



For the children of Atlanta and for all children who are hungry, suffer and live in fear.

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Former inmate sues Rocky Butte jail guard

By Nyewusi Askari

Ms. Agnes Barboza was 3,000 miles away when she received the shocking news that her son, Peter Alarid, 25, had fallen from the third floor of the Psychiatric Ward at Oregon State Hospital. The information read: Head badly crushed; fractured spinal vertebrae; a blood-clot forming near the brain; internal bleeding; a broken leg and foot; an uncontrollable flow of spinal fluid from the nose; in addition to a concussion. Stunned by the news, Ms. Barboza immediately returned to Portland, only to find that the news she had received, wasn't nearly as tragic as the events leading to her son's condition.

Arriving back in Portland, Ms. Barboza discovered that Peter, prior to receiving multiple injuries suffered from the fall, had also suffered serious head injuries during incarceration at the Rocky Butte jail. He wasn't expected to live. It is here that the tragic story unfolds.

...In May of 1979, Peter Alarid was confined at Rocky Butte jail. Facing felony charges, he was housed in the maximum security section known as A-Tank. A-Tank consist of 14, 5x7 feet cells, with a 5-foot corridor on the outside known as "the walk-way." The first cell of A-Tank is known as the "Day Room" and at the time was completely bare. It has a concrete floor, three steel walls, a steel ceiling and bars covering the

front portion of the tank. The remaining 13 cells have four steel bunks, with toilet and sink fixed to the back walls. It is in one of these cells that Peter is alleged to have spent hours, on a bare concrete floor, unconscious.

News of Peter's condition was described in a note, smuggled out of the jail, and given to Peter's brother, David. It read in part: "I don't know you, but I want to help your brother out. Your brother was knocked out cold for a couple of hours, where they (guards) dragged him into a cell naked with nothing but a concrete floor; no shirt, jacket, no blanket or anything. Get a lawyer to get your brother put in a hospital. (P.S.) I got your address

from one of your brother's envelopes." The news united the Barboza family as never before.

However, by the time the Barboza family were able to organize their resources to help Peter, another chain of events were already in motion; events that were in direct relation to what had happened to him at Rocky Butte.

When it was decided by authorities at Rocky Butte that Peter's condition warranted medical attention, he was moved to Portland Adventist Hospital. On the day of his release from this hospital, he was taken to the Oregon State Hospital Psychiatric Ward in Salem, and kept there from June 1, 1979 until June 20, 1979. His next admittance

to OSH was July 25th. He was kept there until September 24th. During this time, electro-shocks were administered to him under strange and adverse methods.

According to reports obtained through Legal Aid from the Psychiatric Division of Oregon State Hospital, the hospital obtained permission to administer the shock treatments, from Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Jones via telephone. Ms. Barboza was never consulted.

On April 17, 1981, Peter Alarid filed a \$200,000 suit against Rick Gaskell, a Rocky Butte guard, charging violation of his civil rights.

The circumstances surrounding the "incident" at Rocky Butte, is

told by Peter himself. Peter alleges:

"... We were allowed a 1 hour a day walk in the corridor outside our cell, in which we were expected to shower, phone our friends or family, and take a walk in the corridor as our daily exercise during that time. The other 23 hours, we were locked in our cells, in which there was no room to walk, and were expected to eat our three meals a day amidst the grotesque smell of our leaking and smelly toilets.

"Approximately four guards, headed by officer Rick Gaskell appeared in the corridor at the front of our cell. Another officer at the end of the corridor, managing the locking mechanism opened our cell (Please turn to page 14 col. 5)

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Solidarity with Africa and Black people march and rally to honor African Liberation Day. throughout the world was demonstrated by (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Stars & Stripes on the march!

By Nyewusi Askari

The Black community of Portland has undergone tremendous organizational change during the last three years. One apparent reason is the high degree of participation in community affairs by parents, educators, artists, community activists, clergymen, social agencies and young students, dedicated to the community's growth. From this participation has emerged new voices, uncompromising creativity, and a high level of political, social, economic, cultural and spiritual awareness. Enter James Freeman Richardson. He is special.

He is special to the home folk of Tulare, California, where he founded and directed a drill team called "The Stars and Stripes Drill Team," which consisted of 38 young girls ranging in ages 7-20. He was special to those who had the honor of watching the team perform. Under his direction, the team performed in 46 competitive parades; won 2 sweepstakes; 2 mayor trophies; 33 first place; 5 second, and 4 third place trophies.

And now, in less than five months, he has become someone special to 30 young girls who call themselves, "The Portland Stars and Stripes Drill Team."

