



Behind the Walls

by Larry Baker #35021
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The Other Side of the Coin

by Nedra Bagley, C.C.

Since January of 1979 we have been in negotiations with the State of Oregon. It has been our sincere intent to negotiate in good faith and come to a fair and equitable agreement. The State, on the other hand, had no intentions of bargaining in good faith as we now are finding out.

We went through mediation, fact-finding and finally arbitration with our proposals and the State still refuses to settle the contract. Instead they have continually questioned our compromise and we now trying to split our bargaining unit.

We have contended that all employees at OSP, OWCC and Juvenile Parole are covered under the binding arbitration laws and are not allowed to strike. We knew if these public employees had to go on

strike in order to settle a contract, our corrections systems would be in a state of confusion. These three units are charged with the responsibility of maintaining the security of the institutions and keeping charge of the juveniles who are on parole.

The Employment Relations Board came down with a ruling that the correctional officers, corporals and sergeants were entitled to the arbitration award, but the "non security staff" were not and had a legal right to strike. The irony here is that everyone who works in the institutions and in juvenile parole have a primary responsibility of security! This left the "non security staff" with no other alternative except to strike.

The employees have been on strike for a week now hoping that the state would make some movement so the contract could be settled. Several times we have met with the State, but they have refused

to make any movement whatsoever, causing a terrible hardship on the institutions.

On top of this, Governor Atiyeh has refused to obey his own law and implement the arbitration award for the correctional staff. The Governor is further wasting State funds to appeal the agreement to the State Supreme Court. The Governor is not concerned with those public employees who maintain the security of our state at large.

AFSME is only asking for approximately a 23 per cent wage increase over two years. This means about 11 per cent per year. The cost of living last year jumped 18 per cent. What we are asking is only fair. Hopefully the State will decide to come to the bargaining table and try to reach an agreement before we have any major disturbances.

(Nedra Bagley is a Correctional Corporal at OSP and Executive Board member of AFSCME, local 2623-A)

Neighbor cooperation crime

By Stephanie L. Michael

Community and neighborhood cooperation are two factors that help keep crime down and criminals away from your neighborhood. Neighbors encouraging the awareness and use of crime prevention techniques helps citizens

safeguard life and property and reduces the fear of crime.

The Portland Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Division is spearheading an effort to increase community education programs and citizens participation in the neighborhood Watch Program. The division has 20 staff and volunteer representatives available to conduct home block meetings and neighborhood block parties.

Volunteers will help citizens organize neighborhood meetings all over the city. Four volunteers from Pacific Northwest Bell are mainly interested in sponsoring sessions in the Northeast area of the city where they live. Persons interested in sponsoring a block home meeting or a neighborhood block party should contact Jim Nelson at 248-4126. KXL radio in support of the

Neighborhood Watch Program will be providing refreshments at all crime prevention block parties throughout the summer. The station will also sponsor a drawing to give away prizes to citizens who have organized neighborhood block meetings.

Crime Prevention's Neighborhood Watch concept has been cited nationally as a proven success. Neighbors agreeing to watch out for one another is one sure way neighbors can protect their home and family. Citizens holding block home meetings or block parties give everyone a chance to discuss household security measures and inexpensive ways to make their home safer. Also neighbors discover everyone is just as worried about what's going on in their neighborhood.

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Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
(aka Joe West # 40404)

By Patricia Jackson #3955 and Jo Austin (poetry)

(Editors comments: This is the first time to my knowledge that any African American women in O.W.C.C. have put anything in the paper. At this point I'd like to commend these two sisters on their creativity and their courage in expressing what prison is about. The unity of the African American male and female is vital to the freedom we seek. Please look into the world of Patricia Jackson and Jo Austin, feel their pulse beat, let their spirit and commitment move you past your apathy and know that with the merging of our separate souls that freedom can be - will be achieved.)

Patricia Jackson. It's a terrible thing to grow up or out-feeling you have no control over the course of your own destiny. It's a feeling that is hapless and confusing. Everything is so big and you are so small. Power seems to be something outside of yourself and you do just what you can to survive.

