



Behind the wall

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"I Ain't Much, Baby —
But I'm All I Got" Jess Lair, Ph.D.

PART II

Rapidly over the last week a small group of inmates have been gathering support through the entire prison population to mount a massive assault legally.

The Oregon Prisoners Legal Services in Salem is under attack by the inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary in retaliation of the announcement that the Prisoners Legal Services has requested and received funding from the Division of Corrections, in order to continue serving their clients.

A large portion of those funds is to supposedly go toward fighting the very agency (Division of Correction) who provided it. Inmates who file civil suits against prison procedures, parole violations and unusual punishment have been at the mercy of P.L.S. for legal advice and court actions. Prisoners may be judged by the public as 'dumb' for getting themselves in a position in life to be confined in prison, but they are not stupid enough to actually believe that any 'legal minded' organization is foolish enough to 'bit the hand that feeds them.'

In a recent meeting with State Senator Edward Fadeley, (member, Ways and Means Committee) inmates expressed their dissatisfaction in the legal services provided by the P.L.S., and a move is in the making to inform the general public that it is their taxpaying money which is at stake.

"Show me one solid thing the Prisoners Legal Services has accomplished since they've used us for an excuse to obtain the enormous federal grant, two years ago, to protect prisoners civil rights," stated H. Goodspeed, (O.S.P. inmate). "They have done nothing, but supply us with words and promises, but no actions."

Goodspeed continued, "When the Oregon Bar Association refused to supply local matching funds to them, well the sugar started melting into the mustard."

Another inmate, (who wished not to be identified) remarked, "This time we can't place the blame on H.C. Cupp (Superintendent) or any of his staff for abuse of prisoners legal rights. Not when we've got the Prisoners Legal Services secretly selling us out to Corrections for a few lousy dollars. Even if the prisoners had someone as dedicated to handling their cases as Scott McAlister (Assistant Attorney General) or Gary Balcock, (State Public Defenders) there would be no suspicions in "conflict of interest."

The point of real disappointment of relying on people within the legal professional field comes in the final analysis and when the commitments they make are not kept, especially to those who are too weak to defend themselves.

To 'Behind the Wall':

To meet the legal needs of the inmate population it would, in my opinion, be productive to apply for an L.E.A.A. grant to be ad-

ministered by Corrections Division. Imparative in this would be the direct participation of an inmate committee which with the input of a staff committee would select competent attorneys to litigate cases selected by an inmate advisory committee which reflects the needs of the inmate population.

Richard H. Shoblod

(Correspondent notes: Shoblod, is the author of "Doing My Own Time" published by Doubleday in 1972.)

To 'Behind the Wall':

When Prisoners Legal Service of Oregon was originally conceived, it was thought by the prisoners of the Oregon State Penitentiary that their main job or responsibility was to be one of representing the bulk of the institution on either class action or cases that would effect a large portion of the inmate population. This never came to be, in fact they sidestepped the cases that would provide relief for large numbers of prisoners and took the little cases that the law library could have easily handled.

Even though they were federally funded, their refusal to tackle the real problems that exist at the Penitentiary and take on the large class action type suits that would benefit a large amount of prisoners. This type of an attitude led to the bulk of the prisoners of the penitentiary losing a great deal of respect and credibility in Prisoners Legal Service project.

Now that Prisoners Legal Services project is funded through the Corrections Division, there is no doubt in my mind that they will only be puppets for the Corrections Division, litigating only those cases that Corrections will allow.

What little credibility Prisoners Legal Service had before being funded by the Corrections Division is gone. Most inmates would rather have another inmate or some other organization handle any legal work they seek to have done than request Oregon Prisoners Legal Service project to do it.

In short, throwing good money after bad is not the answer, what is needed is an organization that will respond to the needs of the bulk of the prisoners in this penitentiary, if Oregon Prisoners Legal Service project, cannot or will not meet our requirements than some alternative source of legal counsel should be sought.

As a paralegal, these are my observations after speaking with hundreds of inmates each week. Most support these feelings and are more than willing to speak out and be heard.

David J. Sterling

by Tom Capps and Wilbur Hixson

The Prisoners Legal Services of Oregon was created for the purpose of hearing inmate complaints against the Oregon Correctional System.

Originally, this office operated under a U.S. Government Grant of the Federal Law Enforcement Act.

