



Behind the Wall

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LET THE NIGGER DIE

His education was limited. His health was poor. And his skin was Black. The nineteen year old youth found himself physically too weak to raise his frail, bruised 125 pound body up off the cold, dirty cement jail cell floor onto the iron bunk. He could only lie there and wipe off the blood caking his swollen lips. He dared not move in fear of the knife-like pains striking sharply at his groins.

It had been only a few hours earlier that he had been arrested for trying to break into a Northeast Portland pharmacy in order to steal and to feed his body on drugs. Yes, he also was an addict.

After his arrest, he had been taken to the Rocky Butte County Jail, but while being booked he found his stomach becoming sick enough to cause instant vomiting, he could not recall the last time he had eaten, but this was a normal occurrence when he went without drugs over a long period of time.

Suddenly the young Black youth found himself being slapped, kicked and cursed at by a group of correctional officers and dragged into this darkened cell he now occupied. And now, after hours of loneliness, the "black outs" came with a comforting relief. Even though he knew it would be impossible for him to obtain a "fix", it was a more impossible task to call on any strength in his body to rise himself off the floor and onto that iron bunk.

Often he found himself murmuring out in a weakened voice to the guards in a plea for medical assistance, or if nothing else, for a sympathetic ear. He only received laughter as one guard would relate to another, "Let the nigger die."

The story is quite familiar to many of the Black youths who are incarcerated behind the walls of OSP and the fences of the Oregon Correctional Institution. Many had to escape the pressures and tortures of Rocky Butte Jail with a plea of guilty for what ever relief they might get through the courts. Regardless, even years later they have sleepless nights remembering those words at Rocky Butte: "Let the nigger die."

Strange as it may seem, this story was not written simply to discuss the physical abuse our Black youth subject their bodies to. It was written to enlighten our readers to the process being undertaken today inside this prison -- an effort to restore those broken Black bodies which walk through these gates after spending a long period of time in facilities such as Rocky Butte. It is not surprising to read in today's headlines, "Multnomah County Correction Administrator Demotes Rocky Butte Jail Officials" or "Correctional Administrator Hires New Institutional Director". The question is why has it taken so long and how much damage had to be done to these youth incarcerated there waiting trial?

There is a phrase instilled into many Black families. "Create a healthy body and you create a healthy mind." Many of the Black youth at this prison are trying to restore that reality. Daily they work the iron pile, wrestle with the extra 5 pound weight they could not lift yesterday or struggle nightly in their cells for those extra push-ups failed the night before.

Many have even obtained a motto that encourages them to achieve such strength. It's called "Eat your heart out, Harl Haas." They state this in retaliation for "Let the nigger die."



Robert Chambers developing a healthy body.



Karl Woods, Greg Morman, Terry Kennedy, Fred Trainer, Roy Branch, Robert Chambers, Jake Forrest bring it all together.

Although the Oregon State Penitentiary is desperately in need of a drug program that would help cure those inmates who search for treatment during their incarceration, it does make available plenty of body building equipment and encourages inmates to utilize it.

Even with that in mind, this correspondent can definitely state that at least fifty per cent of something is better than one hundred per cent of nothing. It is a thousand times better than those words, "Let the nigger die."

Charles W. Colson, former counsel to Richard Nixon and author of "Born Again", has accepted an invitation from the OSP Class of Legal Processes to visit the penitentiary on October 24th. Colson will talk with the class, administration and inmates. His Prison Fellowship will present a five day seminar at the prison in December.

Drug conspiracy trial begins

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

there are three Crawfords -- Larry, Donnie and Ronnie, and that the prosecution has confused them on occasion.

Other attorneys advised the jury that since the defendants all lived in a small community, many had gone to school together, and many were related, it is not unusual that they would be in contact with each other. Telephone calls or visits could not be construed as a conspiracy. Terrance Hunt, attorney for Freddie Harris, said the investigation grew out of a desire to prosecute Jackson, Moore and Waddy and the subsequent efforts were to accomplish that end. The principal method was to get others they believed to be involved to agree to testify by holding over their heads the threat of prosecution.

Tommy Hawk, attorney for Kerry Woods, said the government's "inside" witnesses are convicted felons, addicts, pushers, who are promised immunity. "Listen to the promises the government has made to induce them to give testimony -- what they have to gain and what they have to lose."

Neil Van Horn, special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration testified that on June 27, 1979, he searched the 1964 Rolls Royce belonging to Sherman Jackson, finding a bill of sale for his Pool Hall, an address book and several receipts.

Mike McGone of the Drug Enforcement Administration testified that he arrested Conway Waddy in his Coldwater Canyon home in Beverly Hills. Defense attorneys objected to witnesses descriptions of the luxurious home and automobiles.

Officer Mike Johnson of the Portland Police bureau testified that he

had investigated the September 24, 1975 robbery of Sherman Jackson's house. He stated that Jackson reported the theft of \$15,000 in cash, which he said was obtained from the sale of a car, and \$16,000 in jewelry. Officer Johnson testified that he asked Jackson, "Are you still in the narcotics trade?" and that Jackson replied that he was. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Turner said he was attempting to show that Jackson's only income was from the narcotics trade. This testimony was given without the jury present.

The trial is estimated to last from five to six weeks.



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Lucid Walls of Time

Julius Snowden 38013
Editor

SCARE CROW
(for the blues singer)

Its hard to say good-by from this far away
Its hard to tell who's crying when it rains
Its hard to say you're alone.
The words fall softly but only the truth remains;
"What am I chasing now"? I ask myself out loud
Acting proud...

I'm only made of straw, thats how it is something seems
Tell me how can you sleep when you have no dreams
The moon has cease to be a friend of mine,
It hides behind the trees and refuses to shine
Refuses to shine...

The last thing she said was "Every broken heart mends"
But tell me who can you call when you've got no friends
What can you do in the wintertime
Where do you go when the highway ends
They say "Keep on singing those blues!" And I guess thats true
But how about something new
Its always the same old song about love and death
Won't you please hold on, let me catch my breath
Sweet sunlight - sweet rain
I'm lost at night with the same old pain
The same old pain...

Now the sun has gone down, the clouds are threatening
And I stand alone like some sort of king
This is my kingdom but theres nothing here
The peasants have left, they had nothing to bring
Selfishly I drink my wine
I close my eyes in the midst of time
Someone strike a match I'll go up in flames
Like the saint I am playing holy games
You can watch me die, my ashes flow away
And I'll be reform, that's the price I pay
The price I pay...

by - Michael Stephens

WE WAITING

This morning
Fog on the beach
Blowing wetness cold
I knew
You walking there
I behind these bars

This afternoon
Cold on the strand
Clear bitter own
You knew me waiting here
You out there
This evening
Cold bitter dark
Severe bleak stark
We knew
We our own
Survives

Robert Benjamin Franklin

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>What is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the key to successes - the key to happiness - the key to health - the key to wealth - the key to money - the key to respect | <p>What is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the key to failure - the key to misery - the key to sickness - the key to poverty - the key to lack of money - the key to disrespect |
|--|---|

- Can you identify the keys to:**
- maintaining a successful business
 - finding and holding a good job
 - raising a successful family

Answers to these questions will be shared by Dr. Thomas Boothe, Director of Marketing for American State Bank and author of the Follow-Through Concept. During the month of November, call 284-7997 for schedules.