



Behind the Wall

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THE GARY PERLSTEIN STORY

Once a year "Behind the Walls" tries to place a spotlight on an individual it feels has been most effective over a period of time by contributing something of value through their profession toward advancing humanitarian treatment in jails and prisons in Oregon.

Although this display of action is quite new in many of our institutions and in jails in many parts of the state, because the average citizen is not aware what actually exists behind bars and walls that are manned with guns twenty-four hours a day.

Television and newspaper headlines have projected an image that most human beings who are forced to live under these conditions are something inhuman, beastly and completely unfit to ever live in society again.

Only a few know and understand this is not true. Most men and women who have been convicted of a crime, and placed in places of confinement, are normal people, sorry that they have broken the law and trying to repay that debt to society as the law prescribes. In many cases that debt is never paid because of the stigma one must carry with them for the rest of their lives after once being convicted.

There are fewer yet, who work very hard most of their lives to maintain decent treatment and conditions, and adequate care which means keeping up with modern changes and times. With today's technology there is no reason prisons, jails, and hospitals should have to revert back to the dark age methods.

"If we must cage men and women, then let's make sure they are treated like human beings and not animals," stated Gary Perlstein, Associate Director of Administration of Justice, Portland State University. "Because 99 percent of our incarcerated people in Oregon will someday be released back into society to hopefully become productive citizens. And only then will we be able to judge if our prisons and jails have created a monster or released a human being."

Behind the Walls has chosen Dr. Gary Perlstein as its Award Winning Penal Humanitarian for 1979 in Oregon.

Cops and robbers, crime, police brutality and discrimination are not

new subjects to Gary Perlstein. Being of Jewish decent and learning such names as Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Treblinka (German concentration camps) became a realist picture in Perlstein's mind as a youth in evening family discussions.

Born in New York City (1940), Gary attended grade school at P.S. 28 known for its many fights during those years. But Perlstein managed to graduate from the School of Industrial Arts in the city.

Moving to Kansas City, Missouri in 1956, Perlstein attended Kansas City Junior College and in 1961 received his Bachelor's degree at Fayette University.

With jails and prisons still burning his mind as a youth, Perlstein decided to invest his education in the area of criminology and corrections and in 1965, he received his master's at the University of Missouri.

Perlstein realized for him to receive enough recognition and in order to be an expert in those areas, so to be able to make any needed changes in the country's penal system, he would have to acquire a PhD, which he did in 1971 at the University of Florida.

When asked what is the main differences in Florida prison system and Oregon's, Perlstein quickly replied, "The access to the prison for families of prisoners. Where Florida prisons are located right on the edge of the Everglades, where Oregon penitentiaries are right in the middle of its state Capitol. Family involvement is one of the most important value in a prisoner's needs toward straightening out his life."

Perlstein continued, "Prisons which are accessible to the public usually have nothing to hide."

Dr. Gary Perlstein accepted the associate Professorship at Portland State University in 1972 and helped Dr. Lee Brown establish the curriculum for the Department of Administration of Justice at the University. In Perlstein's departmental guidelines, the advisor-major ratio has been consistently higher than the University average. Perlstein is responsible for academic advising of at least 75 students and every summer, he works without salary advising students during Fall pre-registration. Perlstein was appointed associate member of the Governor's task force on corrections with specific duties on the Community Correction Sub-Committee; the committee responsible for developing the Oregon Community



GARY PERLSTEIN

Corrections Act.

In 1976, Perlstein was appointed as a member of the advisory committee for the Multnomah County Rocky Butte Replacement Study and in 1978 was appointed to the Citizen's Advisory Board to Multnomah County Department of Justice Services.

Perlstein's research activities were followed by the publishing of his book "Alternatives to Prison" which sold over 12,000 copies. From 1975-1977, Perlstein served as chairman of PSU Campus Safety and Security Committee. But Perlstein's brightest achievement has been specialization in the area of community-based corrections and employment opportunities of certain minority groups (woman, racial and ethnic and ex-offenders). He has become nationally and internationally known as an authority in this area.