The concept of this office was designed to assist inmates at O.S.P., who with a limited knowledge, and without funds, could utilize this office to file and properly present those complaints arising from Civil matters. It was committed to those matters of individual, as well as class-action suits.

Recently, this office met with funding problems. To alleviate its financial dilemma, it considered outside sources for new funding. Ultimately, the Oregon Correctional System agreed to fund this office for a period of time, to assure its continuation.

It is generally felt that by accepting the generosity of the Oregon Correctional System, Prisoners Legal Services of Oregon permitted itself to be placed in an untenable position, creating a conflict of interest by this financial expedient. It immediately raises the question: How can this of-

PCC begins community classes

Fall term at Portland Community College begins the week of September 25th, and PCC's community education division is offering its usual wide variety of courses in North and Northeast Portland.

Registration for fall term classes can be completed by mail through September 20th or in person at any PCC center until noon on Friday, September 22nd. Also, registration is open the first day of class if space is still available.

Courses are offered in North Portland at Jefferson and Roosevelt High Schools, and at PCC's Cascade Center, 705 N. Killingsworth. In Northeast Portland, classes are offered at Adams, Grant, and Madison High Schools and at several grade schools.

Numerous dance courses are being offered at Jefferson High School, including beginning, intermediate, and advanced dance, ballet, tap, and jazz dance. Other courses at North Portland centers include disco and belly dancing, scuba diving, quilting, drawing, a workshop on starting a small business, and adult basic education, among many others.

At Adams High School, courses will be taught in massage, darkroom photography, gymnastics, painting, pottery, Chinese cookery, sewing, welding, woodworking and short-hand.

Courses at Grant High School and

Safeway aids LA growth

In support of Mayor Tom Bradley's suggestion to industries in Southern California to expand in the Los Angeles area, Safeway Stores have started construction on a \$1.4 million enlargement on one of its stores in the Lincoln Heights area of Los Angeles.

A.J. Fulton, Safeway's vice president and Los Angeles division manager, said that this project is a part of a \$10 million store remodeling program in Safeway's Los Angeles division.

Mayor Bradley, Safeway officials, civic and government leaders were on hand for the ground breaking ceremonies.

office effectively represent a complainant when it is in effect being funded by the very institution that is being litigated? If this office is to maintain a semblance of credibility, this conflict of interest must be eliminated. Anything short of elimination by seeking other funding resources is unacceptable. Perhaps, the office should be abolished.

Most inmates are familiar with a similar office of Ombudsman. This office too, was created to hear complaints of Oregon's prison inmates and for the presentation of these to the Governor's Office. Over the years, this office has deteriorated to nothing more than a sounding board for the Oregon Correctional System. To conclude that these offices are effective representatives of Oregon's Prison inmate body is questionable. Results issuing from these sources are not noticeably favorable.

Perhaps, it is time for inmates of the Oregon State Penitentiary to re-evaluate the functions of these offices and consider Legislative alternatives in the forthcoming years.

nearby grade schools include antiques, art appreciation, assertiveness training, clowning, first aid, guitar, holistic health, Oregon for the curious, photography, transactional analysis, dance, picture framing, soap making, cooking courses, auto tune-up, languages, writing and others.

Madison High School area courses include bridge, first aid, genealogy, handwriting analysis, weight loss, darkroom photography, macrame, weaving, wood carving, sewing, languages, English as a second language, and others.

Also, several courses on Christmas baking and Christmas ideas will be offered this fall, some beginning later in the term.

Tuition for PCC community education classes is variable, and community education classes do not carry college credit.

To obtain a list of all PCC offerings this fall, contact Portland Community College at 244-6111.

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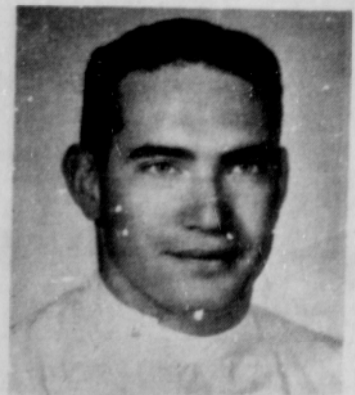
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VOLUME IV

SEPTEMBER 1978

SERIES I

During the entire month of September you may register for evening, Saturday and Sunday classes.

This is EXODUS' first series of community service classes.

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