He is a man with a mission. "I enjoy working with young people. I love them. And one of the reasons I organized the drill team here in Portland, is because I went to a community meeting at the King Neighborhood Facility, where I heard talk about how bad the kids were in the parks. At the meeting, the parents and community leaders expressed the need for more positive programs directed at the youths of the community, so, I decided to get

involved by doing the same thing I had done in Tulare; and that was, to organize a drill team. I wanted to help reduce some of the problems facing the youths of the community."

His first involvement with the young was inspired by 10-year-old Cynthia Oliver of Tulare. In March 1972, while preparing to journey to Las Vegas, as a member of a Rhythm and Blues band, he overheard a conversation between Cynthia and a friend, in which Cynthia said, "Tulare is dead...there is nothing for young people to do." This is when Richardson decided that he was going to try to change that particular situation. So, on the 1st of April, 1972, "The Stars and Stripes Drill Team" became a reality.

A few days after attending the meeting at King, he met with John Davis of Channel-8 News. Davis suggested that Richardson talk to Avel Mayfield and staff. Davis was impressed with Richardson's plans to start a drill team in Portland and gave him a list of additional names of persons he felt would help get the program off the drawing board.

"It only took a few weeks for me to realize that the drill team was going to become a reality. The community responded almost immediately. For example, Herb Cawthorne dug into his pocket and contributed \$600; Roy Pittman down at Peninsula Park, provided practice space; there was Faye Brunch; Mattie Spears; Shirley Aaron; Jack Lenox (who gave a personal contribution of \$100); and Rozell Malray to name a few.

"Candice King was responsible for making people aware of what I was attempting to do. All of our recruiting was done by word of

mouth, so, on December 13, 1980, we held our first drill team practice. It was beautiful," he said, a broad

Members of the drill team are required to adhere to specific rules, designed to improve character, personality, give a sense of purpose, direction and belonging; all illnesses are to be immediately reported to the director; absences and tardiness must be accompanied by a written note from the parents; participants must maintain a school grade average of "C" or above, and pay a monthly membership fee of \$5. "The membership fee goes toward helping cover expense, buy outfits etc. It is also a method of teaching the girls how to help themselves. I teach them to be winners."

Richardson's motto is, "Unite With The Youth," and has plans of making "The Portland Stars and Stripes" the largest drill team in the State of Oregon. He is seeking more participants and volunteers. "The requirements for volunteers are simple; are you willing to dedicate some of your time to the young. We don't talk down at the kids, we uplift them."

Richardson said the concept of the drill team goes beyond drills. "The main thing is to motivate the kids; give them something to do and in addition to get them involved in the community, the churches, show them how to socialize, improve their school attendance, develop respect for others, learn discipline, foster interest in careers, respect their parents and other aims. Richardson also has designed a five year program for the team. "It is an ongoing program and when we get through the fifth year, we will re-evaluate it, see that the needs are then and go from there," he concluded.



Stars & Stripes Drill Team practices under the direction of James Freeman Richardson. Members will soon knock on doors in the community during a Portland Observer subscription campaign to raise funds for the team. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Community attacks prostitution

One of the issues raised at the *Observer's* police/community relations forums is the harassment of northeast women and girls by customers coming into the community looking for prostitutes. Police officers were encouraged by forum participants to get creative in protecting community women as well as discouraging prostitution.

Strategies are being planned to deal with this concern through a newly formed group called the Police and Community Interaction Committee. The planning committee is made up of representatives from the Northeast Business Boosters, Neighborhood Against Crime and Police Bureau personnel from North Precinct, East Precinct and Crime Prevention staff.

Several neighborhood associations over the past few months have complained about harassment of "neighborhood women" by johns on Union Avenue, Vancouver and Williams

Avenue. Businesses on Union Avenue have been affected by prostitutes loitering on the street and discouraging potential customers from entering decent establishments. The Police and Community Interaction Committee is contacting N.E. community groups and business for their reaction to tactics ranging from an anti-john campaign to special police details to arrest prostitutes.

Sharon McCormack, inner N.E. coordinator for Neighborhoods Against Crime stated that initial response from neighborhood associations and community groups gave positive support to an aggressive campaign to discourage men from all over Portland and Vancouver, Washington from coming to NE for the wrong reasons. Those of us who live in NE know we have good neighborhoods and businesses.

Our image of ourselves is that our women are decent people who deserve respect. We want to

challenge anyone outside of our community who has a cheap image of Northeast. We have no illusions of totally stopping prostitution. We also know there are other serious crime issues to work. However, this first effort has mutual support and could be the beginning of serious cooperative efforts between community people, businesses and police to develop safety networks in our area.

The Interaction Committee has long range goals to work on crime prevention, neighborhood watch programs, safe shelters established at businesses on major streets and posting of crime statistics and crime prevention resources at NE businesses and community agencies, as some of the ideas that have already been looked at, according to Doug White, NEBB president.

Anyone wishing to become involved or have comments or suggestions can contact Sharon McCormack at King Facility, (287-3692) or Doug White (288-5061).