Prison is filled with daily problems. The food for one thing is far different from what we Blacks

have been use to eating, it's a strange experience. This means we either change our life style or starve. Another problem we face is the absence of music that relates to the Black life style. You can listen to the radio for hours before hearing a Black song.

Now for our religious rights. We are generally able to see one Black minister a month, this does not include a gospel choir to listen to as we are all use to. On the other hand if we were white we'd be able to go to Mass each Sunday and the remaining three Sundays. Personally I've been to church and seen various choirs - none Black.

We also have a problem here receiving cosmetics that are designed for Blacks. The white girls are allowed shampoo and conditioners, things they need, where as we have to go without.

If our needs differ that doesn't mean that our needs aren't genuine. It's essential that we have hair grease and it should be provided by the State.

I feel that because I'm Black that my whole life style must be changed to accommodate my confinement. That I must compromise my identity to make this time easier. I feel my rights are being denied but we're all aware that Blackfolks rights are optional and that we as a people have learned to deal with this type of discrimination. It isn't new but then it isn't right either. Things here are so tense and confusing that I can't tell if it is prejudice against me as a Black person or as a woman.

I welcome all comments and pray for your support in the future - that is if there is going to be a future for Blackfolks in prison.

(Editors comments: Jo Austin's poetry has a pulsebeat, it rolls with thunder, it screams indignation, it moves and breathes as only the spirit and soul of a Blackwoman can move - meet Jo Austin and feel her blues.)

BACK BLUES

Mister Backlash, Mister Backlash/ just who do you think I am?/ tell me mister Backlash/ Who do you think I am?/ You raise my taxes, freeze my wages/ Send my brothers and sisters to jail. You give me second class houses/ Give me second-class schools/ Second-class houses/ And second-class schools/ You must think us colored folk/ are second-class fools.

Try to find myself a job/ To earn a little cash/ All you got to offer/ Is a white backlash/ But the world is big/ The world is big and round/ Great big world- Mister Backlash/ Big and bright and round/ And it's full of folks like me who are/ Black, Yellow, Beige and Brown/ Mister Backlash, Mister Backlash/ What do you think I got to lose/ Tell me - Mr. Backlash/ What do you think I got to lose?

I'm gonna leave you - Mister Backlash/ Singing your mean old backlash blues./ You're the one/ Yes - you're the one/ Who will have the blues.

(Editors comments: Both of these expressions of Black identity were subsequently turned down by the O.W.C.C. staff for publication in the prison newspaper. When prisoners are denied the opportunity to express themselves a very vital ingredient for self rehabilitation is withheld. I would like the community to be aware of the plight of these two sisters. They have clearly illustrated that the processes that govern the lives of prisoners aren't equal nor are they desirable in terms of rehabilitation. I think that each of these sisters has displayed courage and creativity in a atmosphere that inhibits both. May Allah bless and protect them and may they continue to grow toward truth.)

Black Scholar features Africa

The May/June 1980 issue of *The Black Scholar* "Africa: The New Societies" provides an indepth analysis of a number of achievements and contradictions that exist in the structure and development of political and economic independence in Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Angola. The issue includes "Unity for a New Order", a speech given by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere at the February, 1979, Ministerial Conference of the Group 77. President Nyerere shares his thoughts about the Third World's past and present negotiations in relation to the aim of securing fundamental changes in the present International Economic Order.

Also featured is "The South Africa Nuclear Connection".

Minority Commission

(Continued from Page 1 Col 6)

Black experience is the evidence." The need for a commission is based on the fact that Blacks are mistreated and their grievances aren't being addressed.

Lucious Hicks III said, "there is no foregone conclusion that the Governor will establish a commission on that it will be acceptable to the community," but "it is important to design something we can live with and to be able to present specific recommendations to the Governor."

Commissions can be established by the Governor, or the recommendations could be used to formulate a bill to be presented to the legislature and to rally the minority communities in support.

