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June 3

CONNECTICUT
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COURT FOR
CONNECTICUT

Handwritten calligraphic text in purple ink, arranged in two columns. The left column contains the words "COURT" and "FOR" written vertically. The right column contains the words "CONNECTICUT" written vertically. The date "June 3, 1979" is written at the bottom center.

June 3, 1979

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Connecticut Correctional Institution Somers

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The Weekly Scene is a weekly publication, by the inmates of the Connecticut Correctional Institution here at Somers, Ct.

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.

We encourage participation and articles for possible publication. Please include inmate number and name with each article. Please give credit to author and source when submitting all articles. Constructive criticism is desired from our readers. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense any articles submitted.

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Somers, Ct. 06071

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As panacea to poverty...

SPORTS A 'CRUEL MYTH' TO BLACKS

The Los Angeles Times

Starting in junior high and continuing through college, most black athletes are wasting their time in sports and "throwing away their future."

It's a "cruel myth" that sports are good for the black community. They do more harm than good.

Those are the opinions of an increasing number of black sociologists, administrators and athletes who are telling young blacks this:

-There's more chance of becoming a surgeon or architect than an all-star outfielder.

-For every O.J. Simpson, Julius Erving or Reggie Jackson, hundreds of thousands of young American athletes try and fail.

-The myth that a sports career is an escalator from poverty to the good life damages every black community in the nation. Actually it's a "treadmill" -not an escalator-

"a treadmill to nowhere" for virtually every high school kid who tries to get aboard.

"You can work out the odds with a pencil and paper," says Dr. Harry Edwards, a sociology professor at the University of California at Berkeley. "Less than 900 black athletes are earning a living in sports- and not more than 1,500 overall including coaches and trainers. By comparison there are perhaps 3 million black youths between (the ages of) 13 and 22 who dream of a career as an athlete. The odds are 20,000 to 1 or worse. Statistically, you have a better chance of getting hit by a meteorite in the next 10 years than getting work as an athlete."

A 6-foot-8 former college basketball captain, Edwards says the tragedy is that in dedicating their boyhood to games, "most guys lose the best chance they'll ever have" to prepare themselves for rewarding jobs.

Speaking as one of the nation's leading sports sociologists, he puts it this way:

"They try to be an O.J. or a Reggie J. or a Dr. J. and wind up a No J -no job at all."

The best athletes in any school should be particularly counseled that "sports are a trap," in the opinion of Dr. Edwards, who in his Berkeley classrooms levels his biggest gun at professional athletes who go into the ghettos urging youngsters to "practice diligently."

A former athlete himself, Edwards says: I think it's treasonous for black athletes who have made it to tell young blacks that if you work hard, you can do it, too. Ninety-nine percent are going to fail."

Arthur Ashe, a former Forest Hills and Wimbledon tennis champion, strongly advises against inviting the lucky few ("Walt Frazier or O.J. or Abdul-Jabbar") to appear before schoolboys.

"Invite a benchwarmer of a guy who didn't make it," Ashe suggests. Ask him if he sleeps every night. Ask him whether he was graduated. Ask him what we would do if he became disabled tomorrow. Ask him where his old high school athletic buddies are."

The real problem is that sports are overrated in black communities., Ashe says, adding: "I strongly believe the black culture expends too much time, energy and effort raising, praising and teasing our black children as to the dubious glories of professional sport." As a result, there is a disproportionate number of black superstars- few as they are- by comparison with producers in law, medicine, business and other fields. "While we are 60 percent of the National Basketball Assn., we are less than 4 percent of the doctors and lawyers," Ashe says. "While we are about 35 percent of major league baseball, we are less than 2 percent of the engineers. While we are about 40 percent of the National Football League, we are less than 11 percent of construction workers such as carpenters and bricklayers."

Surveying these facts, Henry P. Organ, a black Stanford University Ph.D., has gone so far as to advocate that blacks get out of major league sports entirely and stay out.

Continued on next page.....

Sports a 'cruel myth' to blacks Continued.....

"The soundest option for the black community appears to be a massive exodus from varsity and professional athletics," Dr. Organ says. "This should be one for several generations. Organized sports have been a trap for black youth, from which few recover. The black community is more in the need of teachers, not coaches; more in the need of proper nutrition, not drugs; more in the need of health scientists than center fielders, more in the need of economists than pivot men."

As a first step, Organ thinks Stanford should stop giving athletic scholarships to black students and stop recruiting blacks for varsity athletics.

