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Which man would die?

Appointment with the gas chamber

The lives of three men now residing in Oregon State Penitentiary have been closely effected by the death penalty and by its repeal in 1964. If Oregon still had the death penalty — which it very likely will after the November 7th election — which of these men would have died?

Larry Shipley, a former resident of death row, strongly opposes the death penalty. "It is a brutal thing and really what it does is admit that society doesn't know how to deal with the criminal. It is an admission of failure."



LARRY SHIPLEY

Shipley was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. "The death penalty didn't enter my mind when we planned the murder. In fact, I don't think I even knew it existed." Shipley, then twenty, and another youth had assisted a seventeen-year-old girl escape from a foster home. Shipley, who had been to the Oregon Correctional Institution, feared being returned to prison if implicated so the two young men decided to kill the girl with a twenty-two pistol.

Shipley believes that with proper legal counsel he would not have received the death sentence. "When I was arrested, I was shown the written confession the other man had made so I confessed. There was no strong evidence, so I convicted myself." Shipley explained that he agreed to plead guilty with the understanding that he would not be sentenced to death. At the last minute his attorney had him plead not guilty, but he didn't know why.

"I was convicted one day and was brought before the judge the next day for sentencing. By that time I knew the death sentence was possible, but I had been told there would be appeals and was led to believe it would never happen."

Shipley was then taken to O.S.P. where he was placed in solitary confinement with two other inmates facing death. Each time an appeal was filed he received a stay of execution, then when it failed was sentenced to die after 89 days. The closest he came to death was thirteen days. "Ordinarily I did not think of death. It's something you push out of your mind, but the last time — as the time got closer I began to believe it. By the time that there were only thirteen days left I was climbing the walls. Then another stay came."



ROD ADDICKS

While Shipley was waiting for his execution date, another person LeRoy McGahuey, was executed. McGahuey had been convicted of killing a woman and child. "He kept trying to tell everyone that he didn't kill the child, that the woman killed the child and he killed her. If he had a good attorney and that came out in court, he probably wouldn't have been executed."

"That was one man who didn't need to die. We heard on the radio that Governor Hatfield said McGahuey didn't ask him to commute his sentence. But that isn't true. He wrote a long letter. After we heard that, he wrote another letter 'Commute me.' "Hatfield claimed to be a Christian, but I consider it hypocrisy when a Christian can sit by and let a man die. I'll always hold that against Hatfield."

The other men on death row were moved three days before McGahuey's execution date, and kept away for three days after. "We had no access to newspapers or a radio, but on the night he was executed a guard came running to us yelling, 'They did it. They killed him.'"

"Then we knew they really would do it." Shipley still was waiting

execution when the people voted an end to the death penalty.

Shipley was later released on parole, but due to need for money soon became involved in a series of robberies — some of them armed. "I knew I would never need to use a gun during a robbery — I was in complete control of the situation. I always planned it carefully and knew the set-up. There wasn't much chance of anything going wrong."

Shipley said he had given up crime for over a year — after he was married and had a child — but let



