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"Don't worry about it. One day you're feeling down and you dish out twenty years to some poor devil. The next day you feel great and everybody gets a suspended sentence. It all evens out in the end."

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THE WEEKLY SCENE IS A WEEKLY PUBLICATION PUBLISHED BY THE INMATES OF THE CONNEC-TICUT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AT SOMERS, CONNECTICUT.

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

NOTICE

THOSE VETERANS WHO RECEIVED DISCHARGES OTHER THAN HONORABLE AND WOULD LIKE TO TRY FOR UPGRADING SHOULD CONTACT J. DeLOACH, VOCATIONAL COUNSELOR. WE ARE PRE-SENTLY WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ASSOCIATION IN AN EFFORT TO GET CER-TAIN MILITARY DISCHARGES UPGRADED. SEND A REQUEST FORM STATING CLEARLY WHAT DIS-CHARGE STATUS YOU HAVE AT PRESENT TIME AND AN INTERVIEW CAN BE ARRANGED WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

> JESSE DeLOACH VCCATIONAL COUNSELOR

NOTICE

ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE HELP WITH THEIR INCOME TAX RETURN SHOULD BRING ALL OF THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MR. HEALEY AT THE SCHOOL.

NOTICE

PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION CLASSES ARE HELD IN THE SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY FROM 9:00 am TO 10:00 am. EVERYONE IS VELCOMED SO PLEASE ATTEND.

Watch Out for Trial Lawyers

warren E. Burger, has lately been saying—often and pointedly—that large numbers of American lawyers who undertake courtroom litigation are incompetent. This incompetence, he says, has even found its way into the hallowed chamber of the Supreme Court itself, where most case decisions affect vast numbers of the public; and where professional excellence in the presentation of those cases is the least that ought to be required.

As a student of many of the opinions of the Chief Justice, I have found that we are philosophically situated at some distance from one another in many respects. But where the skill levels of our advocates are concerned, I believe that he is banging a critical nail repeatedly on the head. The fact is, a citizen who fails to settle his controversy, or plea-bargain it away (which is essentially the same thing), is in damned tough shape.

A trial by jury, conceived long before there was a United States as a great equalizer purporting to deliver to all citizens equal justice under law, is in fact a terrifying experience, riddled with uncertainty and often happenstance. Our deification of the notion of a "fair trial" has so far submerged the value of an accurate trial that the latter has no real legal significance. That a trial be "fair" ought to be a minimum standard, not an ultimate objective: someone ought to have the temerity to ask whether the result was correct, not simply whether the rituals were acceptable.

CHECKS AND SAFEGUARDS?

Laymen are invited to believe that our legal system enshrouds the trial process with an escalating system of checks and safeguards called appellate courts, which will correct affronts to justice. This is unmitigated nonsense, as all seasoned trial lawyers and jurists know, and many unwary litigants have learned painfully. Appellate courts have only one function, and that is to correct legal mistakes of a serious (in their view) nature made by a judge at a lower level. Should a jury have erred by believing a lying witness, or by drawing an attractive but misleading inference, there is nothing to appeal. We eligiously refuse to make any record of a ry's deliberations (we in the profession re terrified of what such a record might

reveal), and thus forfeit any ability to ees were possessed correct the mistakes we surely know they will make. ees were possessed of gray hair, straight teeth, and crooked

Justice Robert Jackson once admitted that he and his colleagues on the Supreme Court were not final because they were infallible, but infallible only because they were final. He might have admitted that juries are no different. It is personally offensive to me, but I must confess to one and all that an argument to any American appellate court that one's client ought to be granted relief because he was innocent-not that he didn't have a fair trial, but that despite the best efforts of a good trial judge and the earnest intentions of a jury he was being punished for something he damned well didn't do-would fall on legally deaf appellate ears. Innocence, you see, has at that level no relevance to anything.

GUESSWORK AND EFFICIENCY

It is apparent that any system that is willing to bet so much on the educated guesswork of a panel of laymen counts heavily on the operators of its legal machinery to squeeze maximum efficiency from the machine. Advocates entrusted with the proofs and counterproofs that will lead a jury to historical truth must be skilled and experienced in all of the things Perry Mason seems to do so well. Investigation, preparation, opening statements, direct examination of witnesses, cross-examination, summation, argument before appellate courtsall of these abilities must be finely honed if citizens are to truly have their day in court. The institutions where these skills are taught must surely be of interest to those who would entrust their most precious things to the hands of a trial lawyer.

