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THE

CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY

WEEKLY

November 18, 1977

Vol. 1

*E.W.
Orlowski*

No. 50



PRISON REFORM VS TRADITION

SCENE



A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

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Warden

Alexander Cybulski
Assistant Warden
Operations

James Singer
Assistant Warden
Treatment

S T A F F A D V I S O R S

Charles J. Jones

John Reardon

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THE WEEKLY IS A WEEKLY PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY THE INMATES OF THE CONNECTICUT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AT SOMERS, CONN.

THE VIEWS HEREIN ARE INTENDED TO BE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS WITH THE SUPERVISION OF THE STAFF ADVISORY BOARD AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION OR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.

P R O J E C T P / P R E P A G E N C I E S

IF YOU HAVE GONE TO THE PAROLE BOARD AND IF YOU RECEIVED A PAROLE RELEASE DATE YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE VOCATIONAL COUNSELOR CONCERNING P/PREP AGENCIES... IF YOU NEED HELP WHEN YOU ARE GETTING OUT, HE WILL CONTACT A P/PREP AGENCY FOR YOU.....

WHAT DO P/PREP AGENCIES DO????????????????P/PREP AGENCIES CAN HELP YOU:

1. FIND A JOB
2. FIND A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM
3. FINISH YOUR EDUCATION
4. FIND A SUITABLE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

HOW CAN P/PREP AGENCIES HELP YOU, AND HOW DO YOU GET THAT HELP????????????????

1. If you are at the Correctional Center in Somers contact your counselor and he will contact the proper and appropriate agency.
2. Within three (3) weeks, you will be visited by a counselor from a P/PREP agency.
3. If any new developments occur prior to your release, (for example a change in your your release date, an enrollment or completion of a Course or program, a transfer, etc.) contact your P/PREP agency counselor by mail immediately.
4. After the interview, your P/PREP agency counselor will keep you informed of his or her progress by personal visits or by mail.
5. Once you have met with the P/PREP agency counselor, if you have any further questions or concerns, it is your responsibility to contact your P/PREP Counselor by mail and tell them about it.

Jesse DeLoach
Vocational Counselor.

STEPS TAKEN TOWARD PRISONERS' GROUP

BY GREG ROBERTS
JOURNAL INQUIRER WRITER

HARTFORD--Prison reform advocates here Wednesday mapped out the first, tentative steps in a highly controversial move toward organizing prisoners at the maximum security Somers state penitentiary.

The reformers hope to publish a newsletter with articles written by prisoners, providing a platform for convicts to air their grievances outside official channels. They plan to print the newsletter on "the outside" and circulate it inside and outside the prison.

The reform group may serve as a rallying point for prisoners who want to set up an independent prisoner organization to bargain collectively with prison authorities.

But those authorities have stated emphatically that they oppose any independent prisoner organizations. Correction Department officials have said they believe organizations such as prisoner's union councils, or grievance committees provide avenues for convict power brokers.

The meeting drew representatives from private organizations interested in prison reform, friends and relatives of prisoners, a local lawyer active in prison affairs, writers from a radical New York City newspaper, and a veteran of prisoner's union organization drives in other states.

The lawyer, Robert Brill, cautioned that the U.S. Supreme Court recently denied the right of prisoners to form an independent organization without official sanction. And he noted that Hartford U.S. District Court Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld rejected a 1974 union organizing petition filed by Somers prisoners.

Blumenfeld ruled that the state's interest in maintaining order and security supercede prisoner's desires for a union.

But the reformers hope to establish an organization, with links inside and outside the prison whose tactics and goals will be determined by prisoners, one meeting participant said. Other prison reform groups are not directed by prisoners, she said.

Several meeting participants expressed concern that publicity about their efforts would jeopardize their contacts with Somers' prisoners.

The nascent organization also will support a long-standing prisoner's demand for a grievance committee, the participant said.

That demand--and official refusal to satisfy it--helped spark a pair of large sit-down protest demonstrations by convicts at Somers last fall.

Although both demonstrations generally were peaceful, club-toting guards backed by state police forcefully broke up the second demonstration and tossed 66 demonstrators into the prison's high-security control unit.

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A three-day March control unit hunger strike and a public vigil coincided with legislative hearings on a bill introduced by Rep. Irving Stolberg, D-New Haven, which called for establishment of prison grievance committees similar to those found in other states.