FLOYD FORSBERG

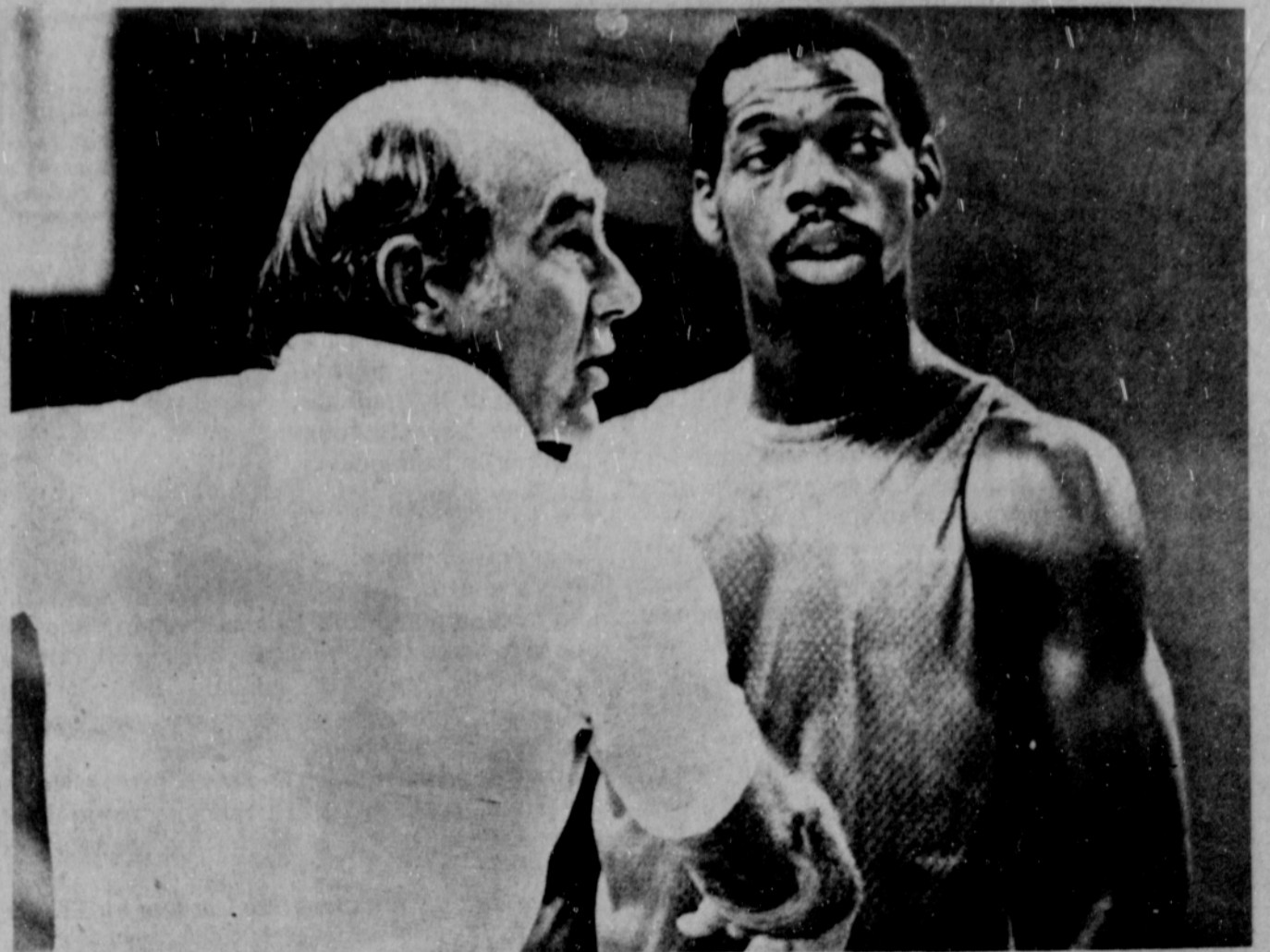
himself be talked into one more burglary by a friend he later found was a police informant. As he started to enter the building he was surrounded and soon found himself back in prison.

Would he kill again? Shipley says no. "I decided a long time ago that it wouldn't help anyone to sit around and think about it. Nothing can bring the girl back. But I hope that I can make some contribution to society. I always had put myself first. Now I have a wife and daughter, and another child on the way. I have something that is more important than myself."

As for death vs. a life sentence. Shipley has no doubt. "I wanted to live. It's just a matter of self preservation. Even if I were facing the rest of my life in prison, there would be no doubt about my choice. Even in here there is a chance to do something worthwhile."

"There is no rehabilitation in prison. If they really want to punish someone and make them suffer, they should put him in here. It is a worse punishment than death and costs less. But there's still that desire to live."