Sadly, there is only one such institution, and it's not in America. It's in England, where specialists called barristers are highly trained, and licensed. If the other lawyers (who are called solicitors) can negotiate away a dispute, fine. If not, they must turn to a barrister to handle the trial. Any of us who have observed a British trial in progress (and the Chief Justice is one of these) can only bemoan the comparison.

As a pilot of some 12,000 hours and 25 years, I have no doubt that the American people would not tolerate the practice of training airline captains in jets loaded with paying passengers, even if the train-

ees were possessed of gray hair, straight teeth, and crooked smiles. But essentially, our wouldbe trial lawyers are trained in this fashion. Our colleagues

in medicine (who opted for licensed specialization long ago) at least use cadavers for their practice efforts, to diminish the cost of a mistake. We cut our trial teeth on real live clients. I myself had been a lawyer for all of three months when I first took over the defense of a man on trial for his life.

Our trial lawyers have no formal training. There are no schools that teach the essentials of investigation, preparation, speaking to a jury, examining witnesses, or persuading an appellate court. They hold no special licenses, and the public has no real way to identify them. If you say you are a trial lawyer, you are, provided you hold a license to practice law, and despite the fact that your law school never really scratched the surface of any of the critically important talents mentioned above.

CROSS-COUNTRY WAITING LINE

Why do not our law schools offer specialized courses in the required skills I have described, so that trial lawyers can be adequately trained? Parily because they are not staffed for such teaching—although they could be—but mostly because they just don't get around to it. And should a proper graduate course be offered tomorrow (the waiting line would stretch across the country), the solution of this shortage of experts would be very gradual.

Immediate help could come in two ways. First, judges could quite properly require some showing of competence before allowing a lawyer to go forward with the trial of a serious case. This would help immensely. Second, a litigant whose case had been blown away through incompetence might sue his trial lawyer and demonstrate that incompetence. But of course, such an effort would require the services of a skilled trial lawyer.

F. Lee Bailey, the eminent trial attorney, lectures frequently on reforming the U.S. legal system.



WASHINGTON - The FBI has an insatiable itch to get its hands on a forbidden new computer telecommunications system which eventually could compile dossiers on virtually every person in the United States. Officials at the fortress-like J. Edgar Hoover headquarters building recently made a quiet pitch to obtain the Orwellian system despite promises by the White House and Justice Department not to make a move without consulting Congress.

The system is known in government circles by two innocent-sounding words: message switching. Once it becomes operative, it could place the FBI in physical control of all state criminal data in the country, with access to every data inquiry from one police jurisdiction to another.

Through the wizardy of electronics, the FBI would transmit each message between local police departments. By delaying or expediting messages, the FBI would be in a position to hinder or help local authorities for their cooperation with the FBI.

The flood of information throughout the country could be copied easily, stored in computer banks, and pulled out with a flick of an FBI finger. By offering the service free of charge, the FBI swiftly would gain a tight monopoly on all criminal data.

Advocates of making more use of computers in the war against crime contend that a computerized master file would provide the FBI with speedy and accurate information meeded to solve crimes. This information could be flashed instantly to any police unit in the country.

But critics fear that the FBI message switching would create a national data bank and, thereby, turn the FBI into a national police force.

Even if computers could be restricted to police records, these contain names of thousands of Americans who have never committed a crime but have become innocently involved in investigations.

In the past the FBI has abused the rights of people whom the late J. Edgar Hoover didn't like. Agents illegally tapped private phones, opened mail and used entrapment tactics against anti-war and minority groups which were ideologically unpopular.

These excesses have been stopped, and the FBI is returning to the tenacious police work which made it famous. Conscientious officials felt that they could improve FBI efficiency by installing a message-switching system. They obtained permission from the Justice Department hierarchy to go ahead with it.

But vigorous protests from Rep. John Moos, D.-Calif., sidetracked the moves. White House aide Jack Watson wrote concerned congressmen Dec. 12: "It is my understanding that no final decisions have been made.... In fact, a comprehensive study on privacy is now under way."

