



Behind the Wall

by Larry Baker #35021
O.S.P. Correspondent

David Crawford #39830
Assistant Correspondent

by Daniel W. Howe #41331

It is not easy writing from inside a prison. My greatest fear, as I suppose was also shared by those who have written before me, is that what I write may be misconstrued and thereby become detrimental to my chances for parole. Suffice it to say that I have no revolutionary new ideas or answers and what I write has been written before. My only purpose is to add my perspective, as a prisoner, for your consideration and comment.

I am presently serving a ten year sentence. This is not the first time I have been incarcerated, but I pray it is the last. I have seen prisons in three states and for me they were dismal failures, I feel that only I can redirect my life. I have thought about my situation many times and would like to share a few of those thoughts with you.

Many of you are probably already thinking "I'm tired of hearing about prison," or "what more can we do?", "we've tried everything." Even from my stand point I can sympathize with you, but this is one battle that cannot be lost. We must try, and keep trying to find the answers.

There are as many types of criminals as there are crimes and criminology as a whole is one early signal of the decline in a society. To accept defeat now is to accept this society's ultimate failure.

All too often positive action in this area is thwarted by the everpresent concern over matters that more directly affect the general population. Such as inflation, shortages, taxes, etc., and the undeniable fact that penology is one of the most difficult areas in which to effect a change and see the benefits from that change. Attention is focused on the failure of systems and individuals rather than the successes and accomplishments of improvements.

Criminology and penology is almost as old as time itself. Virtually every conceivable concept has been explored and yet it still exists and is growing at an alarming rate. Ancient laws mandated that if a man should become a thief then he shall lose that by which he steals. In modern times that may seem barbaric and unrealistic but *The Oregonian*, May 27, 1979, reported that two men convicted of robbing a bank in Saudi Arabia were punished by each having a hand lost to the chopping block. Capital punishment has been practiced at least since written history, and although we may have confined this practice to those convicted of murder themselves it has widespread support today. We may vary our technique from state to state, generally by means of a gas chamber, or as John Spinkelink recently met his demise in Florida; by frying in an electric chair, standing before a

firing squad as did Gilmore in Utah, or by the rather novel means adopted recently by some states, the lethal injection.

Please don't misunderstand me, I am not writing this to argue for or against capital punishment. Presently Oregon has adopted capital punishment and must foster it themselves or repeal it once again. Much has been written recently on this, primarily, I feel as a result of the Spinkelink execution. One such article caught my eye, it was reported in *The Oregonian*, May 26, 1979, that legislation was proposed in the Philippines to abolish capital punishment because the death penalty is "a form of cruelty and inhumanity unworthy of a society which claims to be humane," and the "The penalty appears (to be) an unpardonable crime committed by society on its citizens." Don't ask me what alternatives are available, but I believe Oregon is showing its humanity by the movement to once again repeal the death penalty in this state.

On the other hand, recent times have seen society and penologists take broad steps toward reform and rehabilitation in almost every state. Prisons are now Correctional Institutions, guards are Correctional Officers, and Wardens are Superintendents, but does this movement go beyond superficial name-calling?

Oregon has made advances in this area even beyond those that I have seen in other states and to listen to some administrators from the Oregon State Prison (we're still called a prison) it is working. Their main concerns seem to be that the public outrage from incidents around the nation casts a reflection on our system, and that too often Oregonians tend to let others' failures weigh too heavily on us, their second concern mainly seems to be the rising costs of supporting a system such as this. My feeling is that although steps have been made even more could and should be made.

Others are always ready to argue the benefits of this movement and some are even advocating reverting back to the punishment concept rather than continuing reformative measures.

A step backwards now may be the step that causes a fall from which we may not be able to rise. Oregon should not give up but must try even harder to find the solutions. Under the matrix system, which Oregon has created, criminals are doing so much time for crimes, as others are doing in most states. The difference lies in that if a man wants to help himself Oregon is trying to make that help available. I do not feel that Oregon's penal system is ideal, but I do believe that the Oregonians are concerned and that they are headed in the right direction. Many more questions have to be asked and answered but as long

as Oregon keeps its interest and motivation I have to believe that one day the solutions will be found, otherwise there is no hope for humanity.