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Blazer rookie Ron Brewer takes a tip from coach Jack Ramsay. (Photo: Steve Nehl)

Brewer: Mix education with sports

by Ullyses Tucker, Jr.

"I'll never forget where I came from," said Ron Brewer, rookie guard for the Portland Trailblazers. "When I go home it's frustrating to see guys better than myself still on the street corners. Some never finished high school."

A native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Brewer was picked second by the Blazers and seventh in the 1978 college draft. He was one of four children — two boys and two girls. His youth was spent growing up in a housing project trying to endure the pain and hardships of poverty.

"If it wasn't for the positive direction of my family and a good friend, I would have probably fallen into the same rut. I was lucky to have had nice people around me." Brewer began playing basketball as a fourth grader, but he was considered a more skillful baseball player. His father Otis once played in the old Negro leagues.

"I never knew that I had talent in HOOP until a friend told me that I couldn't be stopped if I put my mind to it. I didn't believe a single word of it, but I went along with his program." That friend was Almer Lee, one of the first Blacks to attend the University of Arkansas during the early seventies.

"One night Almer and I were arrested for playing basketball past the 10:30 curfew," he said. "Al liked to play at night because it developed reflexes, quickness, and deep concentration. We tried to run, but got caught," he laughed.

The Fort Smith Police Department finally released both of them after they were convinced the athletes meant no harm. Brewer said, "The social situation was tight then, but times have really changed."

As a 6'2" sophomore Brewer tried out for the Fort Smith basketball team after several people encouraged him. He ended up averaging 15.4 per game and his team finished 26-1. The next two seasons he scored 20.7 and 25.6 per game as his team compiled records of 20-5 and 30-0.

During Brewer's senior year, Fort Smith won the class AA 1974 Championship by defeating local rival Conway High School. This event marked the first time in Arkansas history that two undefeated teams battled for the crown. Conway was led by sharpshooter Marvin Delph. Both of the players were high school All-Americans and All-State that season. "Afterwards, I realized that I had some potential, but I didn't know what to do with it," he said.

Upon graduation Brewer enrolled at Fort Smith J.C. where he averaged 21.0 a game as he won All-American honors. The decision to play at home was easy since his high school coach Gail Kundert had taken over cage duties there. By this time Ron stood 6'4" and weighed 170 pounds.

With the influence of Almer Lee, Brewer transferred to the University of Arkansas under new coach Eddie Sutton. "I didn't go in the beginning because they had problems, but after the coaching change I saw an opportunity to play right away," he said, "besides he recruited two top players

in Sidney Moncrief and old friend Marvin Delph."

In 1976, 77, and 78 the "three dunkaters" carried the Razorbacks as high as number one in the polls with records of 20-6, 28-2 and 32-4, and two Southwest Conference crowns. Brewer averaged 11.3, 19.1 and 21.5 in his three seasons as Arkansas made several post appearances.

A surprise college All-American in 1977, Brewer repeated as a senior in 1978. He also joined a club of elites by being named the Southwest Conference's MVP in back to back seasons. In addition to being selected All-Conference twice, Brewer broke several records that were held by long-time buddy Almer Lee. In response to his experiences as a Razorback Brewer said, "I learned the importance of team organization and how each player has a role to play. Coach Sutton taught us to take on responsibility, but most of all I found myself as an athlete and a person."

Questioned about being in the NBA Brewer stated, "I'm still on cloud nine just being here, I used to dream about playing with the pros on TV and buying my family a nice home. Now it's right before me."

Brewer recently bought his family the home he had promised them as a senior at Arkansas. "My parents never stopped trying to do for us," said the 23-year-old Brewer. "They had to struggle to make it easier for me. I'm thankful for being able to fulfill these dreams." (Please turn to Page 7 Column 3)

South African fish removed from Safeway shelves

by Donald M. Fuller

On September 23rd, Safeway Inc. was charged by the Seattle and the Portland Black community with belonging to an "International Brotherhood" of white supremacy through its sale of South African "Fairst Cape" brand whiting fish. Worse, by selling the food products for the racist minority government to the Black community of the United States, insult is added to injury. Black community leaders say that the buying of this food by unwary Blacks helps to provide surplus capital used by the viciously racist regime to buy weapons to kill other Black people in Africa.