Three days later the Justice Department was even more emphatic in a private letter to Capitol Hill: "We shall not be undertaking any initiatives in this area without prior consultation with and approval by the Congress."

BIG BROTHER: COMPUTER, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.

Yet only four days later, unbeknownst to Congress, the FBI sent out special instructions to computer firms inviting them to bid on telecommunications equipment. Their proposals had to include "the hardware and software components necessary for message switching," the FBI declared, in direct violation of the White House and Justice Department pledges. Furthermore, competitors for contracts would be judged on the message-switching factor, the FBI emphasized.

Jay Cochran, the FBI'S assistant director for technical services, argued that the solicitation was proper because it advised the bidders that the message system had not actually been authorized. The bureau wished the option proposal included, just in case message switching later should be approved, he told our associate, Gary Cohn.

Cochran said he was unaware of the promise that Congress would be consulted. But congressional sources believe that the FBI tried to sneak-play, operating on the assumption that if they could get contractors to include specific message-switching proposals in the bids, they could confront the Carter administration and Congress with a fait accompli.

Cochran also claimed that the FBI had been given permission by the General Services Administration, the government's supplier, to include the message-switching language in the bid invitations. But Frank Carr, GSA's computer commissioner, said the FBI has not complied with his guidelines.

George Orwell in his concept of 1984 warned of an omnipotent state police apparatus holding away over the most intimate lives of the people. Moss says message switching "has an importance far transcending its innocent and innocuous sounding name. It relates to problems of preserving privacy and maintaining control over expansion of federal influence in state and local law enforcement....Under the plan, the FBI would become a centralized control element, dominating and controlling all state data."

****** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****

PRISON, BY ITS VERY ENVIRONMENT IS A MEGATIVE PLACE TO EXIST.
BUT ONCE HERE, WITH NOTHING BUT TIME TO DO, IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE A FELONY TO MASTE IT. THERE ARE WAYS THAT TIME CAN BE MADE CONSTRUCTIVE. AMONG THEM IS SELF—IMPROVEMENT MOTIVATED BY A SUBCONSCIOUS NEED TO BECOME A BETTER PERSON.

FOLSOM OBSERVER





THE AMERICAN SONG FESTIVAL

An International Songwriting Competition

Dear Songwriter:

Thank you for your interest in The American Song Festival. Enclosed are the Official Entry Forms for our Fifth Annual Songwriting Competition and Lyric Competition IV.

Over the past four years, we have awarded over FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS to talented songwriters and lyricists like yourself. But even more important, our competitions are a unique opportunity to expose your creative works to top music industry professionals...OUR JUDGES!

We are offering a chance to advance your career and receive the recognition that creative talent deserves. Our judges are the "right people"...record producers, recording artists, music business executives and music publishers.

THIS COULD BE THE BREAK YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

- Superstars like Barbra Streisand, Barry Manilow, Sanford-Townsend, Hank Williams, Jr.,
 Hall & Oates, Ray Charles, Gregg Allman & Cher, Tony Orlando & Dawn, and Joe
 Stampley have recorded American Song Festival winning songs.
- Winning songwriters/singers are now recording for such top labels as Warner Bros.,
 A&M, EMI America, Asylum and United Artists.
- Winning songs and lyrics are now published by such companies as United Artists, 20th Century, ABC, MCA, The Entertainment Company, Jobete, Chappell, Al Gallico and Screen Gems/Columbia to name a few.
- The Grand Prize for Lyric Competition IV will include, along with a cash prize of \$1,250.00, a contract offer from the prestigious Twentieth Century Fox Music Publishing Group.
- The ten Category Winners in the Fifth Annual Songwriting Competition will each be awarded \$1,000.00 and have an opportunity to win one of the two Grand Prizes (an additional \$5,000.00).

We sincerely hope that you'll enter the 1978 American Song Festival and/or Lyric Competition IV. After all...
THIS YEAR IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

Sincerely,

Tad Danz President 781 Itanz

If you are interested in submitting a song or lyrics to The American Song Festival write to the following address for official entry forms:

> LYRIC COMPÉTITION IV THE AMERICAN SONG FESTIVAL PO EOX 57 HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90028

DEADLINE FOR LYRIC ENTRIES: MAY 1, 1978 DEADLINE FOR SONG ENTRIES: JUNE 5, 1978

BASEBALL: A BUSINESS OR A SPORT.