Correction Department officials testified against the bill, which died in the legislature. The officials stated that the independent prison ombudsman's office, established to field complaints from the prisoners, helps provide adequate procedures for handling convict's grievances.

(This article appeared in the Journal Inquirer August 18, 1977)

BLACK LAWYERS CALL LEGAL SYSTEM RACIST

NEW HAVEN(AP)- A subtle racism pervades Connecticut's legal system even though the the legal profession has always been oprn to blacks, some black attorneys say.

"I've run into judges who have treated me and other black lawyers with disdain," said John Rose Jr., the only black in the 15 member firm of Ribicoff and Kotkin in Hartford.

"The law is still a very closed profession," Rose said.

Connecticut has more than 5,525 lawyers. Of them, only 19 are both black and in private practice on a full time basis, a published report said.

The New Haven Register conducted a survey of blacks in the legal profession in the state.

The George W. Crawford Law Society of Connecticut, which tries to list every black in the state who holds a law degree, has 70 members.

Four of the state's 118 judges are black. Robert L. Levister was the first black to sit on the Superior Court, the state's major trial court. He was appointed less than a year ago.

Only three black attorneys work in law firms with five or more members.

Rose says the record of black attorneys being hired by major

corporate law firms is dismal. He chairs the Connecticut Bar Association's section on human rights and responsibilities.

"It's terrible. It's far worse than it ought to be," Rose said.

"We don't have enough ammunition to call it bold faced discrimination," Fleming Norcott Jr. said about the hiring practices of the state's largest law firms. "Although in my heart, I know discrimination has a lot to do with it."

The lack of black attorneys has created a dire need among blacks for sophisticated legal counsel, black attorneys said.

Nationally, it is estimated that legal help is about 20 times more available to whites than blacks, says study by the Law Journal Of Howard university.

Norcott is executive director of the Center for Advocacy Research and planning (CARP) in New Haven. Norcott says CARP has received calls from as far away as Danbury and Middletown from blacks seeking legal help.

"Black attorneys are in great demand. We can't possibly service all their needs," said State Sen. Sanford Cloud, D- Hartford who practices law in Hartford.

CONNECTICUT STUDY SUGGESTS RELEASE OF CRIMINALS ON PAROLE PREVENTS RETURN TO CRIME..

A Connecticut Department of Correction study of 173 inmates, some released on parole supervision and some released without parole, indicates that parole was probably effective in preventing those of fenders from returning to crime..

This is the major conclusion of a study which was announced today by Corrections Commissioner John R. Manson. The study was conducted for the Department by Professor Howard R. Sacks of the University of Connecticut School of Law and Charles Logan of the Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut.

One hundred fifteen prisoners were released outright to the community, without parole, in the summer and fall of 1974. Another group of 58 inmates, released in late 1973 and early 1974, were released to parole status.

The two groups were followed up for one year to determine whether they committed new criminal offenses. The failure rates for the two groups were strikingly different. Only 28 percent of the group released to parole failed (i.e. committed new offenses), which rate is a normal one for parolees. However, 66 percent of the no-parole group failed within the one year follow-up period.

Professors Sacks and Logan explored a number of explanations -- other than the presence or absence of parole -- which might account for this difference in failure rate between the two groups.

They first compared the two groups to determine whether they were comparable in terms of risk of failure. Clearly, if the no-parole group were poorer risks for release than the parole group, the difference in recidivism could be due to this underlying factor, rather than to the absence of parole. However, the researchers found no significant differences in the likelihood of failure between the two groups.

The researchers next explored the possibility that the higher rate of unemployment confronting the no-parole group when its members were released in late 1974 could have meant poorer job opportunities and thus have led to a higher rate of return to crime. A separate study was done on the question of whether differences in unemployment rates produce different rates of failure among parolees. It was found that a group of parolees confronting a high rate of unemployment in the economy did no worse than a group which faced more normal unemployment conditions (around six percent). Accordingly, it seems unlikely that the no-parole group in the main study failed at a higher rate because of less employment conditions.

The researchers next explored a psychological explanation of the difference in recidivism rates, which they described as the "charmed life theory." The idea was that the no-parole group, which suddenly and unexpectedly released from prison because of a court decision holding their original sentences unconstitutional, might conclude that they led a "charmed life". Prisoners thus released might have felt that they had "beaten the system" and that they need not worry about getting caught or punished for any subsequent criminal offenses.

