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AUGUST 31, 1980

# THE WEEKLY SCENE



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\* THE WEEKLY SCENE \*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

\* CURRENT CIRCULATION \*

COMMISSIONER JOHN R. MANSON

\* 1300 \*

CONNECTICUT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

SOMERS

\* ADMINISTRATION \*

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

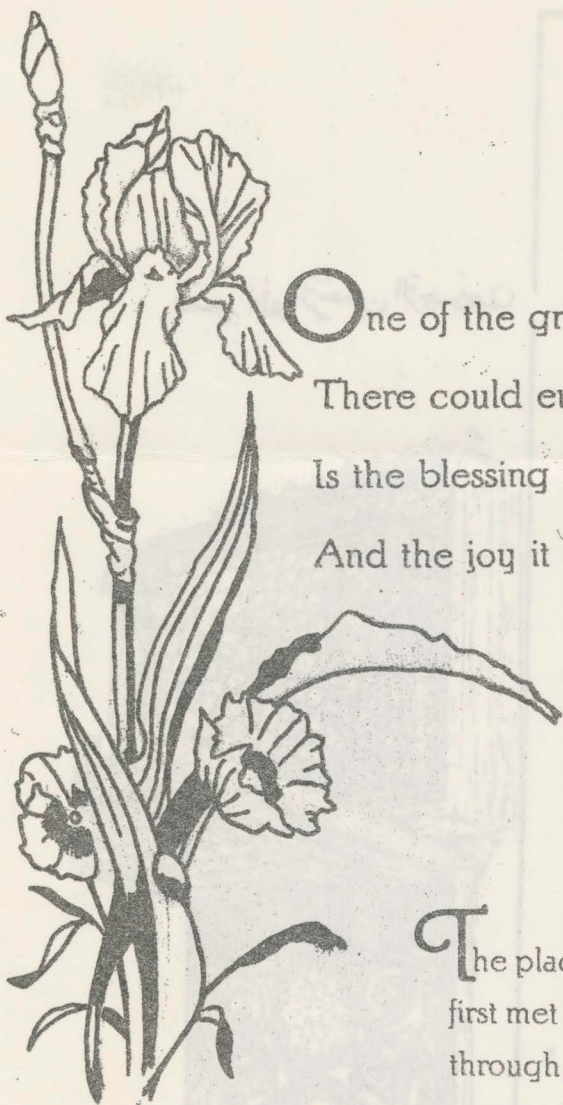
The views herein are intended to be those of the contributors, with the supervision of the staff advisory board and not necessarily reflect those of the prison administration or the Department of Correction.

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

Mailing Address: The Weekly Scene  
P.O. Box 100  
Somers, Ct. 06071



# RELIGION



One of the greatest blessings  
There could ever be  
Is the blessing of your friendship  
And the joy it brings to me.

The place where two friends  
first met is sacred to them all  
through their friendship, all the  
more sacred as their friendship  
deepens and grows old.

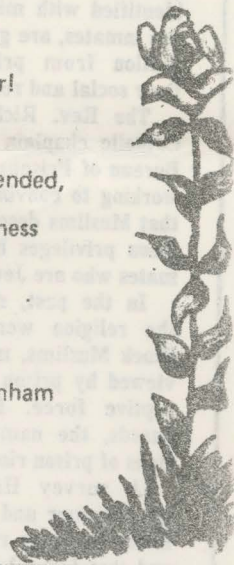
PHILLIPS BROOKS



## *Art thou lonely?*

Art thou lonely,  
O my brother?  
Share thy little  
with another!  
Stretch a hand  
to one unfriended,  
And thy loneliness  
is ended.

John Oxenham



## *My Daily Prayer*

God, be my resting place  
and my protection  
in hours of trouble,  
defeat, and dejection . . .  
May I never give way to  
self-pity and sorrow,  
May I always be sure of  
a better tomorrow,  
May I stand undaunted  
come what may  
Secure in the knowledge  
I have only to pray  
And ask My Creator  
and Father above  
To keep me serene in His  
Grace and His love!

Helen Steiner Rice



# Prisons Ease Stance On Muslim Practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prisoners who practice Islam, once identified with militant Black Muslim inmates, are getting new consideration from prison officials for their social and religious practices.

The Rev. Richard Houlahan, a Catholic chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, says he has been working to convince prison officials that Muslims deserve the same religious privileges behind bars as inmates who are Jewish or Christian.

In the past, many followers of the religion were identified with Black Muslims, militants who were viewed by prison officials as a disruptive force. For some prison guards, the name conjured up visions of prison riots.

