

From behind the wall



No Excuse For Ignorance Of The Laws

by Larry Baker #35021
O.S.P. Salem Correspondent

On April 8, 1977, the first Black Law class, sponsored by the Black Culture Organization was held at Oregon State Penitentiary. The turnout was so great that many of the Black inmates as well as whites, had to be turned away at the door. The main reason for this unfortunate incident was basically because there were not enough books to be administered to each individual who wanted to attend the class, *Introduction to Administration of Justice* published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

The Black Law class was developed to teach the members of the Black Culture Organization here at O.S.P. the basic Constitution and Civil Rights & Procedures that govern and guarantee all people in America equal protection throughout the land, within our courts and even behind the walls of our prisons and jails.

Since the United States Constitution does not recognize the color of a man's skin as being a barrier of its rights, neither did the Black Law class in admitting its students who attended the first lecture.

Gary Hooper, attorney of the Oregon

State Public Defender's office, who was the guest speaker, motivated the integrated class on the subject of dealing with 'appeals'.

We would like to publicly thank Mr. Hooper for his presentation and presenting us with valuable information he brought forth. When asking individual student inmates what did they learn from the first lecture, these were the replies...

Babe Wilson: "A much more clear picture I now have on 'appeals'."

Henry Madden: "How to prepare for an appeal during trial."

Ray Charles Maples: "Quite a lot."

Ricardo Dail: "One hell of a lot."

Freddie Abraham: "It explained so much to me."

Grady Redord: "Beautiful."

Craig Lieb: "That I'm going to be here a while."

Along with Mr. Hooper's lecture, the assistant instructor of the Black Law class, inmate Rod Addicks, who also works as the senior clerk of the O.S.P. law library, instructed the class on the uses of the Law Library along with other avenues that are open to assist men in prison, such as the following:

Marion-Polk Legal Aid, Inc.; Oregon Inmate Assistance Program; American Civil Liberties Union; Northwestern Legal Clinic; Governor Ombudsman's Office.

This Reporter writes this story not to tell the public of the beautiful legal class that has been born *Behind the Walls* of a prison, but to inform the public that there are some prisoners who are here that have been convicted, but are not guilty of that convicted crime. There is no excuse for the ignorance of the Law, as the old story goes. There is a class now established that hopes to improve and bring forth knowledge for those who have been trapped by such. Once again we urge all attorneys, judges, and people who work in the legal profession to contact the Black Culture Organization, Black Law Class, 2605 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310, if they wish to volunteer a Friday evening between 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the near future, so that they may schedule to be a guest lecturer.

THE LADY IN BLACKNESS

by Rod Addicks #37945

Once again, as so many moments throughout the last 350 years, the Black Woman must—and will, become the answer to a prayer, before the oppressed Black Man be able to break another link in that chain of slavery.

Henry Thomas
San Quentin, 1964

Her name is DeEtta Hamilton, a Black woman, native of Kansas City, Missouri, Graduate of Bakers University, Masters degree in Education, Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

DeEtta Hamilton has lived in the State of Oregon, City of Portland, for a year and a half, teaching preparation courses at Portland Opportunity Industrial Center (P.O.I.C.), but on March 29, 1977, she sat inside an enclosed classroom alone with 22 Black convicts, behind the walls of the Oregon State Penitentiary, for her very first time....Black men whose educational backgrounds ranged from 3rd grade to high school; Black men who were between the ages of 18-44, and with sentences from five years to life; Black men, whose crimes ranged from car theft to murder.

DeEtta Hamilton was teaching a course to Men of Blackness, about their culture and history. She taught the course free of charge, because there were no funds with which to pay for her services. Yet, this professional Black woman gave these men a priceless gift of knowledge in her effort to cultivate their hungry, starving minds. She committed herself to do this as long as she could. Only the day before, DeEtta Hamilton had broken her foot in a fall. Yet, here she sat, wearing a cast after driving 50 miles from her home to this prison, paying her own expenses out of her own pocket.

DeEtta Hamilton is a woman of high character, articulate. As this Reporter listened to this woman, he could not help

but recognize in her voice, her manners and style, those golden tones of Soul as it captured each Black prisoner's full attention and complete respect.

After the two hour class, this Reporter could not wait to ask this attractive Black woman the all important question: WHY? He received only a smile from this woman's lips, a smile which resembled one of pure dedication that could only be given in full sincerity from a friend to a friend. Yet no answer came forth and in full truthfulness none was needed. All this Reporter had to do was to recognize that he was no different than 22 other men of Blackness who sat there in that classroom, for like they, he also is a convict and his skin is Black. THANK YOU, Lady of Blackness.