A PERSONAL MOMENT FOR THOSE WHO CARE

Wake up each morning with a dry sponge. Be free to absorb that day's lessons. If we start with our minds full, ready to show our greatness, at the end of that day we are a little poorer for we have lost a little, not absorbed. If we can talk our sponge of love dry each night the following day will find us able to absorb loves new values and know the true wonder of love.

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FROM THE FRONT DOOR

BY TOM BOOTHE

From the front door, I over heard three persons conversing in the lobby of American State Bank. there were two men and one woman and all of them were Black, they were commenting on the School Board, Superintendent, Blanchard, The Black United Front, the teachers and students of the NE public schools. They were showing signs of frustration, but, were disagreeing with the School Board's decision to terminate Superintendent Blanchard, they were all talking, but neither was really listening to what the other was saying.

One implied that the School Board has become obsessed with with desegregation planning and had become blind to all other school related business. Another implied that Superintendent Blanchard has been viewed in a Political light and his administrative credits were all but totally ignored by the School Board. Yet, another implication was that the quality of education within the NE community, particularly the Albina area was down, and the blame should rest with the quality of parents and the quality of the teachers, and not solely with administrators; and finally, one commented and said, maybe we will get a superintendent who will implement an acceptable desegregation plan, and not budgetary support to provide basic education for the children of Portland school district as a whole. This conversation took place under a cordial atmosphere of light heartedness, that same evening, I watched the 5pm news and the essence of the news was essentially the same in context as the cordial conversation between those three citizens.

I know that all decisions are made whether on an emotional basis or a logical basis from: 1) One's POSITION relative to another (2) - One's TEMPERAMENT relative to another (3) - One's PERSONALITY relative to another (4) One's PERFORMANCE relative to another.

I wonder if we as adults are acting or reacting out of TEMPERAMENT and PERSONALITY to such an extent that it will defeat our PRUPOSE, which is to collectively provide the best education possible for our children. Adults set the Principles of war, but it is the young men and women who actually fight the wars.

When our young men and women see us setting the principals of war over the ideals of our educational institutions, I wonder how this will affect the RESPECT, the CONFIDENCE, and the SENSE OF SECURITY in our children toward our educational institutions. Children cannot build a positive attitude without RESPECT, CONFIDENCE, and SECURITY; and without a positive attitude children cannot learn, even if they are taught.

RESPECT, CONFIDENCE, and a SENSE OF SECURITY must first be taught and developed at home in order for children to project a positive attitude in the community socially or to be ready to learn in school. I hope we do not undermine our children to think that their domestic, social, economic and community responsibilities rest totally with school administrators, school systems and school teachers, for all students who subscribes to this belief would ultimately lose, to those self inspired students with solid home based RESPECT topped off with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

I agree that there many inequities within our educational institutions but, I also agree that these inequities started within the home with break downs within the families

I believe that if every adult who has a child in the educational institutions in Portland would become Accountable, Responsible, and Respectful of his or her child or children to build a positive attitude, fifty percent of the public school problems would be solved; and then, if we communicated with a positive attitude in the P.T.A. meetings and student review Parent Teachers Meeting this would solve another forty five percent of the public school problem; the remaining five percent would be left to the student's TEMPERAMENT, PERSONALITY and PERFORMANCE.

Remember whether a student is on the streets, or in a formal educational institution, there are no good, or bad teachers even though some are better than others; there are only those students who learned to succeed and excel, and those who did not.

The net results are those who learn, succeed and excel will set the standards for the future, and for those who do not learn, succeed and excel will be subject to those standards set by those who learned.

From the front door, my appeal to all who have read this observation is: give your children values of RESPECT, CONFIDENCE and a sense of SECURITY and teach them that a positive attitude is more important than all the gold in two worlds, and if they have a positive attitude, it is possible to learn how to acquire all the gold in two worlds.

Teach your children that blame factors and excuses are nothing more than reflections of a negative attitude, and negative attitudes only produce poor PERFORMANCE, both in the person who has them and in the people who are subjected to them.

Teach your children to be CONSTRUCTIVE and PRODUCTIVE, and to produce good and positive things, and let them know they can only produce good and positive things, by being a good and positive person, and they can only be a good and positive person by having a positive attitude, in, and out of school.