I feel that society must broaden its awareness and begin to realize some of the causes of criminality and correct them rather than focusing too much attention on the act itself. I am not saying that a person should not be responsible for this actions, he certainly must, but the cause for that action is almost never dealt with directly.

Justice is a hard concept for a prisoner to grasp when he sees it handed out disproportionately. Two men can commit substantially the same crime and receive considerably disproportionate sentences. The matrix system was adopted primarily to alleviate this, (it has standards set for crimes based on the society of the crime and the individuals history, for parole purposes), but even the matrix does not always equalize treatment. Sentences vary even more from state to state. This is probably the most prominent facet of justice a prisoner must deal with in his day to day environment.

When one reads of the corruption by the nation's leaders, and societies almost acceptance of that, his frustration is compounded. Is a man who steals a television set more guilty than a man who accepts the public's trust and misuses that trust for his personal gain, thereby stealing from not one but thousands or millions of people; or is the man that steals the television simply easier to deal with?

I have not seen or heard of those kinds of misuse by our state leaders and know that the Oregon Constitution provides in part that should a leader be caught, as have others in state and federal governments, he not only faces expulsion from office but faces criminal charges as well. There is no reason why he should not face the consequences for his act and I see no reason why the people of Oregon or other states should accept less from their leaders, or demand more from the people.

Can justice survive with this corruption, with Patty Hearst's buying their freedom, with a Governor of a state selling pardons to 52 convicted felons, when big business disguises its greed as shortages to squeeze the life blood from the people, and the leaders of our country standing by watching, with no jobs and hungry children?

The last of the Watergate "Plumbers" was freed recently after nineteen months in a federal prison, only two of the 20 co-conspirators served more time, and most only served between four and seven months, and they didn't even get the ring-leader.

It has been stated that approximately 1% of the present population is behind bars, one out of every 100. Have you or your family been touched by this epidemic?

FBI statistics show that in 1977 10% of all murders, 32% of all robberies, 52% of all burglaries, and 53% of all car thefts were committed by juveniles under the age of 17. That staggers even my imagination!

Perhaps we are just as guilty of accepting others' acts and the conditions of our environment and directing our energies in inappropriate places as you are, but I feel that as long as these conditions exist

Camp Fire program begins

A new program for fourth through eighth grade girls will open at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26th at the Matt Dishman Community Center.

"Sharing with Camp Fire" will continue each Wednesday afternoon at the center, located at 77 N.E. Knott Street.

Activities will include crafts, homemaking skills, sports and games. Field trips are being planned to the Washington Park Zoo, Nabisco Company, and walking tours of the city. Plans for special group camping are also underway.

Although Camp Fire membership is required (dues are \$4.50 per year), this project deviates from the traditional club meetings. Various activities will be offered each Wednesday afternoon and special classes will be planned when enough interest is expressed.

Each Wednesday afternoon's activities will be under adult supervision. For more information, call the Camp Fire office at 224-7800.

HAIR CREATION

ANNOUNCES
Back-to-School Special

JHERI CURL

Reg. \$50
NOW \$40

Operators: Cynthia
Maxene • Tonda
Callie • Evonne

for two weeks only • Tues-Thurs ONLY

1314 NE DEKUM — 285-1277

Studio of Hair Design for Men & Women



GRAND OPENING OF U-PAK

BUILDING MATERIAL CLOSE OUT SALE

Sinks 3.00
Lin. Rms. 1.95 yd
Roll Roof #2 2.99 & up

5212 N.E. UNION AVE.

2 BLKS. SO. OF FRED MEYER-KILLINGSWORTH, 284-9938

BANK CARDS WELCOME — YOUR CHECK TOO!

3 1/2" R-11 Insul. 13¢ SF
6" R-19 Insul. 23¢ SF
Light Fixtures 40% off
Pumper Pots 7.95
Prehung doors 15.95
10" Gutter 2.49 ea.

BLOW IN INSULATION
40 lb bg \$7.49,
FREE USE of our blower

Energy Savers by G.E. 7.95
Formica Cutouts 50¢
Graden stakes 3" 25¢
Plumbing items 10% off

Armstrong CEILING TILE
Grenoble 12x12
Pattern 25¢ ea.

