Dean, the next morning. So we are wondering who is going to be next, and with what faked-up charge they are going to come with to get us.

We the undersigned,
David L. Thayer
Gary Privett
Bill Rogers
Jerry Peterson
Babe Wilson
LaMon Christens

(Editors Note: If anything happens to these men, who have publicly protested the treatment of a fellow prisoner, it will not be looked upon lightly.)

No place for Babe

To the Editor:

Spare Babe Wilson from this penitentiary. Ain't nothing here that Black man needs. A high cement wall, a cold and lonely cell -- some old newspapers and magazines -- couple of old worn-out letters of yesterday's dreams.

Some of us -- Black Prisoners, here -- read last week's Portland Observer -- and the statement made -- "Warehousing Drug Addicts", is true. We've witnessed young Black prisoners here -- developing their first fix -- to escape this reality.

Some of us -- Black Prisoners, here -- remember Babe, who'd pick us up, lying in the gutters throughout Albina community -- Get food for our families, when we couldn't. We'd knock on his door, just to sleep on his floor -- on a chill, rainswept black ice night -- and never get turned away.

Some of us -- Black Prisoners, here -- regardless of Babe's recent court conviction -- remember him still at our sides, bringing us back to life, kicking a junkies

habit 'cold turkey' -- and standing at our sides, before the judges in Multnomah County Courtrooms -- when no one else could -- or would.

Yes -- and even, some of us -- Black Prisoners, here -- are fathers of daughters walking the streets of Portland -- twelve and fourteen years of age -- givin' it up for what it's worth -- for a fix and the price in life they'll have to pay. But with a little luck -- she might bump into Babe and listen about a drug addict's life he once had to live.

After all, that child may not be mine, but yours.

So, spare Babe Wilson from this penitentiary -- you, who are Black leaders, attorneys, judges or just plain good folks back in our Black community.

Ain't nothing here in this prison that Black man needs.

(From the Black Prisoners at OSP whom Babe Wilson has tried to help -- names withheld at their request)

Environment vs jobs

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

The Dow Chemical plant was to have been located on farmland across the Sacramento River from Pittsburg, California. The site was 2,700 acres of the last undeveloped land in the state fronting on a deep water ship channel. With Alaskan oil due to arrive by tanker in California in 1978, it seemed a natural site for the only major petrochemical facility west of the Mississippi.

But on January 19th, after spending \$6 million on land and \$4 million on engineering and environmental studies, Dow Chemical announced the project had been scrapped because of environmental red tape.

The proposed development would have been a complex of 13 plants employing 1,000 workers with an annual payroll exceeding \$15 million. During the five-to-eight-year building period, 1,000 construction workers would have been employed. When the unemployment rate in California is 8.5 percent compared to 7.9 percent nationwide, the projected jobs were welcome news.

Dow gave up the project after becoming entangled in the web of 65 separate permits from 12 local, state and federal agencies.

It is shortsighted to dismiss the case of the Dow Chemical plant as just another case of bureaucratic bungling. Bureaucratic bungling it was, but it was more. It was the environmentalists versus the

industrialists, with the people caught in between.

More and more, we must have nationwide recognition of the achievement of balance among the need for jobs, the availability of energy and the protection of the environment.

The winter of '77 will not soon be forgotten. It has left no doubt in our minds that our energy supply no longer can be taken for granted. Presently, every region in the country is reexamining its energy position. Natural gas, foreign oil and native coal supplies as well as points of entry and routes of pipelines are being assessed and evaluated.

Furthermore, I believe this record cold winter will bring a major population shift within the United States. People who have been harboring intentions of someday moving south or west will do so in substantial numbers.

I fear many who have found the Northern winter intolerable will come to California without a full understanding of the tragic consequences of joblessness. In the state of California, this movement is sure to intensify the need for industrial development.

Added to energy and jobs is the third force: environmental protection. In California, the environment not only is spectacular and warm but also fragile. Though all nature is fragile, the lack of substantial rainfall adds to the destructibility. In this strange winter of 1977 while the rest of the country is burdened

with repeated blizzards, Western United States is suffering from unparalleled drought. Water, the West's most precious resource, is in short supply. This shortage brings into sharp focus the need to plan human activity to protect our physical environment.