WRITTEN BY: STEPHAN H. JOHNSON

Once again it is Spring, and with the coming of Spring comes baseball. Baseball commonly called "The American Pastime" is starting to lose its popularity among the American people. Football is steadily gaining in popularity, and overtaking baseball as the sport most watched, attended, etc. Why is baseball losing its popularity among the american people? That's a hard question to answer, and it may be that the decrease in popularity is caused by more than one thing. A combination of things have cropped up lately, and I personally think that the people who attend baseball games are tired of not getting their money's worth.

Some of the problems facing professional baseball today are escalating prices for goods and equipment, escalating prices for player services (Salary) and the feud between the National and American leagues.

The American League has a designated hitter, the National League doesn't. For those of you not familar with the designated hitter, I will attempt to explain it. The designated hitter is a player who hits in place of the pitcher. He doesn't have to play the field, he only hits. The National League pitchers hit for themselves, and this is a constant irration for both leagues. Now another controversy has come up. The number of men on a teams roster is being debated. The American League wants 25, the National League, 24. I say let the American have 25 and the National 24. The one player difference should not be blown out of proportion and become a major stumbling block. Also, the Commissioner of Baseball, Bowie Kuhn, has blocked the trades of a few teams. When Cinncinatti wanted to get Vida Blue from the Oakland organization, it was blocked and many different questions were raised. One of the most important questions was "Do the teams with the most money have the right to take all the topnotch players away from other clubs, thus cutting down on a teams performance and doing away with all the competition of the old days.? The Yunkees are a good example of what I just mentioned. The Yankees bought up the big names like Reggie Jackson, Catfish Hunter, and Don Gullett. With the coming of the free agent status, the club with the most money will pick up the big names, and leave little or nothing for the teams with little money, and who are struggling to stay alive as it is.

I asked a few people to give me an opinion on baseball today, and their comments follow this article.

- 1) Baseball is no longer a sport, it's a business. I also think baseball is getting to violent. It seems to me that the club owners and managers promote this violence, because they think there is money in it.
- 2) Baseball is still a sport. I still find it interesting. I think the salaries the the ball players are getting today are well deserved. I still think that Baseball is a grand old game. (W.E. Ashe-Inmate)
- 3) Baseball is one of the oldest professional sporting events in the United States. The ticket prices are still reasonable compared to the other sporting events, eventhough the salaries of the free agents are getting out of hand. Where else can you go, have a hotdog & a beer and enjoy $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 hours of action for under \$5.00. Think about & support your favorite team like the Yankees. (Bob Willey-Teacher)

INMATE POETRY * * * * * * *

MISSING YOU

Hello love, I am sitting here in silence, alone and afraid. I keep wondering where you are, and praying that God is taking good care of you. Whenever I needed you, you were always there. You never had an excuse that you were too tired or too busy, or uninterested in my needs. You were always glad to lend a hand, Now that hand is beyond my reach; but I know that you are still with me. Though I cannot see you, or touch you, or confide in you like I would like to, I can feel your presence surrounding me. Please forgive me for all the wrong I have done and continue to guide and protect what we have with your love. I can only feel secure in believing that you will never forget me, nor will I forget you. I will always love you. Please remember that, but there is an empty feeling within my heart because a part of me is missing; and that part is you. Should sen anduly sivol alledesse to sendes CHARLES YOUNG

Being in here has taught me a lot It didn' last very long, As to schooling and morales and fighting a-not. Love again has done me wrong. To think of others more than myself, There's no hope in starting over For one not to plan to far ahead of thyself. For nothing is left to the clover To deal with loneliness and pain as if it Oh, pity is a bitter brew, weren't there, And sit stoically some nights guilt ridden you. with fear. Where I have seen the affluent "buy" their way out. While the poor remain behind, Bemused and still filled with strong doubts. It is so easy to let things pile up and cave in, In direct contrast with fighting a struggle to win. I have seen grown men sit down and cry, And I secretly ask myself why ???? Yes, why is it that A large number of men who will make parole Will in a short while, be back in this rig-a-marole ??? The answer to these questions I'm afraid I haven't got, But my life is turning, and yes I'm learning a lot.

