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# THE WEEKLY

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VOL. 2

THE GREAT ESCAPE

NO. 1



# SCENE

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

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Warden

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Assistant Warden  
Operations

James Singer  
Assistant Warden  
Treatment

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The Weekly Scene 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.

A N N O U N C E M E N T

Those veterans who received discharges other than honorable and would like to try for an upgrading, should contact the Vocational Counselor, Jesse DeLoach, in the school. We are presently working with the American Red Cross Association in an effort to get certain Military Discharges Upgraded. Send a request form stating clearly what discharge status you have at the present time and an interview for you can be arranged with the A.R.C.

Jesse DeLoach  
Vocational  
Counselor

THE G.E.D. WILL BE GIVEN IN APRIL. MOST MEN NEED A REVIEW IN SOME SUBJECT AREAS; ESPECIALLY MATH AND ENGLISH.

FULL TIME CLASSES ARE OFFERED IN THE SCHOOL AND THOSE MEN WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING CAN BE ASSIGNED TO THE SCHOOL BY SENDING A REQUEST TO THE CLASSIFICATION DEPARTMENT.

EVENING CLASSES ARE HELD ON MONDAY, WEDNSDAY, AND FRIDAY'S IN THE SCHOOL FROM 5:45 TO 8:45. CLASSES ARE OFFERED IN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS. STUDENTS ARE USUALLY ASSIGNED TO BOTH CLASSES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, AND MAIL OR RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL.....

I WISH TO ATTEND NIGHT CLASSES IN THE SCHOOL ON MONDAY, WEDNSDAY AND FRIDAY'S

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSING UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is the end of a huge and growing federal law enforcement system. It fails in its main mission - rehabilitation, contributed in to lower crime rate - as much from political ignorance and social temper as from bureaucratic ineptitude. In this third of his four-part series, Rentschler warns that the justice system has political dangers as its growth and perpetuation become an end in itself. Rentschler, businessman, political activist and one-time reporter, did his homework on the inside - eight months and 21 days in the Chicago Metropolitan Correctional Center after pleading guilty to a charge of making a false statement to a bank.

## "INMATE HIDES OFFICIALS FOR MAKING SYSTEM FOIL"

"By WILLIAM H. RENTSCHLER"

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is a shadowy arm of our federal bureaucracy that exercises absolute control over the bodies, welfare, and destinies of more than 30,000 Americans on this very day. It extracts the sweat of its charges, for which it pays slave wages as low as five to seven cents an hour, averaging about 40 cents an hour, averaging about 40 cents an hour, while many dependents scrape to get by on welfare and families disintegrate.

The adverse influence on perhaps another quarter-million people intimately related or allied to the first group - spouses, children and grandchildren, parents, siblings and other relatives, lovers, friends and associates - is nearly as pervasive as on those behind bars.

Worst of all, perhaps, is the impact on young - and innocent - families. Wifredo whose Latino cronies called him Mickey, was stringy, sallow, and bent, with eyes red from crying. He painted a grim canvas of financial desperation, which, repeated endlessly, adds up to thousands of shattered families and billions of dollars in taxes to underwrite the cost of confinement for the breadwinners and welfare for those "imprisoned" on the outside.

"I come been here," Mickey told me in fractured English late one night, "my wife I leave weeth twenty-three dollar. I got tow leetle keed, nice boys. Wot they do now? They cry, that's wot. My wife, she cry, too. I cry. Who care? I hurt nobody. I sell a leetle dope, tha's all. Not alla time. Two, three time maybe. Make me a few bucks to get shoes and feed'em. Why I een here? What do it do any good?"

From its inception in 1930, the annual budget for the Bureau rose over its first four decades to \$79.4 million in 1970, then spurted more than four-fold in less than one-quarter of that time to about \$344 million in fiscal 1977, which ended September 30. Additional costs in aid to dependents and lost real earnings are incalculable. And, almost criminally, the Bureau is but one appendage of the U.S. Department of Justice, a key element in a massive, near \$2-1/2 billion federal law enforcement apparatus that has failed abysmally in its main mission.