There can be no question that we must protect the air we breathe, our water supply and our invaluable agricultural lands. We can do this and still provide for an expanding industrial capacity. We can and must find a way.

A new breed of leader must emerge. At present we seem to be caught between industrialists who resent answering to the public and environmentalists who are committed to a no-industrial-growth policy. Is it too much to ask for leaders who appreciate both the environment and the need for industrial expansion? Must we be in opposing camps? It's our future at stake.

It has been predicted that industry will be driven from the state by the Dow Chemical experience. I think not.

However, I do feel that we must replace the environmental permit labyrinth with a process of careful planning both on the part of government and industry. Industry must be encouraged to locate in places that provide sorely needed jobs and in places that make sense economically. Industry is not the enemy. Economic privation is.

From the Legislature

by Rep. Gretchen Kafoury

The 1977 Oregon Legislature's pace picked up quite a bit this week. With the final day for introducing bills passed, committees are now grappling with a number of proposals ranging from drought assistance to the allocation of energy within the state.

DROUGHT

Drought conditions have prevailed in many western states for the last two years. But this year lack of rain threatens to push Oregon over the brink into the crisis stage. The Legislature has already taken steps to conserve water but Governor Straub issued what eventually may be seen as the first emergency action on Thursday when he ordered the closure of Lost Creek dam.

The governor also requested the Legislature to take steps to institute a cloud seeding program in an effort to alleviate the lack of precipitation and the increasingly dangerous dry conditions in our forests. All citizens are urged to do whatever they can to conserve scarce water supplies.

ENERGY

Governor Straub took the witness stand this week before the State Energy and Environment Committee to push for passage of SB 320. The bill represents the governor's plan to reduce the rates of the state's residential power consumers. The Domestic and Rural Power Authority (DRPA) would make the state of Oregon a large preferred customer of the Bonneville Power Administration. Under the plan the state would purchase all of the needed power for domestic use and resell that power to consumers at lower rates.

Straub says enactment of SB 320 could provide lowered utility rates for 85% of the state's power users.

NATURAL GAS RATES

A majority of the members of both houses have signed a petition urging the denial of a portion of the rate increase requested by Northwest Natural Gas. NNG has said that part of the request for an increase is caused by the conservation efforts of its customers.

Freshman Democrat Clayton Klein, from Central Point, has circulated the petition which will ask Public Utility Commissioner Charles Davis to deny that portion of the rate request. Klein calls it "A travesty" that such a request has been made when one considers the cutbacks Americans have made over the past few

years to save energy.

At present 35 Representatives and 17 Senators have signed the petition.

Disabled war veterans and veteran's widows must apply for their annual Oregon property tax exemptions by April 1, the Department of Veterans' Affairs cautioned today. Application is filed with the county assessor.

H.C. Saalfeld, Veterans' Affairs director, said the exemption amounts to \$7,500 of the true cash value of the property. Entitled are war veterans 40 percent or more disabled, and unmarried widows of war veterans.

Saalfeld said this is not an automatic exemption. Even though an exemption was granted last year, the property owner must file a new application to be considered for the exemption this year.

If the taxpayer still has property tax to pay on his residence after the veterans' exemption, and has an income of less than \$15,000 a year, he may be eligible for a refund under the homeowners and renters property tax refund program. Application for this benefit must be filed by April 15 with the Department of Revenue in Salem. The state income tax packet contains a refund application form.

Citizen of the Week



Charles Patterson is a 1958 graduate of Steubenville High School in Steubenville, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Army from 1958 until June of 1964, stationed in Germany and Alaska.

After leaving the Army, he was employed with the Veteran's Administration in Washington D.C. and Oklahoma City. He and his wife, Barbara, came to Portland in July of 1976, where he accepted the position of Assistant Supply Chief at the Veterans Hospital.

Patterson is a graduate of Federal City College in Washington, D.C. with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Patterson is a member of the Albina Lions Club. He likes to read and enjoys music.

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In the language of flowers a white violet means "modesty."



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