A survey Houlahan conducted this summer and fall indicates that Islam is on the rise among inmates and that federal prison officials are making things easier for followers of Muhammad.

"I would say membership in Islamic groups seems to be on the increase," Houlahan said. "There is renewed interest in historic Islam. American groups are slowly but surely returning to Islamic roots."

In federal prisons, about 1,500 prisoners out of 25,000, or 6 percent, identify themselves as Islamic, Houlahan said. Islamic programs are organized at 24 of the 38 federal prisons, and most followers of Islam take part, the priest added.

His survey, based on questionnaires filled out by prison chaplains, showed that Muslim ministers, called Imams, make paid visits to conduct services at about half the prisons. They visit the other half on a voluntary basis.

Inmates belong to about a dozen Muslim sects. The most prominent groups are the World Community of Al Islam in the West at 35 institutions, the Moorish Science Temple of

America at 21 prisons and the Sunni Muslims in 12 prisons.

A staple of the Muslim religion is the Jumah prayer, a weekly ritual on Friday afternoons.

In late August, Muslims concluded their annual 30-day period of fasting, known as the Ramadan. During the fast, it is forbidden to eat or drink during daylight hours.

Houlahan said almost every federal prison tried to accommodate the Muslims to some degree by making meals available either before sunrise or after sunset. It was necessary to pay overtime to the kitchen staff in only two cases, Houlahan said.

According to Houlahan's survey, 1,388 Muslims took part in Ramadan and 1,160 stuck to the fasting schedule throughout the 30 days.

"That's important," he said, because it demonstrates that "the Islamics are well-motivated."

The federal prison system has refused thus far to adopt a special Muslim diet. However, a number of prisons have pork-free diets, which is a tenet of Islam as well as of Orthodox Judaism.

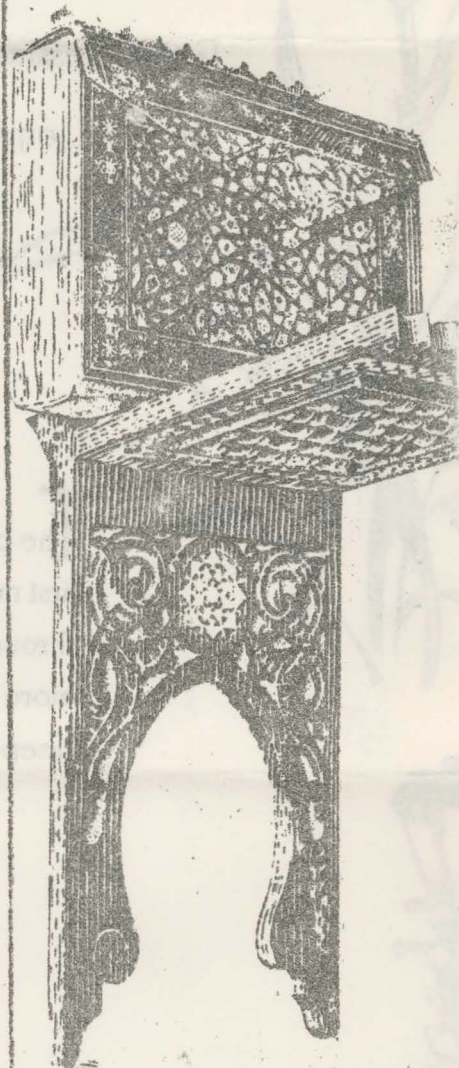
Houlahan said it would take a court order to force the prison system to adopt a special Muslim diet, similar to a court-ordered plan for a kosher diet that has been adopted for Jews in federal prisons.

While there has been greater acceptance of Muslims in prison in recent years, Houlahan said problems still persist.

For example, he said, some guards express annoyance at the Muslim prayer rugs or at the special Islamic head coverings.

"All of these things are so new that they are viewed with some suspicion," he said. "They still remember the Black Muslims. But the new groups, generally speaking, are peaceful."

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ





Conjugal Visits

In a major policy reversal Connecticut's Correction Department announced recently that it is planning to allow conjugal and family visits for inmates at the state's maximum security prison in Somers.

The plan involves the use of a state-owned trailer at the prison to allow overnight visits by wives, children or parents of inmates, according to Deputy Commissioner Raymond Lopes.

In the past, Correction Commissioner John R. Manson has been steadfast in his opposition to such visits. However, Lopes said the department's concern about inmates maintaining family ties was the principal reason for the change of heart.

According to the deputy commissioner, a "significant number" of male prisoners suffer marriage breakups. He added that he hoped the new visitation arrangements would improve inmates' morale.

When announcing the plan, correction officials pointed out that conjugal programs already exist in California, Mississippi and New York.