STILL IT WAS A THRILL

Drowning in all the memories of This place sure is a lonely town Funny, I never noticed when you were around, It's not the remembering that makes me sad, It's when you left, that my life grew bad. I shouldn't let love break my will: Still, it was a thrill.

SILENT CONTEMPT

for those who know

after Nixon resigned a news commentator was asking citizens how they felt about it

"he was our president" said one great patriot hardhat "why can't people let him alone and forget it sure he did wrong and betrayed the whole country but i just can't understand why people wanna kick him in the teeth when the poor man's down and out hell he didn't mean nobody no harm LOVE he's just an american like the rest of us and even americans make mistakes sometimes"

today at an eastern penitentiary they locked a man in solitary confinement for silent contempt

he gave a guard a dirty look

if you know what i mean

ROBERT J. McCARTHY

TOC MANY TEARS

Too many tears That you shed ... Dry your eyes, and don't you cry... Soon. we will be together ... Just you and I ...

I live for you, And you only ... Our lives will never be lonely ...

There is a song in my heart for you... Oh, how so true ... My darling I love you...

There is one thing, My darling of all Queens ... I will be the only one of your dreams.

HENRY THOMAS

Love is giving someone A portion of your heart. Love is thinking of them When you're close or far apart.

Love is caring when they're glad And caring when they're blue. Love is sharing good and bad As though it's part of you.

Love is feeling tenderness About the smallest things. Love is glowing in the warmth A special moment brings.

Love is finding happiness In just a touch or smile. Love is everything that counts It's what makes life worthwhile !!!

ENRIQUE VASQUEZ

NOTICE

Subscriptions to THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB are not allowed in this institution. Books mailed in from this source take time to process. This time will only be used for processing authorized items.

INDUSTRIES HELP WANTED

Openings currently exist in the WOODWORKING, UPHOLSTERY, and PRINT SHOP. There is also an opening in the STATE SHOP for someone interested in learning the electrical trade.

Please send inquiries to Mr. G. Campbell.

A THANK YOU NOTE

THE WEEKLY SCENE would like to thank Danny Griffin and Winfred E. Ashe for volunteering their time and helping us correlate and staple the 1200 issues of our newspaper we publish weekly. Also our thanks are extended to all of those who have submitted articles and written poems for publication, and to the artists that have drawn some of the covers. Thank you for your co-operation.

A.A. Editor

THE SOMERS PRISON MOVIE THEATER PRESENTS:

APRIL 1, 1978 "SLAP SHOT"

PAUL MEWMAN & ICE HOCKEY. A HARD LOOK AT VIOLENCE IN THIS SPORT.

RATED R 122 MINUTES

APRIL 2, 1978 "TELEFON"