The "South African Connection" as it is being called, supplied by Safeway Inc., is under investigation

by Albina residents for the entire involvement of that corporation, but the available facts are cause for alarm and concern by fair-minded people in every community. The facts are fairly straightforward. Alerted to the sale of "Fairst Cape" fish in Safeway stores, an aroused Black community first in Seattle, then in Portland, launched a protest. The results are mixed. In Seattle, a coalition was formed and a representative asked management to remove the product from the Black community. Further, management representative, Russell McCurdy, at first agreed (and then later reneged) to make a published apology and urge all U.S. business to refuse to trade with the government of South Africa.

In the face of what was termed

"... arrogant support of the blatantly racist minority government in South Africa," pickets arrived on September 23rd, at the Seattle 23rd Avenue Safeway store, located in the Black community. Some Portland Albina area residents attending the King Tutankhamun Exhibit, saw the pickets, learned the objectives and issues, and when they returned to Portland, they began an investigation of Safeway Inc. in Portland (Union and Ainsworth). That same product, "Fairst Cape" whiting fish, which would bring profits to South African whites, was on sale there and as far away as Wichita, Kansas.

To appreciate the importance of the insulting support given by an unwary or uninformed buyer, in the (Please turn to Page 6 Column 1)

Andy Young visits Oregon

Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, will be the featured speaker this year at the State Democratic Party's Annual Wayne Morse Banquet Saturday evening, November 11th. All Democratic candidates for Federal, Statewide and Legislative office will be honored at the event, which will be held at the Eugene Hotel. Winners of the "Roar of the Tiger" and the Myrtle Sykes "Grass Roots" Awards for 1978 will be announced.

Black organizations sue City, development fund halt

Five Black community organizations have asked the U.S. District Court for an injunction against the City of Portland, to enjoin the City from spending \$12,080,300 in federal funds until the City complies with regulations governing the funds.

The suit was filed Wednesday by the Northwest Minority Contractors Association, the NAACP, the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the Albina Women's League, the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and the United Black Front.

The suit charges that the City failed to appoint a proper Economic

Development Committee, representing community organizations, to develop and monitor its economic development program.

In May of 1978, President Carter announced Portland's designation as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) City. By June 30th, the City was required to have a City Council adopted CEDS proposal. The City's reply to minority complaints is that the time schedule constrained attempts to include minority participation in the planning.

The CEDS objectives include creation of jobs and income for long-

term unemployed and disadvantaged, including minorities; development of program activities including minority business assistance programs.

The original CEDS advisory committee was made up of thirteen members — most of them representing business. The two Black members were Commissioner Charles Jordan and James Harris, owner of "Bon Vivant." According to the City response, "The selection of minority members to serve on the Economic Develop Advisory Committee (EDAC) involved an informal process of consultation with key

minority groups. Subsequent to consultation with groups and organizations, the City economic planning staff makes recommendations to the Mayor who, in turn, may solicit additional suggestions. The appointment of Bob Turner, President of the local OMBE affiliate partially at the request of EDA, was made by the Mayor and confirmed by Council." Turner was recently added to the now fifteen member Committee.

The City also maintains that twenty groups were contacted to review the proposal, including six "minority (Please turn to Page 7 Column 4)



Andrea Manning, a 1978 graduate of James Monroe High School, was elected Freshman Queen, representing 3,000 freshmen at Texas Southern University. Miss Manning is majoring in pre-med, with aspirations of becoming a doctor.

Miss Manning was appointed Student Senator by the President of the Student Government, representing 250 students in deciding on student affairs.