The decision to allow overnight visits from a prisoner's family may be a very humanitarian gesture. It could also result in an improvement of morale.

However, just how much of an effect conjugal visits will have in preventing marriage dissolutions is a factor about which too little is known.

Furthermore, considering the large number of inmates confined in Connecticut's correctional system, the state would virtually have to become innkeepers in order to have any appreciable consequences on marriage problems which generally have their roots in other areas. Taxpayers' funds and Correction Department efforts may be put to better use elsewhere.

The Telegram, Bridgeport...

NOTICE

NOTICE

THE GED

Even math classes for the GED will start on September 15, 1980. Classes are held in the school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening. From 5:45 PM until 6:50 PM and from 7:PM until 8:45 PM. Group placement determines time of class. The next GED will be given in December 1980. Now is the time to start studying, if you are interested in attending the math classes, complete the form below.

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_  
UNIT : \_\_\_\_\_

NAME  
HOBBING UNIT  
SHOE SIZE  
WAIST SIZE

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# SPORTS

## INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL

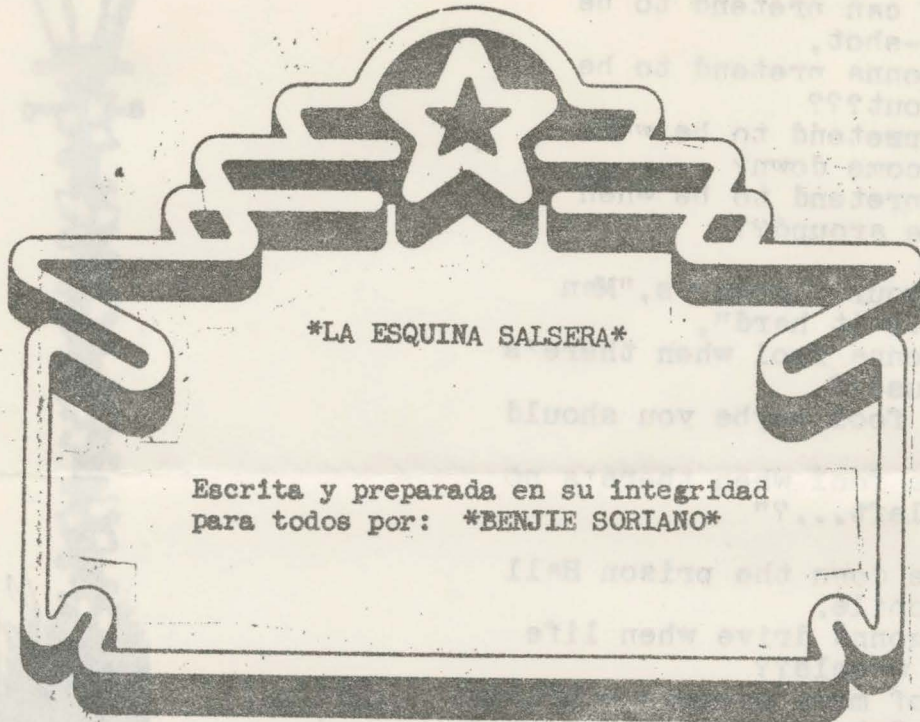
For the purpose of determining what the participation interest is in football, those men interested in playing intramural tackle football are requested to submit their request to the recreation department no later than September 5, 1980.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

NAME  
HOUSING UNIT  
SHOE SIZE  
WAIST SIZE

NUMBER





**\*LA ESQUINA SALSERA\***

Escrita y preparada en su integridad  
para todos por: **\*BENJIE SORIANO\***

Son mis mas sinceros deseos que pasen unas horas de felicidad con los ultimos hits de nuestra musica latina y lo mejor en musica del ayer. Para que tengan paz, dicha y prosperidad, todos juntos y poder participar contigo de esa alegria. Con el mejor surtido de musica para los salseros, estaremos en el aire los siguientes dias:  
Sabado\*\*\*Ahora con el nuevo show, todos los Sabados con el tremendo DJ-Domingo el Judio maravilloso. Morario: De las 11:A.M. hasta las 3: P.M. Tremendo tumbao asi que dig the show y gozalo todo los Sabados.

Lunes\*\*\*Con el horario puntual de 7:30 P.M. hasta las 11:30 P.M. de nuevo con su favorito DJ de todos los Lunes, el hijo del tambor y hijo mimado de Somer "Bobe" con lo mejor en nuestra musica latina, para todos Salsa caliente.