"What we need is balance," says Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr of New York University. "We need more education. Black youngsters pour too much time and energy into sports. They're deluded and seduced by the athletic flesh-peddlers, used for public amusement—and discarded."

With more emphasis on education in the black community, Brown says, "we'll still have top black athletes, but we'll also have more black doctors, educators and political scientists."

The solution to the problem, many believe, starts with counseling in junior and senior high school. In Denver, Jerome Biffle, a former Olympic gold medal winner in the broad jump who is now a high school counselor, says: "I tell the student athlete: 'Never plan your life around a pro sports career. Even if you make it in the pros, there is no guarantee you will be a pro very long. There are just too many great young athletes and too few jobs.'"

The evidence is, however, persuasive that most schoolboys don't listen to counselor. Their role models are the black athletes who have made it big—the lucky few—and the kids want some of that.

Told that the sports world is a gigantic lottery in which almost nobody can win, they pursue it anyway, feeling they'll be in the fraction of 1 percent beating the system.

Submitted by, Mr. Thomas Healy

* * * * *

Those men who received military discharges other than honorable, who have filed application for a military discharge upgrading, and who would like to appear before the Army Discharge Review Board should forward a request form to Jesse DeLoach stating what your present discharge status is, the date of your military discharge, and the branch of military service from which you were discharged. Upon receipt of your request an interview can be arranged with the American Red Cross and a subsequent hearing with the Army Discharge Review Board will be arranged. The hearing will be held at Somers CCI and only those men who received discharges from the United States Army should apply.

Mr. Jesse DeLoach

* * * * *

SERVICIOS CATOLICOS en ESPANOL

Servicios Catolicos en espanol cada mes - el primer viernes y el tercer viernes en la capilla de las 7:00 P.M. a las 8:30 P.M. Oracion con cantos y discusion. Oportunidad para escuchar a los presentes que deseen comunicacion. De vez en cuando va un sacerdote que aconseja y celebra la Eucaristia. Dirigido por:

Las Hermanas del Apostolado Hispano, Hartford con voluntarios de Meriden y Hartford

Forgotten was his earthly self
as he met his spiritual self; his
hidden self filled with dreams
transcending the laws and teachings
of men. A vision appeared before
his eyes and things hidden revealed
themselves to him.

His spirit stood apart from
the procession of time ever hurry-
ing on toward nothingness.

Excerpts from "Nymphs of
the valley" By: Kahlil Gibran

THE CONNECTION

Middletown

THE CONNECTION aims to help ex-offenders make it in the community. We serve anyone willing to work for a responsible and independent role in society. That includes people leaving prisons and jails, people with drug problems, and people with both problems. Because of the hard work of our present and former clients, we have been very successful in gaining and keeping the good will and support of the community.

Clients and staff work closely together to find jobs, housing, and to fill other needs. We have our own house where some clients live until they have the resources to get their own apartments. We provide counseling and support to help develop greater self-awareness and a sense of responsibility. Despite local unemployment and their backgrounds, our clients have been very successful at finding work and staying out of trouble.

Everyone coming here benefits from the successes of those who have been through our doors. Because of their successes and community support, we are increasing both the services we can offer and the number of people we can help.

Can we help you make it? For information write:

The Connection, Inc.
33 Pleasant Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: 344-0375

Submitted by: Richard Delage

Project Re-Entry

of the

Manchester Area Conference of Churches

Project Re-Entry, a program sponsored by the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, provides a complete range of referral and supportive services to ex-offenders returning to the Greater Manchester Area, including but not limited to the towns of Manchester, Glastonbury, Stafford Springs, Rockville, Vernon, Coventry and Bolton.

A full time staff member devotes his/her time to assisting returning ex-offenders find employment, housing, education, job training, personal and/or drug and alcohol abuse counseling if desired and financial aid and crisis intervention if needed. The staff member also provides counseling and transportation where possible. Help is also available to families of inmates.

We would prefer to hear from an inmate returning to this area as soon as possible, for example one to two months before an inmate's parole or discharge date. This enables the Re-Entry Coordinator to visit the inmate in the institution and to begin to assist in planning for the inmate's return plans upon release at an early date if the inmate wishes.

If an inmate would like assistance, further information or information as to whether the town the inmate is returning to qualifies for services, please write Mr. Barry S. Sigal, Project Re-Entry, c/o the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, P.O. Box 773, Manchester, CT 06040, or call 649-2093 or 646-4114. It is useful if an inmate includes his institutional identification number and/or the name of the inmate's counselor. There is no fee for the services of Project Re-Entry.

