

From behind the wall

by Larry Baker 35021
Salem (OSP) Correspondent

"MEET RON MARTIN"

From the Streets of Kansas, Missouri, to the Walls of O.S.P. (Oregon State Penitentiary). "One of the reasons the Black population has drastically increased throughout the past three years in this prison is contributed to the lack of funds Blacks have to pay for an adequate and efficient legal representation, and second, the lack of Black lawyers to defend Black people properly in courts."

Those were the words related to me by this young, intelligent individual, whose desk was stacked with papers, books and case histories belonging to convicted murderers, rapists, burglars, and thieves of all natures—case histories of men the People and courts have constituted unfit for society.

As I sat in this tiny crowded office on the Inmates Management Floor (IMF) here at the Oregon State Penitentiary, I could not help but recognize the seriousness in this man's eyes as he expressed the frustration, when I informed him that 18 new commitments had just moments earlier entered through the gates of this prison from Multnomah County. Six of those individuals were Black. Only a few days earlier, 4 out of 10 new commitments were Black. Some of these same prisoner would become his responsibility;

his responsibility to take their life history, converse with their wives, children, parents or any family, loved ones and friends who would still come forward to state they cared. It was his responsibility to help these individuals behind bars to plan their educational and work programs and any other types of programs and services this prison has to offer. It is also his responsibility to evaluate whatever progress the prisoner makes during their court committed sentence of confinement. A responsibility that can be sometimes classified, "Damned if you do, or damned if you don't."

Ron Martin is a counselor and for the past three years he has been the only Black counselor that O.S.P. has had. A prison population of 1500, and over 300 of these inmates are individuals of Martin's race and culture. Although Martin has an interracial heavy case-load, his first dedication is to his clients, but he states his second concern is for the welfare of his people and their plight for freedom, equality and fair treatment in this state and nation.

I asked Ron Martin point blank, "What makes you qualified to counsel a prisoner?" His qualifications came high. Born in Detroit, Michigan, thirty-four years ago, raised in Kansas City, Missouri, and came to Portland, Oregon at a young age. Graduated from Jefferson High School in 1961, attended the University of Oregon on an athletic scholarship. Martin was a three-letter defensive corner-back in

1961-65 in which his football teammates consisted of such professional greats as Mel Renfro and Lu Bain. Martin majored in sociology, but his career was cut short by the 1966 Army draft. And as a Field Medical in Vietnam, he was wounded in action and received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Returning home, Martin continued his education and was employed from 1968-1973 in Portland as a counselor (Job Core), Director of Employment (Urban League), Supervisor with Parks (City Bureau of Parks), and Minority Recruiter (Portland Police Department).

When asked what was his reason for choosing to work in prisons he stated, "Because I have seen from experience how so many of the kids I grew up with on the streets get here." He credits his predecessor Jame Mason (today, Oregon State Parole Officer) as being the most influential person to prompt him to go to work for the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Martin believes that the reason that so many other qualified Blacks do not want to work in O.S.P. is because of discrimination produced in the Salem area. He has been subjected to harassment on a few occasions himself. Martin strongly believes that until Blacks are upgraded into the Department of Corrections, where major decisions are made governing people in this state penal system, that the increased percentage of Black prisoners will continue to go up.

He also believes in treatment, instead



RON MARTIN

of punishment, as the only deterrent to crime. He is a strong believer in community based treatment centers, for many of the prisoners.

One of the highlights of Mr. Martin's conversation, is the belief he has that there are many other qualified Blacks in the State of Oregon today who could obtain employment in all phases of prison and youth institutions, so the old excuse of having to recruit Blacks from another state is no longer valid.

Martin, who is a bachelor, has one brother still living in Portland, Richard Martin, who has been with Northwest Weather Renewal for 21 years.

Ronnie Martin, a qualified professional counselor - a Black man.

Brief supports affirmative action admission's

(NEW YORK) - A friend-of-the-court brief supporting school admission policies that give special consideration to minority applicants was filed here today with the U.S. Supreme Court by a coalition of 20 religious, professional, labor and public-service organizations.

The brief was filed in behalf of the University of California, which is appealing a California Supreme Court ruling that found the university's special admissions policy violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

The state Supreme Court ruled on a suit brought by Allan Bakke, a white applicant who claims he was denied admission to the university's Davis Medical School because of the university's special program to admit more minority students.

A lower state court found that Bakke would not have been admitted even if the special admissions program had not existed. The California Supreme Court overturned that decision and ordered the lower court to reconsider whether Bakke would have been admitted had the special program not existed, and, if so, to admit him.

The U.S. Supreme Court granted the university a stay until a decision is made on the appeal.

The friend-of-the-court brief was filed by the National Council of Churches; American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities; Americans for Democratic

Action; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO; American Public Health Association; Children's Defense Fund; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); Japanese-American Citizens League; Mexican-American Political Association; National Council of Negro Women; National Education Association; National Health Law Program; National Lawyers Guild; National Legal Aid and Defender Association; National Organization for Women; National Urban League, Inc.; United Farm Workers of America; United Mine Workers of America; United States National Student Association; and Young Women's Christian Association.

