

From behind the wall

Compiled by Larry Baker 35021
Salem OBP Correspondent

by Don Rosacker
Program Chairman
Lifers Unlimited

Governor's Wife Visits O.S.P.

On Wednesday, June 22, 1977, Mrs. Pat Straub, Barbara Hanneman, George Burrell and Capt. Bob Bircken, along with a photographer from the Statesman Journal visited the State Pen as guests of the Lifers Club.

Mrs. Straub was appropriately attired in a grey pantsuit for the occasion. She brought along several comfrey plants to present to W.D. Norris who tends the garden. Also Mr. George Burrell brought some Rosemary plants.

Mrs. Straub was well impressed by the efforts of the Lifers in having a well producing garden which in turn provides fresh produce for the population, while also saving money for the State Penitentiary.

Also in attendance at Mrs. Straub's tour were staff members, Mr. Hoyt C. Cupp, Mr. John Keeney, Mr. Dudley Janeway and Mr. John Newell. Inmates W.D. Norris, Lifers Garden Project Coordinator; Bill O'Hara, President of Lifers Unlimited; Don Rosacker, Program Chairman and fellow Lifers who have put a lot of time and money into making this a working project: Dale Hetland, Russ O'Bromski, Ray Middleton & Ric Butcher.

These inmates are the work force that keeps almost three acres of garden free of weeds, plants watered, picked and taken to the kitchen for the population. We all owe a vote of appreciation to Dale and Russ for their hard work and continuing efforts to improve and add to the garden.

We now have 16 fruit trees that will and are bearing fruit. These were purchased by inmate Hetland and Warden Cupp and donated to the Lifers.

To give proper credence for work done I believe it would be nice to let everyone know who does what.

W.D. Norris - Rototills, fertilizes, stakes plants, picks plants, sprays, plants and takes care of the herb garden.

Dale Hetland - Russ O'Bromski - these two do all the watering of the garden. They also help in the other things.

Rick Butcher - Helps with all aspects of the garden.

Don Rosacker-Ray Middleton - help with complete garden and primarily now in control of taking care of the trees and flower garden which has just been started.

I personally extend my thanks to all of these fellows and hope they shall keep up the good work. With the continued support of everyone of us and the staff, we will have one of the best gardens anywhere in the state.

I AM A SLAVE

by Julius Snowden

I am a slave. No man I don't mean a Black Man kidnapped from his mother land and forced to pick cotton in the foreign terrifying fields of Alabama or Georgia.

No man, I'm a different kind of slave, a twentieth century slave, my master—the chemical substance known as HEROIN.

When we-e-e when under its influence I am mindless of life around me selfishly thinking only of my own well being.

But how did I a young man of Afro descent of middle class upbringing become exposed to such a fate? (when) Everyone knows that only those helpless souls of the ghetto's know the evil and oppression of the killer.

For isn't it true that they are the ones that must remain submissive else they entertain the thoughts of freedom?

The cry for rehabilitation was raised when and only when the killer HEROIN crept into the WHITE MIDDLE CLASSES CHILDREN, only then when it's implication came to light did the white middle class call for help against the most evil of invaders.

We can only suspect that the government's well laid traps caught those they wish not to catch, their blunder opened the door of freedom to those who need it the most - the poor BLACK, BROWN & WHITE MAN.

THANK YOU MIDDLE CLASS....

Thank you - have you now the opportunity to free yourselves of the killer????

WHY DOES CRIME CONTINUALLY GROW IN AMERICA?

by Claud Lampkin, Jr. 30290

I feel that this is a question that all of the people in our country should ask themselves. Yes, I believe we all should try to find out what are the main perpetuating factors of crime today. We need to find the original sources of crime before we can ever try to reduce it. How can you ever really stop a dangerous ball you can't even see? It's very simply, YOU CAN'T! The purpose of this article is to let the people know what needs to be done in order to reduce our ever-booming crime percentage.

First of all I feel a major point is being left out by our public authorities who deal with crime. These authorities are our police officers, judges, state personnel, etc. The major point that is neglected is that all criminals are human organisms, known as people. They are not animals or any other sub-human types. They all have the natural senses of any other person in our society. When you have people in custody always treat them as so. If not, you indirectly are developing a very mad person.

I believe that every convicted criminal should always receive an interview. This, to be beneficial, should take place outside the court room. Yes, in a private area with no one except a well trained psychologist present. This way we will have a lot more insight upon the motivation of certain crimes that occur frequently. It should always be a psychologist or a psychiatrist. Not a judge, officer, or a lawyer. The criminal will always be much

more willing to level with a doctor instead of an authority! There is nothing but a fact because there remains a very hard line between the criminal and the authorities over him. This fact is proven by the dangerous harm that criminals and officers receive from each other daily.

I am now in a state criminal institution myself. This is why I can see what is badly needed. This is nothing but the development of MENTAL HEALTH. Yes, every day I walk around, looking at many mental disorders and defects in this institution. Yet what is being done for the criminals? NOTHING. This is exactly why such a high percentage of inmates are returning consistently for the same type of crimes. Instead of all the sports, body-building, etc. let's start helping the criminal find a brighter road in life to travel on. We can surely do this by helping the criminals find THEMSELVES! I can certainly see that by their actions, many of them are lost. Yes, they are going through life guessing because they do not know which way they should go. When when you have people serving time, don't just make it a period of time for negative punishment. Let this be the time for positive punishment. Let's help all criminals develop a better style of life. By doing this we can make the former criminal a very constructive citizen in our society here in America. NOT A SORRY DENOUNCED OUTCAST!

There is also something else I believe all readers of this article should know. In the executive department of the United States there is a big error being made. This is that to much crime by your authorities is taking place to supposedly catch the criminal. This has been also proven true. Many of the officers have resorted to wiretapping, illegal home searches, etc. Many of our very faithful citizens have received hard treatment from our city police. If you really want to reduce crime, you must release the criminals you have on your forces. Until you are willing to accept this fact there will always remain a very hostile line between the police and the public. Don't fight crime with crime!

Well this is all I have to say right now but I hope you have benefited by reading this article. It was written for all executives as well as criminals. Both can benefit by reading it.

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Cleaver's Christian Crusade: Black, white and anti-red

by Reginald Major*

SAN FRANCISCO (PNS)—"We are involved in spiritual warfare between God and the Devil," declared Eldridge Cleaver, explaining the missionary zeal behind his newly launched "Eldridge Cleaver Crusades."

"Crusades," he says, "captures the urgency which I feel. I seem to hear the Lord saying to me, 'Against these evils, thou shalt crusade.'"

Thus far the chief evils against which the former Black Panther Minister of Information directs his famous rhetoric are communism and Black militancy. And among the chief supporters of the incorporated crusades are some of the leading luminaries of the predominantly white, new right evangelism.

Looking like a preacher and sounding like a politician, Cleaver dishes out a hearty blend of old-time religion and fundamental, conservative politics. And his mission—apart from keeping him out of jail—appears to be bridging the wide gap between the Black and white evangelist movements—a feat that, if accomplished, could cement a powerful new conservative political coalition.

The anti-communist nature of Cleaver's new crusade has renewed charges among his critics that his actions and statements since his return from exile in November 1975 are basically "opportunistic," clever stratagems designed to win him public approval in his bid for freedom.

Cleaver still faces charges of assault and attempted murder stemming from an April, 1968 shootout with Oakland police. His trial is expected to begin in September.

The former radical—who may soon become the Reverend Eldridge—has consistently denied all charges of collaboration. "I have not made a deal with anyone except Christ," Cleaver declared before an all-Black congregation of San Francisco's Providence Baptist Church in mid-June.

But though Cleaver dates his conversion to Christianity to a vision he experienced while still in exile in Paris (when the face of Christ replaced those of Marx, Mao, and Castro on the moon), his initial appeal following his return was to American Jews.