FORMICA PREFORMED
COUNTER TOPS \$1.50 up
Solids, Butcher Block & Marble
Stainless sinks \$34.95
Ceramic Tile 4 in. 5¢
Washerless faucets 20% off
K.D. Cabinets - No doors 5.00
Toilets, wh. 42.00
Desk Tops 25.00
Windows, odd \$5-25.00
Ceiling, bath & porch lites 2.95 up

Blow In Insulation
U-PAK installs R-19
in your ceiling
EXAMPLE: Sm 3 Bedroom
HOUSE = Approx. 1200 sq ft
\$349.00 complete
Meyer brand cellulose insulation

Some items not
available
at Milwaukie
but they have
20% off on
wallpaper & carpet

PANELING
4x8
3" 4" 5"

Roof Coating 10% off
Fireplace inserts #2 195.00
Medicine cabinets 20% off
Bath vanities 20% off
Picnic benches 39.95
Panel strips 99¢
18" Marlite Panels 8 ft. 2.00
Cafe doors 29.00
Passage locks 2.50
Jambs, Pref. 7.95

U-PAK BUILDING MATERIALS, INC.

NORTHSIDE
5212 NE UNION
284-9938

Open 8am-6pm Mon-Sat
Sunday 12 Noon-5pm

SOUTHSIDE
15123 SE McLOUGHLIN
MILWAUKIE, 654-6508

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Is the DEVIL working against your home, nature, job, church, money, children, sex, neighbor, health, sick, family, loved ones? Are there demons on your body or in your home? Have you been in a fix where you cannot keep or find the RIGHT man or woman? If you need help with any or all of these problems you should call me NOW!! Tomorrow may be too late!! Does your luck pass you by? If so, I have lucky hands to help you be a winner in all GAMES OF CHANCE—Bingo, Reno, Tahoe, Las Vegas, Special, Miami, Fla., etc.

If you are a spiritual seeker who needs help not promises—call me. I am a "God Gifted" man. I can help you in a hurry.

TESTIMONIALS

1) Miss Joyce J.W., Portland, OR., was in a fix where she could not find or keep a good man. I, Rev. Hoskins, removed the fix and the jinx from her. NOW she can draw the man of her desire to her like a magnet.

2) Mr. & Mrs. C.P. of Compton, CA., could not win the BIG one. They called Rev. Hoskins and Rev. sent them a for-sure win blessing money hand. They went to Las Vegas and their luck kept on coming, winning more than \$16,000.

3) Ms. Barbara T., Inglewood, CA., had a man who left home for another woman. She called Rev. Hoskins with tears in her voice. She wanted him back!! Now he is back and eating out of her hand.

4) Mr. Paul, Los Angeles, CA., was in a fix and rooted by this woman. As a result he lost his nature for other women, but through Rev. Hoskins' work, Paul regained his nature and became luckier than ever with women, money and his business.

5) Mrs. O.L., Long Beach, CA., had demons in her body, and in her home, causing all kinds of bad luck, and unnatural sickness. She called Rev. Hoskins and in 72 hours her home and body were free of unclean spirits.

(The names in the above testimonies have been changed for the protection of the individual.) I guarantee to do what I say I can do. I have a big reputation to protect.

I know the power of the SPIRIT. Don't put it off. Don't let distance keep you from calling. Call now!! You will be glad you did. Tell a friend where to get HELP today.

RESULTS GUARANTEED.

REVEREND CLAUDE HOSKINS
553 GLENVIEW AVENUE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94610
TELEPHONE: (415) 444-4883

Paid Advertisement

The House Of EXODUS

Alcoholism Educational and Treatment Center

1518 N.E. KILLINGSWORTH
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211

284-7997

EXODUS

SEPTEMBER

GOLDEN-ATTITUDE

Open Invitation, Free to the Public

On Thursday, September 13, 1979, at 2pm

Exodus Women's Forum
1518 NE Killingsworth
Portland, Oregon 97211

Will present Dr. Thomas Boothe, Founder of Golden Attitude in Process Counseling; Author and Publisher of: Business Success Clinics, Chemistry of Human Communications, Life's 12, Final Wisdom, General Attitudes Towards Life and Follow Through.

Dr. Boothe's subject will be the GOLDEN ATTITUDE. He will demonstrate how you can achieve all the SUCCESS, HAPPINESS, HEALTH, and MONEY you want by simply using your choice of attitude.

This is a community service.