Effective immediately, no male or female above the age of 12 will be permitted past the Turnkey at OSP wearing slacks or pants made of any blue-denim or blue denim-like material similar to those worn by inmates. The test, however, will not be based on the type of fabric, but, rather, whether the slacks or pants resemble blue-jeans. This is a long standing internal-management policy and is aimed at proper identification for security purposes. This policy applies equally to staff, inmate visitors, tour groups, volunteers, and official visitors.

MAN OF THE WEEK

President of UHURU: Ray Charles Maple #37156. Age: 22; 6'1"; 180 pounds (single) Born: Kansas City, Missouri; Portland, Oregon: 3 years. Parole Date: 1977

Reporter: Ray, what charge was you sent to O.S.P. for?

Ray: I was sentence out of Multnomah County, back in 1972 for burglary and given a 14 years sentence.

Reporter: Why did you commit the crime?

Ray: I didn't have any job, money, the cupboard was bare, and the rent was due.

Youth discuss job problems

The Governor's Conference on Youth Employment is scheduled to be held on April 18 at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. The theme of the conference is "Youth: the Neglected Resource" and will focus on the problem of unemployment among Oregon youth. Sponsored by business, labor, industry and public and private agencies, the conference is being coordinated by the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency and the Oregon Coalition for Alternative Human Services.

"The goal of the conference," said Tom Brian, OCCD Executive Director, "is to develop more creative and relevant employment opportunities for Oregon youth." "It is particularly timely now," he added, "because of the millions of Federal dollars that will be forthcoming to Oregon for youth employment, and the need for wise expenditure of these funds."

There will be no registration fee and a free box lunch will be provided for all participants.

The conference will focus on identifying barriers to youth employment and making recommendations on public policy that will make meaningful youth employment and training possible.

For further information, contact the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency, 228-5397 in Portland, or the Oregon Coalition of Alternative Human Services, 378-5805 in Salem.

LDF explains desegregation order

The NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., issued the following statement commenting on the April 1 decision by U.S. District Judge John Pratt in the case of *Adams v. Califano*, which was originally filed as *Adams v. Richardson* in 1970.

Judge Pratt's decision, granting a Legal Defense Fund motion made nearly two years ago, orders the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to revoke statewide higher education desegregation plans which HEW had approved in 1974, and requires the submission of new plans by September.

In this long-standing civil rights case LDF charged HEW with failure to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to eliminate discrimination in elementary and secondary schools, state administered special schools and institutions of higher education which receive Federal funds. LDF's basic charges have been sustained by the courts in numerous

decisions.

In 1973 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, ruling on the higher education aspects of the case, ordered HEW to secure plans to desegregate postsecondary educational systems in 10 states. LDF went back to court in August 1975 with the motion decided today, charging that HEW had approved inadequate plans. Judge Pratt's decision today agreed with that contention. HEW must develop new criteria for desegregating higher education systems by July 1st.

The affected states are Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Virginia and North Carolina. Among the remaining four states, Mississippi and Louisiana are being sued by the Department of Justice; Maryland is involved in litigation in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals; matters involving Pennsylvania are being negotiated in a separate settlement.

Jack Greenberg, LDF's Director-Counsel, and Jean Fairfax, Director of the Legal Defense Fund's Division of

Legal Information and Community Service, stated that LDF's objective in the *Adams* cases has been to expand the numbers of Blacks as policy-makers, administrators, faculty, nonacademic staff and students in the formerly all-white institutions and to enhance the traditionally Black colleges.

"To allege that LDF seeks the closing of Black institutions is a total misunderstanding of this suit," Miss Fairfax said. Judge Pratt's order today agrees with LDF's position that the burden of desegregation must not be placed on Blacks. Miss Fairfax also called upon Black citizens groups in the affected states to make their concerns known to Secretary Califano as HEW develops its new guidelines this spring.

"LDF's staff and cooperating attorneys will continue to monitor HEW's performance to assure that HEW makes good the promises of the Civil Rights laws and does not return to the benign neglect philosophy which brought on this lawsuit in the first place," Mr. Greenberg said.