This theory, however appeared to have some weaknesses and, in any event, is unlikely to account for the large difference between a 28 percent recidivism rate and a 66 percent rate.

A closely related theory grows out of the fact that most of the no-parole group had less time than the parole group to plan for their release, e.g., to find jobs.

"DEATH IN A CANDY WRAPPER, CEREAL BOX, OR BY PRESCRIPTION"

The following excerpts are from an article in "The Washington Monthly", July/August 1977.

Think of the value of human life, and the court's ethics of imprisoning property-criminals, poor, minority and indigent... then think of the multitude of white-collar criminals who have escaped prison and "skated by" with a "wrist-slap." Then read and weep... "Generally Regarded As Safe"... means the FDA is not yet convinced that they (the drugs, food additives and colorings) are unsafe. FDA stands for Food and Drug Administration.

The chemicals, drugs, food additives and colorings described below are harmful to humans.

A white, odorless, crystalline powder that is 180 times sweeter than sugar... Aspartame (not saccharin) was recently being prepared for marketing to the public in the form of breakfast cereals, chewing gum, beverages, puddings, whipped toppings, coffee, and tea and other things by the G.D. Searle Company.

Aspartame could not be marketed to the public without first being approved by the FDA.

In July 1974, the FDA approved Aspartame for general use. These are facts and if the reader is not stunned-paranoid by the following, then we are in bad shape:

"Dr. John Olney of Washington University School Of Medicine in St. Louis said he had fed "Aspartame" to mice and they developed brain lesions (lesions are an abnormal structural change in the brain due to the chemical Aspartame.) We found brain damage in the lowest effective dose we fed the mice," Olney said, "which is not a big amount if you are talking about a sweetener to be gobbled up by children and infants."

As the pressure of the public consumer advocates mounted, the FDA agreed to take a second look at G.D. Searle's test data. The FDA created an investigative force to examine the company's test procedures. The investigators found that Searle had lied and falsified some data pertaining to Aspartame. Searle tested the chemical on animals. When an animal died, it was replaced by a healthy one, and the blood test was substituted with healthy blood from a different animal. So in December 1975 the FDA withdrew its approval of Aspartame. The chemical is now being studied by an independent group of scientists. They will be on the Searle payroll.

What about past experiences, with the chemicals such as Red Dye #2, and a root-beer flavoring called "saffrole"? These were on the FDA's "Generally Regarded As Safe" list for years before being banned as cancer-causing agents.

Here are some other informative bits of information. Remember this is not a scare tactic, these pieces of reality should be on the #1 page of every home town newspaper. It would have saved many

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lives...

In 1964 Wallace and Tiernan Inc. was charged with making false statements to the FDA and intentionally concealing information about its tranquilizer Dornwal. Some people died from taking Dornwal, which Wallace and Tiernan Inc., neglected to mention can cause a fatal blood disorder. The company did not contest the charge and was FINED!!

"McNeill Laboratories, a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson, concealed information from the FDA about a muscle relaxant called Flexin. The drug caused at least 50 cases of liver damage, eleven of them fatal. Some people also died from taking the antibiotic Panalba, once one of the most frequently prescribed drugs in the country. Its manufacturer, the Upjohn Company, never told the FDA that the antibiotic Panalba caused serious adverse reactions. Thousands of people suffered from reactions before the FDA inspector in 1969 found information about the drugs harmful effects buried in Upjohn's files."

"The FDA (the government's public service organization) is also investigating the Industrial Bio-Test Laboratory, where inspectors have found that the number of tumors (abnormal masses of tissue) in some animals has been substantially under-reported. The labs' records show animals dying repeatedly on different occasions from different causes."

If the Food And Drug Administration can not oversee the private chemical, drug manufacturers and safeguard the public from blatant disregard for human life, then we are, each and everyone of us, subject to death for the mistakes and cover-ups of these white-collar criminals. The answer is not stricter government control (did Fascism help Germany?) but a totally new world out-look where human life is not so cheap as to be written off with a fine by the judge.