For the relentless advance of serious crime in the United States is our most glaring national failure. This uniquely resourceful nation - conqueror of the moon, extender of the life span, creator of unmatched affluence - sees strangely inept in its haphazard efforts to stem the crime explosion in America. The record is appalling. The rate of serious crime is far greater here - and growing faster - than in any civilized nation of the world. At the same time, those convicted of crimes in the United States, a tiny sliver of those who commit crimes are far more likely to be sentenced to prison and to serve longer sentences - often three to five times longer - than anywhere else. At the federal level, more than 50 percent of all persons convicted of crimes are sent to prison, this even though their crimes are generally less serious and far less violent than those tried in most state courts where a much smaller percentage serve prison terms.

## "INMATE CHIDES OFFICIALS FOR MAKING SYSTEM FAIL CONTINUED"

Certainly prisons get "criminals" off the street but there seems little evidence that they are contributing to a lower crime rate. The fact is, our approach to crime is steeped in misinformation, myth, and outright prejudice. Our law enforcement establishment and politicians contribute most to this condition. The former has a vital stake in magnifying its own exploits and literally terrifying the average citizen. Politicos from Main Street to Statehouse and Congress shamelessly exploit constituent fears with a steady diet of "tough cop" speeches and impossible crime-stopping promises. Most of their panaceas involve throwing more bad guys into prison for longer terms.

Boston's police chief, Robert DiGrazia, chides his law enforcement brethren: "Rather than speaking up, most of us stand silent and let politicians get away with law-and-order rhetoric that reinforces the mistaken notion that (we) can control crime...As long as we are silent, society will expect the impossible...."

Nevertheless, the federal law enforcement agencies have taken public concern as a mandate. Federal prosecutors became superstars in the Nixon-Mitchell era of "get tough" law enforcement. As a result, our federal prison population alone has shot upward by an incredible 75 percent in the last two years alone. This number includes "political" and other special category prisoners which the DOP is loath to acknowledge much less discuss.

The tight-lipped Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy, recently released after serving 50½ months in federal prison for a bungled job. Normally, a breaking-and-entering rap under less than notorious circumstances draws a prison sentence, if any, measured in weeks rather than years. Lest all this be dismissed as mere sour surmise, former U.S. Attorneys like Whitley North Seymour of New York and Thomas Aquinas Foran of Chicago have spoken out:

"Nobody alive's a saint," says Foran, "and if a federal prosecutor decides to get you, you're a loner, no question. Hell, U.S. Attorney is the most powerful position in America, bar none. If he ignores his oath, watch out!" Warns Seymour: A prosecuting attorney under our system has tremendous power, and with that power there is the potential for abuse. Particularly when prosecutor is politically ambitious and thinks of his office as the road to governorship or other high elected position...Abuse of the office begins to creep in when a prosecutor makes decisions based on his own personal stake in the publicity that might result...

Herbert Schwartz and Bruce Jackson, professors of law at the State University of New York at Buffalo, writing in 1970 in Harper's, also put plainly the treat: In theory, the prosecutor is a neutral agent, and since prosecutors claim to act in the interest of public morality and safety, there are few restraints on those who decide to abuse their extraordinary powers. Such abuse, which occurs in both political and criminal cases, has increased significantly in the past decade. Worse yet, many prosecutors engage in illegal acts not because they are concerned with the justness of the case, but because they want to win. Even if they are found out, the police and the courts seldom do anything about it...

This of course, is not to suggest the political or prominent miscreants should not be prosecuted. It is a focus on clear and present danger to human rights and personal liberty when a prosecutor sees himself as an "avenging angel" or potential political superstar and uses his office to "get" by whatever means those he "knows" are guilty or those he presumes can advance his career.

The media frequently defies the zealous prosecutor, and abandons its touted adversary obligation in questioning his more extreme or repressive tactics. Even judges react to this "public concern" and the press too often makes heroes out of judges who are tough and stern, ignoring, even criticizing those who are wise and fair. Indictments and convictions are headlined, acquittals buried.

"CONTINUED ON MOVIE PAGE"

READER RESPONSE TO THE WEEKLY SCENE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN (PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO CARRY A BIBLE IN ONE HAND AND A GUN, KNIFE, OR BAG OF JELLY BEANS IN THE OTHER):

Based upon advance advertising that the Thanksgiving Issue of the weekly scene was to be "something special", I had anticipated reading a wide variety of contributions. However, when the issue materialized, I was acutely disappointed. More than that, I was utterly appalled by the virtual inundation of quasi-religious articles of extremely dubious sincerity.

Ordinarily, I'm fairly tolerant of others peoples's views and I'm willing to let the other fellow have his say regardless of how much I may differ with him. In any case, I'm usually content to maintain a discreet silence. Nonetheless, in this specific instance, I found the sheer volume of proselytizing to be so abhorrent that I felt compelled to give voice to my displeasure.

Granted, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does guarantee freedom of expression; so I suppose I shall have to endure this sort of thing whether it offends me or not. But -- can anyone show me so much as a single inmate who actually practices these professed Christian ethics? (Incidentally, in the unlikely event that such an inmate exists, he will be instantly recognizable by his virtuous actions; not his word.)

Personally, I have infinitely more respect for one honest atheist than for all the scripture-quoting hypocrites combined.

Edward G. McNally

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THE DANNY RIVERA SHOW

On saturday January 7, 1978, Danny Rivera In Concert will be appearing in "A " Gym of the recreation department. Danny Rivera is one of Puerto Rico's top attractions and his mmusic should be enjoyed by all.

His music is rhythemical and pleasing to all good music lovers. There will be regular recreation on this Saturday night and no movie will be shown. There will be a movie the next night; Sunday.

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LOST & FOUND

Someone has misplaced three (3) pictures in a school book belonging to the school which they returned at the end of the marking period. We are now trying to locate the owner of these pictures. If you should have any information concerning the pictures, please contact the weekly scene located in the school.

Note: The owner of these pictures must supply both adequate and accurate information about them to insure that we are turning them over to their rightful owner. Thank you.

Henry Frye - Editor

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

- ANSWERS:  
 1. NEO LEO 2. THAT BAT 3. PHIL WILL 4. POLKS FOLKS  
 5. QUIET HVATT 6. HITES TIGHTS 7. GAMBLER SCRAMBLER

TOUGH TONY'S SPORTS CENTER

Basketball, basketball. This has been the top Sports Story here at C.C.I.- Somers over the past week or two, and what a time it has been. To start with, the intramural league has played a full round of practice games to open the season. By the looks of things, we are in for a really great season of basketball this year. One would have thought that the Championship playoffs were being played as the players of each individual team went all out to capture a win - and it wasn't even a real game! With this in mind there should be no question as to how much excitement there was in the games.

Before I list the Statistics I would like to thank the referees and officials of the games for contributing their time and effort. Thanks is also afforded to all others who are participating in making this season possible.

From my point of view, I don't see any one team dominating the league as of yet, but there are those few teams who are in need of some help. Aside from that I feel that the teams are pretty well balanced, so I will refrain from dropping any team or individual at this time.

TEAM #1 (Cleveland Calvalers)	TEAM #2 (N.Y. , N.Y.)	TEAM #3 (76ers)
TEAM MANAGER - Micheal Corbett	TEAM MANAGER-Carlton Bailey	TEAM MANAGER-Grier
1 Win and 1 lost	1 win 0 lost	0 win 1 lost
TEAM #4 (Sea. Super Sonics)	TEAM #5 (N.Y. Knicks)	TEAM #6 (Jaycees)
TEAM MANAGER - Hoffler	Manager-Stanley Roberts	Manager-Bowens
1 win 1 lost	0 win 2 lost	2 wins 0 lost
TEAM #7 (Drug Program)	TEAM MANAGER - Alvin Bryant.	1 win 1 lost.

Most Points Scored

Most Fouls

1) Gordon	53	Calvaliers	1) Hurse	10	Drug Group
2) Rich	47	Knicks	2) Rich	8	Knicks
3) Lewis	41	Jaycees	3) Viger	7	Calvaliers
4) Robinson	38	Seattle S.S.	4) Robinson	6	Seattle S.S.
5) Anderson	29	Jaycees	5) Bowens	6	Jaycees
6) Hurse	29	Drug Group	6) Edwards	6	Drug Group
7) Carmine	28	Knicks	7) Fernandez	6	Knicks
8) Spencer	28	Jaycees	8) Carmine	6	Knicks
9) Hoffler	25	Seattle S.S.	9) Fulton	5	Drug Group
10) Scott	23	N.Y., N.Y.	10) Frye	5	N.Y., N.Y.
11) Gaskin	21	Drug Group	11) Gaskins	5	Drug Group
12) Walker	21	Calvaliers	12) Ritchon	5	Calvaliers
13) Hodge	18	Knicks	13) Gomes	5	Seattle S.S.
14) Fulton	18	Drug Group	14) Spencer	5	Jaycees
15) Fernandez	16	Knicks	15) Washington	5	Jaycees