Viernes\*\*\*Este su servidor, the greates DJ from the Salsa City, Benjie como siempre con lo mejor en la Salsa al dia. En el horario acordado de 4: P.M. hasta las 7:45 PM. Check Us Out- Todos Los Viernes... Por ahora check this out:

Muchos opinan que la Salsa es musica de la calle. Pues, yo no naci en una mansion y la mayoria de ustedes vinieron de origenes humildes, de padres que vinieron como imigrantes con la esperanza de establecer una nueva fundacion. En muchas maneras, la Salsa es sinonimo con esa fundacion porque la Salsa no es la musica, sino el Espiritu detras de la musica. El Espiritu que nos mueve a bailar y cantar en la cara de los obstaculos de la vida. Salsa es el ritmo que nos recuerda quienes somos. La mezcla de negros, blancos, indios y hasta orientales. Salsa es el sonido de la experiencia Neoyorquina tocando las raices de nuestra cultura multi-nacional. Salsa es el espiritu que nos une y nos da el sentido de quienes somos. Negar ese espiritu de Salsa es negar nuestros padres y nuestras raices... Una de mis especialidades **\*Musica\*** Su origen que llevo en mi corazon. Su servidor:

Benjie Soriano\*



In prison you can pretend to be  
a Star or big-shot,  
but who you gonna pretend to be  
when you get out???

Who will you pretend to be when  
the Curtains come down?  
Who will you pretend to be when  
there's no one around??

You can tell your listeners, "Man  
I'll never have it hard",  
but who you gonna fool when there's  
no more applause??

Who you gonna fool, maybe you should  
ask yourself;  
"Who am I gonna fool when there's no  
more Stories left...?"

You can cruise down the prison Hall  
in your pimmobile.  
But what you gonna drive when life  
repossess you wheels??

We can think of many success Stories  
laying on our Cot.  
But tell me, who you gonna pretend to  
be when you get out???

Written by, Allen G. Lvons  
ID# 62884--F-75---June 16, 1980



*This little booklet  
is dedicated to all  
our Friends.  
Your generosity  
has filled the lives  
of many people with  
hope, consolation and  
the chance for a better  
life.  
May Joy  
flow into your life  
and remain forever.*

*Compiled and Edited by Sara Taranto  
Illustrated by Charles Sainsbury*





# SHOW-TIMES

8-30 Humanoids From The Deep Ellis Gordon New World R 90 Minutes

8-31 Exit The Dragon Ellis Gordon New World R 90 Minutes

( Sorry no information )

**\*COMING ATTRACTIONS\***

9-1 Hero at large Film's Inc. Avco EMB P.G. 98 Min.

While they say everyone loves a hero, not everyone will love "Hero at Large."

Most everyone may like "Hero at Large," however, because frankly there's not much to dislike.

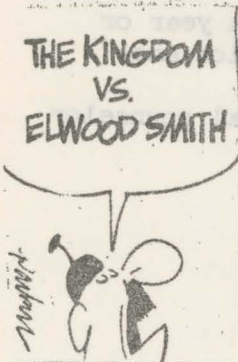
This is a fairly tame, lightweight situation comedy that could easily find its way to the tube as a series some season.

Television immediately comes to mind because "Hero at Large," like so many so-called TV comedies, isn't particularly funny. There are no laughs, no serious emotions, no interesting moments. It just washes over you and disappears with no harmful after-effects.

And yet for all its mediocrity, this movie isn't boring, thanks to star John Ritter, whose "Three's Company" is a TV series suffering from the same blanditis.



Steve Nichols (John Ritter) dons his Captain Avenger persona in an attempt to save a boy from a burning building in "Hero at Large."





## New Class In Small Engine Repair

A new class in Small Engine Repair will start in September. Those selected for this vocational training will be working on all types of two (2) cycle and four (4) cycle engine including outboard engines. We have the latest audio visual equipment from the Ken Cook Company that carries the student thru all the basic instruction on the work bench. The next phase is actual trouble shooting and repair of lawnmowers, garden tractors, snow throwers, outboard engine and many other power tools.

The first portion of the course includes classroom instruction in matter related to small engines.

The instructor is certified by both the State Board of Education and the Apprentice training Division of the State Labor Department. All students are registered as apprentices on the files of the State Apprenticeship Council.

Start training now for future employment in a well paying job. Send an inmate request form to Mr. Jesse DeLoach-- c/o School, stating your wish to join the next class.

A 9.0 grade placement (or better) At least a year or more before seeing the Parole Board.

Ability to pass the vocational aptitude test.

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\*\*\*\*\*

## New Class in Auto Mechanics

A new class of twelve students will be formed in the Auto School in September. Students selected will be trained as automotive technicians with heavy emphasis on classroom instruction with thorough grounding in the basics of the trade. This prepares the student for practical work and trouble shooting on all late model cars. One must have good reading comprehension and mathematic ability. A G.E.D. is desirable, althou not necessary.