Submitted by: B. Chase

CENSURING THE SOVIETS

TIME (SEPT. 12, 1977)

Apart from "Pavlov and his dogs" Soviet psychiatry is perhaps best known for the breakthrough discovery of "sluggish schizophrenia" accompanied by "paranoid delusions of reforming society". This is a mysterious ailment, usually requiring sudden incarceration, that often strikes political dissenters in the U.S.S.R. Since the late '50's, when Khrushchev announced that "there are no political prisoners, only persons of unsound mind," the Soviets have relied on tame Psychiatrists to label troublemakers as insane.

In recent years, dissidents have reached the West with tales of political victims held incommunicado in psychiatric hospitals, sometimes drugged into a docile stupor, beaten or tied to their beds to wallow in their own excrement. These practices have outraged world opinion.

TIME (AUGUST 29, 1977)

The U.S. attempted a huge step toward a distant planet and the interstellar space beyond it last week--but not without some unexpected difficulty. At Florida's Kennedy Space Center, an 1,800-pound spacecraft known as Voyager 2 was launched atop a Titan-Centaur rocket and aimed at Jupiter, 579 million miles away. Voyager 2 was hardly aloft, however, before it reported a malfunction in the boom that carries a key package of TV cameras and scientific instruments.

The boom extended after lift-off on schedule, but apparently failed to lock. That complicated the mission and cast an initial pall over an impressive \$500 million program. Voyager 2 is to be followed on Sept. 1, by Voyager 1, a similar spacecraft so numbered because it will reach Jupiter four months earlier than Voyager 2 on a different trajectory.

Presuming Voyager 2 overcomes its troubles, the twin flight is a unique project. The Voyagers go elaborately equipped for sight-seeing. They carry wide-and-narrow angle television cameras, cosmic ray detectors, magnetometers, infra-red spectrometers and radiometers, as well as instruments for detecting and recording ultraviolet radiation and radio emissions from the planets. They will, it is hoped, give man his closest look yet at Jupiter, a planet that contains more matter than all the other planets in the solar system put together. The pair will also devote a good deal of attention to four of Jupiter's 13 moons.

From Jupiter, the Voyagers are to head for the ringed planet Saturn, 917 million miles from Earth. The mission there is to look at the satellite Titan, where scientists hope to find organic molecules similar to those on Earth.

Voyager 2 could be sent on to Uranus, 20 times farther from the sun than Earth, and possessor of a newly discovered system of rings; it would not reach Uranus until Jan. 1986. Eventually the Voyagers would pass beyond the solar system.

The Voyagers have some special baggage; a sound and light show designed to give anyone (or anything) that might intercept the ship an idea of what things are like back on Earth. Earthly images include slides showing human anatomy and a diagram of human conception, mathematical formulas, and a shot of Idaho's spectacular Snake River. Among the recordings: street sounds, the cry of a new born baby, the hum of a string quartet, the roar of a Saturn rocket lifting off. Also included is a greeting written and read by President Carter. "This is a present from a small, distant world. (his message begins), "a token of our sounds, our science, our images, our music, our thoughts, and our feelings. We are attempting to survive our time so we may live into yours. We hope some day, having solved the problems we face, to join a community of galactic civilizations. This record represents our hope and our determination." NASA estimates that it would take Voyager 1 at least 40,000 years to approach the nearest star system and deliver the message--and presumably, the same amount of time for anyone (or anything) out there to reply.

SUBMITTED BY:

ARMANDO AGUDELO

MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES...

NOVEMBER 19, 1977 The House of the Seven Corpses

NOVEMBER 20, 1977 The Exorcist

This is an eerie tale about a film producer-director making a horror movie in an old victorian mansion where many violent deaths had taken place. To get the proper atmosphere the producer (John Ireland) asks his cast to spend the night in the mansion. Price (John Carradine) is the caretaker, and his care is not to be taken lightly. Eight Graves' Seven Dodies' One Killer-and he's already dead'

One of the best-and most terrifying-films of the year. In Iraq, elderly Father Max Von Sydow discovers a devil figure among ancient relics. Ellen Burstyn a film star is working in Washington D.C. She maintains residence in Georgetown with daughter Linda Blair, 12. Jack MacGowran, the producer, dies in a fall down the long flight of stairs next to Burstyn's house. A radical personality change in the young girl occurs and the fun begins.