TOMMY TONY'S SPORTS CORNER  
"TOUGH TONY'S SPORT CORNER CONTINUED FROM PERVERIOS PAGE"

As I said, its been a big week in basketball here at Somers. As far as the varsity basketball team is concern, its been a week of both triumph and defeat. The triumph came with the victory over a very strong Barnes Engineer team. In this game the varsity really strutted its stuff and won very decisively. The win was so decisive that they entered there next game with "ego" to match their win and were completely blown off the court by the East Hartford Exsplorers. Losing this particular game. It isn't so bad in itself, because when all is said and done, the Explorers are a very tough team. It was how the game was lost that brings so much concern. In this game the varsity gave the sorriest performance I've ever seen in a long time. For some reason or another they failed to show all the qualities that suppose to put them in the class of a varsity team.

Their lack of competitiveness and poor team play over shadowed any other efforts that they put into the game because they were not only defeated, they were out played and out classed to the point where one could have about changed their mind about rating the varsity as top competators. In reality this isn't the case because the varsity has the talent and capability of playing a very good caliber of ball and the potential to win against a stronger team.

All that is needed as far as I can see is to develop a winning attitude to go along with the resevoir of talent and ability that our team has. I hope that this very humiliating defeat can serve as a deviding rod between all the petty difference and personality conflicts that have arisen in the squad. I hope that it will show that individuals don't win game and that high scoring average and finger pointing won't get it.

I hope that this varsity team can bounce back from this defeat that much stronger and a hell of a lot wiser. I will say now as I have said in the past, as far as I am concerned, the coach picked the best men. So team lets get down and play the type of ball we are qualified and capable of playing. I would like to address our critics, the most vocal ones specifically, because it seems to me that they are the ones who live only for the moment when the team fails or gives a poor account of themselves. So they can gloat and criticize any and all that are affiliated with the team. This wouldn't be so bad, but the individuals that I am speaking of are your everyday critics. These people are your "Madison Square Garden" everyday put down artists who never misses a chance to do his thing to these fellows I can only say these few words and they are that no matter what is said and done, we are the varsity team for better or worst, and all the bad mouthing in the world can't change that. But if it will make those brothers feel any better, you are the best we got until we get something better.

New moving along to the handball scene. There was notice given in the last Weekly Scene concerning applying for the Handball League, I am sorry to have to say that the responses have been lousy and that if interest doesn't pick up the league is going to fold before it even gets started. What gets me is that so many people approach me about the possibility of organizing a handball league and now that you have it, for some reason on another you don't act like you are interested. I myself don't play the game, for those of you who do, I advise you to get on the ball and sign up. Show some support for your sport, because time is running out.

Inmate Chides Officials for Making System Fail continued

Public perception, understandably shaped by and rooted in such statements and stories, often is emotional, simplistic and quite savage. People lash out at "lenient" sentences by "soft" judges, who in turn impose harsher sentences. The cycle is endless and leads nowhere. We get no closer to damping the crime explosion in America.

The gauge of a prison system's success - once it has performed its more or less routine custodial obligation to protect society from dangerous criminals - ought to be its contribution to reducing crime. Its prime function - and singular objective - must be to return inmates to the streets fit and hopefully motivated to become law-abiding citizens. By that standard, the contribution of the Federal Bureau of Prisons is largely, dismally negative.

Instead, its charges are spewed into society's frightening maelstrom, demeaned, embittered, dulled by idleness, too often unskilled, untrained to cope, unequipped to do anything as rewarding as their past criminal endeavors. They become instant victims of society's ugly prejudice against convicts. Their families are frequently fragmented, their friends melted away, their contacts nil. They have no prospects, little hope. Inevitably, all too many of these forlorn creatures return to crime as their only means of survival - and thus again to prison. The performance of the Federal Bureau of Prisons is especially shameful. It is, after all, uniquely positioned to innovate and shed the old, oppressive, dehumanizing ways of locking offenses against society.