The instructor is certified by the Sate Board of Education and the Sate Apprenticeship Council. All trainees are registered on the files of the Apprenticeship Council.

The job requires a security reduction. One must complete a good portion of his sentence to qualify for medium security.

Auto mechanics are in short supply and command a high salary. Plan now for your future.

The minimun requirements are: a grade placement of 9.0 or higher, a year or more before going to the Parole Board, ability to make security reduction and ability to pass vocational aptitude test.

If interested, send an inamte request to Mr. Jesse DeLoach, vocational counselor c/o School.



From Aug. 31 thru Sept. 6th

\*INDICATES PORK OR PORK PRODUCT

BREAKFAST

Blended Juice  
Hot Cereal  
Pastry  
Coffee  
Milk

Tomato Juice  
Dry Cereal  
Griddle Cakes  
W/Syrup  
Coffee  
Milk

LABOR DAY MENU \* \* \* \* \*

Grapefruit Sections  
Hot Cereal  
Pastry  
Coffee  
Milk

Pineapple Juice  
French Toast W/Syrup  
Dry Cereal  
Coffee  
Milk

Fresh Fruit  
Hot Cereal  
Pastry  
Coffee  
Milk

Orange Juice  
Dry Cereal  
Scrambled Eggs  
W/Toast  
Coffee  
Milk

Fresh Fruit  
Hot Cereal  
Pastry  
Coffee  
Milk

DINNER

\* Baked Fresh Ham  
W/Brown Gravy  
Candied Sweet Potatoes  
Balckeye Peas  
Applesauce  
Ice Cream  
Coffee - Milk

Hot Dogs - Rolls  
Hamburgers - Buns  
French Fries - Sauerkraut  
Texas Sauce - Onions  
Dill Pickles - Relish  
Mustard - Catsup  
Watermelon/Coffee/Milk

Breaded Veal Cutlet  
W/Brown Gravy  
Hash Brown Potatoes  
Buttered Green Beans  
Fruit Cocktail  
Fruit Punch - Milk

Roast Beef W/Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
Fresh Carrots  
Ice Cream  
Coffee  
Milk

\* Breaded Pork Cutlet  
W/Brown Gravy  
Fried Rice  
Boiled Cabbage  
Bread Pudding  
Coffee - Milk

Baked Chicken W/Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
Buttered Peas  
Chocolate Pudding  
Coffee  
Milk

Boiled Ham & Cheese  
Potato Salad  
Hawaiian Cole Slaw  
Dill Pickles  
Pastry  
Coffee - Milk

SUPPER

Chow Mein  
Boiled Rice  
Chinese Dry Noodles  
Hot Beets  
Pineapple Chunks  
Tea  
Milk

Cold Cuts W/Cheese  
Macaroni Salad  
Cole Slaw  
Purple Plums  
Coffee  
Milk

LABOR DAY MENU \* \* \* \* \*

Baked Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes  
W/Gravy  
Buttered W/K Corn  
Vanilla Pudding  
Coffee - Milk

Cheese Omelet  
Oven Brown Potatoes  
Buttered Wax Beans  
Pastry  
Tea  
Milk

Spaghetti W/Meat Sauc  
Grated Cheese  
Antipasto Salad W/Drs  
Chilled Peaches  
Fruit Punch  
Milk

Fried Fish  
W/Tartar Sauce  
Boiled Potatoes  
Mixed Vegetables  
Ice Cream  
Tea - Milk

Cube Steak  
W/Pepper & Onion Gvy.  
Hash Brown Potatoes  
Buttered Spinach  
Jello W/Whip Topping  
Fruit Punch - Milk



LABOR DAY-SEPT. 1, 1980

M O N D A Y

BREAKFAST

Tomato Juice  
Dry Cereal  
Griddle Cakes  
w/Syrup  
Coffee  
Milk

DINNER

Hot Dogs - Rolls  
Hamburgers - Buns  
French Fries - Sauerkraut  
Texas Sauce - Onions  
Dill Pickles - Relish  
Mustard - Catsup  
Watermelon/Coffee/Milk

SUPPER

Cold Cuts/Cheese  
Macaroni Salad  
Cole Slaw  
Purple Plums  
Coffee  
Milk

One (1) pint of ice cream & One (1) bag of a snack item will be given to each man at approximately 1:00 P.M. upon leaving the building for the afternoon recreation period in the BIG YARD.

COLD DRINKS will be available in the BIG YARD all day long.

\*\*\*\*\*