His defense committee was headed by Bayard Rustin, chairman of BASIC (Black Americans for a Secure Israel Committee). And one of Cleaver's first published articles was an attack on the United Nations for passing a resolution equating Zionism with racism.

When he declared that Castro's Cuba displayed a form of racism more insidious than South Africa's, critics became convinced that Cleaver's statements were bought and paid for.

But apart from small contributions to the defense committee, by March 1976, still in the Oakland jail, Cleaver had yet to find a constituency with enough resources and power to support his legal battles.

He found it in Arthur DeMoss, a Philadelphia millionaire who is chairman of the board of the National Liberty Corporation and a top financial contributor to the ultra-conservative Campus Crusade for Christ and the Christian Freedom Foundation.

DeMoss visited Cleaver in jail following contacts that indicated the former Panther might be ready to become a born-again Christian. DeMoss provided \$100,000 for Cleaver's bail and sufficient living expenses to maintain a \$100,000 home in the plush Los Altos hills south of San Francisco.

Along with Cleaver and his wife Kathleen, DeMoss is an officer in the Eldridge Cleaver Crusades Corporation.

Since then, Cleaver has gone on the religious lecture circuit, appearing at some 80 colleges, more than 20 churches and virtually every major religious TV talkshow.

He and Kathleen were baptized in October, 1976 and placed their two children in a Los Angeles Christian school. "I don't want my children corrupted by bearded teachers who don't agree with me," said Cleaver.

Cleaver's first appearances were limited to white evangelical groups who responded enthusiastically to his "testimony" about how an ex-communist and Black militant had become one with Christ—even though there is no evidence Cleaver ever was a communist.

When skeptics charged that he was avoiding Black audiences, Cleaver began appearing at all-Black churches such as the Providence Baptist Church, whose pastor, Calvin Jones, is a locally well-known conservative and a sponsor of the Eldridge Cleaver Crusades. His reception there, while not overly enthusiastic, was approving.

During his testimony, Cleaver criticized San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto and state Assemblyman Willie Brown for campaigning on behalf of gay civil rights in Florida.

With a bitterness that seemed to contradict his claim to love everyone, including his enemies, he dismissed California's leading Black politicians—including Willie Brown, Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley—because "they did not lift a finger to help me."

"I appeared before Lionel Wilson, a Black judge, and he raised my bail from \$50,000 to \$100,000," Cleaver complained. Judge Wilson, ironically, has since become Mayor of Oakland, with the full support of the Black Panther Party.

Throughout his testimony, Cleaver subtly hinted that white political control is closer to the proper order of things.

Upon his return to New York from Paris, he said, two FBI men, one Black and one white, arrested him. "The brother had a big Afro," said the now short-haired and clean-shaven Cleaver, "and it came clear later that the white man was in control. I knew then that I was in the right place."

Cleaver said his friend, Billy Graham, had told him he was glad that Black people were receiving the evangelical message, because "white people won't listen to white people anymore."

Says one long-time Black activist in Oakland who has followed Cleaver's byzantine career from the beginning, "Eldridge's religious message seems to be one of convincing Blacks to chain themselves to the rock of ages after they steal away to Jesus."

In fact, Cleaver's brand of Christian activism is closely related to the kind of evangelism that in the past has been characterized as decidedly anti-Black. Some of his key supporters among the leading white evangelist powers have carried the anti-communist zeal to uncritical support for the white minority governments of Rhodesia and South Africa.

While Cleaver has avoided embracing such a position publicly, he privately takes a hard, critical line toward the

Black African states involved in southern Africa's racial wars.

In an interview, he decried as "racist" any support for "those niggers trying to push our brothers into the sea" in southern Africa.

The future of the Eldridge Cleaver Crusades is now being mapped out from a Stanford, California office. In the meantime, the organization has already begun publishing a "Crusader" newsletter appealing to readers to "send us a generous contribution towards the foundation of this ministry."

*Reginald Major, author of one of the earliest books on the Black Panther Party, *The Panther Is A Black Cat*, and *Juice In The Round*, a book on the Angela Davis trail, is a member of the foundation-funded PNS urban task force.

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