STARS: John Ireland, Faith Domergue, John Carradine, Carole Wells, Jerry Strickler and James Macaulay

STARS: Max Von Sydow, Ellen Burstyn, Linda Blair, Lee J. Cobb, Kitty Winn, and Jack MacGowran

90 MINUTES RATED PG

121 MINUTES RATED R

THE GREATEST

NOVEMBER 24, 1977

Olympic boxing champion Cassius Clay (Phillip "Chip" McAllister), 18, returns home to Louisville, Ky., and decides to turn professional. Ben Johnson and others sponsor him and Angelo Dundee (Ernest Borgnine) becomes his trainer. Encountering prejudice, Clay strives to be the best on his own terms. As an adult, Clay (played by Muhammad Ali) picks up hooker Toni Crabtree, but is persuaded to hear Malcolm X (James Earl Jones) instead. Promoter Robert Duvall clashes with Clay over his Muslim beliefs before a Las Vegas bout with heavyweight champ Sonny Liston (Roger E. Mosley). Clay wins and announces that he has changed his name to Muhammad Ali. Winner, Loser, Lover, Loudmouth-the Man . . . The story you only THINK you know.

STARS: Muhammad Ali, Ernest Borgnine, John Marley, Lloyd Haynes, Annazette Chase, Ben Johnson, James Earl Jones and Robert Duvall

102 MINUTES

RATED PG

Anyone interested in playing intramural basketball is asked to sign up (A.S.A.P.). All names will go into a common draft, so if you want to be a player/manager specify on your form. DEADline December 9, 1977.

I am interested in playing and/or managing the Intramural League

Name: _____ Number: _____
Housing Unit: _____ Work Assignment: _____
Signature: _____

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20, 1977

BREAKFAST

DINNER

SUPPER

SUN.	Fresh Fruit	Barbecued Chicken	Soup of the Day
NOV. 20th	Pastry:	Whipped Potatoes	Assorted Cold Cuts
	Hot Cereal	Sweet Peas	w/Sliced Cheese
	Coffee/Milk	Ice Cream	Macaroni Salad
		Beverage	Three Bean Salad
MON.	Apple Juice	Baked Ham	Mustard - Pastry:
NOV. 21th	Waffles Two	Oven Baked Beans	Chili con Carne
	w/Syrup	Tossed Salad	Boiled Rice
	Dry Cereal	Vanilla Pudding	Corn Bread
	Coffee/Milk	Beverage	Cole Slaw
			Purple Plums
TUES.	Grapefruit Juice	Soup of the Day	Pork Cutlet
NOV. 22th	Pastry:	Egg Salad on Lettuce	w/Brown Gravy
	Hot Cereal	Potato Salad	Buttered Noodles
	Coffee/Milk	Beet & Onions	Seasoned Broccoli
		Chilled Pear Halves	Bread Pudding
WED.	Orange Juice	Minestrone Soup	Roast Beef Sandwich
NOV. 23th	Griddle Cakes	Meat Ball Grinder	w/Gravy
	w/Syrup	Antipasto Salad	Baked Potato
	Dry Cereal	Pastry:	Mixed Vegetables
	Coffee/Milk	Beverage	Ice Cream
THURS.	Fresh Fruit	Shrimp Chow Mein	Grilled Cube Steak
NOV. 24th	Pastry:	Buttered Rice	Cottage Fried Potatoes
	Hot Cereal	Dried Noodles	Sweet Peas
	Coffee/Milk	Cut Green Beans	Catsup
		Beverage/Sliced Peaches	Mixed Vegetables
			Ice Cream
FRI.	Scrambled Eggs	Baked Lasagna	Fried Fish w/Tartar Sauce
NOV. 25th	w/Toast	w/Cheeses	Parslied Potatoes
	Tomato Juice	Green Salad	Whole Kernel Corn
	Dry Cereal	Pastry:	Ice Cream
	Coffee/Milk	Beverage	Beverage
SAT.	Blended Juice	Seasoned Meat Loaf	Turkey a la King
NOV. 26th	Pastry:	w/Gravy	Buttered Noodles
	Hot Cereal	Mashed Potatoes	Tossed Salad
	Coffee/Milk	Fresh Frozen Spinach	Strawberry Jello
		Chocolate Pudding	w/Whip Topping
		Beverage	Beverage

This week's winners in the C.C.I. Somers Innate Sweepstakes are:

Michael Patterson	#00251	JD2-96
Edward McNally	#21001	Q-2-47
Donald Metcalf	#39729	Q-1-44
Kelvin Mitchell	#49303	JD1-44