But the guiding philosophy of the BOP, expressed to me bluntly in an off-guard moment by W.R. (Ray) Nelson, is "cover your ass." Nelson, former warden of the Chicago MCC and now warden at the Danbury, Conn. federal prison, was expressing not a formula for lessening crime but the common bureaucratic maxim for survival and advancement. So, even though shrinkage would be the surest yardstick of progress, the BOP continues to grow like a hardy, promiscuous weed, scattered across the land, often unseen in remote back country. It is described by one reformer as "all but invisible." The BOP operates largely without oversight under its own set of mystifying, constantly-shifting rules.

NEXT: Reform is Cheaper

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THIS WEEK'S WINNERS IN THE C.C.I. SOMERS INMATE SWEEPSTAKES ARE:

- Anthony Giardino #13965
- Geoffrey Kyle #22424
- Anthony Canello #25958
- Howard Landry #56917

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVIES - MOVIES - MOVIES "THE STORY OF O" JAN. 8 JAN. 8 JAN. 8

"AND O WHAT A STORY"

BREATH-TAKING!

WILL HAVE YOU SPELLBOUND!

A STAR IS BORN!

UTTERLY FASCINATING!

WILL KEEP YOU INTERESTED!

SUSPENSE, SIN AND

"O"-VER WHELMING!

SAVOIR-FAIRE IN JUST THE RIGHT PROPORTIONS!

Public perception, understandably shaped by and rooted in such statements and  
MENU FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 1977 MENU FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 1977

SUN	Fresh Fruit	Baked Stuffed Pork Chops	American Chop Suey
JAN. 8	Pastry:	w/Brown Gravy	Grated Cheese
	Hot Cereal	Whipped Potatoes	Tossed Salad
	Coffee/Milk	Spiced Applesauce	Pastry:
		Fresh Frozen Spinach	Dry Cereal
		Ice Cream	Coffee/Milk
		Coffee/Milk - Ice Cream	

MON	Tomato Juice	Manhattan Clam Chowder	Vegetable Soup
JAN. 9	Fried Eggs	Tomato Salad on Lettuce	Cheeseburgers
	w/Toast	Potato Salad	French Fried Potatoes
	Dry Cereal	Cole Slaw	Dill Pickles
	Coffee/Milk	Raspberry Jello	Catsup
		Dry Cereal Coffee/Milk	Chilled Sliced Peaches
			Coffee/Milk

TUES	Bleeding Juice	Grilled Minute Steak	Beef Stew w/Vegetables
JAN. 10	Pastry:	Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy	Buttered Noodles
	Hot Cereal	Glazed Carrots	Hot Discuits
	Coffee/Milk	Chocolate Pudding	Cole Slaw
		Dry Cereal-Milk/Tea	Pastry: Dry Cereal
			Coffee/Milk

WED	Orange Juice	Polish Kielbasa	Veal Parosia
JAN. 11	French Toast	Boiled Potatoes	Spa Petti w/Tomato
	w/Syrup	Boiled Cabbage	Sauce
	Dry Cereal	Mustard	Grated Cheese
	Coffee/Milk	Pastry: Dry Cereal	Green Salad - Ice Cream
		Coffee/Milk	Dry Cereal-Coffee/Milk

THURS *	Fresh Fruit	Stuffed Bell Pepper	* Stuffed Bell Pepper
JAN. 12	Pastry:	Cheese Omelette	Noodle R.aff
	Hot Cereal	Mashed Potatoes	Peas & Carrots
	Coffee/Milk	Cut Green Beans	Butterscotch Pudding
		Catsup - Milk/Tea	Dry Cereal
		Chilled Pear Halves	Milk/Coffee

FRI	Pineapple Juice	Fried Fish w/Tartar Sauce	Grilled Frankfurters
JAN. 13	Griddle Cakes	Potatoes auGratin	Boston Baked Beans
	w/Syrup	Whole Kernel Corn	Cole Slaw
	Dry Cereal	Ice Cream - Dry Cereal	Mustard/Catsup
		Coffee/Milk	Pastry: Dry Cereal
			Coffee/Milk

SAT	Grapefruit Sections	Corned Beef Hash	Salisbury Steak
JAN. 14	Pastry:	w/Fried Eggs	Mashed Potatoes
	Hot Cereal	Lima Beans - Catsup	Mixed Vegetables
	Coffee/Milk	Dry Cereal	Lemon Jello
		Hot Tea/Milk	Dry Cereal
		Pastry:	Coffee/Milk