The amicus brief says that because the traditional academic criteria for admitting students to professional schools has "an exclusionary effect on minorities" professional schools concluded that "the concept of equal protection required the development of modes of access that would dissipate in some parts the effects of past discrimination."

"To this end, many professional schools opted to select qualified minorities by reference to non-academic as well as academic criteria that would more broadly reflect the ability of minority applicants to learn and practice the profession," the brief says. "It would be

erroneous, however, to conclude that this meant the admission of minorities who are 'less qualified' than whites who are rejected."

"To do so would assume that qualifications can be measured only by reference to traditional numerical criteria. But these criteria, at best, have only limited utility in predicting academic performance and none in predicting professional performance."

The brief notes that 90 percent of minorities admitted to medical school despite their lower academic scores have graduated, a higher success rate than that of white students.

Pointing out that 22 percent of California's population is Black and Chicano, the public-interest organizations contend that "essential fairness" requires minorities be included in a publicly supported medical school.

Studies have shown a "direct link between minority physicians and improved delivery of health-care services in minority communities," the brief asserts, adding that "minority professionals tend, to a very substantial extent, to practice in minority communities and...they do so to a far greater extent than do white doctors." All of the students admitted to Davis Medical School under its special admissions program expressed interest in serving disadvantaged communities, the brief says.

It also argues that "the admission of minorities diversifies the student body and permits faculty and students alike to derive the benefits of an integrated education."

Among the benefits of increasing the number of minority doctors would be to provide "a source of leadership to minority communities" and to show minority youth "the feasibility of educational and professional advancement," the brief says.

It stresses that there is no practical way to appreciably increase minority enrollment in medical schools without a special admissions program because the pool of applicants who meet and surpass traditional entrance requirements is so large.

The special admissions procedure has "still afforded whites the large preponderance of the admissions places and, indeed, more places than their proportion of the population in the areas served by the school," the brief says.

Noting that the Supreme Court has approved "race-conscious measures designed to overcome the legacy of discrimination against minorities," the amicus brief declares that "our national efforts to eradicate racial discrimination recognize the desirability of voluntary corrective efforts."

The friend-of-court brief was prepared by Richard B. Sobol of the Washington, D.C. firm Sobol & Trister.

Carter appoints Black woman US Treasurer

President Carter has appointed Ms. Azie T. Morton of Annandale, Va., to serve as Treasurer of the United States. Ms. Morton, a Black, has been serving as staff assistant to the U.S. House District Committee, and has been involved for several years in Equal Employment Opportunity activities.

Ms. Morton was born February 1, 1936 in Dale, Texas, and received a B.S. from Huston-Tillotson College in 1956.

From 1958 to 1961 Morton was an administrative assistant at the Texas State AFL-CIO in Austin. She served as an administrative assistant and community relations specialist for the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing from 1961 to 1966.

From 1966 to 1968 Morton was a complaint investigator and conciliator for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She was director of social service for the Wichita, Kansas Model Cities Program from 1968 to 1971.

Morton was special assistant to the chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1971 until 1977, when she went to work for the House District Committee.

She was deputy convention manager for the 1976 Democratic National Convention. In 1975 and 1976 she served on the DNC's Compliance Review Commission, and in 1974 she was vice chairperson of the Arrangement Committee and deputy conference manager for the 1974 Democratic Conference on Party Organi-

zation in Kansas City.

The President named Claud Anderson of Tallahassee, Fla., to serve as Federal Co-Chairman of the Coastal Plains Regional Commission. Anderson has been advisor and education coordinator for Florida Governor Reubin Askew since 1971 and was named Black Educator of the Year by the Black Women's Political Caucus in 1975.

Anderson was born September 1, 1935, in McCormick, S.C. He received a B.S. (1961), M.S. (1966), and Ph.D. (1970) from Wayne State University. From 1961 to 1970 Anderson was a teacher in the Detroit Public School System. He also worked part-time as a counselor at Wayne County Community College from 1967 to 1969 and as an instructor at

Highland Park College from 1967 to 1970.

In 1967 he served as a research investigator in Detroit under the Safe Street and Crime Act, and in 1968 he was an administrative assistant with the Detroit Police Department. In 1969 he was assistant principal at Moore School for Socially Maladjusted Boys in Detroit. In 1970-71 Anderson was a professor of educational sociology at Florida A&M University and Florida State University.

President Carter also announced the appointments of two other Blacks: James R. Burgess, Jr., of Champaign, Illinois, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Illinois; and Ms. Goler T. Butcher, of Washington, D.C. to be assistant administrator of the Agency for International Development for Africa.

Center schedules health day

by Gregory Guder

People sometimes wait until they have the symptoms of a disease before they seek medical assistance, not wanting to add the weight of exorbitant medical fees to a financial onus. Facilities to assist the poor may be available but the public may not be aware.