PROJECT CONCERN

Project Concern is a program sponsored by the Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Hartford. You may ask, "What is the purpose of it? How can it effect me?" The program initiated in 1975 was for the purpose of letting the incarcerated man know that he nor his family are forgotten by the church. The men and women volunteers on this program would like to visit you at least every two months, oftener if possible. If you wish your family to be visited it would be on a monthly basis. Our volunteers come in the spirit of friendship. They want to show that someone does care enough, to visit with you, to listen, to fill the need to have a friend.

Our name on your visitor's card is not included as a visitor and does not affect your visiting privileges. Families must live within a radius of 20 miles of Hartford for them to be visited.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

Mrs. Beatrice J. Flannigan
Project Concern
Office of Religious Education
650 Willard Avenue
Newington, Ct. 06111

News Quiz

1. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council, Declared the winner of the Rhodesian elections, will have a bare majority in the country's first black dominated parliament with a holding of: (a) 149 seats (b) 51 seats (c) 76 seats.
2. President Carter announced he had named his special trade representative, Robert S. Strauss, to be ambassador at large for negotiations on : (a) SALT II (b) the Middle East (c) International Energy deals.
3. Transportation Secretary Brock Adams sent Congress a bill calling for the expenditure of \$6.6 billion to improve the nation's: (a) airport and airway safety systems; (b) railroad freight facilities, (c) inland waterway navigational systems.
4. President Carter's campaign manager said that next year the President would enter: (a) a "substantial number of the primaries": (b) about half the primaries; (c) every primary.
5. A new government survey found that since 1974 smoking among teenagers had: (a) risen by 40 percent; (b) fallen by 10 percent; (c) fallen by 25 percent.
6. The Federal Communications Commission proposed new and eased rules which would give more freedom and added competitive strength to: (a) cable TV systems; (b) local non-profit TV stations; (c) the big TV networks.
7. Israel and Egypt exchanged ratification documents that formally put their peace treaty into effect, at a ceremony at a U.S. station: (a) in the Sinai; (b) in the Gaza strip; (c) besides the Suez canal.
8. There was a March increase in the Consumer Price Index, the government said. This means that, to offset inflation, Social Security recipients will get an automatic increase in benefits of: (a) 4.5%; (b) 9.9%; (c) 7.1%.
9. Progress toward becoming only the third country in South America to be ruled by a civilian democracy, and the end of a military dictatorship was signaled by elections for a president and congress in: (a) Ecuador; (b) Uruguay; (c) Peru.
10. It was announced that during the current talks in Geneva of the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, a broad agreement had been reached on: (a) territorial waters; (b) deep sea mining rights; (c) ways to fight pollution in the world seas.

Answers to quiz: 1c 2b 3a 4c 5c 6a 7b 8a 9a 10c

Submitted by:

Abraham Lee

M O V I E S

June 2, 1979

ZARDOZ

20th-Fox (3079) 105 Minutes Rel. Feb. '74

Really original science-fiction or fantasy stories are becoming obsolete, technology often making the impossible a fact before realizing what's happening. "Zardoz," the title a contraction of "The Wizard of Oz," has been written, produced and directed by John Boorman and certainly qualifies as an original work, both in content and presentation. A prolog sets the stage, labeling the film a satire. The meaning and appreciation of "Zardoz" is up to the individual taste, but audiences are more apt to take the ridiculous aspects to heart and overlook the true meaning, e.g., paradise can be insufferable, the future (300 years hence) looks bleak, man's innate brutality eventually conquers, etc. Panavision-DeLuxe Color filming at the Ardmore Studios, Ireland, and in the Wicklow Mountains is really imaginative and the bizarre settings certainly impress. Sean Connery, wearing shorts resembling red diapers, is a combination of brute strength and intelligence and obviously poses a threat to the inhabitants of the Vortex, where death has been controlled. Zardoz itself is a flying godhead of stone. A strange ending is borrowed, oddly enough, from Buster Keaton's "College" (1927). Fox's eye-catching ads could intrigue enough people to see the film. R-rated for minor nudity.

Sean Connery, Charlotte Rampling, Sara Kestelman, John Alderton, Niall Buggy, Sally Anne Newton.

