

Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

A game is a game is a game, right? And a spade is a spade is a spade, right? Wrong! It only depends on who's looking at the particular object.

A couple of days ago, an article appeared in the local papers, written by a yokel of whom I think more often than not, sees the game of basketball through biased and prejudiced eyes.

This writer, whom I will not name, takes pride in "downing" a few Black members of the Trailblazers squad. How these guys can continue to grant interviews to this man remains a puzzle to me. But, that's not the basis of this article, so we won't go into that; at least not at the present.

This writer, the "local yokel" gave his analysis of Blazer personnel position by position. Since there are no Black sportswriters working for either of the major newspapers, we tend to have to see the picture through blue eyes only. Well, for all it's worth, let's attempt to get an analysis of the same team, but from brown-eyed perspective.

Where does the Portland

problem lie? Who and where are the bright spots? This is an examination as we see the problem from a brown-eyed view.

CENTERS

Tom Owens - Tom plays center but does none of the things a center should do. Owens would be in big trouble in a foot race with a turtle. If Tom were in a frog jumping contest along with nine frogs, he would be odds on favorite to finish tenth. Centers are suppose to protect the middle, block shots, and rebound. Tom does none of the above, yet he continues to start. This, along with his renewed contract, continues to baffle us.

Kevin Kunnert - Kevin is everything that Owens isn't. Kunnert is undoubtedly the best Blazer center, but injuries has kept Kevin from performing at his best. With a healthy Kunnert, Portland could be a real playoff contender.

POWER FORWARDS

Mychal Thompson - Mychal has played so well the past two months, doing everything a power forward should do. He's the best shot blocker at his position, the best

scorer, and he really improved his intensity level. Yet, he was criticized by the other writer for scoring only four points Saturday night against Houston.

Now anyone can and will have a bad day. Remember when Boston's Larry Bird went 0-19 in one game? Well, I don't remember any strong criticism going his way. Also, the best kept secret in the NBA is the turnover leader. That belongs to Boston's Bird also.

Kermit Washington - Even our biased writer couldn't find the heart to criticize Kermit. Washington simply gives his all every night, and is the epitome of what a power forward should be. Kermit plays well within his ability and will never hurt a team.

He's just as effective as a starter as he is a backup; will accept any role to help his team. There's no problem at the power forward.

SMALL FORWARD

Calvin Natt - Natt is playing hurt and it has affected his overall game. But his skills are far superior to those of Bobby Gross. And contrary to what was printed in "the other

analysis" Natt is the better player and Gross should remain on the bench. Bobby is only effective playing with a good passing center, and there is none around.

GUARDS

Jim Paxson - Continues to be "Mr. Steady." He's steadily giving up points on defense simply because of the lack of foot speed.

The "other" writer continues to accentuate the positive with Paxson, while accentuating the negative with Billy Ray Bates. Bates is learning and will get there despite the negativism of the "blue-eyed" press.

We constantly hear that Billy can't play defense; Paxson can't either, but we never read about the way Bates opens the game up for others by driving the middle. We don't hear of his great passing ability. Billy can play, but does need time to do so.

Kelvin Ransey - Is the catalyst and is not in a slump. Kelvin can, and is doing it all.

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah

The Oregon Legislative Session will begin on January 1, 1981. When those hearings begin, a proposal for private family visits (HB 2425 in 1979) will once again be introduced. The importance of this bill cannot be stressed greatly enough. For those who are unfamiliar with this legislation, the proposal allows a husband, wife, children and stepchildren to share the security and privacy of normal family relationships in a mobile home apartment for no less than 24 hours every 60 days.

The federal government recently approved family visits for the federal prison system. It has also urged state governments to follow suit. Let's hope that the State of Oregon recognizes the need for such a bill. The sexual and social atmosphere inside of state correction facilities stinks. Homosexuality is rampant, rape is commonplace, young men and women are suffering physical, mental and moral humiliations that surpass any semblance of just incarceration. This horrendous treatment of human beings must be stopped. The suppression of natural sexual desires aids and abets unnatural sex acts.

It's abnormal to even expect that incarcerated persons aren't going to have sex. But the question goes deeper than sexual gratification. It hinges on the development and growth of the individual. To

provide one with food, clothing, shelter and rehabilitative programs is fruitless unless the mental, physical and social health of the individual is provided for also.

Presently the only alternatives left to incarcerated people in Oregon's Correctional System are masturbation, sodomy, stifling sexual fantasies, abstinence or rape. None of these choices represent a pretty picture, no one free or confined should have to function under these stress factors.

To cage a man or woman for x number of years without allowing them to follow a natural course of development only adds to recidivism. It only compounds antisocial behavior, it enhances hatred, bitterness and social ostracism. This one area alone has done more for the rising crime rate in Oregon than other things I can think of. People need love, they need to touch life as was intended by Almighty God. And people in prison aren't any different, they aren't any less human, any less feeling than the guy next door. "Prisoners are people too!"

In conclusion we strongly urge statewide support for a very humane proposal. The family visit bill (HB 2425) will help restore prisoners to strong family units. Without the family all else is wasted. Write those letters, make a phone call, save a family and restore an incarcerated man or woman to a natural state of

being. Thank you and may Allah bless you for caring enough to read and act on these lines.

The mobile homes are to be placed within the confines of the Oregon State Penitentiary using volunteer labor and donations from prisoners, family members, concerned citizens, business grants and loans.

Unlike previous attempts to have family visit legislation passed, in 81 we are asking the state for "No financial assistance." It can be done solely on the efforts of prisoners' and supporters. Partial financial

backing is already in the offering. The Family Visit Bill will be simultaneously introduced in both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees; here are the names and addresses of the Committee Chairpersons:

Tom Mason, Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee, State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310; Senate, Jan Wyers, Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee, State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310. For additional information please contact Mrs. Tolly Long, 2140 Raynor S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302. Phone: 503-370-7668.



The Willamette Dental Group, with two offices in Portland, has initiated a money-saving plan for small businesses and individuals. Pictured are Drs. Gerald Cogan (L) and Eugene Skourtes (R), Willamette Dental Group founders.

Dentists offer cheap dental care

Small businesses and uninsured patients will benefit from a new dental plan developed by the Willamette Dental Group.

According to Dr. Gerald Cogan of the Willamette Dental Group in Portland, Oregon, finances are the reason 50% of the city's population seldom visit the dentist. This November, Cogan and his associates initiated a dental plan designed to reach the individuals who don't have access to dental insurance. They call it the Willamette Dental Service.

For \$30 a year, registered members receive comprehensive dental services for 30% less than the Willamette Dental Group's regular rate. This fee also includes an annual check-up and cleaning at no charge.

"We had to cut our costs to reach this group," says Dr. Cogan. "We couldn't do that by cutting down on services, so we decided to cut down the paperwork. It's not a secret that you can save money by not billing. So the one demand we make of our patients is that they pay in cash. Then we can pass on the savings."

Families join the Willamette Den-

tal Service for \$90 -- with no limit on the number of children in the family. Couples join for \$60 and individuals for \$30. Services of Pedodontists, Orthodontists and Denturists are available to all members. Cogan feels that the plan does not substitute for dental insurance, but certainly provides a financial incentive to maintain good dental health care -- even during periods of inflation and high unemployment.

"We've known for some time that there are people who don't have any insurance or don't have access to insurance. So we've designed a plan to appeal to that group. We want to reach out to the community," says Cogan, "and let them know that they don't have to postpone their dental care."

Cogan said that the membership plan with a fee break was new to Oregon but was being implemented elsewhere in the nation. Willamette Dental Group is the Northwest largest privately-owned dental organization serving individual and employer groups. It has offices at 1933 S.W. Jefferson and 13255 S.E. Stark in Portland, Oregon.

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The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word which means "Books."

The first airplane flight in history, with the Wright Brothers, actually lasted only 12 seconds.

The original U.S. flag -- the first one carried into battle in the Revolutionary War -- was not red, white or blue, but red, white and gold.

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Among the many Black leaders who occupied high places in New Deal councils was Robert L. Vann, editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and special assistant to the U.S. Attorney General.

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