"That's why we are having Health Day at the Education Center," said Lucius Hicks, Director of the Portland State University Education Center and sponsor of the medical assistance program to be held Friday, June 24, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Center, located at 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue.

The Multnomah County Health Department, the University of Oregon Community Dental School and the Health/Help Clinic will offer a variety of tests, health checks and information free of charge on various aspects of community health for children and adults during "Health Day".

The County Health Agency will give sickle cell anemia screening tests, blood pressure checks, vision testing and various inoculations for disease prevention—DPT, Polio, measles, and whooping cough shots for children; diphtheria and tetanus shots for adults. Parents are encouraged to bring inoculation records.

The Multnomah County Health Department will also provide several education programs including self-testing for breast cancer for women, a video taped cancer education program, information on how to reduce childhood accidents in the home and literature will also be available on venereal disease, cancer, sickle cell anemia, parenting, family planning, blood pressure and the services offered by the County Health Department.

Visual cavity checks, a videotaped presentation on proper brushing, flossing and nutrition, as well as information on the sugar content of foods, will be provided by the University of Oregon Community Dental School. Those who attend the videotaped presentation will receive sample tubes of toothpaste and a toothbrush.

The Health/Help Clinic will set up a booth with information on nutrition.

In the event that maladies are uncovered, follow-up programs can be arranged with the proper agency. Free parking and babysitting will also be provided.

"Not only, is it a medical services program," said Hicks, "But it is an educational program as well. This is intended to impress on the community that medical security is a must."

Gates retains VP role

When the National Board of the National Council on the Aging, Inc. met in Baltimore June 9th and 10th, a part of the schedule included a visit to Baltimore's Waxter Center which is regarded as the outstanding center serving older people in America today.

The June 10th highlight was a meeting at the National Institute on Aging. NCOA Board member Dr. Robert Butler is Director of the National Institute on Aging and also author of the Pulitzer Prize book *Why Survive*. During the NIA facility orientation members were acquainted with some of the aging focused research projects currently in process there.

Afro-Americans on the NCOA National Board include Miss Katherine Dunham (Director, Performing Arts Center, East St. Louis, Ill.), Oslay J. Gates (National Vice President of NCOA and Executive Director of the City-County Commission

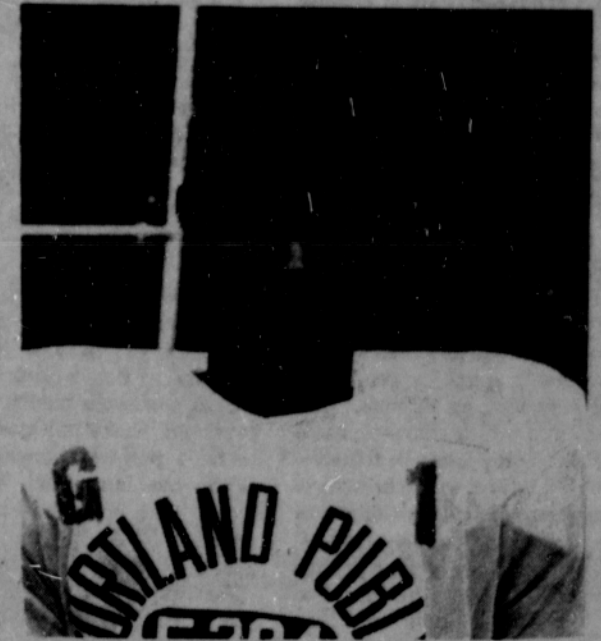
on Aging, Portland, Oregon), Hobart Jackson (Executive Director, Stephen Smith Geriatric Center, Philadelphia, Pa.), Dr. Maurice Jackson (Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California at Riverside), Dr. Inabel B. Lindsay (Former Dean, School of Social Work, Howard University, Washington, D.C.) and Dr. Walter Robinson, Jr. (Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois).

Jackson is a Past National Vice President of the NCOA.

At the June Board meeting Gates was reelected to a second term as National Vice President. Gates serves on the Executive Committee and is chairman of the Committee on the Urban Elderly. He is cited along with several other board members in the Foreword and Index of the book *When Your Parents Grow Old* by Jane Otten and Florence D. Shelley (1976, Funk & Wagnalls).

"When you rejoice over being young, and notice how well you feel, that is age." Jules Renard

Citizen of the Week



Robert "Pickle" Lewis is a 1977 graduate of Grant High School, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lewis.

An outstanding athlete, Lewis in senior year was a member of the All State Football Team, the All City Football Team, and earned Honorable Mention on the All American High School Team.

He was selected for the second team of the All City Basketball Team for 1976-1977. He is a member of the Hall of Fame of Grant High School. Lewis accepted a four-year athletic scholarship to the University of Washington, turning down similar offers from the University of Oregon, Pittsburgh, and Ohio.

This summer, Lewis is employed at Gand Tree Sells and is assisting with the Maurice Lucas Basketball Clinics.

At the age of 19, Lewis looks forward to a bright college career.

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