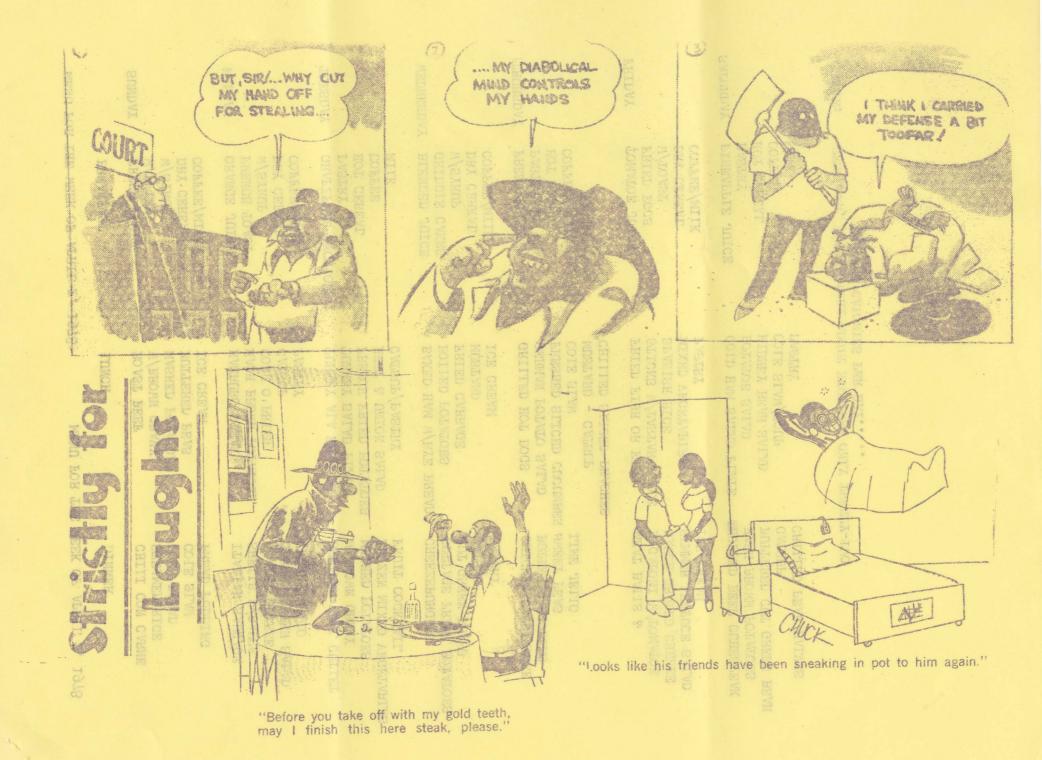
ROBERT & MeCARTHY

THE LATEST ADVENTURE OF CHARLES BRONSON. A MUST FOR BRONSON'S FANS AND LEE REMICK.

RATED PG 103 MINUTES

LOTTERY * * * *

DUE TO UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WEEKLY SCENE DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS WEEK'S LOTTERY WINNERS BEFORE IT ROLLED OFF THE PRESS. WE WILL PRINT THE NAMES OF THE "LUCKY ONES" IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.



	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
SUNDAY	FRESH FRUIT WAFFLES W/SYRUP DRY CEREAL COFFEE/MILK	ROAST BEEF W/BROWN GRAVY MASHED POTATOES BUTTERED PEAS ICE CREAM	CHILI CON CARNE STEAMED RICE CORN BREAD COLE SLAW RREAD PUDDING
MONDAY	ORANGE JUICE FRENCH TOAST W/SYRUP DRY CEREAL COFFEE/MILK	HAMBURG STEAK HASH BROWN POTATOES CORN O'BRIEN CATSUP PASTRY	ITALIAN SAUSAGE SHELLS W/SAUCE GRATED CHEEZE GARDEN GREEN SALAD CHERRY JELLO
TUESDAY	GRAPEFUIT SECTIONS PASTRY HOT CEREAL COFFEE MILK	TURKEY ALA KING OR TURKEY SALAD PLATE FRENCH FRIED POTATOES BEET & UNION SALAD CATSUP/PASTRY	BREADED VEAL CUTLET W/BROWN GRAVY MASHED POTATOES FROZEN MIXED VEGETABLES FRUIT COCKTAIL
WEDNESDAY	BLENDED JUICE GRIDDIE CAKES W/SYRUP DRY CEREAL COFFEE/MILK	BAKED HAM W/RYE BREAD BOILED POTATOES FRIED CABBAGE MUSTARD ICE CREAM	CHEEZEBURGERS COTTAGE FRIED POTATOES CUT GREEN REANS CATSUP PASTRY
THURSDAY	FRESH FRUIT PASTRY HOT CEREAL COFFEE/MILK	GRILLED HOT DOGS GERMAN POTATO SALAD FRESHED SLICED CUCUMBER COLE SLAW MUSTARD - CATSUP CHILLED SLICED PEACHES	BUTTERED NOODLES
FRIDAY	TOMATOE JUICE FRIED EGGS W/TOAST DRY CEREAL COFFEE/MILK	FRIED FISH OR FISH STICKS W/TARTAR SAUCE SPANISH RICE MIXED VEGETABLES PASTRY	RIGATONI W/TOMATOE SAUCE-GRATED CHEEZE
SATURDAY	PINEAPPLE JUICE PASTRY HOT CEREAL COFFEE MILK	POTATOE SALAD KIDNEY BEAN SALAD	MHOPPED BEEF CUBESTEAK HASH BROWN POTATOES BUTTERED CUT GREEN BEAN CATSUP CHILLED PEAR HALVES

NOTE:

REMEMBER, THE HEALTHY ADULT REQUIRES ONLY TWENTY-TWO HUMDRED CAIORIES PER DAY