One of Dr. Gary Perlstein's major complaints is treatment in corrections concerning the ex-offender, "I believe it is totally ridiculous for society to continue to punish them after they have served their sentence," states Perlstein. He makes reference to all civil rights not being restored.

Another of Perlstein's major complaints deals in the area of correctional treatment programs. "Anyone who is honest with himself and others knows that there is not one method of treatment that will be successful with all offenders. Unfortunately most correctional programs utilize only one method of treatment. What this means is for those offenders who are unable to be helped by the particular method

being employed are doomed to failure. One solution is to have several methods of treatment available. So, if one is not working another can be utilized."

Dr. Perlstein followed up this statement by saying, "This problem is seen clearly in the "Scared Straight" concept for juveniles. While this program is not for all juvenile offenders, there are some who would profit from it. Not having it available means that those who would profit from it. Not having it available means that probably become adult offenders."

Dr. Gary Perlstein has lectured to inmates enrolled in the College courses at the Oregon State Penitentiary and was greatly surprised by the number of those wishing to enter the field of corrections upon release.

One personal feat was his advising of an inmate on how to develop a prisoners and community legal awareness group session, which has been active over the past two and half years and which is considered one of the successful programs behind the walls. The group has drawn legal experts as lecturers at its weekly meetings.

This week column "Behind the Walls" salutes Dr. Gary Perlstein as the "Community person of the month." He has earned it.

Lucid Walls of Time

Julius Snowden 38013
Editor

LOVE

Love is like a rose so new;
Soft the petals, in the morning dew.
Upon the vine, which it grows;
So beautiful to see, so graceful to hold;
The bud of life, so new so young,
To hold one's life within as one
To bloom within the morning sun.

BEAUTIFUL

Beautiful born is a woman, young;
To see, to hold, to live as one;
To shine within the morning sun,
To stand upright and be as one;
To love, to cherish, to hold as one,
The beauty of such a cherished one.

"AND NOW"

And now the love of life I hold
A new born beauty, a woman whole;
To look upon the new at life;
To see the beauty within a wife,
To touch one's heart and open mind;
And cherish beyond the end of time.

by Ralph R. Maring

Personalized & Custom Made Jewelry

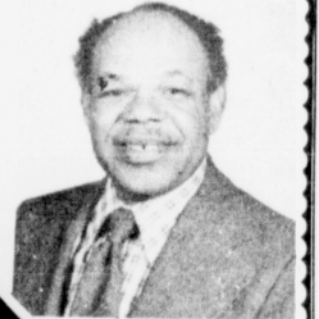
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Body and Fender trade beckons student

For three hours every afternoon Kathy Hoxworth dons a helmet and a pair of gloves and begins her work as a student in the auto body welding class at Portland Community College Rock Creek Center. "I feel out of place," said Kathy, "but it's not a problem." She's the only woman in the class.

Although students are usually left alone to do their own work, Kathy said she can call on the men in her class for help whenever needed. Just the other day she had to ask one of her male classmates to help unscrew

a fitting on her equipment--he couldn't get it off either!

Paul Dionne, Kathy's instructor, said that women generally have a hard time holding their own in his class. "I don't think a lot of them are as mechanically inclined as the men," noted Dionne.

He added that the "women have a tendency to think for themselves more than the men and they're very good with their hands."

Dionne said that Kathy might be an exception to the rule, since she

seems to be doing well. "I'm hanging in there" said Kathy, evaluating her own performance.

Kathy added that she operates at a disadvantage, since most of the men in her class have had five or six years of previous welding experience. But she said Dionne's patience has been a big help.

Kathy is now in her third term of auto body, having already completed two terms of painting. She said she hopes to continue on and finish the two year program.

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EXODUS FOLLOW - THROUGH

Knowing Follow-Through Keys is Important

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Knowing how to recognize and use the important Key to unlock what you want, and to lock out what you don't want is important.

For instance, can you recognize the key to the following objectives?

- | | |
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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.