New mortuary emphasizes low-cost service

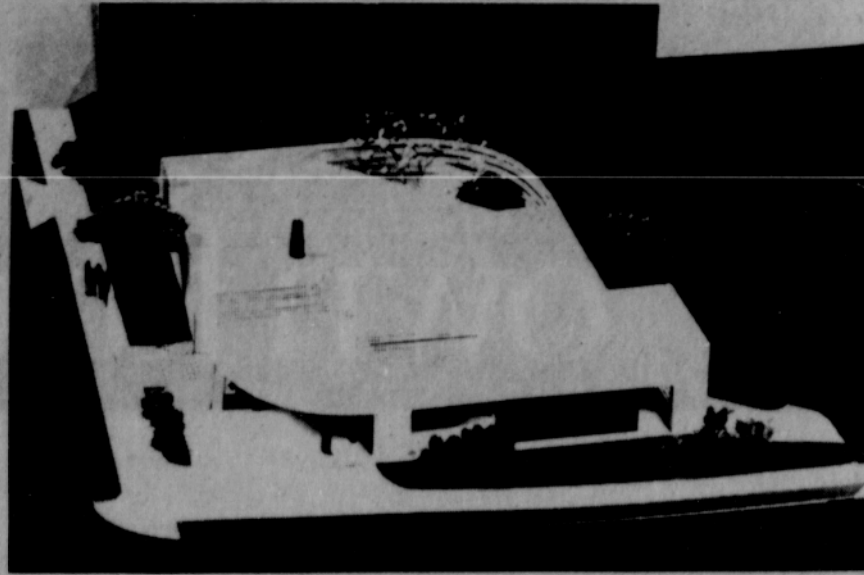
Worth W. Caldwell, Jr., president of Caldwell's Colonial Mortuary of Portland, has announced that a new \$200,000 mortuary and crematorium, designed to provide simple, low-cost funerals, will be built at S.W. 14th & Jefferson streets.

The 2,890 square foot facility, called "The Arbor," is expected to be completed in July.

Caldwell said The Arbor will be able to handle "simple, dignified services at a moderate price." The facility will offer earth burial or crematory service for about \$250 to \$600, Caldwell said. This compares, he added, with substantially higher costs charged by other funeral homes for traditional services.

Services at The Arbor will be simple and abbreviated, without processions or other frills, Mike Marquette, who will manage the facility, said.

Families may arrange for simple burial, simple cremation, or medical school donation. They can also choose to have a small funeral or memorial service at The Arbor. Embalming and viewing of the deceased will be optional as part of any service.



Above is a model of "The Arbor", a new mortuary to be opened by Caldwell's Colonial Mortuary.

As for The Arbor's construction, the building's front portion will be a covered outdoor area and a garden will be located in the rear.

The memorial room's east wall is designed to open to reveal caskets. In addition, within the wall there will be a

well-rounded library on death, dying, bereavement and funerals. This part of the memorial room's construction will allow the room to be used as a reading room.

The building will have natural lighting throughout.

SWP seeks class unity

by Ulysses Marshall

The American working class is facing an intense attack on its living standards. Worsening social conditions are causing widespread disillusionment.

Nat Weinstein, a national spokesman for the Socialist Workers Party says, "One of the reasons workers are suffering the setbacks in their living standards is because they don't have a political movement that unites the workers as a class....Labor needs a party of its

own based on the unions and independent of the Democratic and Republican parties."

"In a nutshell - the program of the Socialist Workers Party is designed to unite the workers as a class in a fight for their class interests, and to point out that the enemy is the class of employers. The only possible basis of this unity must be the interests of the most oppressed and exploited sections of society; i.e., Blacks, women, Chicanos, the unemployed, the very old and the very young. Such a program would restore the great moral

position once held by the working class. That would make it invincible... Division is a trick of the capitalist."

"Moreover, the low standard of living imposed on Blacks is used by the rulers to drive down the standard of living of all working people. During an economic crisis such as this one, racism is actively used in an attempt to pit whites against Blacks, instead of against the system responsible for exploiting all of us. Racism prevents the working class from uniting and realizing that we share a common enemy - the capitalist system."

Reporter: What have you accomplished in prison?

Ray: I've got my G.E.D. and worked with my Black Brothers so that we can bring unity among ourselves while being suppressed. I am learning a great thing about Leadership as the Coordinator of UHURU.

Reporter: What plans do you have whenever you are released?

Ray: To work among young Black children as hopefully a counselor, if the community will accept my past, in hope that their children will not have to travel the same road as I.

Reporter: Ray, the Black community in Portland needs you, because what you've given yourself we the Black prisoners here at the Oregon State Penitentiary. We have seen your good work among us, let's only hope that some of our Black leaders here in the state of Oregon contact you here in the early state and help you deliver your dream, because you have great leadership potential, too.

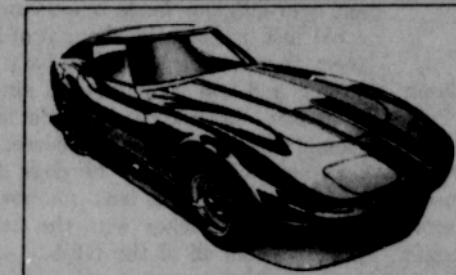
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	1 at 118.19			
Example based on first payment due 30 days after loan date.				

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