



## Behind the wall

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First, an accepted understanding of society — a prisoner is the product of an injustice perpetrated against society and/or a system. Depending on the intelligence of the masses, their concept of justice, humanity and etc. . . the information given them by the necessary authority would and could be tolerated. However, for one confined behind the gray walls of O.S.P., the many dimensions presented as avenues for construction, in some respects are more destructive than constructive.

Today for those incarcerated the input is placed on rehabilitation — a change — rather than punishment. However for this change to come about there must exist some form of motivation in order to warrant the action — opportunities for constructive correctiveness to not only the prisoner and society, but the so-called necessary authorities who are compelled to concur their conclusion/findings . . . that would allow a prisoner to be returned back as a responsive and responsible citizen of the community. All the psychiatrists, sociologists and psychologists could never truly understand the whys and why nots of someone who has been committed to an institution of this caliber for long periods of time, especially when you consider the hypocrisies, humiliation and mistrust they are forced to endure by both authority and fellow inmates in their pursuit of constructive change.

(Truth, Justice, Mercy and Love are not empty concepts they are as real as strength and weakness.) It is said that rehabilitation must first begin with the prisoner. This is an undeniable fact! There must also be a force, a true motivating factor capable of bringing about this change. However, rehabilitation — like metamorphosis, a change of the physical/mental structure — is an action occurring with time (need I say time is one thing we prisoners have plenty of?) But because of a pastence our efforts for constructive change, individually, are stymied.

(The individual is more important than the state. The things men have in common are stronger than the things which separate them.) A young man confined to the S&I unit one night took his own life. Why? Could it have been because he lacked the incentive, mental strength in coping with requirements associated with this farce called rehabilitation? A senior resident on the honor block one day complained to the sergeant of said block about having chest

pains and asked for a pass for the hospital. The block sergeant told him that sick call was in the morning and that he (the sergeant) was not making out any passes. That afternoon the old man was found in his cell where he had died of a heart attack!

All the present existing programs dealing today with criminal rehabilitation are a hoax. In order for one to return with a positive attitude back into society he must believe and know that by returning he will be able to add something, not just to his growth, but to society as well.

Within these walls there are programs dealing with vocational training (depending on the population) and they are available to those who can meet the criteria. Again, depending on the education or trade level an inmate has, his or her (OWCC) chances of participating in such programs are far and few — almost like a pipe dream to some.

And there are those existing within the system who refuse to acknowledge a decision handed down from the courts regarding a prisoner's sentence — at times forcing him or her to undergo such degrading and humiliating conditions and/or acts that in order for some to maintain/hold onto what sanity they may still have they are Compelled/forced to assume an attitude already displayed before society (by a system more corrupt than those they are responsible for a supposed rehabilitation) as being — animals!

In order for rehabilitation to exist constructively, the person or persons involved should first understand the significance of this endeavor to not only the prisoner, his or her family and friends, but to the true inner self in beginning a program that in the long run strengthens a concept of understanding. The crime or reason should be second (although they too are factors) to the person. Not only must the prisoner — man or woman — change (rehabilitate), but society too. It seems that once a person is committed to such institutions people have the tendency of forgetting that one day that same person will again be returned back into the same society. In order for rehabilitation to work, as it is put up to be, we must all become involved. . . Outside as well as inside must unite true efforts if this avenue called rehabilitation is to be a fact rather than what it is — a FARCE.

Prison reform and the elimination of crime in the street . . . begins with you, the person!

## Bits & Pieces

by Ruth Spence:

The Portland Public Schools, under CETA IV, have been awarded a grant of \$398,975 for a Child Development Specialist project containing 34 employment slots. It's aim is to prevent behavior problems in the primary grades of the Marshall High School feeder schools.

Mrs. Bertha Baugh, a teacher at Bridger Primary School, is voluntarily retiring from the Portland Public Schools after 25 years with the District.

Mr. Robert Blanchard, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, explained that the excessive suspending of Black children from schools (at six times the normal rate) was not for punishment; but, to get parents to come to schools for conferences. He did not indicate how the parent involvement component of the Title VII proposal related to these parents.

Dr. Dorothy Holden, Director of the Sickle Cell Anemia Clinic, Down State Hospital Brooklyn, New York, was the recent house guest of her sister, Mrs. Edna Basket.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Grigsby and their young sons Eric and Trent recently vacationed in Disneyland.

Maude Young, Alcenia Boozer, Audrey Ellis, Mary Fuller, Marjorie Ingersall, Inez Mayberry, Kaye Bogle, Margaret Hill, Fannie Freeman, and Genevieve Martin were honored with beautiful corsages for dedicated service to Saint Phillips Church at a Daughter's of the King Fellowship luncheon Saturday, October 7th, at Saint Phillips Parish Hall.

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission requires applicants for Oregon Teaching certificates to "acknowledge that they understand two state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in education."

About 2,000 persons are expected to attend the National Adult Education Conference October 25th-29th at the Hilton Hotel in Portland.

Education will cost the country \$155 billion this year.

Mrs. Geneva is a loan executive from Pacific Power to collect dollars for United Way. She is assigned to the Education West Division including colleges, high schools and elementary schools. She expects to collect \$93,000.

## PCC forums explore Oregon tax alternatives

To bring a new perspective to the current tax controversy, Portland Community College is having three of its humanities instructors conduct a series of six free public forums on taxation.

The forums, to begin Thursday, October 12th, will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Sylvania, Rock Creek and Cascade Centers each Thursday until November 16th.

The topic of the October 12th forum is "Public Financing for Human Needs."

Local officials and candidates running for public office in the November 7th election are being invited to participate in the forums as panelists.

Persons attending the forums will have ample opportunity to both question these officials and express their own views on the tax issues, said PCC's Jim Magmer, who is coordinating the forums with the participating newspapers.

While attendance at the forums is free, persons planning to attend all six forums may register for one college credit in Humanities Experience at the beginning of the first forum, Magmer said. Cost will be \$13.50.

"But we want to emphasize that forum attendance is free," Magmer said.

"The course arrangement in Humanities Experience is only for the convenience of those who wish college credit for attending the forums."


The main thrust of the forums will undoubtedly be the property tax limitation measures on the November 7th Ballot (Measures 6 and 11), Magmer said.

"But because taxes," as Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "are the price we pay for civilization," taxation as a public forum topic, is a very human one.

The humanists conducting the forums will be able to bring insights from literature, anthropology, journalism and political science into the forum discussions," Magmer said.

"We hope the humanists will be able to help the forum participants better understand the relationship between taxes and the quality of life we enjoy, or aspire to enjoy, in the Portland area.

Fred Warner, whose field is English literature, will moderate the forums at the Sylvania Center; John Olson, a political scientist, will moderate the forums at the Cascade



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