R

Fantasy

June 3, 1979

THE FURY

20th-Fox (05386) 118 Minutes Rel. Mar. '78

Psychic powers become deadly weapons in a shocker designed for big business. Considering that it's from producer Frank Yablans and director Brian DePalma, with a name cast headed by Kirk Douglas, John Cassavetes and Carrie Snodgrass, business should be brisk. Along with the story, which John Farris adapted from his novel, are good locations in Israel and run down downtown Chicago. There are some very effective stunt sequences, making this a chase-chiller with bits of comedy and romance. Main problem, however, is that the major destruction scene is lifted from the climax of DePalma's "Carrie" and involves Andrew Stevens in a similar revenge situation. Amy Irving, so good in that film, is winning here as a teenager with powers beyond her comprehension. Stevens, as Douglas' son, uses his abilities for evil intentions. Douglas continues to be a commanding figure and Cassavetes is a properly menacing villain. Snodgrass, in her first film in years, has an ambiguous part as Douglas' sweetheart. Charles Durning, lovely Fiona Lewis and Carol Rossen top a large supporting cast. Irving gives the outstanding performance and audiences will be with her all the way to the literally explosive climax. In Panavision and DeLuxe Color.

Kirk Douglas, John Cassavetes, Amy Irving, Carrie Snodgrass, Charles Durning, Andrew Stevens.

R

Horror Drama

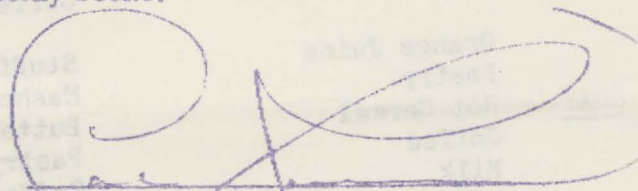
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ATTENTION ALL UNITS

The Commissary will be closed the week of June 25, 1979, for inventory.

Please publish a notice in the Weekly Scene.

Thank you.



Carl Robinson, Warden

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COMMISSARY PRICE CHANGE

Shoe Laces 63" New Item \$0.45

* * * * *

** LOST AND FOUND **

There were some pictures found in the Big Yard. The names; Raymond, Rene, and Karl were on the pictures. You may pick them up at the Control Center.

Officer Treadeau

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 3, 1979 to JUNE 9, 1979

* Indicates Pork or Pork Product.

	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>DINNER</u>	<u>SUPPER</u>
<u>DAY</u>	Grapefruit Juice Pastry Hot Cereal Coffee Milk	Chicken W/Gravy Steamed Rice Buttered Fresh Carrots Ice Cream Coffee - Milk	Tuna Salad Plate Macaroni Salad Tossed Green Salad Peach Betty Tea - Milk
<u>DAY</u>	Tomato Juice Griddle Cakes W/Syrup Dry Cereal Coffee Milk	Beef Cube Steak Brown Gravy Mashed Potatoes Buttered Green Beans Chilled Fruit Cocktail Coffee - Milk	* Grilled Franks Baked Beans Sauerkraut Pastry Tea - Milk
<u>SDAY</u>	Grapefruit Sections Pastry Hot Cereal Coffee Milk	Veal Parmesan Shells W/Tomato Sauce Grated Cheese Antipasto Salad Ice Cream Coffee - Milk	Roast Beef Gravy Baked Potato W/Jacket Buttered Peas Pastry Tea - Milk
<u>WEDSDAY</u>	Fresh Fruit Fried Eggs W/Toast Dry Cereal Coffee Milk	* Polish Kielbasa Boiled Potatoes Boiled Cabbage Mustard Pastry Coffee - Milk	Beef Stew Steamed Rice Spanish Kidney Beans Chocolate Pudding Tea - Milk
<u>SDAY</u>	Orange Juice Pastry Hot Cereal Coffee Milk	Stuffed Green Peppers Mashed Potatoes Buttered Fresh Carrots Pastry Coffee - Milk	Chicken W/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Wax Beans Ice Cream Tea - Milk
<u>AY</u>	Blended Juice Scrambled Eggs W/Toast Dry Cereal Coffee Milk	Fried Fish Tartar Sauce Hash Brown Potatoes Fresh Frozen Vegetables Pastry Coffee - Milk	Cold Cut W/Cheese Grinds French Fried Potatoes Lettuce & Tomato Salad Catsup/Mustard Raspberry Jello Tea - Milk
<u>DAY</u>	Fresh Fruit Pastry Hot Cereal Coffee Milk	Turkey a la King Buttered Noodles Green Bean Salad Ice Cream Coffee - Milk	Grilled Beef Pattie O'Brien Potatoes Buttered W/K Corn Chilled Peaches Tea - Milk

*** MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE ***