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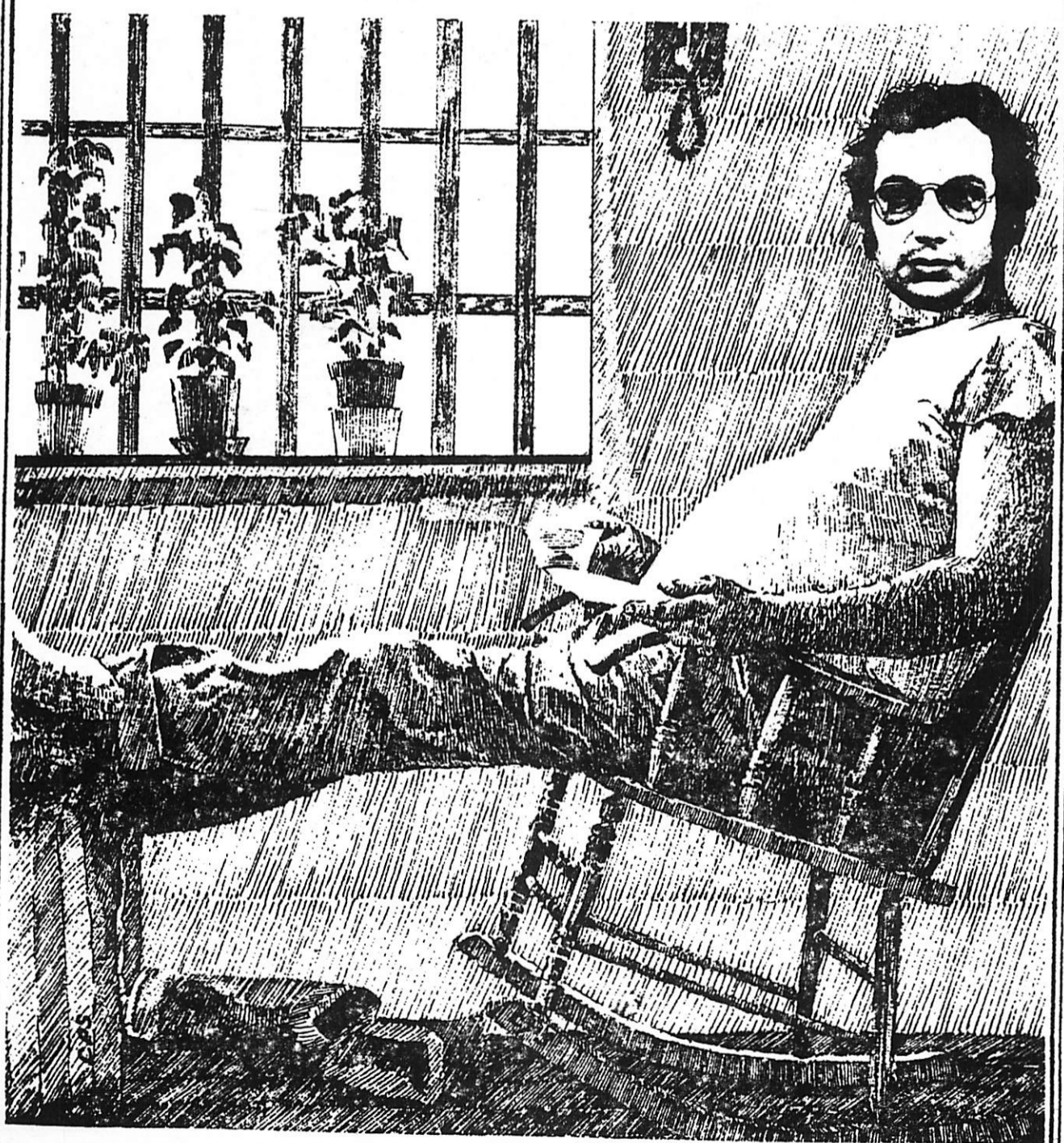
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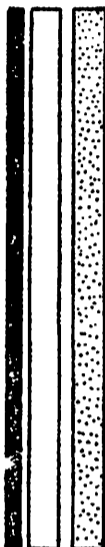
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NOVA SCOTIA



L.U.D.O., Fielder tells it as it is

THE COMMUNICATOR, P.O. BOX 2140, SPRINGHILL, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA



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"Where

We're

At"

A number of questions have been directed at the COMMUNICATOR staff over the last few months that should be answered. The answers to these questions are the basis to the COMMUNICATOR'S editorial policy, its reason for existing, its hopes for the future, and the thread that binds one issue into another. That binding thread is a flexible and pliant one; one that will bend and convolute and that will strive to make it back to its beginnings - namely, the ideal of communication between brothers and sisters. For it is with communication that human beings touch one another, and what we hope to communicate is the fact that we are people who do relate to other human beings, but because of circumstances (namely the prison environment) we too often get seen as something less than human.

The COMMUNICATOR makes no apologies to or for anyone. As people, we all are what we are, and it is our aim to try and show ourselves as we are - rather than as some others would have us seen. Which is just another way of saying that we believe that people should have the right to speak for themselves instead of having to rely on other's opinions about them. Freeman don't know us but many assume that they do, even though they have never spoken to us or read any of our writings. The COMMUNICATOR will strive to give others a look into our thinking, our feelings, our opinions, our lives, our hopes, our fears, our strengths, our prejudices, and our truths through reading articles, poems, and short stories as written by the men themselves. The COMMUNICATOR offers every prisoner in this prison the opportunity to express himself through the medium of writing, and this is our major justification for existence.

We will also strive to publish as much material from outside writers as we can, so that there will be a blending of writings; one that will hinge on the same principle: namely, to demonstrate that we are not the only ones that see the world the way many of us see it. Articles by people such as EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG and JESSICA MITFORD are relative to the prison experience, and it is for this reason that they are published in the COMMUNICATOR. And it is for this reason that we will always be striving to get more material from both the inside and outside worlds.

The question has been raised as to why we don't report on every so-called event that takes place behind these walls. My response to that is always that we do not see ourselves as a newspaper. Newspapers are supposed to report the events of the day as they happen - but when you read them and see how little of what they say is actually linked with reality, you begin to understand that objectivity is just a word to describe what fits other people's prejudices - and since none of the COMMUNICATOR writers pretend to be objective, we don't aspire to fitting into a "newsy" format. We use what we consider to be significant and what will further explain the prison experience of those that have to live it. There are events that take place in this prison that should be reported on, but we feel that many of those that are not getting covered in the COMMUNICATOR should be written by the guys who are involved in those functions, or who have an interest in seeing that other people get to hear what they are into. We feel that the people in those programs or functions should be taking it upon themselves to write about what they are into; the COMMUNICATOR will publish all materials that relate to the prison experience and that do it up to our standards, and will help you bring the article up to snuff if needed. If you have something going that you want coverage on, get in touch with us and we'll get someone to you that will work with you to get an article written and published. This goes equally for staff and prisoner alike.

The question as to why there isn't more reportage coming out of the units gets answered by every con every day that he is here: how much does any prisoner in this prison know about what is going on in the other units? In an attempt to overcome lack of communication between units, we have selected four guys to cover the events and concerns of their units. BARRIE ADAMS will represent NUMBER EIGHT UNIT; DAVID CROSSMAN takes NUMBER NINE UNIT; CRAIG DUNLAP covers UNIT NUMBER TEN; and MEL YOUNG is the correspondent in UNIT NUMBER ELEVEN. These correspondents will have their own columns and they will be responsible for its contents - just as all writers for the COMMUNICATOR are responsible for theirs. So, each month there will be a column in the COMMUNICATOR that comes out of each unit; how those columns develop is up to the correspondent in each unit.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTY-ONE)

Prisoners Open the doors for the mentally retarded (Toronto Star)

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the wards of two institutions get together here in the Fraser Valley, about 40 miles east of New Westminster, to spend the day learning about each other.

Fifteen are boys, all classed as profoundly retarded with IQs below 35, from Woodlands School in New Westminster.

The other 20 are prisoners of the federal medium-security Matsqui Institution.

All are part of the Exceptional Children's Project at the prison. In the opinion of one of the project's originator's, Rev. Mel Cropley, a former chaplain, the project is one of the best penitentiary operated services in Canada.

There is a long list of prisoners waiting to join the program. For many it is a chance to do useful work, possibly better than others could. The children, like the convicts, are ignored by society.

Only two of the 15 children can talk; four are deaf and some deformed. Most are, or were, terrified of climbing stairs and many cling like babies to the prisoners who have become their friends.

BOTH BENEFIT

The children get the loving attention of one person for much of the day and, for some convicts, it is the first time they have been free to loosen the mental restraint against giving love and attention.

Provincially-operated Woodlands can provide one paid worker for an average of 10 to 15 children.

The program has presented positive results. Craig, for example, has lea-

rned to say hello to visitors, knows the names of many prisoners and is learning to read words.

A former prisoner, Murray Pentland, a charter member of the project, works as a recreational therapist at Woodlands. He became interested in helping retarded children after Father Cropley brought guest speakers to Matsqui.

When the project started, he worked as a co-ordinator and with a child. He visited Woodlands on temporary absences from prison and after he was given regular day parole, he went to work there.

He received a full parole in August and stayed at Woodlands.

GUARDS PRAISED

Mr. Pentland said loneliness is more of a problem to a newly-released prisoner than lack of a job or money. It is loneliness that sends a man back to the only friends he has - other convicts.

The guards have been praised for easing prison restrictions on the children.

"If a guard frisked every retarded child before he passed through the gates somebody would wet their pants," said one inmate.

A second project at the prison also works with children. A prisoner organization associated with the Junior Chamber of Commerce recently sponsored a softball league for boys aged 11 to 13 in the Matsqui area.

Prisoner-coach Don Nelson drilled the boys in softball basics outside the prison walls on his day passes. His team, named the Keys, won the British Columbia championship in the Pee Wee softball division this year.

FOR MARGO

The woman walks away with a warm wind in her hair.

The wind is my breath.

Nothing is certain but this public meeting place
and my silent expectations.

There is too much mystery and love.



P.H. Thompson
Dorchester
1974

'Ex-Inmates Need Public Acceptance'

Is a convicted person less than human in the minds of the public? Are people afraid of the paroled prison inmate? For a large number, the answer to both questions is yes.

F. Hazen Smith, a member of the revised National Parole Board serving the Atlantic Region, says that this opinion results from "inadequate information and fear of the unknown. Mind you, I'm not critical of public attitudes. Nevertheless, public education and community acceptance of an ex-inmate as a human being are very important if that person is to be successfully re-integrated into society."

Mr. Smith says visits by community groups, service clubs and citizen groups to penal institutions can help to inform the public by first-hand contact.

"One of the primary factors in parole is a good relationship with someone in the community who is interested in a person as a human being. If parolees return to an impersonal world, their chances for success are lessened."

☆ ☆ ☆

A former warden of the maximum-security federal Penitentiary at Dorchester, Mr. Smith was appointed to the revamped National Parole Board this spring. The other member serving with him in the Atlantic region is Gaetan S. Bertrand, until recently a family court judge in Bathurst.

The Federal Parole Board was set up in 1959 with five members operating out of Ottawa. It was expanded in 1970 to nine members, who conducted hearings around the country. But by 1973 they found it almost impossible to continue this schedule — too much travel, too heavy a caseload for so few people.

Canada was then divided into five regions — the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies and the West Coast — and two additional members were appointed for each one. The chairman of the National Parole Board is William Outerbridge, who wears a second hat as head of the National Parole Service. Including the chairman, the Parole Board now has a total of 20 members.

☆ ☆ ☆

Office space for the Atlantic region was obtained in the Terminal Plaza building on Moncton's Main street. Mr. Smith and Judge Bertrand conducted their first parole hearings in July. However, full operations won't commence until November, after the Atlantic region files arrive from Ottawa, and the staff is increased from the present four (board members and their secretaries) to ten. A regional secretary will look after arrangements with supportive staff; check on parole eligibility dates; send out notifications to the peo-

ple concerned and schedule panel hearings.

Mr. Smith explains that the National Parole Service and the National Parole Board are two separate entities that work in close co-operation. "Parole Board decisions are based on information gathered by the Parole Service."

For the first few months of operation, Parole Board Chairman William Outerbridge decreed that a board veteran from Ottawa sit in with the regional members when they conducted their panels. "We had Mary Lou Lynch with us in July," says Mr. Smith. "Originally from Saint John, she's had 41 years in law, and was appointed

Changes in Canada's parole system are under way, with further reforms being studied. The general aim is to provide protection for society, while at the same time increasing opportunity for rehabilitation of offenders. Under the new setup, the National Parole Board has a regional membership designed to allow for a closer look at the cases of those imprisoned in the region under federal statutes.

to the Federal Parole Board in 1980. Mary Lou's knowledge of procedures and criteria, general experience and background dealing with this particular kind of work, was very useful to us."

In August, for part of the time, their federal adviser was Claude Bouchard. "Then he went on holidays, so Judge Bertrand and I finished the month by ourselves at the medium security institution in Springhill. As set up, the board will be autonomous and independent."

☆ ☆ ☆

Mr. Smith explains that the regional boards handle paroles for the non-dangerous, non-violent cases. They make recommendations to Ottawa on the hard cases — offenders convicted of murder, drug trafficking and crimes of violence.

In most cases, only two votes of the regional board members are required to grant parole, but for the serious crimes additional votes are required in Ottawa, and this is done on a graduated scale. He emphasizes that the board has no intention of returning a dangerous criminal to society.

"You have to examine each individual

case before granting parole," Mr. Smith says. "You look for people who have demonstrated the proper motivation. Those who do not present an undue risk to the community are far better off under supervision outside — pursuing programs of re-socialization, taking academic and up-grading courses — than in jail. It also costs the taxpayer less money."

Mr. Smith and Judge Bertrand visit all the federal correctional centres in the Atlantic area periodically. These include the maximum-security Dorchester Penitentiary; the minimum-security Dorchester Farm Annex; the medium-security institution at Springhill, N.S.; the Dungarvon Forestry Camp in Newcastle, and Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's, Nfld. The board, however, sits only at Dorchester and Springhill, once a month.

☆ ☆ ☆

Both bilingual, Mr. Smith and Judge Bertrand handle English and French cases together on the panels, as a team. Other aspects of their work are quite separate and independent.

As to the hearings, Mr. Smith says they are very leisurely, informal, with no sense of urgency. "Every attempt is made to place the inmate at ease. The Parole Service is there, the case worker, the classification officer. It is the Board's function to make the decision. The whole thing takes upwards of an hour, and the inmate knows within a very short time if his parole will be granted. He does not have to wait for correspondence from Ottawa as he did in the past, although he has first made a written application for parole."

Mr. Smith reiterates that parole board decisions on eligibility for parole are based on facts gathered by the Parole Service. "All information from whatever source is taken into consideration — police reports; judges reports; former employers; the family; progress made in the institution. In addition, the Parole Service conducts a community assessment of the parolee's home town for sources of employment, accommodation, educational up-grading, retraining programs available," he says. "Each month the Parole Service presents us with a list of cases to be interviewed."

☆ ☆ ☆

He and Judge Bertrand handle approximately 100 cases per month. Not all are granted parole. Most inmates on parole go back to their home area. But if there are factors precluding their return, they have a choice of alternative location. "Many prefer to make a fresh start," Mr. Smith adds. "The inmate is the central figure in the planning."

At present, no female offenders are incarcerated in the federal institutions here. Mr. Smith points out that discussions are going on between the



JUDGE GAETAN BERTRAND (left) and **F. HAZEN SMITH** are the Atlantic Regional members of the National Parole Board.

federal and provincial authorities for provinces to assume the authority, and leave females in their own regions where they can be visited by their families and friends.

The Board's responsibilities?

"Much as outlined in the Parole Act," returns Mr. Smith. "The Parole Board is required to review cases of every inmate sentenced to imprisonment or transferred to a federal penitentiary, when he has served one-third of his sentence, or seven years, whichever is the lesser."

☆ ☆ ☆

At present there are 954 federal inmates in the Atlantic region.

Every parolee is under supervision and subject to be checked at any time of the day or night by his supervisor. In some cases, parole officers do this; in others, it is done through a contract negotiated between the federal and provincial governments and a probation officer does the supervision on behalf of the Parole Service. In still other areas, a private agency is charged with the responsibility of supervision. "For just cause," says Mr. Smith, "parole can

be suspended, and possibly revoked after a hearing by the Parole Board."

Mr. Smith believes there is a need for half-way houses in the private sector, without the financial control of the penitentiary service.

"There are upwards of 150 such houses registered in Canada now, and in them lie a great potential for reduction of recidivism," he contends.

What about the half-way house proposed when the Penitentiary Service attempted to purchase property in downtown Moncton, which was the subject of much controversy last April?

"That wrangle more than points up the need for public education," he replies.

In actual fact, a private facility in Moncton currently houses a small number of ex-inmates. He notes that the absence of publicity, and consequently, no community hue and cry, is aiding its smooth operation. "Prospective employers ask only that an ex-inmate is punctual and capable of working through an eight hour day, with the proper work attitude and the mental stamina to do the job," says Mr. Smith, "employees can add the necessary oc-

cupational skills in two or three months. In fact, they prefer to."

It may surprise many people who read of prison escapes and broken paroles to learn that the Atlantic area has had an 87 per cent success record with paroled inmates . . . So there are many who do make good on their second chance.

The work of the Parole Board with the inmate stops with the granting of parole. However, work with the system continues. The board is involved in research, quality of supervision, evaluation of parole criteria and standards. "We're concerned with trends and follow-ups. To learn how many ex-inmates complete parole and are successfully rehabilitated. Or how many come back into the criminal justice stream again. If they do, then it's our concern to determine what went wrong, to evaluate not only the parole system, but the correctional system itself, in all areas where the program falls short of its objective," say Messrs. Smith and Bertrand, "which is the protection of society."

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"The Torture Cure"

By Jessica Mitford

Recognition of failure dawns slowly in a bureaucracy but dawned it has in California prison treatment circles. Prison psychiatrists who are willing to level with reporters admit that they now spend 90 percent of their time on paperwork, writing up reports for the Adult Authority based on perfunctory annual interviews with prisoners, that "treatment" most often takes the form of heavy tranquilization of inmates labeled psychotic as well as those diagnosed as troublemakers. Group therapy, once hailed as an exciting new technique for transforming the "deviant personality," is withering on the vine. Nor have the treatment programs produced the anticipated docility in the convict population; work strikes, hunger strikes, and other forms of protest are now endemic throughout the California prisons.

Some disconcerting conclusions about the efficacy of treatment are set forth in a report to the State Assembly titled "The California Prison, Parole, and Probation System." It cites an exhaustive study conducted for the Department of Corrections in which the researchers observed gloomily, "Thousands of inmates and hundreds of staff members were participating in this program at a substantial cost to the Department of Corrections in time, efforts, and money. Contrary to the expectations of the treatment theory, there were no significant differences in outcome for those in the various treatment programs or between the treatment groups and the control group." They further reported that group counseling did not lessen adherence to the inmate code, nor did it reduce the frequency of discipline problems.

James O. Robinson, author of the report and longtime researcher for the Department of Corrections, traced the course of disillusionment. "The high mystique of treatment peaked at the end of the Fifties," he told me. "The idea took hold in Corrections that at last, through sophisticated techniques of psychotherapy, we have it in our power to transform the deviant and to predict with accuracy his future behavior. But in the early Sixties the high priests of ~~the~~ began a sifting of the entrails. After that, disenchantment and embarrassment set in - the reason was the evident empirical failure of the treatment programs, as demonstrated by the recidivism rate remaining constant over the years.

"The rationale for failure was always, 'We haven't carried treatment far enough, there isn't enough of it, it isn't professional enough' - in other words, we need more and better of same, in spite of the fact we've seen it doesn't work. Even this reasoning began to break down in the middle Sixties, when there was more attention paid to the fact nothing was happening and more talk of 'Why?'

"What you are likely to see now is the end of the liberal treatment era - the notion that you can make convicts into converts of the dominant culture 'religion,' the missionary fervor - that's being replaced with 'behavior modification' experiments. The latest reasoning is that it's costly and inappropriate to go the psychotherapy route with these people, to pay high-priced psychiatrists to talk them into recognizing the truth of our 'religion'; instead, we'll focus on their deviant behavior and force them to shape up. Of course, this flies in the face of the earlier rhetoric. The Behaviorists say they are bad, not mad, and we can stop them being bad by utilizing new techniques. This fits in with the law-and-order, no-nonsense conservative viewpoint: henceforth the slogan will be, 'They must be made to behave.'"

This new trend in Corrections must be highly inspiring for the behavioral scientists, who have long been eyeing the prisons as convenient reservoirs of human material on which to try out new theories. The shape of things to come was forecast a decade ago at a seminar of prison wardens and psychologists chaired by James V. Bennett, then director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. As described in Corrective Psychiatry & Journal of Social Change, Second Quarter, 1962, the seminar provided "provocative, fruitful interaction between social scientists and correctional administrators."

Addressing himself to the topic "Man Against Man: Brainwashing," Dr. Edgar H. Schein, associate professor of psychology at MIT, told the assembled wardens:

"My basic argument is this: in order to produce marked change of behavior and or attitude, it is necessary to weaken, undermine, or remove the supports to the old patterns of behavior and the old attitudes"; this can be done "either by removing the individual physically and preventing any communication with those whom he cares about, or by proving to him that those whom he respects are not worthy of it and, indeed, should be actively mistrusted."

Dr. Schein, who said he got most of his ideas from studying brainwashing techniques used by North Korean and Chinese Communists on GI prisoners of war, cautioned his audience not to be put off by this fact: "These same techniques in the service of different goals may be quite acceptable to us... I would like to have you think of brainwashing not in terms of politics, ethics, and morals, but in terms of the deliberate changing of human behavior and attitudes by a group of men who have relatively complete control over the environment in which the captive population lives."

Some of the techniques which could usefully be applied in the U.S. prisons: "Social disorganization and the creation of mutual mistrust" achieved by "spying on the men and reporting back private material"; "tricking men into written statements" that are then shown to others, the objective being "to convince most men they could trust no one," "undermining ties to home by the systematic withholding of mail." The key factor is change of attitude: "Supports for old attitudes have to be undermined and destroyed if change is to take place.... Do we not feel it to be legitimate to destroy the emotional ties of one criminal to another, or of a criminal to a sick community?" How to bring about the desired change was explained by Dr. Schein: "If one wants to produce behavior inconsistent with the person's standards of conduct, first disorganize the group which supports those standards, then undermine his other emotional supports, then put him into a new and ambiguous situation for which the standards are unclear, and then put pressure on him. I leave it to you to judge whether there is any similarity between these events and those which occur in prisons when we teach prisoners 'to serve their own time' by moving them around and punishing clandestine group activity not sanctioned by the prison authorities."

The discussion, says the report, ranged from "specific, practical management issues such as 'How shall we manage the Muslims?' 'Whom should we isolate?'" to more basic questions, such as "the use and effectiveness of brainwashing and other means of persuasion." Dr. Bennett recalled that "during the war we struggled with the conscientious objectors - nonviolent coercionists - and believe me, that was really a problem...we were always trying to find some way in which we could change or manipulate their environment."

Much attention was focused on what to do about the Black Muslims: "not so much whether you take action against the Muslims as a group," as one speaker put it, "but how can you counteract the effects of the kinds of techniques they use to recruit members and cause general mischief in the prison system?" To which a Dr. Lowry responded, "We found that many of these Negro Muslims were highly intelligent...here again, we have to apply the techniques which we heard about in terms of appreciating what the goal of the Muslims is, or of any other group, and then doing some analytic study of the methods that they are using so that we can try to dissipate the forces that are going in the direction that we regard as destructive." "On ways of dealing with the unruly" a panelist offered this: "To some extent where we formerly had isolation as a controlling technique, we now have drugs, so that drugs in a sense become a new kind of restraint. The restraint, therefore, is biochemical, but it is restraint nevertheless."

Summarizing the discussion, Dr. Bennett pointed out that the federal prison system, with some 24,000 men in it, presents "a tremendous opportunity to carry on some of the experimenting to which the various panelists have alluded." He added, "What I am hoping is that the audience here will believe that we here in Washington are anxious to have you undertake some of these things: do things perhaps on your own - undertake a little experiment of what you can do with the Muslims, what you can do with some of the sociopath individuals."

That Dr. Bennett's counsel was taken to heart by his subordinates in the federal prison system can be inferred from a report addressed to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, prepared and smuggled out of Marion Federal Penitentiary in July 1972, by the Federal Prisoner's Coalition, a group of convicts housed in the segregation unit for refusing to participate in the behavioral research programs. "In the latter part of 1968 some changes in the U.S. Department of Justice enabled the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to make a quiet beginning at implementing an experimental program at Marion Federal Prison to determine at first hand how effective a weapon brainwashing might be for the U.S. Department of Justice's future use," says the report. It describes how Dr. Martin Groder, prison psychiatrist, applies the proposals outlined in Dr. Schein's paper to "agitators," suspected militants, writ-writers, and other

troublemakers. The first step, according to the report, is to sever the inmate's ties with his family by transferring him to some remote prison where they will be unable to visit him. There he is put in isolation, deprived of mail and other privileges, until he agrees to participate in Dr. Groder's Transactional Analysis program. If he succumbs, he will be moved to new living quarters where he will be surrounded by members of Dr. Groder's "prisoner thought-reform team," and subjected to intense group pressure. "His emotional behavioral, and psychotic characteristics are studied by the staff and demiprofessional prisoners to detect vulnerable points of entry to stage attack-sessions around. During these sessions, on a progressively intensified basis, he is shouted at, his fears played on, his sensitivities ridiculed, and concentrated efforts made to make him feel guilty for real or imagined characteristics or conduct....Every effort is made to heighten his suggestibility and weaken his character structure so that his emotional responses and thought-flow will be brought under group and staff control as totally as possible.

"...It is also driven into him that society, in the guise of its authorities, is looking out for his best interests and will help if he will only permit it to do so. Help him be 'reborn' as a highly probable 'winner in the game of life.' is the way this comes across in the group's jargon." Once reborn as a winner, he will be moved into a plush living area equipped with stereo, tape recorders, typewriters, books. He is now ready to indoctrinate newcomers into the mysteries of the group "and like a good attack dog, he is graded and evaluated on his demonstrated capacity to go for the vulnerable points of any victim put before him." The entire program is made self-perpetuating and economically feasible by the participants doing the work themselves, says the report: "They are taught to police not only themselves but others, to inform on one another in acceptable fashion - as bringing out misconduct of another in a truth-session is not considered informing even if a staff member is present."

Evidently these techniques are finding increasing favor with the federal prison administration. Scheduled to open early in 1974 near Butner, North Carolina, is a new federal institution, the Behavioral Research Center, built at a cost of \$13.5 million, which, says a handout from the Bureau of Prisons, will be "a unique facility in the federal correctional system." Some of the unique features are spelled out in a confidential operations memorandum from the bureau to staff, dated October 25, 1972, on the subject of Project START, acronym for Special Treatment and Rehabilitative Training, already in operation in Springfield Federal Penitentiary. The goal, according to the memorandum, is "to develop behavioral attitudinal changes in offenders who have not adjusted satisfactorily to institution settings" and to provide "care, custody, and correction of the long-term adult offender in a setting separated from his home institution." "Selection criteria" include: "will have shown repeated inability to adjust to regular institutional programs"; "will be transferred from the sending institution's segregation unit"; "generally, will have a minimum of two years remaining on his sentence"; "in terms of personality characteristics shall be aggressive, manipulative, resistive to authority, etc."

Dr. Martin Groder, who will direct the Butner operation, told Tom Wicker of the New York Times that he "believes in the possibility of rehabilitating prisoners" because he has done it, at Marion. He does not favor any large-scale return of incarcerated men to community programs; on the contrary, he prefers to keep them in custody: "If we can get a top-notch rehabilitation program within the institution, a prisoner will be better off in it than wandering around the streets." Wicker reports that Dr. Groder is "not precise" about the rehabilitative methods he intends to apply, and that he is "cheerfully aware that the new federal center he will head is suspect in some circles - not least among federal prisoners, who are not anxious to be 'guinea pigs' in behavior research. He is nevertheless pressing ahead..."

A further elaboration on the brainwashing theme is furnished by James V. McConnell, professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, in an article in the May 1970 issue of Psychology Today titled, "Criminals Can Be Brainwashed - Now." It reads like science fiction, the fantasy of a deranged scientist. Yet much of what Dr. McConnell proposes is either already here or in the planning stages in many of the better financed prison systems.

Dr. McConnell, who spent many years successfully training flatworms to go in and out of mazes at his bidding by administering a series of painful electric shocks, now proposes to apply similar techniques to convicts: "I believe the day has come when we can combine sensory deprivation with drugs, hypnosis, and astute manipulation of reward and punishment to gain almost absolute control over an individual's behavior...We'd assume that a felony was clear evidence that the criminal had some how acquired full-blown social neurosis and needed to be cured, not punished...We'd probably have to restructure his entire personality."

The exciting potential of sensory deprivation as a behavior modifier was revealed through an experiment in which students were paid \$20 a day to live in tiny, solitary cubicles with nothing to do. The experiment was supposed to last at least six weeks, but none of the students could take it for more than a few days: "Many experienced vivid hallucinations - one student in particular insisted that a tiny spaceship had got into the chamber and was buzzing around shooting pellets at him." While they were in this condition, the experimenter fed the students propaganda messages: "No matter how poorly it was presented or how illogical it sounded, the propaganda had a marked effect on the students' attitudes - an effect that lasted for at least a year after they came out of the deprivation chambers."

Noting that "the legal and moral issues raised by such procedures are frighteningly complex," Dr. McConnell nevertheless handily disposes of them: "I don't believe the Constitution of the United States gives you the right to commit a crime if you want to; therefore, the Constitution does not guarantee you the right to maintain inviolable the personality forced on you in the first place - if and when the personality manifests strongly antisocial behavior."

The new behavioral control techniques, says Dr. McConnell, "make even the hydrogen bomb look like a child's toy, and, of course, they can be used for good or evil." But it will avail nothing to "hide our collective heads in the sand and pretend that it can't happen here. Today's behavioral psychologists are the architects and engineers of the Brave New World."

For some convicts in California, those perceived as "dangerous," "revolutionary," or "uncooperative" by the authorities, it has happened here, and Dr. McConnell's Brave New World is their reality. Signposts in this bizarre terrain may need translation for the outsider:

Sensory Deprivation: Confinement (often for months or years) in the Adjustment Center, a prison-within-prison.

Stress Assessment: The prisoner lives in an open dormitory where it is expected he will suffer maximum irritation from the lack of privacy. He is assigned to the worst and most menial jobs. In compulsory group therapy sessions staff members deliberately bait the men and try to provoke conflicts among them. The idea is to see how much of this a person can stand without losing his temper.

Chemotherapy: The use of drugs (some still in the experimental stage) as "behavior modifiers," including antitestosterone hormones, which have the effect of chemically castrating the subject, and Prolixin, a form of tranquilizer with unpleasant and often dangerous side effects.

Aversion Therapy: The use of medical procedures that cause pain and fear to bring about the desired "behavior modification."

Neurosurgery: Cutting or burning out those portions of the brain believed to cause "aggressive behavior."

The "behavior modification" programs are for the most part carried out in secret. They are not part of the guided tour for journalists and visitors, nor are outside physicians permitted to witness them. Occasionally word of these procedures leaks out, as in the autumn of 1970, when Medical World News ran an article titled "Scaring the Devil Out" about the use of the drug Anectine in "aversion therapy" in the California prisons.

Anectine, a derivative of the South American arrow-tip poison curare, is used medically in small doses as a muscle relaxant, but behavioral researchers discovered that when administered to unruly prisoners in massive amounts - from twenty to forty milligrams - it causes them to lose all control of voluntary muscles.

An unpublished account of the Anectine Therapy program at Vacaville, California, by two of the staff researchers there, Arthur L. Mattocks, supervisor of the research unit, and Charles Jew, social research analyst, states that "the conceptual scheme was to develop a strong association between any violent or acting-out behavior and the drug Anectine and its frightful consequences," among which were "cessation of respiration for a period of approximately two minutes' duration." Of those selected to endure these consequences, "nearly all could be characterized as angry young men," say the authors. Some seem to have been made a good deal angrier by the experience, for the report notes that of sixty-four prisoners in the program "nine persons not only did not decrease but actually exhibited an increase in their overall number of disciplinary infractions."

According to Dr. Arthur Nugent, chief psychiatrist at Vacaville and an enthusiast for the drug, it induces "sensations of suffocation and drowning." The subject experiences feelings of deep horror and terror, "as though he were on the brink of death." While he is in this condition a therapist scolds him for his misdeeds and tells him to shape up or expect more of the same. Candidates for Anectine treatment were selected for a range of offenses: "frequent fights, verbal threatening, deviant sexual behavior, stealing, unresponsiveness to the group therapy programs." Dr. Nugent told the San Francisco Chronicle, "Even the

toughest inmates have come to fear and hate the drug. I don't blame them, I wouldn't have one treatment myself for the world." Declaring he was anxious to continue the experiment, he added, "I'm at a loss as to why everybody's upset over this."

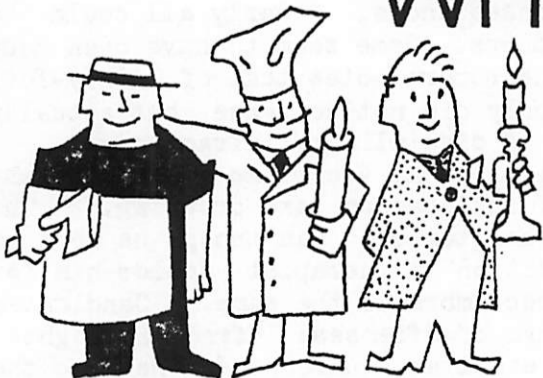
More upset was to follow a year later, when the press got wind of a letter from Director Raymond Procunier to the California Council on Criminal Justice requesting funding estimated at \$48,000 for "neurosurgical treatment of violent inmates." The letter read in part: "The problem of treating the aggressive, destructive inmate has long been a problem in all correctional systems. During recent years this problem has become particularly acute in the California Department of Corrections institutions...This letter of intent is to alert you to the development of a proposal to seek funding for a program involving a complex neurosurgical evaluation and treatment program for the violent inmate...surgical and diagnostic procedures would be performed to locate centers in the brain which have been previously damaged and which could serve as the focus for episodes of violent behavior. If these areas were located and verified that they were indeed the source of aggressive behavior, neurosurgery would be performed..." Confronted by reporters with this letter, Laurence Bennett, head of the Department of Corrections Research Division, explained: "It is not a proposal, it's just an idea-concept." He added wistfully, "It's quite likely that we will not proceed with this, but if we had unlimited funds we would explore every opportunity to help anyone who wants such assistance."

Although the plan for psychosurgery was halted - at least temporarily - by the newspaper uproar that ensued, the authorities have other methods at hand for controlling the unruly, principal among which is forced drugging of prisoners. In widespread use throughout the nation's prisons is the drug Prolixin, a powerful tranquilizer derived from phenothiazine, which, if given in large doses, produces dangerous and often irreversible side effects. A petition addressed to the California Senate Committee on Penal Institutions by La Raza Unida, a Chicago organization of prisoners confined in the California Men's Colony, describes these: "The simple fact that a number of prisoners are walking the yard in this institution like somnambulists, robots, and vegetables as a result of this drug should be reason enough to make people apprehensive as to the effect it is having. That no prisoner feels safe because he never knows when he will become a candidate for said drug is another factor in producing tension in this institution."

According to its manufacturer, E.R. Squibb, Prolixin is "a highly potent behavior modifier with a markedly extended duration of effect." Possible adverse side effects listed by Squibb include: the induction of a "catatonic-like state," nausea, loss of appetite, headache, constipation, blurred vision, glaucoma, bladder paralysis, impotency, liver damage, hypotension severe enough to cause fatal cardiac arrest, and cerebral edema. Furthermore, Squibb cautions that "a persistent pseudo-parkinsonian (palsy-like) syndrome may develop...characterized by rhythmic, stereotyped dyskinetic involuntary movements...resembling the facial grimaces of encephalitis... The symptoms persist after drug withdrawal, and in some patients appear to be irreversible."

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The theme of prison as a happy hunting ground for the researcher is very big in current penological literature. In I Chose Prison, James V. Bennett poses the question, "What will the prisons of 2000 A.D. be like?" And answers it: "In my judgement the prison system will increasingly be valued, and used, as a laboratory and workshop of social change." Dr. Karl Menninger echoes this thought in The Crime of Punishment: "About all this (causes of crime), we need more information, more research, more experimental data. That research is the basis for scientific progress, no one any more disputes...Even our present prisons, bad as many of them are, could be extensively used as laboratories for the study of many of the unsolved problems."

Taking these injunctions to heart, researchers are descending in droves upon the prisons with their prediction tables, expectancy scales, date analysis charts. With all the new money available under federal crime control programs, and the ingenuity of grant-happy researchers, the scope of the investigations seems limitless. In California some \$600,000 of the Department of Corrections budget is earmarked for research, but this is just the tip of the iceberg, for government agencies.

Something of the quality of the research, and the bitter irony of the situation in which the convict-research subject finds himself, can be inferred from the stream of monographs, research reviews, and reports that flow out of the prisons. His captors having arranged life for the prisoner so that he becomes enraged, perhaps goes mad, and (no matter what his original sexual preferences) turns homosexual, they invite researchers to put him under their microscopes and study the result. A forty-eight page monograph titled "Homosexuality in Prisons," published in February 1972 by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, reports, "in view of methodological difficulties, the following estimates of male homosexuality should be viewed with caution," and proceeds to give them, complete with footnotes referring the luckless reader to yet other publications on this subject. Estimates of the incidence of homosexuality given by experts vary says the author, from 7 to 90 percent. He concludes, "There is above all a compelling need for a wide variety of comparative data," and proposes to fill the need by conducting "longitudinal or retrospective studies."

Among the offerings of the California Department of Corrections Research Review for 1971 is "The Self-Esteem Project," its aim "to obtain some picture of the effect of incarceration upon the perception of self-worth," in which the Modified Coopersmith Self-Esteem Scale is found to be "a useful instrument for measurement." Having subjected the inmate's self-esteem to the pulverizer of prison, the department proceeds to measure and tabulate what is left.

If the prisoner happens to be Chicano, he will be eligible for a study entitled, "The Consequences of Familial Separation for Chicano Families," its purpose "to study the consequences of separation from family members for Chicano inmates and also for their families in terms of social, psychological, and economic needs and stresses." Thus the precise quantity and quality of suffering, anxiety, and impoverishment of families caused by locking up Chicanos can be tidily computed and catalogued for the edification of social scientists. By now the prisoner may well be ready for the Buss Rating Scale of Hostility or the Multiple Affect Adjective Checklist, "a standardized and reliable rating instrument that can be scored for anxiety, depression, and, most importantly, hostility."

Omitted from the 1971 Research Review is one of the more ambitious experimental projects of that year: establishment of a Maximum Psychiatric Diagnostic Unit (MPDU) designed to hold eighty-four convicts (a number possibly chosen in subconscious tribute to George Orwell) selected as research subjects from the 700 inmates of the state's Adjustment Centers. The goal of MPDU, as defined in the department's grant application to the California Council on Criminal Justice, is "to provide highly specialized diagnostic service for Adjustment Center inmates who are violently acting-out and management problem cases within the California prison system...and arriving at decisions as to the needed intervention and placement." The budget for this "service" would be approximately \$500,000.

Who are the Adjustment Center inmates from whose ranks the eighty-four would be chosen? Robert E. Doran, who made a study of them under a grant from LEAA for the American Justice Institute, says they are "deviants within a society of deviants," or put another way, rebels who refuse to conform to prison life. They are younger and darker than the prison population as a whole: 61 percent are under thirty compared with 39 percent for the total prison population, 60 to 70 percent are black or Chicano compared with a nonwhite overall prison population of 45 percent. The majority are there for "disrespect for authority," disobeying some disciplinary rule - refusing to work, shave, attend group therapy; a growing number are there because they are suspected of harboring subversive beliefs.

In 1972 ten inmates of Folsom Prison filed a federal suit (unsuccessful), charging they had been kept in long-term solitary confinement because of their political views, and alleging that the practice is routinely used against prisoners who are outspoken about prison conditions or voice "militant" political views. Department spokesmen strenuously deny that they use lock-up in the Adjustment Center as punishment for political dissidents and leaders of ethnic groups. Philip Guthrie, press agent for the Department, told the Sacramento Bee on March 10, 1972: "We're very careful not to lock a guy up just because of his political views." But in their closed departmental meetings it is a different story. As reported in the confidential minutes of the wardens and superintendents meeting, October 11-12, 1972, under the topic "Inmate Alliances, Director Raymond Procnier "asked the problem be kept in perspective, comparing it to the Muslim situation ten years ago. The director suggested the leaders of the various groups be removed from the general population of the institutions and locked-up."

Much has been written about the California Adjustment Centers, for it was in the exercise yard of "O-Wing," Soledad Adjustment Center, that three unarmed black convicts were shot to death by a guard in early 1970, triggering a series of events that culminated in the death of George Jackson, the trial of the surviving Soledad Brothers, and the trial of Angela Davis, all acquitted by juries. From three sources one can infer something about conditions of life in the Adjustment Centers, and the roots of violence therein.

Departmental memoranda to staff in charge of "O-Wing" contain these directives:

Yard Exercise: Two officers (one armed with a Gas Billy and one armed with Mace) will enter the tier to be released and, after subjecting each inmate to an unclothed body search, release him from his cell, by key, directing him to the yard.

All Inmates housed in "O-Wing" first tier, when escorted from the security section for any reason, are to be given an unclothed search while still in their cells...The inmate will be given a visual inspection of his body, to include his hair, ears, mouth, private parts and feet...The inmate will be handcuffed behind his back and escorted from the section...

"O-Wing" Equipment: 1. Gas Billy (blast type). 2. Gas Billy Reload 3. Triple Chaser Grenade. 4. Aerosol Mace (Mark IV Atomizer)...

Any inmate who self-mutilates or attempts to hang himself will be housed in the Hospital Annex cells only on the direction of the medical staff.

Robert E. Doran describes what he learned about the guards' view of assignments to the Adjustment Center. "Those staff who have 'really been there,' experienced the trouble, used the gas, the batons, the weapons, and the muscle, and did so effectively, receive the highest status and deference from other custodial staff.... Staff battle ribbons and badges are won or lost within the A/C when trouble takes place. Actually the A/C, much like the general prison situation, has in terms of relative percentage of time, very little trouble. But it is the folklore, the beliefs and the history as passed from one generation of custodial personnel to the next that promulgates the idea that has grown up around the A/C which in effect says, 'This is the front line: here is where the battle is really won or lost for staff who wear the custodial uniform.'"

Testifying in San Francisco before a Congressional subcommittee, two lawyers related some exploits of these frontline heroes. Edwin T. Caldwell of San Francisco said, "I will testify for the record that I am a registered Republican from a conservative background. This is such a shocking thing for me I just can't believe it exists."

Caldwell told the committee his client in Soledad's "O-Wing" had been "viciously attacked" by guards on numerous occasions, and had suffered a fractured tooth, a broken jaw and lacerations requiring six sutures. Fay Stender of Oakland handed the committee chairman a note signed by Lieutenant Flores, Adjustment Center Guard, written in response to an inmate who was coughing blood and had asked for help. The note said: "Yell for help when the blood is an inch thick, all over the floor, and don't call before that."

Details of the highly specialized services to be rendered the eighty-four chosen from this milieu, and the nature of the needed intervention, were discussed at a "think session" called in November 1971 at the University of California at Davis by Laurence Bennett, head of the Department of Corrections Research Division. Participants were some twenty-five representatives of the healing professions - medicine, psychology, psychiatry - many of them faculty members from nearby universities and medical schools.

The new unit, said Max May, program administrator would be closely modeled after Patuxent Institution in Maryland, with four twenty-one-man cellblocks, "single five-by-seven-foot cells with bars, only we call them barriers." Construction costs would be kept to a minimum since the prisoners were to build their own cages, the work, according to the grant application, consisting "primarily of pouring two concrete floors, erecting wire screen partitions, also a gun tower."

The objective, said Bennett, is "to develop a basic knowledge of the causes of aggressive, violent behavior. Our aim is to learn how to identify small groups, how to deal with them more adequately. We hope through psychological management to learn how to lessen their violence potential."

Discussion from the floor, and at the pleasant luncheon gathering in the faculty club dining room, centered on methods by which this might be accomplished: "We need to find the stimulus to which the subject responds. We also need to find out how he thinks covertly and to change how he thinks." "We need to dope up many of these men in order to calm them down to the point that they are accessible to treatment." "Those who can't be controlled by drugs are candidates for the implantation of subcortical electrodes (electrodes plunged deep into the brain)."

Dr. Keith Brody of Stanford University, who said he runs a "unit for mood disorders," stressed the importance of "intensive data collection" via spinal taps and other tests: "These tests can lead to therapy decisions. We need to segregate out and dissect out these sub-groups." Other proposals for therapy

were to burn out electrically those areas of the brain believed to be the "source of aggressive behavior" - one speaker said he reckoned about 10 percent of the inmates might be candidates for this treatment; the administration of anti-testosterone hormones, which have the effect of emasculating the subject; the use of pneumoencephalograms (injecting air into the brain cavities).

Asked whether the Anectine torture "therapy" would be resumed in the new unit, Bennett did not answer directly but declared with some exasperation, "If it could be shown empirically that hitting an inmate on the head with a hammer would cure him, I'd do it. You talk about his civil rights - civil rights for what? To continue to disrupt society?" Nor would he answer the further questions: "Does not the prison system itself, and particularly the Adjustment Center, generate violence?" and "Would the researchers be directing any part of their inquiry to violence by guards against prisoners?"

As for the compliant participation of the distinguished group of faculty members in this bizarre discussion, one possible explanation was suggested by the lone black psychiatrist present, Dr. Wendell Lipscomb, who had stormed out of the meeting halfway through, declaring he "couldn't take any more of this crap." Later, he told me, "what you were seeing at that meeting were the grant hunters, hungry for money, willing to eat any shit that's put before them."

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NARCOTIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

The JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY over the past hundred years or so has been involved in the fields of the offender's well-being while detained in penal institutions, as well as a very active after-care agency. In some cases giving material aid (clothing, food, etc) and finding employment for ex-offenders et cetera. Over a year ago, the Moncton office began a complete PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM for youth, ages eight to fifteen. This program to-date has yielded nothing but good comments and a community awareness of the JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY as a whole. In the past the public at large knew almost literally nothing about the J.H.S. and its function in the community. Even to-date we still receive calls asking to speak to Mr. John Howard, who, by the way, we lost in 1890.


The program in drug education is being jointly sponsored by NARCOTIC AWARENESS PROGRAM and the JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY and is unique in that we stay center-line at all times. By this we mean; at no point in time is ANYONE in a position to advise another person to DO or NOT TO DO drugs. However, some people feel they are in that capacity. We believe in presenting ALL THE FACTS, and being totally honest with youth. Today's youth are generally confused as to, "trying drugs just once, or to taking the chance." The reason behind this confusion is: A dealer in drugs or even a close friend who indulges will advise a youngster to try it because it is the thing to do if he/she wants to be one of the group; on the other hand, you may have a police officer or doctor advising

against doing drugs for a number of reasons. At this point the youngster is totally confused. The approach to youth by J.H.S. and N.A.P. is TELLING IT LIKE IT IS - presenting the goods and the bads at one time. We tell of the experience of being high and what to expect while under the influence, and what complications COULD OCCUR if they were to meet with a bad trip and/or be arrested and the possible consequences. The facts we present are true and are based on experiences by persons who are or have tried some form of drug.

As one person put it, "present a direct honest approach and that is what you will get in return." Basically, we live by this statement and, low and behold, it works! Too many people are too quick to make up a child's mind for him, not even taking the time to consider or listen to the child's point of view. This, we feel, is the ground work for a person who can't cope with society and thus depends on someone else to make decisions for him.

Since embarking on the drug-alcohol situation as it is today, we have found that many offences committed by young people can be directly attributed to drugs and/or alcohol. This is another area we must look into NOW. The young offender is tomorrow's penitentiary inmate unless something is done to curb the increase. EACH and EVERY ONE OF US must take the time to educate, to care, and most of all; UNDERSTAND.

by FRED R. O'HEARN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
for N.B., N.S. and P.E.I.



SIDE BY SIDE

I stand in your shadow, feel small by your side
I like it that way, like you as my guide
I'm a woman's "libber," I do what I like best
Caring for my family, each day's a new guest.
A labor of love is not quite true -
Love is no labor when I'm doing for you.
I love you dearly, our children are the best -
So, maybe house work is not so blessed -
I feel everyone has but one life to live
For me, I have but myself to give.
Material things will come and go
All those things are so much show
It's the look in your eyes, the touch of your hand
You make my life possible, make it grand
I'm warm in your shadow, safe by your side
I like it that way, my husband, my guide.

- Old Beth -

NOW HEAR THIS

L.U.D.O. Speaks

Out

We apologize to our readers for the defective reproduction that shows up in places throughout this issue of the COMMUNICATOR. The problem is that we use paper that is purchased through the existing government channels and, although it is satisfactory for the purposes it was intended for, it does not lend itself to printing on both sides - consequently the ink shows through in places. We are working on correcting this situation and trust that you will bear with us.

The question has come up a couple of times as to why we cannot seem to get our issues out on the same date each month. The situation revolves around the fact that we are not able to operate independently enough to be able to guarantee that our supplies will be available to achieve this, but it is expected that we will soon be in a position to stock enough ahead so that when supplies are not delivered on the date we had hoped them to be, we will be able to draw from our own inventory.

GET THIS TOO

If you are involved in a program or activity or are looking to stimulate interest in creating a new activity, why not sit down and write your thoughts out on paper and submit them for publishing in the COMMUNICATOR. We get read by nearly everyone in the prison and we have a broad reading audience on the streets. You may even get lucky and get someone from the outside offering to help you achieve whatever it is that you are looking to do.

Every activity and project in the place should be covered by a written statement of one kind or another, so if you're doing something (something that can be talked about in public, that is) that is worth talking about, let's get it on by telling others what's going down.

You write 'em - we publish 'em.

I commenced employment with the Canadian Penitentiary Service on December 3, 1973, after having been in the Correctional Services of Ontario as an Adult Probation Officer. It is quite natural to compare my former experience with my present duties.


As a Probation Officer I worked in the Community with all types of people. There is no doubt in my mind that a Community-centered type of approach has more beneficial results than that of a closed environment. One of the reasons why I am of this opinion is due to the fact that there are more resources in the Community. My particular job was facilitated by the assistance available for offenders, should it be in the field of mental health, physical health, employment or any other area. Even greater assistance was given to the client because of the communication that exists among all those involved in any particular program.

The treatment aspect of the program at the Institution leaves much to be desired. Granted, we are dealing with human beings and with the intangibles. However, there are certain indications that point to the fact that better treatment plans could be inaugurated. For example, a more structured work-oriented program could be developed. This may not be considered treatment "per se"; but at least it is an essential part of it. Another result would be that it would better prepare an inmate for the street by instilling good work habits in him. There are many other areas that could and should be investigated. However, it is nothing less than a dream to think that any execution would take place because of the noticeable lack of communication in the system as we experience it at the present time.

My greatest desire is to see the day when most treatment will be given in the Community for the betterment of the individual. However, it is extremely desirable to attempt radical means to utilize the present facilities to the best of our ability in order to assist the inmate in his efforts to become a worthwhile and useful citizen.


EDITOR'S NOTE: JOE MARSH is a Living Unit Development Officer (Classification) in Number Ten unit.

Cellular



They came in throngs,
their burden breaks,
all along the midnight shores.
I could not help once more,
or I would have laughed
into their faces.
Scream it, gentle wind,
to all the drunk filled galleons
It would take a subtle eye
to within this comprehend --
I've come to speak again.
Be careful, or you'll reel in
all of the hidden line.
Deep within this lies
a far stranger truth.
Had I but placed the censored word
from which we all must hide,
the contents within flickers of light
would have spread their wings
suddenly through the darkness.
As it was,
in once so short a distance,
admiringly I sighed
to open for a smile;
for so fanciful a remark
might perceivably not
in its own way conclude.

DEDICATED TO THE LAST WORD



It has not taken long
to fully appraise the situation
into which we have been deeply imbeded.
I was not mistaken.
From this moment on,
no matter where I am,
all my time belongs to me.
I will gently bleed it
between the previous sordid second
and where I was being moved to.
I will break it up into morsels
of those with whom I spend the days.
When it is all gone,
and the clock questions me;
I will tear the hands
and pull the hours
from under my cape,
as if it had all been
a subtle magic trick,
which has kept some reality for you.

Parturition

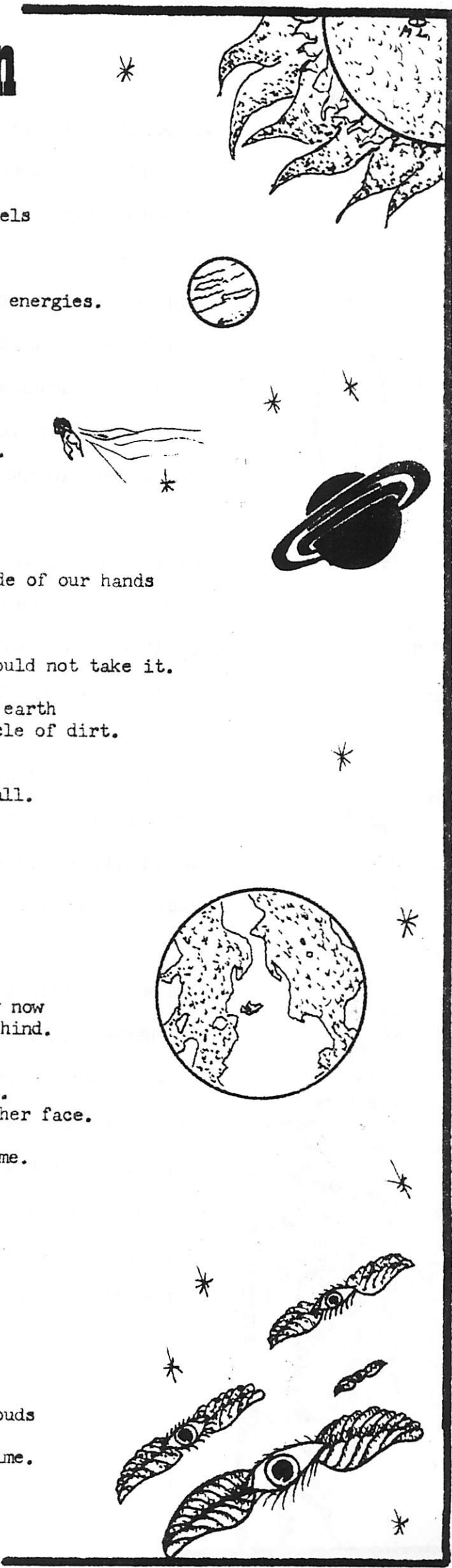
FOR THE BLEEDING


There are no longer any labels
of tin can ideology left
to bother my days.
I am the deciding factor
behind where I will fuse my energies.
The night is golden,
and I am its reflection
pouring into day.
I wake at the break of dawn
like so many endless fields
screaming their splendour
to any naked eye passing by.
I have grown beyond myself
to feel nature's spirit,
and I have discovered
how it aches to ail a city.
I am an inseperable entity.
Need -- not fate -- has made of our hands
a long awaited remedy,
and it hurts because some
needlessly die every day
at the hands of those who could not take it.
There are no exceptions;
everyone on the face of the earth
will suffer with each particle of dirt.
The cancer is spreading
its viperous tentacles
in an attempt to engulf us all.

IN HAZARD'S WAY

How could I but speak softly now
of all the fondles I left behind.
I whisper in the gentle ear.
Songs and broken memories
have slowly faded in the air.
Only vaguely do I recollect her face.
In here and out there,
the days never remain the same.
Some cling constantly
in an effort to grow close,
while others grow distant
in their changing dreams.
No longer can I remain
a victim in hazard's way,
gathering everything
which has come undone.
I feel the days beside me
with enfolding arms,
with silent eyes.
I gaze at the face filled clouds
roll off the horizon
in traces changing through time.

ROBBIE HEBERT





WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD, WHO HAVE BEEN LED ASTRAY
TO BE LOST IN A WORLD THAT IS RULED ACCORDING TO ONE'S GOLD,
AND WHERE THINGS WITHER AWAY WITH THE SEASONS.

EACH MAN, WISHING TO BE SECURE, SEEKS HIS SECURITY
AMONG MATERIALS WHICH DIE AWAY WITH YESTERDAY.
BUILDING ONE WORLD AFTER ANOTHER, ALWAYS JUMPING
INTO A NEW ONE TO LOOK BACK AT THE OTHER WHILE
THEY CRUMBLE TO THE FLOOR AND DIE.

BUT SOME OF US, NOT BEING WELL ENOUGH EQUIPPED,
ARE CAUGHT BY SUCH CRUMBLING WORLDS BROUGHT DOWN UPON US,
SLAMMING US FLAT TO THE EARTH WITH NOTHING TO SHOW
BUT HOLES IN OUR POCKETS AND SHOES.

SO, IN SUCH AN ATTEMPT AND FAILURE, WE HAVE TAKEN A STEP
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO STEP UPON;
WE, THEREFORE, CRASHED THROUGH OUR FANTASY
LANDING ON OUR BACKS ONLY TO GET UP AND TRY AGAIN.

SOME MAKE BEAUTIFUL WORLDS OF CASTLES, CARS, AND MONEY
FOR THEMSELVES, TO ASSURE A SECURE AND COMFORTABLE LIFE.
BUT WHEN THEIR BODIES ARE USED TO THEIR FULLEST
AND MUST WITHER AWAY WITH TIME,
THEY SELECT ANOTHER ONLY TO DO THE TRIP AGAIN.
EACH TIME DOING THE TRIP, THEY REPEAT THEIR SAME FOOLISH HABITS,
WHICH ARE PLANTED AND WELL GARDENED WITHIN SOCIETY'S
CUSTOMS AND EXPECTATIONS.

PETER ARSENAULT
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viewpoint viewpoint

Edgar Z. Friedenberg, Ph.D.

The growth of conscript clientele in a market economy

In a modern, capitalist society, it is considered a favorable comment on a program or an enterprise if one can say that it will 'create employment,' or 'makes jobs available.' Very few people, and those seldom the leaders of the community ask whether the work will be intrinsically enjoyable or creative. We think of our economy as consumer-oriented, and justify the fact that work is so often unpleasant or monotonous by assuming that this is nevertheless the most efficient way of producing the goods and services that people need and demand.

This efficiency has recently been called into question, and new, less impersonal and dehumanizing ways of organizing industrial production touted as more productive. But this, though surely desirable, does not reach the heart of the matter. For an economy to be consumer-oriented, it must be responsive primarily to the needs of consumers who are also clients. The goods and services produced must be delivered to people who have indicated that they want them. It is admissible, though undesirable from the point of view of a free economy, for somebody else to pay for them as long as the people who want and need them get them. But if most of what the economy produces is, instead, thrust upon persons who neither need nor want it, that economy is certainly not consumer-oriented. And most of the people who work at the jobs thus provided will have gnawing doubts that they are doing anything worthwhile.

A consumer-oriented economy is subject to many grievous faults; but it retains one great advantage: it must serve certain human needs, however trivial or distorted. The marketplace ultimately subjects it in some degree to the discipline of human choice. True, advertising is used to create demand for goods and services that few people would otherwise feel they need; no doubt some of these products are useless and even harmful and few really provide the customer with the satisfactions he has been led to expect. Even so, the consumer is not totally deprived of dignity. He must still be persuaded to make a choice, that he could refuse, or no transaction can take place.

In order to sell people deodorant, you have to persuade them that they smell bad, will be happier if they smell better, and will smell better if they buy the product offered. In 1974, that is enough to make a can of deodorant the very symbol of liberty. There is still no public service whose

function is to inspect people and designate those to be deemed malodorous; and no agency it can send into their homes or locker-rooms to spray them until they reach acceptable standards. There is as yet no technology that can do what a good hunting dog can - identify an individual precisely by his body odour. If there were, the sale of deodorants would doubtless be restricted as an obstruction of justice, in the interests of national security.

For, in fact, only a small proportion of the gross national product of any industrialized society represents goods and services that are intended to provide any satisfaction, however meretricious, to the individual who receives or is subject to them. Most of it goes into hiring people to do things to others that they do not want done; and providing these agents with the increasingly costly and elaborate means of doing it.

Collection agencies, it should be noted at once, are among the purest and earliest examples of such undesired services, though not, as such things go, on a very large scale. More familiar, as well as far costlier examples are: the armed services, law enforcement agencies and prisons; the public school system and, to an increasing degree, mental hospitals, most of whose patients have been involuntarily committed and who receive virtually nothing in the way of individual psychotherapy, which would require far larger and better trained staffs than are available.

Other institutions which do perform services that are sought and desired by the individuals who receive them, nevertheless devote a large part of their budgets to coercive or investigatory functions that the client does not seek or desire, but which he has no power to refuse if he wants the service at all. Thus, clients of the welfare system become the targets of an egregious set of investigatory procedures designed to determine whether the client is chiseling by falsifying his stat-

us: hence middle-of-the-night calls on mothers to see if they have undeclared husbands.

In many cities, the costs of the investigatory apparatus are far greater than the amount that could conceivably be chiseled if no investigation were undertaken; the taxpayer earmarks a larger sum to prove that nobody is going to take advantage of him and get by with it than he could possibly lose by being more trusting. Persons who purchase insurance, likewise open themselves to investigation by a staff largely recruited from former members of governmental investigatory agencies and information in their files is supplemented by other data obtained informally, and usually clandestinely, through contacts with these agencies.

None of this is chosen and voluntarily purchased by a consumer operating within the classic rules of free enterprise; it is provided, or added on, by a third party to the transaction, whose interests are separate from and often adverse to that of the consumer. This is not to say that the goods and services are useless; they fulfill a function greatly desired by the people who order them. The chief of police in Berkeley, California, sulked publicly for weeks after the city council, newly elected by young voters, many of whom had been gassed and maced by his force during their recent school and college years, refused to authorize the purchase of a helicopter for use in crowd control. He needed it; they didn't.

All the institutions and organizations I have mentioned perform social functions defined as legitimate; and hence must be regarded as acceptable to, and authorized by, the dominant members of the society. But they nevertheless belong properly among the coercive and restrictive aspects of that society; not among its provisions for freedom.

They may be defended, as police, prisons, and schools usually are, as necessary to the preservation of freedom; but what they actually preserve is the structure of the society which defines what freedoms are legitimate and who is allowed to enjoy them, and under what circumstances. The people who actually receive their services do not usually experience these as amenities.

Officials who administer schools and prisons are committed to a rhetoric of growth and rehabilitation which claims that their wards receive services that will benefit them by making them better able to use their talents in later life. But this is difficult to prove. What is evident is that their clients are not volunteers, not consumers by their own free choice. They may not set aside and relinquish these bene-

fits as more than they feel up to enjoying and leave, as a customer in Eaton's or Simpsons may if he finds the prospect before him too dazzling to contemplate.

The dissatisfaction of involuntary clients, therefore, has only a minimal influence on the organization that services them and may even be taken as evidence that it is doing its job well. Pupils, prisoners, welfare recipients, persons subject to arrest and hapless civilians in the path of an army intent on restoring order account, in the aggregate, for the grossest part of the gross national product.

But they are not clients at all. They are treated as raw material to be stored, processed, or cleared away in the interest of some social group powerful enough to define their interests as subservient to its own, and to identify this as the public interest.

In the process, such social groups create jobs, prestige, and authority for themselves. But they can never have the satisfaction that an Avon lady has every day; of knowing that the customer was happy to open the door when she rang, and felt lovelier as a result of her visit.

I am not concerned here with whether the state should have the power to coerce its residents; though it does seem obvious that it has no right to coerce anybody else. That does not stop it, of course. It is perhaps a little off that no one in Cambodia ever found in his rice-paddy a gaily-painted facsimile of a fragmentation bomb bearing a warning that service would be terminated unless an enclosed card was signed and returned at once, and urging the subscriber not to let his children's education be interrupted. Still, it all makes work for the working-man to do.

I am concerned with a rather different issue: why a society that spends so large a proportion of its resources doing things to people to improve, control, or coerce them cannot bring itself to provide for even their minimal felt, personal needs.

It costs upwards of \$10,000 per year to keep a Canadian in prison, leaving his family destitute and a further public charge. Most convicts come from very poor homes, so that the sum spent on his imprisonment is likely to be twice as much or more than he has usually had available to support them. Most of this is spent on custody; that is, confining him: restraining his movements, checking up on him and dramatizing the danger he presents to society. If it were spent on making the prison livable, law-abiding citizens would be livid with rage, calling the institution a 'country club' or a 'health resort.'

Suppose he were not imprisoned at all; and the money spent instead for two rational but distinct purposes: contributing a premium to an insurance plan whereby the victims of crime might be reimbursed for financial loss (as all provinces except New Brunswick now do for innocent victims who suffer bodily injury), and providing the criminal with enough funds to help him straighten out his life, where poverty has been a factor contributing to his criminality.

Prison populations would thus be greatly reduced; but, of course, people would be rewarded for wrongdoing - even for ripping other people off and stealing their property. Imagine the anger and consternation this would arouse among the law-abiding. Imagine the terrible example it would set the Indians and Eskimos; again, after all these years.

Most of us in North America are, in fact, deeply and terribly aware of how little part choice plays in the important aspects of our lives; of how seldom, and how trivially, we come to play the part of a genuine consumer. But the pervading ideology of our society convinces us that we are one, or should be, and distracts our attention with the baubles we are allowed to choose among, after taxes.

Beneath our distraction, however, I believe I observe a continuous state of suspicion and rage; a rancorous certainty that everybody else is getting away with something, and a defensive determination to see that they don't, no matter how much of our own life and substance we waste in doing it.

Moreover, control, constraint, and the imposition of unsought services become vested interests in themselves. The parliamentary commission that investigated disorders in the prisons around Kingston, Ontario - the centre of the Canadian imprisonment industry - last spring freely granted that a basic source of the difficulties lay in the hostile and punitive attitudes and behaviour of the prison guards. But they had become an established bureaucracy that the prison administration could no longer control even to the point of ordering a transfer to another post; and they enjoyed the support of the community as well.

The people of Kingston seem less favorably disposed to convicts than the people of Edmonton are toward oil, though it is hard to see how they could make a living without them. Both sometimes escape, but the oil does so more often and damages the environment far more seriously when it does. Only a few remote and elderly Indians, however, would think of the oil as possessing a spirit of its own, capable of resisting confinement and seeking and

enjoying freedom. Its custodians seek to prevent its escape, but do not become indignant and solemnly defensive toward it when they fail.

But oil and petroleum products are genuinely indispensable in a technological society; and those who derive their livelihood from producing and distributing them know that their basic usefulness cannot be impugned even by Exxon's or Mr. Lougheed's, harshest critics. We will not, I think become a happier or more generous spirited people until we learn to organize our economy so as to permit most of us to view ourselves as valuable in this way. This means learning to think of the economy not as a source of jobs that every Canadian must hold in order to have a claim on the goods and services he needs - even if the job is to make a nuisance of himself and there are too few even of those to go around - but as a way of creating and distributing the resources people genuinely need and want to make a decent life for themselves, which Canada is fortunate, indeed, to possess in relative abundance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Edgar Z. Friedenberg, Ph.D., has been Professor of Education at Dalhousie University since 1970, when he came to this country from the United States as a landed immigrant. He was educated at Stanford University and the University of Chicago; and served as Professor of Sociology at the University of California (Davis) and the State University of New York at Buffalo before coming to Canada. He is the author of 'The Vanishing Adolescent', 'Coming of Age in America', 'The Dignity of Youth and Other Atavisms' and, most recently, 'Laing', a monograph of the Modern Masters Series devoted to the work of the distinguished Scottish existential psychiatrist.

Mr. Friedenberg honours us by permitting THE COMMUNICATOR to publish his writings, and has indicated that he will be a continuing contributor in the future.

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The Pallachie Papers the creative nightmare of *Eric Fielder*

Our story began in the last issue of the COMMUNICATOR when Joseph Pallachie, a young classification officer with the Canadian Penitentiary Service in Newfoundland felt he might be able to step up in the world of corrections by joining Parallax Corp. "The Parallax Corporation is the most sophisticated system of social control yet devised. It operates under the illusion that liberal programmes are a good thing. It has fools believing that the more programmes and paroles presently encouraged, the more the little buggers are being helped so that they won't come back to jail. They have devised a system that is psychologically foolproof. It guarantees that rehabilitation will mean more prisons to occupy more deviates to yield higher and greater recidivist rates. It is the most successful government experiment in maintaining social control the world has ever known." He submitted the required pink application forms outlining his over-abundance of academic qualifications and a personal interview was soon arranged at the company's head office in Ottawa.

Young Joe Pallachie was interviewed by the chief executive officer, who Joe felt had the appearance of a turkey, wrapped in a civil service necktie. Joe was soon to learn that Parallax was the parent company of his present employer, and although shocked and horrified at what he had learned, Joe was still undecided as to what he would do...



CHAPTER TWO

“The Counselling Knack”

Joseph Pallachie had two major qualities, the stubbornness of an ox, and the ability to be duped. His stubbornness drove his commitment to the Canadian Penitentiary Service and all that his aching heart told him that it stood for. His ability to be duped allowed him to believe it. But now Pallachie stood before Parallax facing the truth. Pallachie was forced to make a decision. Would he seek out the true meaning behind Parallax, or would he wipe it from his mind forever and turn his back on the greatest scandle since Watergate? With a gulp in his throat and an inhuman-like courage Pallachie gapped to his choice. To stay and fight one more day was at least worth the life of this fairy pantomine, a conviction to a nightmarish puppet show.

Parallax Corporation, that seductive clam of corrections had enveloped the sacred life-giving force of your "once, twice, I'm in the programme" inmate, the driving blood that only a man in the position of classification officer could afford to hold dear to Christian benefice, the pearl of TREATMENT!

There stood Pallachie, a pale, pudgy lipped blob of treatment protoplasm trying to pucker up a proposal to the fat pontificates of Parallax.

The group was in full spirit after the cretin's speech "Security through rehabilitation!", they shouted in one voice of welcome and in one common assault gathered about Pallachie before he had a chance to utter another word.

It was not the scent of Right Guard nor the smell of cigar smoke as much as the closeness of the welcoming party that made Pallachie belch. Someone stuck a cigar in his mouth "Your with us now boy," the man said as the quiet, guilt ridden social worker turned an embarrassing red for messing up the carpet in someone else's place.

After things had quieted down, Pallachie was taken to a side room in order to allow him a period of rest, self-analysis and meditation before his indoctrination programme was to begin. He felt good to be alone, to be off the hot seat for awhile. He laughed at his embarrassment in messing up the floor.

How childish he thought, but this whole matter was so much like a child's fantasy! Joseph was fortunate that he had learned to control his emotions.

Through Primal Therapy he had learned to work through painful anxiety, the kind that he was feeling now. He knew these feelings stemmed from a neurotic twist, a mental block in his early childhood. He smiled and complimented himself as he had used the same primal technique just last week on one of his favorite lifers. He nodded as he graciously accredited himself for being a good counsellor. He understood the process, like a pro. Those cold clammy hands that churn at the gut level that inturn, squeeze out pockets of feelings, that form thunder clouds of pent up emotion breaking into torrents of passion and pathos, enough to know that there was something "happening" with the man! There were many men on his caseload with tears in their eyes and vomit on his floor. Yes, he thought, "You've done a good job, Pallachie". His train of thought was interrupted by a click at the door. The door opened.

"Hi Guy!" A huge bulbous man stood at the doorway with a calm and airy voice "I'm your counsellor," he added as he moved his head like a cooing pigeon, or a gourmand just swallowing a fat dill pickle. "I'm here to teach you the language of treatment," he said softly, like a tart eager to please.

Pallachie was startled and a bit confused. It was difficult to see the man in the darkened room but his felt weight on the love seat gave Joe a good indicator where he was at. "Joseph," he said, "Why do you want to join Parallax?"

Pallachie, with hands on his knees and a slightly nervous twitch stuttered "Well, I...I was curious."

The man replied, "Curious, or driven to discover us, Joe?"

Pallachie jumped up, "Why do I have to answer these questions? Who are you?"

The man glibly replied, "I've told you before Joe, I'm your counsellor, I'd like to get to know you. If you go along with the programme I'm sure you'll be happy here, Joe. You do want to join Parallax...don't you Joe?" Pallachie nodded.

"Then you have to go along with the programme, Joe."

"What programme!" Joe retorted, feeling a rush of helplessness, "I'm not an inmate, I'm a counsellor!"

No. No. Joe. I'm the counsellor, and your a human being in need of help," he said. And with an air of gentle impatience, hand placed neatly to hip, straight back with the rotund slob-mass in daint perch on edge of the tattered love seat, the counsellor began to sort out those confused primal pains that all of a sudden inflicted Joe's gut level.

Next issue, Joe continues to discover what a reversal he is really in. The world that he believed and trusted in becomes insane and out of the confusion all he can trust in is an undying belief in that old reliable mandate that he must, "go along with the programme." Be what it may.





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Penal reform benefits everyone

(TORONTO STAR)

Canada's penal system doesn't merely fail to do what is needed to help make sure its inmates will not cross the law again. On the contrary, its effect is to condition those in its custody to come back again.

This was the damning indictment delivered last week by William Outerbridge, chairman of the National Parole Board.

He wasn't appealing to bleeding hearts, but to every law-abiding person who wants to be protected from thugs. He made it clear that unless society finds a better way of handling offenders, there is going to be more and more crime.

Now we learn that a Buffalo arsonist was out of an Ontario penitentiary on a weekend pass and escaped. "Scandal," says the man who prosecuted him. "It stinks to high heaven."

"Shocking," says the man who sentenced him to 14 years. "It's one more example of the way the parole board and the prison service are letting people out who should be in jail."

Thus one spectacular case encourages public opinion to demand that offenders be locked up for the duration of their sentences.

Apart from the inhumanity of this approach, there are two problems. There are too many of them to lock up and too many of them — in fact, the vast majority—are not dangerous criminals but folk who drove while they were drunk or stole a power saw from the local hardware store or beat up an unfaithful spouse.

If, then, we concede that the bad guys have got to be let out of jail some day, it is vital for society's protection that they emerge less likely to commit a crime than when they went in.

At present it doesn't work that way. Canada's prisons, Outerbridge said, "do nothing to create law-abiding citizens out of the offender." In fact, more than 80 per cent of graduates go back for another term.

It's no wonder, Outerbridge argued, that prisons

fail to rehabilitate inmates. We want them to grow up, yet we strip them of the quality most closely associated with adulthood—the ability to choose. "On the one hand, we render the inmate a virtual child and yet somehow expect him to develop greater maturity and better judgment."

Rehabilitation is hindered by rigid confinement behind bars. Experience has shown that there has to be some continuing relationship with the community, or at least the environment of institutions where the atmosphere is more normal than the relationship between keeper and kept.

This involves doing away with fortresses, except for that small minority of prisoners who really are dangerous and who are judged beyond repair.

It also involves increasing use of the half-way houses and the sort of temporary absence and day parole abused by the Buffalo arsonist.

Last year more than 60,000 temporary absences were granted to inmates of federal penitentiaries—people serving sentences of two years or more. In only one-half of one per cent was there any untoward incident at all, the most involved returning late or showing evidence of having been drinking.

Between 1968 and 1972 the authorities also issued 6,000 passes to long-term offenders, some serving life sentences. Only 12 incidents of any difficulty occurred.

The value of this programme is that it gives inmates an opportunity to act responsibly. This is clearly in the public interest.

On the face of it it was irresponsible and naive to allow a man thought to be associated with organized crime to leave the prison for a weekend, especially when he has 10 years of a sentence still ahead of him.

However, looking at it again from the point of view of the citizen wanting protection, it would be shortsighted to allow an incident like this, however outrageous, to threaten a program that is helping to rehabilitate thousands of criminals.

To Patsy

There have been dreams....
Some living and colored
others black and white
still others
unclear in their function,
You my love
are their combination.

John D. Sangster

A Friend

I call you friend
not because you are
but because
that is all
you can
be.

John D. Sangster

ment they wouldn't be built like this. It's funny what contradictions go down in this place as devine truths. For instance, a deputy director of this place once asked me, "How you gonna treat 'em if you can't keep 'em?"

We're all human beings, true. But you'll never erase, no matter how objective or how therapeutic a program is, the fact that I'm the one on the outside and you're on the inside. To me, that's the reality. We should not confuse the attempts at creating staff-inmate community with anything but social control. Some people in here think differently but to me the frustrations in their units are largely accountable because they cloud this issue and as a result, the officers are ambivalent in their roles and the inmates are ambivalent in theirs. In other words, who do you trust, if an officer says you have the responsibility to make decisions but he has the power to carry them out? The same process occurs in Number Nine unit, but I think we're a little more honest about it.

PARACY: That's a powerful package; but this institution must pride itself on some of its treatment practices?

FIELDER: You know, you sound a lot like Joe Pallachie there. People forget what the main program is in Springhill. Do you know?

PARACY: The living unit program?

FIELDER: No, good guess though. It's security.

PARACY: You mean security through rehabilitation?

FIELDER: Not exactly, Pallachie is in an ideal situation there. The same situation occurs, but it is not as well thought out.

PARACY: Then what security do you mean?

FIELDER: Well, let's look at why this place was built and then let's look at what this place is for. To me, we're in the business of managing men. And if we were treating men and were doing our job then we wouldn't be doing it here. We'd be doing it in the place where the socially disadvantaged become disadvantaged. Have you ever heard of Parkinson's Law?

PARACY: I think so.

FIELDER: Well, basically it's a law of management. It states that work expands to fill the time available for its completion. In other words if you run out of work to do, you make up things to keep you busy. I believe this place thrives on Parkinson's Law. In any bus-

ness Parkinson's Law is a fault, to be corrected, but in the penitentiary service it's a way of life. What I'm trying to say is that if we did what we are paid to do, then we would run management ragged with continuous T.A.s, conjugal visits, community projects, family therapy, etc. etc. in adnauseam. We'd run them ragged to a point where a director would have to say either tear down the fences or send these men home for help in their communities, or both. But they don't do it here, simply because we're not in the business of treatment really, we're in the business of managing men - you know, the custody and control of inmates.

That's why everything we do, we have to get approval for, everything we ask for has to be on a memo, anything really meaningful has to have approval from Ottawa. What happens here is that we're so caught up in bureacratc red tape that it doesn't pay to ask for anything big. A simple program like this one is difficult enough to manage, let alone the programs I mentioned.

By setting our targets at a distance of ten feet, we get along with enough paper work to keep us busy until the pension rolls around. Thus the program is a long one, protracted for a period of one hundred years or so, and since we're all hitting our targets most people are happy.

As I've always been inclined to believe, one giant step for inmates is one small step backwards for mankind.

PARACY: Why a small step backwards?

FIELDER: Well, I used to say one small step forward but I have a sneaking suspicion that we impose a very straight middle class value system on a lot of deprived, alienated working class youth. When they get home they have to learn the ropes all over again. Possibly there's a chance that we are sending them out a bit more bewildered than when they came in. Also, in the States, some of the new behavior therapy techniques are being questioned in the courts as being more punitive than helpful. For example, in the name of negative reinforcement some men are being locked in dissociation for months at a time, for not participating in the program. You see, this is worse than maximum in our setting. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that it happens here, it doesn't. But the point is, we do have incredible powers, and sometimes we're inclined to forget that fact.

PARACY: Do you feel that the parole service pays enough attention to what a L.U.D.O. and an L.U.1 say in a person's parole report?

FIELDER: In all fairness to the parole service, I do feel that they take our

report into serious consideration. However, report writing seems to be a major priority with the Truro office and this is not the same case here, at least not to the same degree. Sometimes the Truro office gets a little smug about this point. Reports are one thing, but knowing the man through total exposure has at least as much diagnostic validity as his file. The living unit program involves many aspects of institutional life, we therefore have many indicators of a person's behavior to draw from. Parole is only one aspect of the living unit program. Granted, it is a major one, but it is not always seen as our first priority. I think that the parole service thinks that it should be. They're entitled to their opinion. But at the same time they have a tendency to dismiss the entire living unit program and the process of the L.U.'s doing the casework. This is a big mistake on their part.

PARACY: What do you see as having priority in the living unit program, if not parole?

FIELDER: Basically, the penitentiary experience is something that cannot be dismissed. A great deal of time is spent here, and I mean time of those that are sentenced. I think that we'd all like to dismiss it from our minds because it is a nasty place. The living unit concept is an experiment at changing some of the most glaring aspects of this kind of oppression. We have gone a long way on the road to cutting away much of the unnecessary regimentation and cumbersome red tape. In that way, the place is at least a bit more livable. This is a big priority. That alone takes a lot of time and effort. Some say our job is to create a therapeutic milieu, most of us aren't that naive anymore. What we have in Springhill is an excellent system of relaxed discipline interspersed with some pretty sound practical advice.

PARACY: You state pretty strongly that the top priority in Springhill is not treatment, but I know for a fact that judges sentence people here to take courses, to take trades, and to get counseling. Could you please explain what this is all about?

FIELDER: Well Ivan, this could be the sad indictment of what goes on behind the green door. I have read enumerable pre-sentence reports in the years that I have been here which recommend that inmates be sent to Dorchester for individual counselling. I have also seen recommendations to Springhill for particular inmates in need of group therapy. A lot of people perpetrate the myth that penitentiaries specialize in therapeutic techniques. It becomes a tragedy when a

magistrate sentences a man to Springhill for two years in order that he learn a trade, instead of giving him a five hundred dollar fine. I met the height of absurdity three weeks ago when a young man came into my office and told me that he asked the judge to sentence him to two years in Springhill to learn a trade, rather than eight months in the county jail. This type of thing goes on all the time and to me it's the epitome of tragedy. We really can be self-deceptive in this business.

Given these exigencies though, the process of sentencing is not entirely at fault. I strongly believe that the problem of crime is for the most part expedited with as much honesty and deliberation that the magistrates and the police can see from where they stand. For the most part you are here because you did a crime and you can't overlook that many other things have been tried on you before you got here.

PARACY: Throughout our discussion you've emphasized the institutional setting as the big inhibitor toward rehabilitation. Would you care to elaborate any further?

FIELDER: Yes. My point is simple, really. I'd like to mention the institution I speak of is not the habitat of buildings forming the Springhill complex, rather it is the staff and inmate population living and working here. It is more of a social-psychological community...a community of interest so to speak. We must look at how healthy that community is to know just what we're doing. I don't want to sound too theoretical here...?

PARACY: No, no, go ahead.

FIELDER: The reality of Springhill, the phenomenological reality, governs your values and mine. It's the whole system really. It determines what you like and dislike here and yet it is what we tend to dismiss without question. In order to cope with this community without flipping out entirely, the staff and population develop coping mechanisms - you know, like the inmate code or Parkinson's Law. Can we really look at how healthy our prison programs are without looking at how healthy the prison community is?

Let's look at it another way: it's best done I think by example; for instance, how does an outside community try to prevent disease? Do you know?

PARACY: By setting up hospitals and doctor's facilities for the sick?

FIELDER: Yes, that's true. But this is not the most important way. They set up a good garbage disposal and sewage system, which I'm sure do more to prevent

disease than any hospital. It's a funny thing, but if you stand back and look at it for awhile it will begin to make sense.

PARACY: I'm not sure I see your point.

FIELDER: Well, a good community gets rid of emotional hazards for its citizens like garbage and sewage. It also starts up hospitals and treatment facilities. But in our case the big hazard to extinguish is the prison itself. This is what we tend to dismiss and this is what creates the types of emotional hangups we have, the types of problems we've been talking about. Unless we really reduce the emotional hazard of being in prison then our sometimes very well designed treatment programs are of no earthly use. At best, it's like having a brand new hospital with open drain sewage and no-one to pick up the garbage.

PARACY: What do you think of the COMMUNICATOR?

FIELDER: Well, since I'm the boss, that's a pretty leading question. The technical aspects and the quality of production are excellent. A prison paper is really a two-edged sword; you're damned if you do a good job, and you're damned if you don't sort of thing. The question that bothers me with a highly perceptive and creative publication is that it allows its readers to believe that most of the inmates in Springhill know the score, when in fact, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The fact is that most of the inmates are baffled and confused. That's why they're here, simply because they don't know the score and cannot play the game on the street. The COMMUNICATOR and every other creative undertaking in the population, and I'm also talking about therapeutic programs here, largely depend on a small element of the population, perhaps ten percent. Not only do these programs depend on the ten percent, but they are also legitimated by them. It's sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy you might say. If you pick the best inmates, you have the best program. If you have the best program then you must be doing a good job. What I'm concerned about is the other ninety percent, those are the people we forget and we're only reminded of them when we take a gander at the recidivist rates every once in a while.

I know we're kidding ourselves, and I know I'm part of the problem, but I can't tell you what the answer is yet. I think that it would have been appropriate at the Atlantic Provinces Correctional and Criminology conference here to have asked one of our average inmates with a grade four education and less than a chocolate bar on his mind to explain to

the delegates why he felt that he was here and how the program was helping him. You know what I mean.

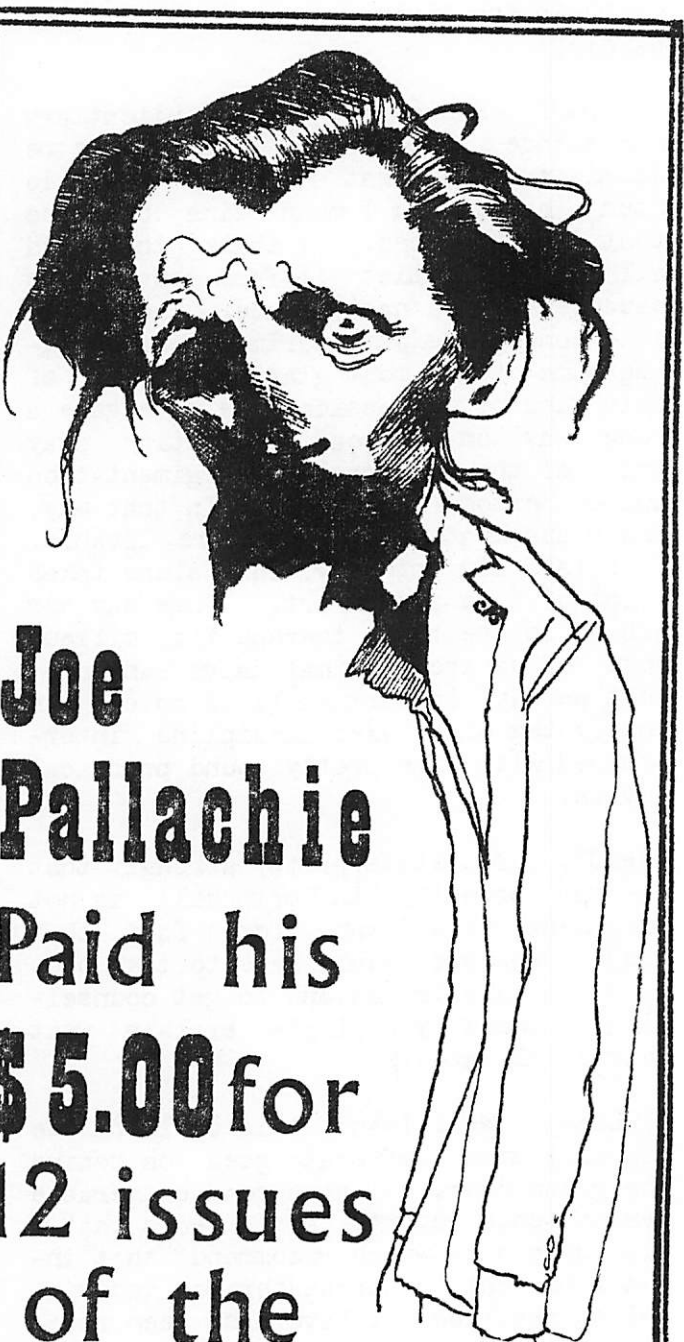
But in answer to your question, I think that the COMMUNICATOR is great, despite the problems in keeping staff.

PARACY: I'm really happy that you took the time out for this interview and are as candid as you are.

FIELDER: That's good but I couldn't help notice that you're running out of tape.

PARACY: Well, thank you for the interview. Now, can we go back to being friends again?

FIELDER: As long as you remember who's on the outside, and who's on the inside.



**Joe
Pallachie
Paid his
\$5.00 for
12 issues
of the**
Communicator

Prison Programmes

Struggle in Red Tape

It would be hard to find a better example of Mr. Bumble's statement that the law is an ass.

For 14 months now, at the maximum security penitentiary in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan there's been a successful prisoner-run work program. As many as 30 convicts a day left the prison to go to jobs in the community; none of them failed to return at night or committed any more crimes while they were outside. They earned regular wages, paid income tax, union dues and unemployment insurance. And even men serving life sentences, who couldn't go out to work, helped serve on the program's steering committee that decided who could take outside jobs.

Now the bureaucracy in the Canadian Penitentiary Service in Ottawa has ruled that the whole program is illegal.

The Canadian Penitentiary Act says that the three-day passes the prison director has been issuing to enable the men to go out to work may be given only for medical, humanitarian or rehabilitative reasons.

The bureaucrats need to take another

look at those regulations. Surely one definition of the rehabilitation of a prisoner is a program to enable him to return to society and to become a productive, law-abiding member of that society. Many persons who have been in prison face great obstacles getting work when they are released, partly because employers don't want to risk hiring ex-convicts but also because a long period out of the labor force makes a person rusty. A program such as the one at Prince Albert keeps a man's hand in the work force by putting it on his record that he can be trusted. If that isn't rehabilitation what is?

The Prince Albert project must be continued and, indeed, copied in other prisons. If it can't be ruled rehabilitative within the meaning of the Canadian Penitentiary Act then Solicitor-General Warren Allmand should change the act, at once.

What this country needs is more success stories out of its prison system, not strangling with red tape one of the few that exists.

WOMEN WANTED

The COMMUNICATOR is in need. We need WOMEN - and lots of them. One at a time is preferred but when you are in the position we're in, one has to take them as they come.

We need women that will take the time to write articles, poems, or short stories for our magazine; drawings on 8 1/2" X 14" paper will be welcomed too.

While willing away our lives behind these female barriers, one gets the feeling that the world is changing out there and that we are not a part of the changes that are going down. One of the ways that we can be helped in keeping up with the world that we will eventually be confronted with is to read, and try to understand, other people's viewpoints.

The COMMUNICATOR is anxious to publish writings as laid down by women. So, if you, as a woman, and a fellow human being, have something to say that will contribute towards male prisoners keeping in touch with the outside world, please send your works to:

The Editor,
The Communicator,
Box 2140,
SPRINGHILL, N.S.,

**MACDONALD'S
EXPORT**



**Cigarette
Tobacco**

FINEST VIRGINIA

New

Brunswick

by Bob Eby

MOURNING

They came for us at six. It was the twenty-eighth morning in December and the sun had not yet risen. It was to be my first day in the penitentiary, or the last day of my life, depending on how one looked at it.

The two men from the Sherrif's office were very aloof. They showed no interest in our situation and no hostility was apparent. They were big men and wore ordinary clothing. A passerby might have mistaken them for men getting an early start for a day of fishing. I couldn't read whether they were dull or just sleepy but, whatever it was, it didn't affect the efficiency of their movements. I settled on the notion that they were just doing a job. They waited while we gathered our personal effects. My five-month wait for trial had yielded two pocketbooks, four letters, and twelve years. The early morning darkness bespoke my feelings - flat and cold. No free-man was up that day.

To our effects they added a pair of dull, grey handcuffs and leg-irons. The walk out to their car was noisy. We tripped and stumbled trying to carry our load with dignity. There was to be none that morning - I stumbled and fell just as we reached the car. The Sherrif helped me regain my feet without a word.

The car was a gray, four-door, passenger sedan. I thought it probably belonged to the older of the men. He drove while his partner, who was twenty-two or three, sat in back with us. We remained chained together. The Sherrif's men never spoke a word to one another. They were tight and rehearsed. Their movements were deliberate and knowing. They had done this all before. It was almost as if we didn't exist or that they knew something we did not.

We were carried through the frozen countryside. The trees on both sides of the highway were stark, stripped of their summer colors. The terrain rose steeply on both sides of the road making it seem as though we were travelling in a gutter. The horizon was never more than a half-mile from the car window.

There were only a few cars on the road, even though the day was breaking. The ones that passed us carried lone occupants. The thought flicked across my mind that these early-morning travellers were as numbed as I. They, too, were chained and being led. They hugged the white line as if it was the intelligence that drove them. The notion that they were bound to the line gave me a feeling of superiority and subsequent embarrassment.

Victor and I talked about nothing. We commented on the hard-to-pronounce place-names. We remarked about the countryside and how it resembled northern Ontario - Sudbury in particular. We laughed, very tightly, about how barren and nude the trees looked. They seemed to be holding out dead arms for an embrace. We spoke of being able to tramp through the bush looking for a fishing-hole. Victor smoked while I coughed. He opened the side-window a crack but the cold air rushing in was worse than his Virginia fine-cut.

We had no matches so the Sherrif's man in back with us had to light Victor's cigarette every fifteen or twenty minutes. Victor and I were almost continually chatting about one thing or another. We had been together for four years and understood one another. The young Sherrif's man asked if we had known one another as kids. I told him, "No, but we have been down the same roads." He said we sounded as though we had known one another for a long time. Victor laughed.

The sun had come up and there were more cars and trucks travelling on the road. The day remained flat and cold as we came to the turn-off that would take us to the road the prison was on. The prison-road ran through a number of "picture-postcard" little towns. They were quiet and still as we slipped up on them. Each little community would be one less and we pulled them in with a glance. Everything had an unreal look about it. It seemed that it was all being staged for our benefit. All of the people that we stole up on turned to watch us slip by. They all knew where the grey Pontiac with driver in front and three men in back was going.

My blood started to pound through my

veins and we both grew quiet. We knew our journey was drawing to a close. It seemed that the car moved faster now that it neared its destination. The trees at the roadside closed ranks right up to the edge of the road. I began to feel a panic building in my chest. The roadway seemed to get narrower and more threatening. Each bend in the road brought a new letdown - the hope that we would crash and gain the chance to run faded with each turn. To run would be futile but it would have eased the tension of having to just wait.

Our road ran out of curves. As we rounded that last turn, the penitent-iary sat perched up on a high hill that stood sentinel over an open field of a couple of square miles. We made the turn at the bottom of the hill leading up to the front gate. It was then that I realized that we were driving past a cemetery. I couldn't resist blurting out, "LAWRD JESUS, B'Y, THEY'VE GOT A GRAVE-YARD FOR A FRONT LAWN!"

EDITORIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

The question has been raised as to why more guys don't get into writing articles, poems, and short stories that reflect the prison experience. I don't pretend to know the whole answer to that question but part of it hinges around the belief by many prisoners that no-one gives a damn what they think or feel; that most outsiders believe that we are all "sick" and therefore not to be considered or taken into account. I can understand why a lot of guys would feel that way but I don't think it helps any of us to just shut the world off; I believe that we all have to continue to strive for better communication and that the best way to achieve that state is to keep trying. Very few people in life ever actually get judged for their accomplishments: they get judged more for the way in which they strive to accomplish the desired results - or at least that is the way it should be, and I believe that even though you and I will never change the world (the desired result) we should continue to try to point up what is happening that is working against changing it, and in this way, we are addressing the reality in the only healthy way we can. To just lay back and ignore what is going down is no different than choosing to support what is happening. So, I suggest that all of us should get into voicing our opinions in an attempt to change what is happening, and even if we don't change a damn thing, we will at least be counted among those who confronted reality as human beings - people having made a choice.

In My Left Hand

*I held
an olive branch*

In My Right Hand

*I held
a freedom fighters gun*



Oh!
By The
Way

*Don't
forget
the
202
P.P. 2/10*

But I Dropped Them Both

*So that I could pick
up plenty of copies of the*

Communicator

*Would you please send
410,000 copies to my*

**Palestinian
GORILLAS**

Library Affairs

BOB MURPHY

As most of you know, the LIBRARY is now located in the OLD PROTESTANT CHAPEL. For those of you who have visited the library since the move, and taken advantage of the books available, you certainly must realize that we now have a much better set-up than before. The extra space we have gained now puts a much better atmosphere into the place and our library is now equal to any small library on the street.

Though small our library may be, we certainly don't lack in reading material. Compared to some libraries on the street with sometimes as many as 150,000 books on their shelves, but having to supply as many as 100,000 readers, ours is quite good because we have approximately 9,000 books for about 400 readers.

When our library was first opened in September of 1967, there were 30 inmates here at Springhill, and we had 500 books on our shelves. In just 7 years we have come a long way and we are still growing. Many of our books are of the pocket novel type when we receive them but we do our own book-binding thus turning them into hard-cover books which in turn helps to keep our books in good condition for your reading enjoyment.

Let's talk now on what nights we are open and what's available for your reading pleasure. As a rule we are open 4 nights a week -Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Usually we are open from the time the yard opens to around 8:00 o'clock. Inmates are allowed up to 8 books at a time for a period of up to two weeks and, of course, they can change them any time the library is open. If an inmate wishes to keep a book longer than the two weeks, he should bring it back to the library and have it renewed. By doing this he is saving a lot of hassle for the library staff and is helping us to maintain a smooth and accurate check on all books. As for overdue books, there usually isn't any charge unless, of course, all possible chances have been given to an inmate and he still refuses to co-operate.

Lately, I may add, overdue books are becoming a bit of a problem and, on behalf of the library staff, I'm asking for your co-operation to please get your books back on time. It should be noted that overdue books deprive other inmates from their use and this is not fair.

For those of you who are unfortunate enough to visit Number Six building, we now have a book service twice

a week on Mondays and Fridays. Each inmate is allowed 4 books and all possible consideration is given to see that you obtain the type of books you want. These books are delivered to you and you are asked to leave them at Number Six building when you leave. They do not come under the same system as when you are out in the population so it is necessary to leave them there and we will pick them up. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

As I mentioned earlier, we have approximately 9,000 books which consist of a FICTION SECTION, a NON-FICTION SECTION, and a REFERENCE SECTION.

In our FICTION SECTION you will find just about anything you wish to read: Western, Mystery, Science Fiction, Adventure, and Classical to name just a few.

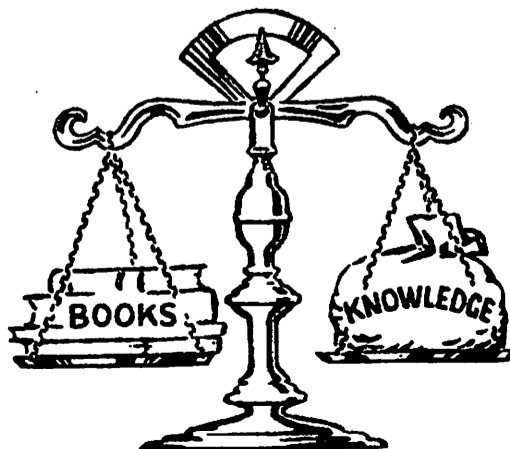
In NON-FICTION you will find books on just about anything you can name: books pertaining to the Trades, Social Sciences, Religion, Travel, Philosophy, History, and Biographies.

Our REFERENCE SECTION is a very good one and I must say it's good to see so many inmates using it.

We have a READING SECTION set up and many popular magazines are available for those wishing to read them.

Anyone wishing a certain book that is not on our shelves should talk with our Librarian, Mr. D. Hughes, and he'll try to obtain it for you from one of the outside libraries in the surrounding area.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It should also be pointed out that the library staff are both courteous and helpful. This writer, on many occasions, has asked for a particular work and the staff at the library have broke-their-ass to help.



AT LARGE

BY CYMBOL

MURPHY WAS AT THE GATE, SCREAMIN' AT ME: "EH-HUH?" HE CALLED OUT, "EH!-HUH? I don't do this for my health y'know, I don't do it for my health."

I stepped inside the hall as he swung the heavy iron barrier to. His left arm had been out-stretched as if he were holding the high gate up, but he had only been leaning on it, jangling his keys in his other hand. The buzzer was ringing from the Main Dome as he stepped in front of me.

"It's cold out there -- you gotta keep the door closed or you freeze your ass inside here," he said fitting one of his large keys into the lock. "ere ya go," he said and I was gone, "and don't bother t' say thank you, any of you" he called after me, but was half-way through it when he lowered his voice and trailed off into muttering.

I never look when I walk through the Dome. It's better that way -- to pretend it isn't there, or that you're not there.

Most days, most winter days, I'm on a tropical island but since there aren't any women on my island, just guys in gray clothes with their hands in their pockets walking hard-time, and bulls in blue uniforms, the island isn't much of an island and I don't like to stay there very long at any one time.

Still, it's better than prison, I guess.

Most of the bulls here are like Murph -- they don't do it for their health. They do "it" for \$3.60-an-hour and up with danger pay and overtime. Most of them own big American cars -- two of them, one station wagon for the little woman and a cute little GTO (four doors with a white racing stripe painted on at the factory) for themselves -- to drive them to the Legion and back to the little woman and the kids -- one of whom always is or was my age I'm told and has a GTO of his own, or a Datsun or other Jap-make that's cheap even if you can't keep them running. ("You know what's best about a big car?" one of the bulls asked me once, unasked: "You may pay more for gas but it's easier to get parts with a big car." I told him that right where I was now any car would do.)

In Toronto, one summer, I worked for a firm that installed kitchen and bathroom fixtures in apartments being built. Over coffee every morning the same guys had the same conversations about cars:

-- I swear by Pontiacs.

-- Pontiacs! you're nuts! An Olds is the only car I'd ever own. Good ole 88, that's my car.

-- A bonney-ville, anyday, my friend. I'd take it over any car. It's the smoothest thing goin' on the road to-day my friend.

-- Lissen: I've had Olds all my life and I swear by them. I've owned four Old's in as many years and aside from a stuck gas-pedal or a lousy fan-belt, I've gotten performance outta them cars, le'mme tell you. Performance! that's what counts. Four Olds in the last four years -- you gonna beat that record?

That's the way it is around here. But they don't talk about cars to us -- and if they talk about cars to each other, I've never heard them. They talk about us: This-c****s**k**-that and that-c****s**k**-this. That's how they talk about us when they think we can hear them.

That's the way we talk too, I guess. But we don't get paid no \$3.60-an-hour for calling each other c****s**k**s. Maybe that isn't the point, but I know we don't do it for our health. I know that for sure.

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CHANGING LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE *Canadian* Criminal Justice System

The following is a speech presented to the delegates attending the tenth annual conference of the Atlantic Provinces Crime and Corrections Association which was held at the Springhill Penitentiary during the latter part of September. The oration was prepared and presented by Prof. Kieth B. Jobson, B.A., B.ED., LL.B., LL.M., J.S.D., who is a Director of the Law Reform Commission in Ottawa, and an Associate Professor of Law at Dalhousie University in Halifax. When its task has been completed, the Commission will be presenting its report to the Minister of Justice and the Canadian Parliament.

When in doubt where to start, it's always useful to remember Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and her excellent counsel: start at the beginning. So if at first, I appear to be off target in so far as legal aspects of law reform are concerned, it is only because the law, generally, is the objective expression of human experience along a rough and winding road of daily reality. To understand the legal aspects we have to know something of the reality of daily life.

In criminal law and corrections, too often, perhaps, the ordinary person may think of crime as the robber sentenced to three years, or the serious assault, wounding, or sexual assault resulting in a conviction and sentence of five or six years.

On the contrary, I would suggest in reality most offences never reach the court, but of those that do, about 1 in 3 receive sentences of imprisonment. And of those imprisoned 70 percent receive terms of six months or less.

Indeed, the police deal with many more offences than correctional people or even courts. This is not to say that the police are inefficient or not doing their job. Far from it. Many of the cases that come to the attention of police are cleared satisfactorily without laying charges. More will be said about this later.

But the great bulk of offences are not even reported to the police let alone dealt with by them. Most crime is dealt with in the community, by the family or by neighbours among themselves, by store managers or personnel offices in businesses, by professional associations disciplining members or by schools or universities dealing with delinquencies and minor crime. Even very serious crime, particularly sexual assaults or rape, or assaults or woundings may be dealt with privately for a number of reasons. On the whole, however, serious crimes such as robbery, manslaughter and crimes of violence generally tend to be reported to the police, and these types of crimes are more likely to result in prosecution and conviction than other less serious crimes.

The reality, is however, that crimes of violence against persons tend to be a small part of the crime scene. No more than one in five persons admitted to prison are there for having committed a crime of violence. The great bulk of the work of the criminal courts arises out of the use of the automobile or out of offences against property, not involving violence, (theft, possession of stolen property, break and enter) or offences related to the consumption, possession or sale of alcohol and drugs.

In addition up to 80% of the work of the police relates not to crime in the

strict sense but to dealing with people in trouble: family assaults and disputes, run-a-way daughters, missing persons, noisy neighbours, people seeking information, emergency transportation, or crisis intervention. The police complain about being forced to undertake a social welfare function, but, on the other hand, their availability as a twenty-four hour emergency service that can intervene decisively and authoritatively as required may indeed serve a valuable peace-keeping role.

The police complain they could do a better job of dealing with people if the

community and its agencies were willing to accept more problem cases on referral from the police. Cases involving family disputes really need emergency or crises intervention best obtained from a family counselling or other agency; cases that would otherwise be prosecuted may be more satisfactorily resolved on a referral to a mental health clinic or hospital facility where such care or treatment seems to be indicated; youngsters may better be taken home to the care and direction of parents or left in care of a social agency rather than charged with minor offences. Persons found to be drunk and disorderly in the streets are diverted to a detoxication centre and as far as possible dealt with as one in need of health and social services rather than a criminal conviction. Yet too often the community agencies shut their doors at 5 o'clock just as things start to get interesting for the police, and very often the community makes no organized or sustained attempt to assist the police in diverting certain types of cases from the criminal processes.

Another interesting reality that became clear in the course of the research we did at the Commission relates to victims. The stereotype of crime is an attack against an unsuspecting victim by a stranger in the night. Very frequently, however, the crime is committed not by a stranger but by a family member, a friend, acquaintance, or neighbour. In other words, often there is a relationship between the victim and offender. In some cases there is a well developed relationship in which the "crime" is but one incident. In other cases the relationship is not intense, as in family disputes, but more general, yet none the less continuing, as between neighbours or a customer and a merchant. A survey of these kinds of cases as they showed up in our research indicated that among offences against persons or property, cleared by police, where the offender was known, there was a relationship between victim and offender in about one-half of the cases. In a great many of these cases, that is, those involving a known relationship, the case was not dealt with by laying charges but in some other way involving referral or settlement.

Yet as indicated above whether a case is referred out of the system or even settled may depend as much upon the attitudes and resourcefulness of the individual police officer and his superior officers as it does upon the availability of appropriate community services and the willingness of the victim to be satisfied with a pre-trial disposition. In other words, little is known about the criteria police now use for screening out certain cases from the criminal process. That such screening iniformly and openly according to established criteria seems equally clear.

It would seem to be particularly appropriate in cases involving a victim/offender relationship that the trouble be settled and the parties reconciled. Admittedly, there may be cases where the public interest may demand the high drama of trial and conviction. But in a great many, the public interest may be as well served, if not better served, by providing a means whereby the interests of the victim and the offender are both taken into account to reach a settlement acceptable to the parties and consistent with the public interest.

Where the case is one which is not appropriate for screening out at the police level, and comes forward to the office of the prosecutor with a charge, would it not be desirable to have the prosecutor review the cases and make a decision upon certain criteria that certain cases, with the consent of the victim and offender, be deferred for pre-trial settlement? There is no doubt that prosecutors presently have legal responsibility for processing cases on to court and could, within existing discretion, provide for such a pre-trial settlement. Whether the prosecutor himself should attempt settlements is doubtful; perhaps settlements could be more easily effected by some community agency that reported to and was accountable to the prosecutor. If the proposed settlement broke down or if one of the parties withdrew consent, the charges could be resumed. It would, of course, be necessary to take care that disclosures made in the course of settlement were "without prejudice" and could not be held against the offender in subsequent proceedings. It would be necessary, as well, to advise the offender of his rights, such as they may be, prior to his consenting to a pre-trial settlement or diversion. Here again, the success of pre-trial settlements may depend upon the availability of supporting community services including counselling, job training, education, medical or employment opportunities. If restitution is to be an important part of pre-trial settlements and if the offender is without means, it may be necessary to consider the feasibility of his contributing by way of community service orders (or work) to restore the harm he has done.

The advantages of the settlement procedure is that it promotes the reconciliation of offenders and victims and provides for a reasonable satisfaction of the victim's interest. The trial on the other hand polarizes rather than reconciles; pronounces guilt or innocence rather than recognizing partial responsibility on both sides. The trial by its nature focuses on the legal issues and only after conviction, when the polarization is complete, does it look at the wider issues for the purposes of disposition and sentence. The trial is an admirable institution for deciding quest-

ions of fact and determining legal issues and imposing moral blame or stigma on the guilty person. In some relatively minor offences, however, we may prefer early reconciliation, a recognition of victim relationships and the satisfaction of victim interest in dispositions. These can perhaps be better satisfied through a pre-trial settlement than through traditional conviction and sentence.

For those cases that go to court should we not seriously examine the frequency with which imprisonment is imposed? Granted that the trial, among its purposes, should serve an educative function, to clarify and re-affirm the core values protected by criminal law. Is it necessary that the disposition at the conclusion of the drama be one of imprisonment? There can, of course, be no excuse for half the jail population in certain areas consisting of persons in default of fine under provincial or federal laws. Already the move is underway to put an end to imprisonment in lieu of payment of fines.

Of those who were imprisoned on a first offence and came back later on other charges and convicted again, 60% were imprisoned once more, and 40% were fined or put on probation. Whether they were imprisoned or not, however, almost half did not have a further conviction within the five year period under study. This seems to suggest that prison sentences do not appear to be particularly helpful in reducing recidivism. If we wish to send young men to jail, therefore, it should not be done in the expectation that it will greatly improve their conduct. Other forms of sentences may be as useful, or more useful in accomplishing that objective.

Knowing this we may still wish to send offenders to jail in some instances, but the purpose of the sentence then would probably be to denounce the conduct in strong terms, or to get some protection through isolating the offender from the community. The question is do we need such protection from property offenders, or alternatively are property offences so reprehensible that we must denounce by way of imprisonment?

More challenging is the frequent use of imprisonment as an initial sanction in almost 4 out of 10 cases in indictable offences. Our research indicates that among first offenders convicted of a non-violent offence against property, in Canada, in 1969, about 14% are imprisoned. On a second conviction about one-half were imprisoned, and on a third conviction 56% were imprisoned. What is equally interesting, the research appears to indicate that the rate of return with subsequent charges was 16% higher for those who were imprisoned in the first instance when compared with those who were fined or put on probation.

In looking at imprisonment in non-vio-

lent offences against property it should be remembered that:

- (1) this group of offenders accounts for a large proportion of men and women in prison: 1 out of 2 admissions;
- (2) the value of the property taken on the average may be less than \$200.00, and certainly \$500.00 would appear to constitute an upper limit in a great many cases;
- (3) that as far as we can determine the victim in 50% or more of the cases is not an individual but a business or institution of some kind;
- (4) that the offenders tend to be young, unemployed and not well educated;

After a first conviction 70% of those put on fines or probation did not return. On a second and even third conviction, about one-half did not return regardless of the nature of the sentence. Can it be that as young men get older and established in the economic and social life of the community, their deviant conduct abates? Is sentencing partly a matter of buying time? Under these circumstances do we need to strongly denounce by imprisonment such conduct as theft, having in possession stolen property, or break and enter of buildings other than homes? I would suggest that we do not need to punish that strongly.

Another reason for imposing imprisonment is the desire to keep the community free from the offender: neutralization (isolation). Yet it must be remembered that 70% of sentences of imprisonment are for 6 months or less and in a typical month only 1 out of 10 prison sentences are 2 years or more; over one-third are for 30 days or less.

Moreover, it should be remembered that imprisonment no longer means locks and bars for the duration of the term. For fifty years or more this has not been the case. Imprisonment, meaning total custody has long been dead in Canada; only the myth survives. Thanks to remission laws, parole and temporary absences, prison sentences in reality have long been sentences of deprivation of liberty served in stages of lessor or greater freedom. The Senate Report on Parole, just released, accepts the desirability of this type of stage release, and its thinking, I suspect, is in accord with current public opinion.

Even if we were desirous of returning to the good old days, back in 1890 and all that, when 6 months in prison meant just that, no more (as now, thanks to the clever calculations of the parole statisticians) no less, would it be desirable to do so? Many reasons could be advanced against such a policy including cost, the destructive qualities of prisons, and the difficulty in re-integrat-

ing the offender with the community when the offender is behind bars.

But one other reason has to do with the reality of crime. As indicated earlier, the bulk of the offenders in prison, apart from the men convicted under the Liquor Control Act, are men convicted of property offences - non-violent property offences: robbery not included. The value of the property taken in many cases, as far as can be determined, is relatively small. Where the value of property was recorded in Toronto police files, for example, in 58% of the cases the value was \$200.00 or less. Even in cases of break and enter, I would estimate that only about 20% of the cases involved losses of more than \$500.00. If these figures are representative do we wish to imprison people for committing property damage in this range? Admittedly, there may be other factors that need to be taken into account, and, admittedly, we need more and better data, but the kind of figures referred to above cannot be ignored when looking at the large numbers of property offenders now in jail. This kind of situation suggests the need for a community based sentence involving a range of work, training, or counselling services and including a condition of restitution. The NCCD have such a project currently underway for the repeater offender; a full report is not yet available.

Sentencing guidelines may be one useful way of developing greater uniformity in the use of imprisonment and in restricting its use. This assumes a requirement for written reasons in cases where persons are deprived of their liberty. Such decisions would assist in developing a jurisprudence in relation to such sentences and help the community better to understand and evaluate sentencing practices.

Because imprisonment is no longer a question of locks and bars only but a process of staged release under varying conditions of custody, questions of fairness in release procedures cannot be ignored. The recent Senate Report on Parole and the earlier report by Judge Hugesson on Release Procedures both emphasize the need to make important changes in the law. Indeed the growing number of cases under appeal to the Supreme Court and editorial comment in the newspapers and in the journals are a clear indication that the handwriting has been on the wall for some time.

Most of the concern and interest focus on revocation procedures and it would seem clear that a hearing of some kind is necessary, coupled with access to reports, at least to a degree, and the right to present evidence, with the assistance of counsel. If the purpose of imprisonment is to neutralize the offender for a period of time or to denounce the reprehensible offence for which he stands convicted, and if rehabilitation

is only incidental consideration, it is difficult to see how revocation of parole or other release can be premised on some vague feeling that the offender needs to return to prison in the interests of rehabilitation. My own feeling is that short of another offence, revocation should be little used - in which case it would be forfeiture. We know enough about revocation being related to the subjective perceptions of individual supervising officials to know that, in part at least, revocation is a function of the parole officer.

But fairness should also prevail on the granting or denial of parole. Are the criteria for such decisions known to the parolee? Are they known uniformly to members of the Board and consistently followed? Has the parolee access to the facts upon which the decision is made and an opportunity to contradict those he believes to be wrong? Does he have opportunity to have assistance of counsel or others in preparing and presenting his case? No doubt this raises difficult questions about confidentiality of records, but these problems can, no doubt, be met.

Parole release policy should be consistent with sentencing policy which sent the man to prison in the first place. If sentencing policy does not permit sending a man to prison in order to rehabilitate him, then a denial of parole could hardly be based on the argument that the offender is not yet "ready" for parole - an argument that seems to imply that he is not yet sufficiently rehabilitated. Indeed parole release, like other release procedures should be more or less as a matter of course, unless it could be shown that release would pose a substantial risk to the lives or safety of others; i.e. neutralization is needed for some further period. In the vast majority of cases this will not be so; indeed, in many cases, as now, the offender may need little close supervision. Many offenders should perhaps be extended the opportunity to upgrade work, social or employment skills, as is the case in many pre-trial diversion programs in the United States. This would tend to put the emphasis on the parole officer as a facilitator, one who assists the parolee to use the community service programs. Perhaps the conditions of the parole agreement or contract should reflect such an objective.

In some cases closer supervision may be required in cases of risk. How to identify those cases? How good are we in predicting risk? Bloody awful. The experts, that is the psychiatrists and others, appear to be no better equipped in this respect than correctional officers. After years of trial and error a growing body of literature and research suggests that the best indicators of risk are prior behaviour. Yet the most passive of individuals is sometimes the

most explosive, and the very regime of prison or hospital may sometimes aggravate feelings of hostility and aggression among inmates. Suffice it to say, where the decision to deny parole release is based on a finding of risk, the finding should be based on fact, and made in open hearing.


Because parole boards by nature are conservative and have shown a great reluctance to release in the face of psychiatric or other evidence indicating risk, should the decision to deny release on the basis of risk rest with the parole board? If the onus were on the Board to show why release would be unwise, most parole releases would be more or less automatic, but in cases of risk, procedures should be followed to guarantee an appearance of fairness and open decisions that would stand up to review.

This question of fairness in release procedures raises the larger issue of judicialization of major decisions affecting the prisoner's sentence. Traditionally, once sentence was passed, the offender, having been prosecuted by the executive, was handed back to the state executive to be dealt with as they saw fit. Is this the best we can do? Does it not become more and more apparent that the court should retain some responsibility for the sentence even after it is passed? As between the competing demands of the prisoner and the executive in such matters as treatment in custody or parole release, is it appropriate that the decisions are always in control of one of the interested parties, and in the final analysis made by the executive? Is it time that persons who make major decisions affecting classification, disciplinary offences, major treatment, or release should be considered judicial officers for these purposes? Already we see a movement in this direction: matters affecting the human rights of prisoners ought to be dealt with in accordance with due process of law. Just by way of footnote: how much longer can we afford to give the executive power to arrest a citizen and have him imprisoned for two weeks. This power of arrest, not being accountable to outside scrutiny, is without parallel in our criminal law. The fact that it is exercised by a parole officer with all the best intentions in the world does not, in my mind, justify such a substantial departure from the Rule of Law. I was sorry that the Senate Report on Parole did not advance reasons for restoring fairness in this area of the law. Well, that's just a footnote, and not meant to take our eye off the general issue that major decisions should be made openly, in a hearing, and subject to review. Whether that means we should make a judge out of Mr. Bill Outerbridge, for example, may be another way of stating the same issue.

You will note that I have said little

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about any special sentencing law to deal with the so-called dangerous offender. From what I have said about the question of risk on parole release, however, you will know that the Commission is giving the present law and any proposed alternative a careful examination. The difficulty is that any such law may be based on false assumptions, and in its execution may be characterized by sloppy procedures. Those of you who are familiar with files of the dangerous sexual offenders will know how professionally sloppy we have been at all levels in the past in dealing with the question of dangerousness. And once having made that judgement that a person is dangerous how reluctant we are to release the person.

After many years spent in attempting to treat the dangerous offender, the Danes gave it up. They have changed their legislation, greatly restricting its scope in this regard, and ordered a review by a judge of the cases imprisoned under the old law, with a view to determining whether they should continue to be detained under the criteria of the new law. Approximately two-thirds of those reviewed were released, apparently with no serious consequences. It is this kind of experience that makes you look with doubt upon the Senate Report on Parole recommendation that the scope

of the dangerous offender legislation be extended.

You will also note that I have said nothing about sentencing boards; as the Commission's Working Paper No. 3 - The General Principles of Sentencing and Dispositions indicates the argument for sentencing boards rests upon the expertise and a claim for uniformity. If sentencing is not to be governed in the first instance by consideration of treatment, it is difficult to see how a board would be better than a judge in determining what is a fair and just sentence. As to uniformity, in my view, the argument put forward by the Hugenson report, in this respect does not pay sufficient attention to the disparity arising at different levels of sentencing. Nor am I personally convinced that uniformity will be greatly increased by a judge being forced to impose the maximum term of imprisonment in any case where he decides jail is warranted. Granted the Parole Board would have the power to adjust the sentence afterwards, but this may give rise to further problems of uniformity and function.

These are some of the concerns that occupied the attention of the Commission in the past months. To date much of the work has remained invisible, but shortly further reports on Restitution-Compensation, Fines, Imprisonment and Diversion will be released. These papers will raise some of the issues I have indicated here today and invite comment and response from all interested persons. Perhaps the work of the Commission is something like that of a pregnancy: it takes time to develop.

FOR RENT

A number of bachelor suites are presently available in a large modern complex, located in the heart of picturesque Cumberland County. Toilet & sink facilities in each suite, along with showers on every floor. Dining hall & laundry on premises for your convenience along with all other services. Twenty-four hour security entrance to keep out undesirables. Fifty courteous doormen on duty at all times with hourly surveillance rounds made after mid-night. Numerous social activities organized by a staff of six full time social directors.

Adult building, reasonable rates, but all applicants must have a written recommendation from a criminal court judge or a parole officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

THE WARDEN

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Con-Act

Workshops

By Bob Eby

The CON-ACT WORKSHOPS are now into their second month of existence. The members of the group, under the sponsorship of the NATIONAL FILM BOARD, and the instruction of STEPHAN REGINA-THON, have been undergoing a rigorous schedule in preparation for their presentation of two plays that are to be filmed by the N.F.B. and, ultimately, performed for live audiences.

The men of CON-ACT meet five days per week from 8:30 till 4:30, and are working out during the evenings & weekends. The plays they will be performing have been written by members of CON-ACT and will be performed by the men themselves.

Daily work-outs include warm-ups and limbering; voice instruction and machine exercises; improvisations; mimes; reading and listening to recorded plays and music; poetry and prose recitals; and a general familiarizing with the craft of acting in general.

Auditions were held for roles in the plays and it is felt that we have a pair of fine plays, and some dedicated actors to fill the roles. Mr. REGINA-THON has stated that he couldn't have hoped to find a more dedicated and talented group if he had been recruiting actors on the outside. The men in CON-ACT are learning quickly and they have latent talents that most never dreamed of possessing, and it is this talent that has been brought out through exposure to the project.

Now that the auditions have been completed, and roles settled upon, the weeks of preparation have got the workshop members in shape to get into the serious side of theatre: rehearsals have begun and the characters from the plays are developing. No short-cuts can be taken during this phase of the project: there are lines to be learned, memorized, and interpreted. Stage positions and movement have to be learned, and the finer points of delivery, in both speech and movement, must be mastered. Once this is all achieved, the play will come together and will exist -- and we will be center-stage, doing what we set out to do. And digging it!

"Let's Face It"

BY ROBBIE HEBERT

The "LET'S FACE IT" project was founded by DEAN PELTON, who spent twenty-three years, out of the last forty-six, in various prisons; as a prisoner. When released, he saw the need for an inmate oriented group to deal with the problems an inmate faces when he hits the streets again. A L.I.P. grant for the sum of \$11,903 made his idea a reality. The grant was for employing four ex-cons, who would work at helping other ex-cons adapt to the streets. The National Parole Service donated an office inside their own office facilities, and also scrounged up some necessary office equipment. Moncton, N.B. is the site of their headquarters, and they are slowly spreading the effectiveness of their work. This includes geographical area, services offered, and prisons. As of April 1st, they are being funded by CANADA MANPOWER and IMMIGRATION, on a three year contract which is renewed every fiscal year. Their sponsors, the UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP and the NATIONAL PAROLE SERVICE, have shown sincere interest and response. "LET'S FACE IT" is progressing at a remarkable pace, at a work that never ends, and are continually gaining support.

They began working in the Dorchester Penitentiary, where they quickly gained the support of the inmate population. The mere fact that these people are ex-cons was probably the most important factor they had going to gain this support, and they were not long in sticking their necks out to prove where they were coming from. They are now in the process of introducing themselves to the SPRINGHILL POPULATION, and have progressed, so far, quite well at doing so.

Their main area of concern is finding employment for ex-cons: something that a lot of people are weary of doing -- a lot of people go through a trauma at the mere thought of working side by side with a "crook." When an employer is solicited to give employment to an ex-con by "LET'S FACE IT," rather than by some government agency, there is a definite advantage when you consider that it is an ex-con who the employer talks to. It gives the employer a different angle to look at the situation from, and allows him to actually meet an ex-con before making a decision. Not all employers react negatively: many are enthusiastic. A great number of ex-cons did find employment, and some of their employers have asked "LET'S FACE IT" to supply more ex-cons when job vacancies come up. Many employers are at least willing to give it a try.

Another problem some prisoners run into, when they first hit the streets, is housing. Many have no home, nobody out there waiting for them, and are in great need of help in finding a place to stay. A COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CENTER was set up by "LET'S FACE IT" in the Moncton area, and has reported no unfavorable incidences. The Center is sharing living space with other people in the community, and the ex-cons have been able to maintain a friendly relationship with the people living there. The government pays the first six weeks of rent for all ex-cons living at the C.R.C., to help them get back on their feet. Apart from the C.R.C., the group looks into apartments for people who are married, or simply wish to be by themselves. They also have access to good boarding houses

They have a good relationship with the Welfare Department, for ex-cons who are in need of assistance when they first get out; sometimes by paying the individual's first month's rent, or for someone who has no money and needs to acquire work clothes. Another aspect of their involvement in welfare cases is acting in the inmate's behalf while still in prison, and his family's. When problems develop, in such cases, they look over the case on the inmate's behalf, to make sure the family does not get screwed around.

There are other things which would fall under miscellaneous that they do for ex-cons, parents of offenders, and family. These areas include transportation for the ex-con when he first gets out, counselling, help to the female offender. They also work at getting vocational grading for prison-acquired trades; on-the-job training, where an ex-con can acquire a trade while working at it; G.E.D. evaluation for ex-cons who want to continue their education. They also do work for cons: this includes legal counselling or assistance, providing prison entertainment, and raising money for special inmate events (field-day, family visiting day, etc.). At times, it is hard for "LET'S FACE IT" to be of assistance to certain individuals, because of the area they want to go to when released. When such a situation arises, they act as a link in getting the prisoner into contact with groups who can be of assistance in that particular area. All cases are treated as personal, and dealt with on an individual basis. Special cases vary, and "LET'S FACE IT," keeping this in mind, offer their assistance where it is needed.

The above has been a summary of the work that "LET'S FACE IT" is doing. They have helped some FOUR HUNDRED prisoners and ex-cons as of this date, and firmly believe that they can expand their effectiveness in the future. To do this they need the support of the population. They know the things we will be going through when we walk out of this place, because they went through it themselves. Society has grown to believe that prisoners need someone to take care of them; parole, prison terms, and all sorts of government agencies are reflective of this. "LET'S FACE IT" says that we are capable of taking care of ourselves.

* * * * *

LOOK GET WITH IT

READ THE
COMMUNICATOR

"DOORS DOORS"

As seasons change and darkness falls
the free wind speaks beyond the walls,
of happy days
in distant towns
of slot machines
and circus clowns
of lily fields
near laughing streams
of summer sun
and colored dreams
of soft green grass
neath golden trees
of lakes and loons
and honey bees
of loving arms
so far apart
still deep within
each other's heart
of freedom's cry
the night before
they open up
this prison door
of life and death
and God spun bells
of smiles of friends
and last farwells
I listen now for time to call
my passive soul to glory hall

I listen and I wait my love,
I listen and I wait.

by John D. Sangster



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(AN INTRODUCTION TO J.W.RIM)

ROBBIE HEBERT

It was a cold, crisp morning, and the fog had not yet lifted around the Queen's dungeon. The prisoners were going through preliminary yawns, prior to getting out of bed. Blue coats could be seen going about their own business. The changing of the guards, a ceremonious occasion, was in the process of going through its changes. They could be seen approaching each other from opposite ends of the jungle; exchanging an "How are you doing this morning, Sam?" Answered by a "Fine, J.W. How about you?" J.W.'s assigned security post, on the fateful morning, was that garden of earthly delights -- the kitchen. He walked along, exchanging remarks with fellow officers, between spurts of whistling, as he crossed them along the walk. This was a good day for J.W., for he did not have to bring a lunch can and he got to eat before everybody else.

So it was, as J.W. sat, off by himself, digesting his breakfast, that he witnessed a remarkable and startling sight. As the prisoners were sitting, placing trays on tables, hands could be seen forming the sign of the cross. Heads could be seen bowing in silent prayer, as an uncontrolled whisper broke through the hush, and fragmented itself into pieces of "Thanks Lard, for the good food we so humbly receive from your gracious hand. Amen." This was followed by another sign of the cross, prior to picking up their forks and shoving it in. The priest was immediately notified.

He came rushing down, in his undershirt, and witnessed the phenomena as the last of the prisoners readied themselves to leave. He turned his head to heaven, as if asking God if this was one of those signs he had so often heard about. J.W. observed him walking away, a beautiful smile spread across his clerical face, and J.W. wondered over what he had seen become of the man. J.W. stole a quick glance at the sky, but he dismissed the thought: J.W. was a hard man to spook. "It's all some kind of a trick," he said to himself. "That's what it is."

Nothing else was heard, seen, nor smelled, which could have been interpreted as being out of the ordinary, until mid-morning. J.W. was sitting off by himself, as usual, when he heard someone singing in the back. He recognized the song, but refused to believe his ears, at first. He could not resist being drawn to the source of the sound, and the closer he got, the more clear and distinct it became. He peeked in through the open door; a prisoner was singing "God Save The Queen." An uncontrolled shiver ran down his spine, as he hurriedly returned to his seat, and hid behind his newspaper.

It was getting close to lunch, when J.W. was called up to the control building. He walked over; mixed and varied emotions playing with his head. For one thing, it was very rare that he was called from his post, and he could not pull himself away from the feelings of desertion at his not being there. How could the prisoners take care of themselves without him there to shout at them? He walked into the building to a room full of officers and dignitaries. He caught sight of the priest, the glow still captivating him, but J.W. had no time to ponder over the situation. He had to report. Others were arriving, and it came to pass that they were all there; the King, the Queen, the noblemen, and all the court jesters who ran the dungeon.

Our J.W. sat, quietly listening to reports pour out of his fellow worker's mouths; everything out of the ordinary. Officers reported that prisoners had saluted them in military fashion. They also reported that when prisoners had been questioned about the strange happenings, they had answered by giving name, rank, and serial number. It was also stated that prisoners had been seen parading in the square. Then it stopped; everything had been said. A tension could be felt in the room, as if it were pouring in from the windows to suffocate them all. It was plain to see that something was in the air. J.W. could feel it, and he was a hard man to spook. Questions could be heard whispered out; it was plain to see that every man secretly feared to even think about what the prisoners out there were up to, now.

Then it came, like a murmur grown into a shout. The greatest con-game had been pulled over right in front of their eyes. As the realization struck them all, they huddled in a corner. The tension had grown into a concrete object, and, as the priest let out a shriek of enlightenment, a flash of light tore its way through the building. God appeared, and took them all to heaven, as sounds of "I'm sure this wasn't included in the program" cleared the air. And so, my friends, our story - as all good stories should - had an "and we lived happily ever after" ending.

What Goes Round Comes Round

"OLD BETH"

The past explains how you got here. But where you go from here is your responsibility. The choice is yours. Like a broken phonograph record, you can keep on playing the same old "broken record" of the past; all of which reactivates failure patterns and failure feelings that color your present and your future. Or if you choose, you can put on a new record and create success patterns and "that winning feeling" which helps you do better in the present and promises a more enjoyable future.

When your phonograph is playing music you don't like, you do not try to force it to do better, you do not use effort or will power, you do not bang the phonograph around. You do not try to change the music itself. You merely change the record being played and the music takes care of itself. Use the same technique on the "music" that comes out of your own internal machine - your mind. Don't pit your will directly against the "music." As long as the same mental imagery (the cause) occupies your attention, no amount of effort will change the music (the result). Instead, try putting a new record on - change your mental imagery, picture new goals, and the feelings will take care of themselves.

Everyone's real goal is for more life - more living. Whatever your definition of happiness may be, you will experience happiness only as you experience more life. More living means, among other things, more accomplishment, the attainment of worthwhile goals, the more love experienced and given the more health and enjoyment, more happening for both yourself and others. An important channel of happiness is other people. Let us not refuse the help, happiness and joy that others may bring us, or that we can give them. Let us not be too proud to accept help from others or too callous to give it. Let us not say "no way" just because the form of the gift may not coincide with our prejudices or our ideas of self-importance.

We age, not by years but by events and our emotional reactions to them.



Penitentiary Legal Services

PENITENTIARY LEGAL SERVICES is a PRIVATELY FUNDED program which serves the inmates at DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY and SPRINGHILL INSTITUTION. Extensive use is made of para-legal personnel or lay persons specially trained in various aspects of the law which most directly affect prison inmates.

This service provides a liaison for the inmates with the various legal aid organizations in the Maritime Provinces and also will represent the inmate on a wide variety of matters. Criminal appeals, family law problems, day parole, parole, and mandatory supervision are among the issues which the program will handle.

PENITENTIARY LEGAL SERVICES is interested in providing the legal services necessary to help ex-inmates in establishing programs designed to assist the personal growth of inmates and ex-inmates.

The staff of this organization visit SPRINGHILL every FRIDAY and will interview interested persons at that time.

To obtain an interview:

- (a) contact your living unit officer.
- (b) contact your classification officer.
- (c) contact Tom Moreau.
- (d) write us directly.

The staff of this organization are:

Philip MacNeil	-	Legal Paraprofessional
Michael Crampsie	-	Legal Paraprofessional
James Peters	-	Legal Paraprofessional
Peter Harvision	-	Lawyer -Executive Director.

Contact:

Penitentiary Legal Services,
P.O. Box 1348,
SACKVILLE, N.B.

Phone: (506) 536-2664

EDITORIAL

It's About That Time

Bob Eby

"REHAB JUST A JOKE" was the heading of an editorial that was handed to me by a dude in this prison. He didn't know which newspaper the article came out of, but I would guess that it was from one of the local ones that is, and has been, doing much in attempting to bring a healthier attitude to the public through the reporting of incidents and opinions that are directed at the "correctional" system in this country. The writer described some of what he saw when visiting Dorchester Penitentiary, and quotes prisoners as having said, "Inmates relate that most disturbances and incidents are the result of sexual attacks." He goes on to say in his own words that "These incidents are bred by placing very young offenders in institutions with older inmates. The age limit should be changed from sixteen to eighteen."

On the surface what has been said is that some older inmates force younger prisoners into participating in homosexual acts, and there is no denying this is true. And there is no denying the truth that the very young offenders should not be mixed in with the older prisoners, but I wonder how many people ever think to challenge the state's right to deprive any man or woman of sexual relations with the opposite sex? The fact that prisons have both younger and older prisoners is not what creates the conditions that can lead to homosexual rapings; it is that prisoners, of all ages and sexes, are being deprived of normal relations with members of the opposite sex. In other words, the Canadian government has taken it upon itself to not only punish offenders by putting them in prisons as punishment but is also sending them off for punishment. And there is no doubt that many prisoners come out of prison bearing a punishment that is more than was intended; too many men and woman have not been able to live with the pressures of sexual deprivation and have turned into full-blown, practicing homosexuals because of their prison experience, and this is something that carries over onto the street when they are released. I am not suggesting that because a person is homosexual it necessarily means that this person will force his intentions upon another, but I am suggesting that many an ex-prisoner has learned to suppress his attraction to the opposite sex through a long prison experience and has then gone on to lose that attraction altogether, and is now incapable of having normal sexual relations.

As long as prisoners are deprived of their normal sexual gratifications, there will always be those who will take what is available, and it is unlikely that the two year distinction between the ages of sixteen and eighteen is going to mean anything at all to him or her. If society is truly interested in having prisoners come out of prisons as normal people, society will have to start treating her prisoners as human beings and not as digital items that are relegated to a sexless existence.

Society, in the form of the Penitentiary and Judicial Systems claims to wanting to reclaim offenders by sending them off to penal institutions, and then when the offender is plunked down into an abnormal atmosphere, and comes up acting "abnormal," that same society is all "oohs and aahs" at the depths that some prisoners sink to. I think it is time that ALL SOCIETY got hip to the fact that if you put people into any kind of an extreme abnormal situation they are going to react "abnormally." That is not to say that all prisoners will go to the lengths that some do, but it does cover all persons in one way or another. The man or woman who does not participate in homosexual activities - and they are a majority - still takes on manifestations of "abnormalcy" through not being able to live as a human, heterosexual being. The individual may, through suppressing his natural drives over a long period of time, lose the ability to relate to the opposite sex in a natural way; and this can be seen when you are witness to a group of prisoners coming into social contact with members of the opposite sex: overly shy, withdrawn and introverted ex-prisoners are

not likely to easily achieve a state of confidence and self-respect that is necessary in today's modern society. It is difficult enough coming out, after having served X number of years, and being able to relate to members of one's own sex, without having to face the fact that one is no longer able to feel comfortable around people of the opposite sex.

The United States is experimenting with "co-ed" prisons. These are institutions where there are both male and female prisoners housed. They are not down to sharing accommodations yet, but they are at least permitting men and woman to come into close enough social contact to allow them to retain, and improve, that segment of their personalities that relates most directly to the opposite sex. It is also a known fact that many criminal offenders - whether they be bank robbers, check passers, burglars, or whatever - have difficulty in retaining relationships with members of the opposite sex. This probably correlates with the number of prisoners that come from broken homes and difficult parental relations, and should not be surprising; but it serves no-one's purposes to further add to an individual's inability to function normally in society. Society loses and so does the individual who is afflicted.

There should be more passes in order for prisoners to keep up their relationships with their wives and sweethearts; more members of the opposite sex should be encouraged to come to the prisons to socialize with the prisoners; and it is time that jailers came to realize that they are not living in the Age of Puritans, and that they are not the "keepers of the country's morals" by insuring that prisoners have little or no contact with the opposite sex. Where does the state get the right to come on like The White Tornado? I recognize the fact that they have the power - but that don't make it "right!"

* * * * *

OPEN FORUM

Voice of the people

Dear Mr. Paracy,

I've just finished reading the "Conference Issue" of the COMMUNICATOR (and with 50-some pages that's an accomplishment in itself!).

As I read, a number of thoughts crossed my mind. They went something like this:

firstly: "hmmm ---a lot of influential people turning out for this thing...."

Then: "'alternatives to incarceration....' Yeah, that makes sense"

"'... stronger outside community involvement....' Sure, that's right"

"'...communication within the system....' Why not? Communication never did anyone any harm...."

"'inmates want to be treated as individuals...want more responsibility....' of course, who doesn't?"

"'better pre-release programs...inmates making a real living ... unemployment'."


At this stage my head began to nod. (After 20 pages can you blame me?) I began to wonder. "Haven't I heard all this somewhere before? Seems to me we've been talking about these things for years now!"

I got to page 48 (para. 7) where they told me they didn't get

much public reaction. "OK," said I, nobly. "I'll write them a letter, let them know I care." I was going to ask searching questions: "Where will all these well intentioned suggestions lead? Could we ever get organized to put any of these lofty and heart-felt principles into action? Maybe even filter through some of these ideas to people who make decisions, do research, people like politicians and budding criminologists? Could you "inmates" ever get some concrete suggestions for constructive action together, for us "outmates" to move on?" It was going to be a letter to end all letters. Then I came to an un-numbered page (between 58 & 60) and realized that not only had Robbie Hebert asked the questions, he'd answered them! He'd beaten me to the quill and stolen the thoughts from my mind.

And all this makes my task much simpler. I'll just enclose my subscription money and say "keep 'em rollin' off the press."

With best wishes,

Ms. Jean Christie, 
Ottawa.

(And a special greeting to the guy who does "most everything else.")

* * * * *

GAME

KEN DRAAYER

The question (as I see it sitting here at five in the morning in the kitchen of the house) is how shall I present myself? What can become of rock, of silence? How shall I dispose myself towards the next person, towards the next situation? I do not allow myself to consider that the next situation has already come and gone even as I write. A thousand situations have come and gone but I do not allow myself to think of that. I let them all pass for one. I must fight off the nausea and maintain my balance on my chair. That is the game -- to avoid the sickness and maintain the balance. One can be dreadfully ill watching the situations speed by, just as one can be ill trying to distinguish individual fenceposts as they pass by the window of a speeding train.

Have no fear! This morning is my morning! The rain beats ominously on the garden outside my window! I alone am wakeful while the world sleeps! On me a moment of clarity is about to be bestowed! The rain whispers on the garden outside my window like the whispering of drums in a silent arena while the artist in white tights wipes rosin on the handle of his swing for the final and most difficult act!

It is nice to play and it is the thing I do best. I am going to play, then, right here on this chair until I decide just how I might translate myself. I will slow the situations down. I will collect my thoughts. Sometimes the whole business seems to me like trying to hold water in my hands. Still. In the solitude my thoughts pass slowly enough and I anticipate a moment of clarity when their momentum will cease and something will be revealed. Then I'll move. Then, perhaps, I'll accept a nomination, take a position, man the barricades, toe the mark, shoulder the responsibility.

The problem is to arrest the flow of things so that the nausea ceases and the balance is maintained. It is rather like riding the trains. I feel like an unwilling passenger on a train that is being shunted back and forth, pushed and pulled. The pull, for instance, sets me in motion, shifts a weight inside me which moves and comes to rest (momentarily) and I feel a certainty, a truth almost about, say, the rain which is beating steadily on the garden outside. I tell myself that the rain is steadily beating down; that it was, is and will always be beating down on the garden. And yet I anticipate further movement. The train is never still, is it? I anticipate the push back in the direction we came from and so instead of the certainty of falling rain it occurs to me that, as a joke perhaps, someone has confronted my window with a huge snapshot of rain falling.

Still, we are at rest and for the moment I place faith in the experience. The nausea passes. I am steady on my chair and I see, I feel, something definite in the rain which silently, ceaselessly, floods my garden. It speaks something depressing, something desperate and I feel sad! I wish to announce that I feel sadness. I wish it recorded and set down! It is certain! True! This is my morning, my decision, my moment of clear sadness!

And then I feel the pull and I am in motion again. Why fight it? There is a distinctly playful pull and the train (which was a moment ago, if you remember, at rest) rolls again. The game begins anew. I would like to resist but there is no resisting. I would like to be a poet and distill the sadness of that rain for you -- for myself -- but I have lost faith in the experience. It was a snapshot. A disgusting joke! But I wander. I was speaking to you of the push and pull, separately. One at a time please. I was speaking to you of the pull.

The pull seems to come as an impertinent interruption at the very moment I come to rest and see certain sadness in the rain. I suddenly imagine there is something other than the rain. The steam rising from the garden suggests to me that fire is involved. (Unfortunately there is more to the snapshot than meets the eye.) I am deceived. I apologize for the confusion but there it is, the pull, and I am moving slowly again away from certain sadness. I lose a grip on my chair and begin to grow sick again.

Still the pull ends in momentary rest. Thank God. Good health returns. One must be thankful for small kindnesses. Perhaps this is it. The flow is arrested and what is now real and certain is that there is a fire and great fervour of light outside the window, presenting no less acceptable a truth than the rain had done -- a disquieting truth such as fire gives, but a truth all the same.

So there you have it. A complete movement, perhaps. I have at least managed (I trust) to arrest the rapidity of it for you so that it appeared in slow motion, as it were. A bit of play. No matter. I've accomplished something, I suppose, and yet one can't really be satisfied. All this play, enjoyable though it is, is fine around the house but I am not presentable yet -- not ready for office, uniform, responsibility. That was, if you remember, the question. I had hoped to establish a definite disposition this morning. A man must be ready with a proposal and I am

still at play here, running through the game, passing gas, nauseous, falling off my chair. The world is getting ready to shuffle about for the day and I can't even get a grip on my garden. The rising shisper of the drums has been a prelude to nothing.

While the rain beat sadly I might have risen, put on my coat and left the house-- a desperate man to be sure but a man, presentable, and ready, say, to die or hold a mirror somewhere to all the futility, and the world would receive such a man, wouldn't it? rather than an old dog chasing his tail. That much I could have done. And yet I could as well have risen when the fire flamed. I could have burned a path out of the house to lead rebellion, to speak, to hold a mirror somewhere, flashing, and the world would follow such energy, wouldn't it? rather than this game of playing.

But I proceed too quickly, piling question upon unanswered question. The movement sickens. It's not good for an old dog. I must arrest the flow. There is still time to consider before moving from the house. I'll have some certainty. No need to rush headlong, making a fool of myself.

Perhaps there is some certainty here after all. Let us examine the question sensibly, quietly, without all this shunting back and forth. Let us proceed with dignity, in the manner of great men! The truth is that I distrusted both the sadness of the rain and the brilliance of the fire. I distrusted them -- a sure sign that something was wrong. And indeed something was! Both were deceptions, were they not? I have you as witnesses. Both were insidious lies -- the snapshots of some rogue! I was indeed wise to withhold faith. In the end I will be proven wise and sensible. History will vindicate my caution. A man can at least expect to have faith in his vision before he acts, can't he? That's only fair, isn't it...?

I begin to tire of this idleness, this brainpicking. As I look outside the window the snapshots of fire, then rain, pass alternately and senselessly before my eyes, slowly enough for me to reflect yet fast enough to elude conclusions, and the effort to halt them has sickened me. Their movement becomes one with the heaviness and agony of a shifting train, uncertain of its destination.

There has been only one train ride I have ever enjoyed. It was when my wife and I took the Express to Montreal. We were busy turning the seats when the train started (my wife never liked to sit facing with the train) and by the time I turned to the window the landscape outside was a mere blur. It wasn't worth watching really, and I felt fine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ken Draayer is a graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario where he concentrated in English literature. He is a former reporter and is presently teaching High School in St. Catherines, Ontario where he resides with his wife and two children. Mr. Draayer is publishing with us for the first time but we are looking forward to hearing from him again in the near future.



Perth County Conspiracy

It was Halloween night. The rented blue Ford station wagon, with a back hatch full of equipment and living gear, pulled up to the gate shortly after supper lock-up. The occupants, members and entourage of "PERTH COUNTY CONSPIRACY, unloaded their equipment and the second vehicle, a brown van contained the rest of the group and equipment, arrived at the gymnasium.

Two hours later the group finished setting up; they signaled the recreation department to phone the living units to release their audience. "PERTH COUNTY"

was playing Springhill Medium Security institution (they had asked to play DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY the same afternoon - without scheduling the gig ahead of time -and were denied the privilege).

The audience arrived. After a slight pause while the group prepared themselves and tuned their instruments, CEDRIC SMITH -- poet, story teller, singer, and lead acoustic guitar player -- walked to the microphone. From his mouth poured forth, throughout the evening, a monologue which wove between songs and held the whole program together. (continued)

TERRY JONES, second acoustic guitar player, also sang. His voice could not be described better than to say that it was mellow, soothing, and gentle, as he seemingly gathered lyrics through guitar chords which flowed steadily like a mountain stream with the spring fierceness of melted snow, and the spirited rippling of a warm summer day. DAVID WOODHEAD rooted the sound expertly in a quiet unassuming manner supplying a fine bass line. He also played banjo.

After the first number, a solitary figure appeared approaching from the shadows of back stage. This man, clad in black body-shirt and tights, was PETER - "Le Pierrot" - the MIME. He spoke with the soundless voice of his body, adding a different and unique dimension to "PERTH COUNTY'S" program; a dimension continually depicted in gestures, which added, as another instrument, to this already overflowing program.

Their material ranged from very comical to absurd, to very real. Their country existence was often reflected. There were very soft moments; especially in the songs that TERRY JONES sang. Between songs the material was always moving, shifting, changing, due mostly to the oratory qualities of CEDRIC SMITH, as he became Sir Walter Raleigh, a Newfoundland fisherman, Johnny Cash, a Menonite farmer, a C.B.C. news announcer, and countless others. Many of the poems of MILTON ACORN, a P.E.I. poet, were interpreted. The program lasted two hours - non-stop. At nine-thirty CEDRIC SMITH announced that the group had been told to end the concert so that the audience could return to the living units to be counted. And thus ended abruptly what could be termed as the finest program ever offered to the general population of Springhill; fine music, good sound, an effective and artistic light schema, and an outrageously talented Mime; entertainment in its finest nuances.

October 30th and 31st stood out within the institution as being two days of good solid entertainment. Halifax's NEPTUNE THEATRE presented excerpts from "GODSPELL" to the population on the afternoon of the 30th, and "PERTH COUNTY CONSPIRACY" came in on the evening of the 31st. The only problem I could see, once everything had ended, was that professional entertainment does not come to the institution often enough; the first time in the six months that I have been here, and quite a while before that. I am not using this to knock the institution; there are more important issues. I am thanking them for allowing us to have these two occasions. I am also saying that I would like it even more so if they gave me a chance to do the same more frequently; it's about time someone made an effort in bringing more "occasions" to our restricted residential area, here in Springhill.

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"GODSPELL" comes to SPRINGHILL

Three weeks have passed since this institution was visited by a company of players from the NEPTUNE THEATRE in Halifax. STEW MURRAY, Arts and Cultural Officer for this institution had made arrangements with NEPTUNE to have the biblical play, "GODSPELL" performed for the men of this prison. Those weeks have gone the way most weeks in prisons go but I still am carrying a natural high from having watched the members of the cast perform.

"GODSPELL" is a take-off on THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW but it is no ordinary rendition of the original work. Songs, mimes, dancing, flashing smiles, pretty girls, and pure talent made it a production that won't be soon forgotten at this institution.

The music was mostly rock but there were ballads performed that got this dude to thinking about other places and other times.

A tall, handsome, and obviously gifted young man named MARK CONNERS played Jesus, and he almost got me to believing a story that I hadn't heard since I was a young kid.

P.M. HOWARD of Toronto filled Judas' role and his singing brought down the house.

Members of the rock group, "PEPPER TREE" backed the entire show with their usual competence, and it looked to me like they were having as good a time as the three-hundred-and-twenty men that watched.

The remainder of the cast was made up of pure energy. The company was forced to perform without props due to their having a gig elsewhere the same evening, but the lack of sets didn't slow these people down at all. As a matter of fact I suspect that they worked all the harder. They had the audience on the edge of their seats throughout the whole afternoon.

We thank the NEPTUNE THEATRE people for their generous gift in providing this show for us, and this writer thinks that STEW MURRAY deserves a thank you for the part he played in making this appearance possible. It is hoped that more of this kind of entertainment will be brought into this place for our enjoyment.

* * * * *

COMMITTEE REPORT

R.T. Copeland

The main objective of this report is, of course, to bring the inmate population up to date on what their various committee members are doing on their behalf. But before going into this, I feel there are a few things which need to be said.

First off, there was a considerable amount of difficulty in getting this present committee formed. Perhaps it was mainly due to the hesitancy on most fellows' part to even run for the position of committee representative for their living units, and this may have come about for several reasons. But I think the chief reason was because they felt the position was nothing more than a hot spot. This feeling came about because of a few incidents in which certain members of the previous committee were either asked to resign or were transferred back to Dorchester. I don't claim to know why these resignations came about, nor the transfers, but these are a few points I think should be cleared up.

One of the very few privileges we have in these institutions is that of electing our own representatives twice a year, to negotiate and discuss all institutional matters pertaining to our committee functions. This position is one which a lot of people may take quite lightly, but this is definitely not the way it should be. It is perhaps one of the most responsible positions in this institution, and one which involves a lot of hard, conscientious work. Not to mention the numerous hours of free time taken up because of the business at hand. You must be able to approach the administration with an open mind and a willingness to get things accomplished. Without this attitude conflict appears on the scene, and, of course, heads may begin to roll. But there is most definitely a way in which both the committee members and the staff can come to terms at their meetings and this we feel is now being done.

All in all, what I'm trying to say is simply this; shortly after New Years it will once again be election time, and each fellow in here will be able to nominate whom he pleases. The present committee would like to see a good election and one with a lot of competition, and the new committee consisting of eight guys with a lot of good ideas. So think about the possibilities of running in the next election, and should you win over - give it your best shot. All it really takes is a lot of determination and a lot of staying power.

Now to the business at hand. Christmas is just around the corner and this presents a lot of work for us. Present-

ly, we are in the process of arranging a Christmas Card and Magazine and Book Sale, to be held on the 23rd of this month. This will give everyone a good chance to pick up their cards for Christmas, and at the same time select a multiple number of books, magazines, comics, et cetera for the holiday period. And pending the outcome of this sale, there is a possibility another book sale will take place every three months.

Then there is the Christmas Family Visiting Day to be held on the 15th of December. This will give us all an opportunity to meet with our families, girlfriends, et cetera in a festive atmosphere to be held in the gymnasium. The workload involved in days such as these is quite heavy.

Christmas parcels are another big item around this time of the year and, hopefully, we will have a selection of items on the list to suit everybody's needs. The Christmas lists should be out and available for ordering by the 19th of November and this year we're allowed to order up to twenty-five dollars worth of goodies. So stock up while the chance is still here!

Activities within the units themselves are another matter your present committee is concerned with: we will all have several days off over the holidays and a little competition might be great for the morale. We are presently trying to arrange competitions within the units themselves, and also a unit-to-unit competition in things such as darts, checkers, chess, cards, or whatever there is an interest in. We're trying to put it all together so most fellows will participate.

To go any further into the business affairs of the committee would take a considerable amount of time and paper, so I'm going to leave it at what has been laid down. But before closing I'd like to ask you all to come forward with ideas and suggestions as to how we can make this as comfortable a Christmas as possible. Simply contact your committee members in your unit and I'm sure they will appreciate whatever ideas they may receive.

They are:

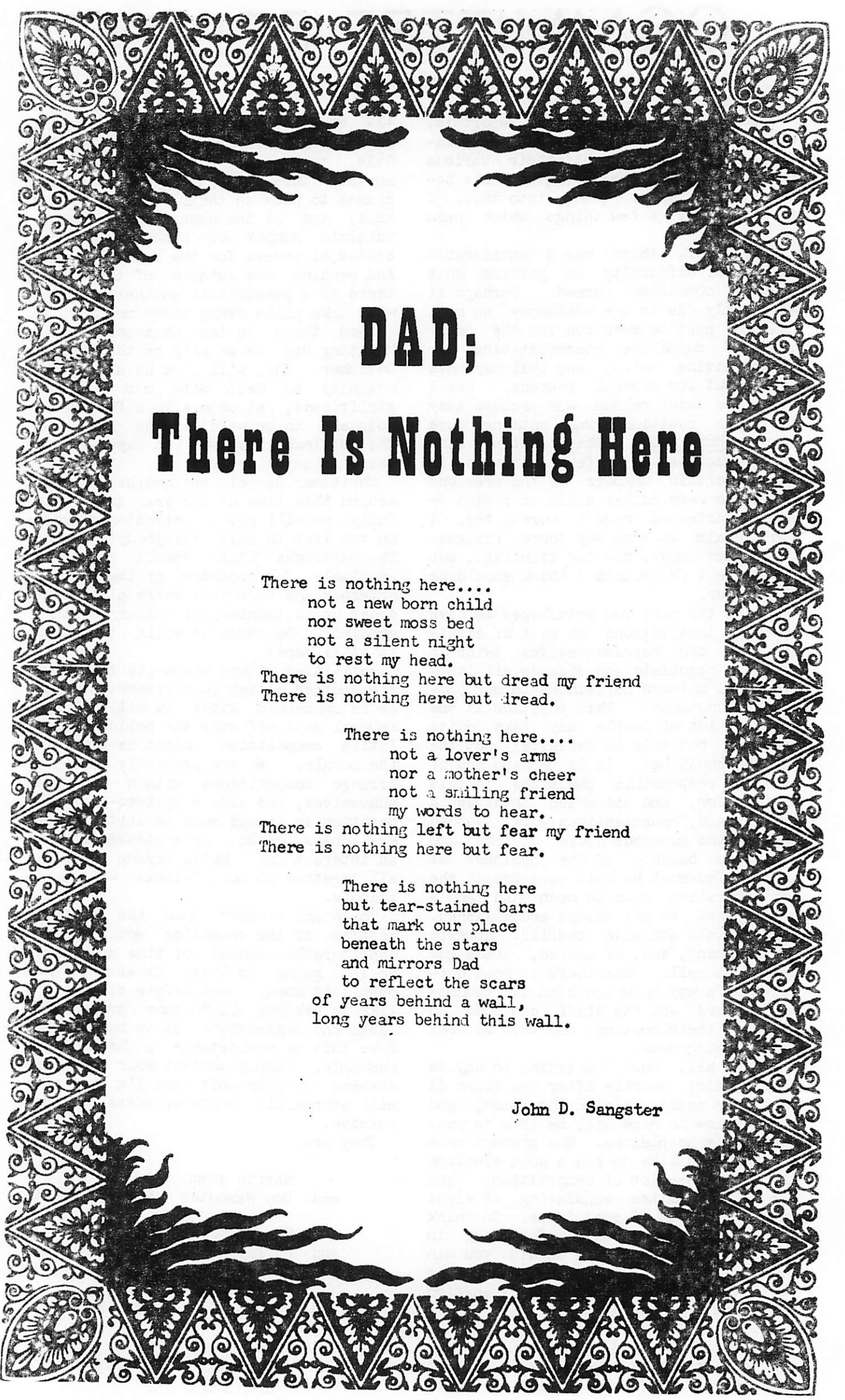
Barrie Adams
and Don Wamboldt Number Eight.

Bernie Kervin
and Ed Flynn Number Nine.

Keith Bain
and Tom Copeland Number Ten.

Bob Baillie
and Art Nelligan Number Eleven.

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DAD;

There Is Nothing Here

There is nothing here....
not a new born child
nor sweet moss bed
not a silent night
to rest my head.

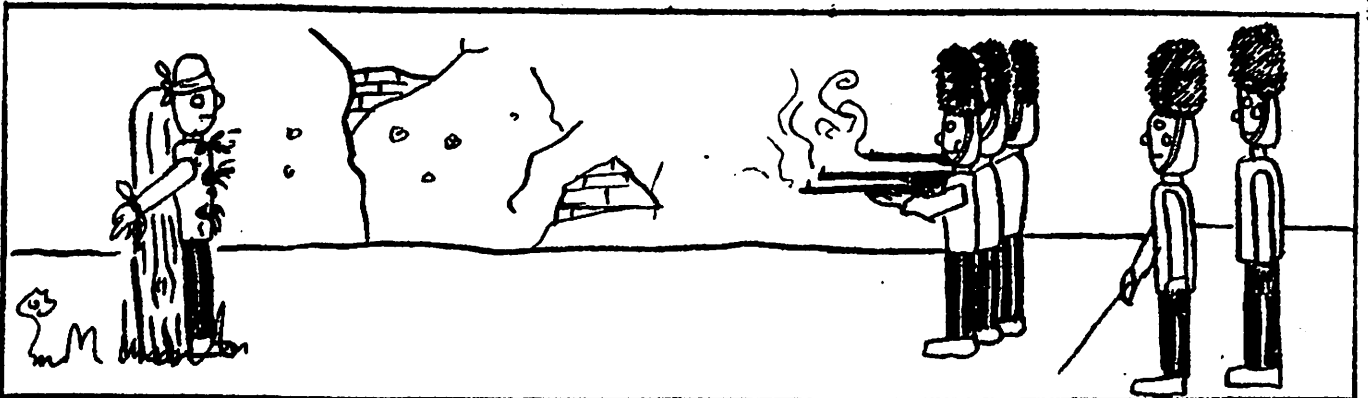
There is nothing here but dread my friend
There is nothing here but dread.

There is nothing here....
not a lover's arms
nor a mother's cheer
not a smiling friend
my words to hear.

There is nothing left but fear my friend
There is nothing here but fear.

There is nothing here
but tear-stained bars
that mark our place
beneath the stars
and mirrors Dad
to reflect the scars
of years behind a wall,
long years behind this wall.

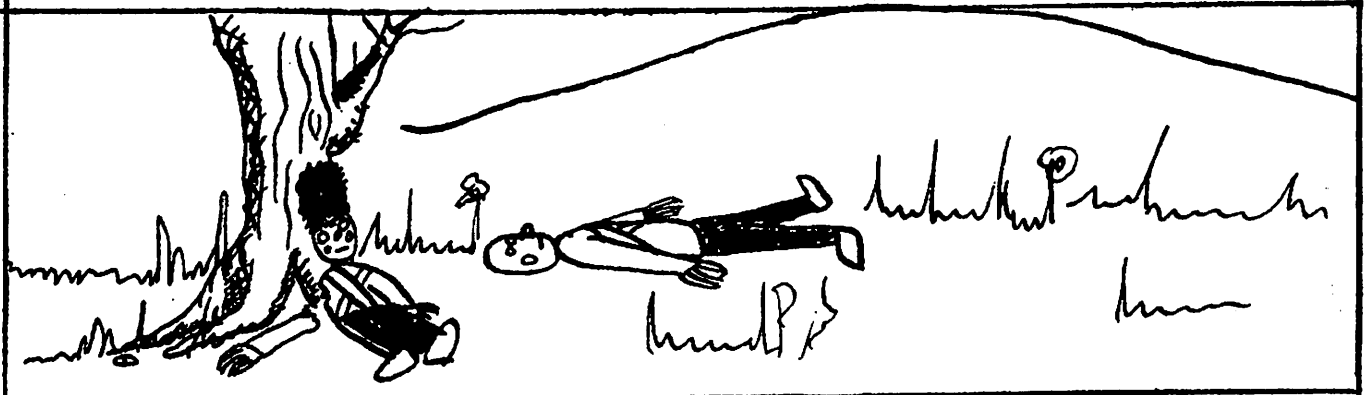
John D. Sangster



MA

Hey ma! can you fix a broken gun -
 Please ma - a broken one's no fun!
 I remember well those broken toys
 placed in my lap by my little boys.
 I fixed the toys and stilled the cries
 and hid my fears in smothered sighs
 You're little and loved and I hold you near
 but soon you'll be grown and full of fear
 finding your place and making your way
 You must do yourself, it's not just play.
 I can't be there to fix things for you
 although I'll always be near, it's true
 my lap will be empty and I'll do what I can
 to help my little boy to become a man -
 my apron strings you may cut
 but when you're uptight and in a rut
 remember, the strings to my heart sever, never -
 remember a mother's love goes on for ever.

- Old Beth -





Letters

Words; licking; carressing,
tonguing closeted scars.
Sight-dulling concern
melting the gray of bars.

Memories; moist and fresh,
transcend the gloom of day,
lifting all hopes
projecting love years away.

Silent fears between lines;
facades of reassurement.
Compassionate spaces
ignored without accident.

So It Goes

Her room is papered with butterflies.
Her books are of dead poets.
Dried flowers grace her shelves.
Prints of past masters hang squarely.
She has many friends.

by bob eby

The Ta.L.A. Blues

Have you ever asked about T.L.A.'s
You should do so one of these days
Talk to your Range Officer and you will see
There's a waiting period for you and me
Six months in this hell-hole you'll have to be
To be granted a T.L.A. for three days free
Well six months pass and ready you are
So your T.L.A. papers you get and receive a jar
For six more weeks you have to wait
To give them time to investigate
Now a Community Assessment that comes first
So you wait it out and time seems reversed
For slowly it goes and inquire you must
But to no avail and it seems unjust
Then one day you ask and find it's here
So you think all's well and you are in the clear
Monday comes and you expect your reward
But you find your T.L.A. didn't go on this board
So a little mad you get and demand to know why
We have to have a Case Conference with you, B'y
This is the answer you'll most likely get
So you say okeh when will we sit
Sometime this week we'll let you know
So you worry a lot but don't let it show
You can't sleep you can't eat and your stomach's not right
Your mind is fouled-up and you get uptight
Then the time arrives and into the room you walk
To see your Classification and Range Officers to have a talk
A couple of more people will be there too
To ask some questions and find out about you
The session starts off as nice as you please
But before it's over you are ready to freeze
To shut-up so tight and not say a word
And you begin to believe what you heard
About the Classification Officers in this place
And you wonder what he's doing with your case
For madness seems to be his way: his kink
And under his guidance we are supposed to think
That righteousness, rehabilitation, and trust are the way
But we begin to learn from day to day
How very phoney this man can be
When we ask him to help you and me
Then the session is over and glad you are
To be out of there without a scar
So back to work and waiting you go
For the reports to be written and time goes slow
Perhaps if you are lucky on the next board you'll get
But most likely another problem you'll face yet
God knows what this one will bring
But they'll find something to keep you on the string
So don't lose your cool no matter what
Give them no headway with their plot
To get you to lose your temper and say
You can stick your pass as of today
For sooner or later the T.L.A. you'll get
And out the gate you'll go I bet
For three days of freedom on the street
To relax your mind and old friends to meet
But too soon it's over and back here you come
To shake hard time and go around glum
That lasts for awhile and then parole time draws near
And you sit in your cell and begin to prepare
For the T.L.A. was hard enough to get
But parole is something you have to face yet!

Bob Murphy

THE COMMUNICATOR

INTERVIEWS THURBER

ARDEN THURBER, the new Head of Social Development, is being interviewed by the COMMUNICATOR this month in an attempt to give our readers a glimpse of the man himself. Although the interview covers broad and general topics of discussion, it is felt that the topics covered will give you some idea of the kinds of thinking and perceptions that are being brought into the Penitentiary Service by some of the newer staff placements. The Head of Social Development is one of the key positions in any institution that carries on programs of a social and cultural nature and we think it would be useful for both staff and prisoners to know where the administration is coming from. BOB EBY conducts:

BOB: Let's begin with a brief look at your biographical background.

ARDEN: I was born in Halifax and stayed there till the end of High School. I went from Halifax to Montreal's Sir George Williams University and did a B. A. in applied social sciences. I remained in Montreal for another two years working for the Y.M.C.A. doing Community Development work. From there I moved to Saskatoon for two years as Program Director of the Saskatoon "Y"; and then to Amherst in the fall of 1971 where I stayed for almost three years as General Secretary (Executive Director) of the "Y" there. I came to this institution on the 3rd of June, this year.

I'm married and have three daughters, two dogs, two cats, and a hamster; an old house that I'm trying to make liveable. Since 1968 I have been pretty heavily involved in the whole area of drug education/drug abuse, primarily with young people. I worked as a part-time, free lance, consultant with the Alcoholism Commission of Saskatchewan and, since coming back to Nova Scotia, I have served on the North Shore Regional Board of the Provincial Drug Dependency Commission. The last thing that I should mention in terms of background, because this has been the basic orientation to all of my work, is that while I was in

Saskatoon, I taught a course for the University of Saskatchewan Extension Department in "Principles and Practices of Group Work."

BOB: Could you give me an outline of the official "job description" that you were hired on under?

ARDEN: The job title is Head Social Development, and the areas of responsibility are as follows: 1. supervision of five departments within the institution: a) the recreation department; b) arts and crafts; c) R.T.I. (or social and cultural program); d) the library; e) the visits and correspondence area. By supervision, to me, that means trying to be a resource to the staff in those sections and to carry the responsibility for future planning and budgeting for those five areas.

2. The other part of this job that can be, and I hope will be, a major part, is the whole area of citizen volunteers in programs within the institution. Trying to design reasonable opportunities for people from the outside to get involved with the fellows here in the institution, recruiting those outside volunteers and providing them with the kind of training experience that will allow them to come into the institution with a fairly reasonable perception of

what the institution is about and what it is trying to do. Then, following up on that, to be available to work hard at trying to lend whatever kind of moral or informational support that is important to what he or she requires for working inside the institution.

Basically, those are the areas of the job that are fundamental, but there are a number of other things that fit into it as well. As you are aware, I have involvement with Special Days such as; Family Visiting Days; Native Brotherhood Visiting Days; the COMMUNICATOR in terms of the Publishing Board; and an involvement with the Inmate Committee. So there are other odds and ends that tie in with the job as well.

It is basically trying to be concerned with any kind of activity - liesure or during working hours, on occasion - that is aimed at helping the man who is in the institution keep himself aware, and to prepare himself for becoming a member of the society outside. Not so much in a "treatment" sense as we would talk about a therapy approach to treatment, but more in an assisting way to help the fellow find ways and means that he can fit into the Community that he is going to when he leaves this place - whether that's through recreational activity or hobby activities, or having some skills or knowledge that will make him feel confident and useful in fitting into situations on the outside.

BOB: Does this mean that the job description lays down that it is your responsibility to stimulate volunteer programmes, or is it more accurate to say that you are just to be "there" when outside people come to you?

ARDEN: It is some of both, Bob. At present it is primarily responding to people who express an interest, because as I see my priorities right now, in terms of my own thinking, as trying to be an assist to the fellows who are working with what already exists. At the point that myself and the other staff people, and the inmates involved, feel that we have achieved a level that is satisfactory, then I see moving much more into the area of stimulating those kinds of programs and more involvement on the part of people outside the institution.

BOB: Okeh. I want to make a statement. Would you agree with this? Where treatment staff are not open to innovative changes, we can always expect that "change" will be difficult within the system.

ARDEN: Yeh. It's kind of a motherhood statement, if you like. It's hard for me to argue against that. In any kind of system, if the people in that system

are not open to looking at new ways of doing things, then it is extremely difficult to get new approaches introduced because people either have invested tremendous amounts of energy and self into what already exists, or they are threatened by the fact that whatever is coming in is unknown to them. There is a fear that develops. So, sure, if people are resistant to change, as most people are, then it is extremely difficult to bring about change in the system.

BOB: So, you do agree that people who are working with, or for, other people need to be aware of the changing trends and thematic kinds of things that are going on out in the free-world?

ARDEN: Very definitely. As much as any individual can be open to change - and I think we all resist change to some degree or another, but if a person has decided that what they want to do in terms of their work-life is to work with, or work for, other human beings, then I think it is essential that person strive to get his own tolerance for change as high as possible; and the ways to do that are, as you were saying, becoming and keeping very aware of what is happening in the whole society and trying to understand that, as much as possible, and be able to, if not accept for yourself, at least be able to accept that something different makes sense for another human being. If we can get ourselves to the point that we are able to do that, then I think we will be much more effective in working with other people.

BOB: Would you agree that there should be "incentive programs" for Treatment Staff that would encourage them to upgrade their educational levels in areas of social concerns; such as the government subsidizing and encouraging staff to do courses at the university level in those areas?

ARDEN: Sure. I agree with that. Some of this is already happening. There are provisions for educational needs. Certainly in terms of assessment of personnel, if a man shows that he is, on his own, working to increase his own knowledge and his own awarenesses, then that is recognized in terms of assessment situations. There is always more room for that kind of thing to happen, and I would like to see more official sanction for people becoming more aware within the system.

I would like to see many more opportunities for people to become exposed to not only new methods and new techniques in working with people, but become exposed to some of the newer or recently articulated value systems, life styles and people who hold those value systems. I think we are already beginning to see

some of these people who are from that lifestyle are ending up here. So where we are not aware of the kinds of backgrounds that guys are coming from, how can we effectively respond to their concerns?

BOB: Do you think that incarceration, as it exists today, is doing anything to reduce the incidence of crime in this country?

ARDEN: (chuckles) I don't know, to be honest with you, whether or not it is. If we use the recidivism rates and statistics as a measure of that, then the answer has to be "no." As I understand it, the rate of return has certainly not decreased over the last number of years.

I think, in particular individual cases, the period of incarceration can be a very useful period. Certain kinds of awarenesses are created in the individual. He has an opportunity, in a sense, to experiment with different kinds of behavior; he has an opportunity to gain more knowledge through feedback; he has a heck of a lot of time on his hands to read and to involve himself in activities; so for some individuals, I think, incarceration has a positive effect that leads to the fellow choosing the option of not becoming involved in criminal activity when he gets back on the street.

On a mass basis, I think the statistics say "no." So I don't know if there is any other answer. I think it is the concern that your question is raising that has really brought people to the point, as discussed at the conference that was here last month, at trying to look at the alternatives to incarceration in institutions; at looking to community kinds of alternatives and diversionary kinds of proceedings at the trial stage. So, I think the concern is real. We don't really have any solid statistical or other basis to say that incarcerating a man, or large numbers of men, is going to reduce the incidence of crime.

BOB: How does the concept "punishment" fit into what you just said?

ARDEN: Well, I think the concept of punishing a man for violating the laws of the land is the major reason why we have institutions such as we have, and is the major reason why we will most likely have them for a long time to come. Because, I think, that if we are realistic, the attitude of the society at large is that a man should be punished when he chooses the option of violating the law. And until society's attitude changes, which is a tremendously long process, as you are well aware, then I think the courts and criminal justice system will have built into it the element of punishment. On the other hand, there are individuals, and I think that we all

recognize that there are these individuals, who pose a real threat to society in terms of physical harm or emotional harm to other human beings on the street, who must be confined in order to protect society; but I think we also realize that this is a very small percentage of the men housed in prisons. So punishment as an attitude is very real, and I think it is one of the reasons we have so many people incarcerated who maybe should not be. The reason I say "maybe" is that I am not convinced that we really know yet whether or not the community alternatives and diversion schemes are any more effective in terms of achieving the goal of reducing crime in society. That alternative has been posed, and personally, it looks good, and I think it looks good to a lot of people but I am not aware of it being realistically tested so that we know we are moving from this position to a better one. I think, right now, we are recognizing that the position we are in is not a good one, but we really don't know that. So, I guess I would like to see some way of making sure where we are going before we commit totally to that position.

BOB: What does the term "freedom" mean to you?

ARDEN: I think, basically, Bob, freedom to me is the opportunity to do the kinds of things that I want to do within a set of fences or limits that are acceptable; and those kinds of limits, I guess, are really only two major ones.

One is a financial limit that I realize my financial resources will only go so far in the things that I might want to do or would like to do, and I just don't have the dollars to do.

The other kind of limit is the more important one to me, and that is where what I want to do infringes on the ability of somebody else to do what they want to do, or causes undue pain, or violates what I perceive to be their rights. So, to me, the model is the same as I try to lay out for my own children; that there are limits within which they must operate, as long as they know where those limits are and that's clear, then they are free to move within it; and as they begin to demonstrate that they're able to handle the corollary of freedom which is responsibility, then those limits can be moved back. But, I think, realistically we are always working within a set of fences that restrict total freedom - if ever such a thing could exist. A large part of the issue for me is trying to identify those fences and move them where we can; and where we can't, accept that fact and operate within that sphere.

BOB: What affect, if any, has the Atlantic Provinces Corrections and Criminology Association conference had on this

area's institutions?

ARDEN: Well, I would say the same affect that any conference has on organizations and systems: basically, the affect is at a personal level, in that people who participate in the affair have the opportunity to exchange their opinions with others involved in the same areas of concern, to pick up some new ideas, to perhaps broaden their own thinking; and then when they go back into the organization they work for, then hopefully that produces some change in their own individual approaches to their area of responsibility, in the way in which they work. I think that's all that can ever be expected from a conference. I don't see conferences as producing dramatic changes...I don't see a conference, all of a sudden, creating a situation where conjugal visiting (for example) gets adopted, where all cell doors are left open around the clock, or things of that nature. I don't think that comes from a conference.

Conferences produce areas of change in individuals who participate, and that's the kind of change that will happen.

BOB: Do you think it would be useful for some of the thirty-four prisoners that took part in the conference to organize themselves into a Springhill charter of the A.P.C.C.A.?

ARDEN: First of all, I must confess that I'm not all that aware of the APCCA and its internal structure and whether or not a local charter is part of their style of operation; but regardless of that kind of factor in the situation, I certainly can see no reason why the fellows who were at the conference should not follow-up on that involvement in whatever ways and means is the most appropriate to them. If it's to organize a formal group or affiliation to the APCCA, if that's possible, that sounds like a pretty valid way of pursuing it, to me.

If that's not possible, I think it doesn't exclude the possibility of those fellows getting together, taking what they perceive to be happening at the conference and the directions that were being discussed, and creating positions and papers and trying to feed that into the other people who were there. I think one thing that did happen at the conference was an indication of the fair receptivity on the part of the people there to hear the views of you people. At times, I felt that was a, if not paternalistic, it was more a fear of appearing to be anti-inmate, which bothered me to some extent. But, at least, I think that receptivity was there, so if the fellows who were there can find a way to get their feelings and their opinions together and sort those out, I think that would be useful.

BOB: Assuming that the prisoners who were there felt the same way - that there was encouragement to be heard - could you make any kind of a guess as to why none of these people have come forward suggesting there should be a Springhill charter?

ARDEN: There will probably be a number of reasons. One would be the fairly general tendency on the part of the inmates in the institution to be reluctant to step out and make a suggestion of that sort. It would be my perception that people are reluctant, and perhaps, a bit fearful to have themselves centered out by creating action.

A second part of it may be that some of those guys are much the same as a certain percentage of the other people who attended the conference: it was great while they were there but that was it. They are really not all that interested in following it up. Another possibility may be that those who were there and interested are having difficulty in trying to conceive of a vehicle to present that kind of an idea. Your suggestion of linking up with the APCCA may be a vehicle that is needed.

BOB: I have been told that the last Xmas T.L.A.'s were restricted to a quota, and that the quota was based on the number of prison-issued suits that were available in the Reception and Discharge Department. Could you respond to that statement?

ARDEN: Well, I can respond in the way in which I was responded to when I raised that question with other people in the institution, and that was a hearty roar of laughter! No. There is no fact to that. If there is a restriction on Xmas T.L.A.'s, the only kind of restriction that I am aware of is the eligibility of the individual. That, and the other normal T.L.A. requirements that are required: such as Community Assessment; behavior in the unit; whether or not the place where he is going to spend the T.L.A. is one that is perceived as being supportive to him; whether its geographical location is practically accessible; and things of that nature.

So far as I am able to understand, the number of suits in the Discharge Unit has nothing to do with the number of T.L.A.'s given out. To me, that's just another kind of misperception or... I think it happens to all of us when we don't get something we're after. We sometimes come up with reasons that are based more on our own resentments than on fact. Any information that I've been able to obtain on that points up that the suits were not an issue. Now, I imagine there are not enough suits in the Reception and Discharge Unit to send all 336 guys out, but also the other factor would say that it is highly unlikely

that all of the people in the institution would qualify for Xmas T.L.A.'s.

BOB: Do you think it would be a good idea if family and home-based T.L.A.s were handled by the applicant's unit and that, except where there was a discipline problem in a man's unit, all T.L.A.'s for programme functions should be handled by the people directly involved in the program that the T.L.A. is requested for?

ARDEN: No. I don't buy that kind of black and white division. If we see a T.L.A. as being, in a sense, a reward - and I think we have to accept that a T.L.A. is part of the way of encouraging a guy to work on a plan that makes sense to the people that have to assess that kind of plan - and if we are trying to make the best decision possible, then I think it requires an input from as many people as possible who have as many different perspectives on a man as possible. For instance; if it's a Xmas T.L.A. to go home to the family, to limit that solely to the Unit people deprives that decision-making process of the input of, let's say, a LUDO from another unit who happens to be involved in the A.A. programme who sees that man in there, has listened to that man talk about his feelings and his concerns, has that kind of perception about him; it deprives the decision-making process of the input that says, "Listen, that fellow is aware of the fact that he has a problem in his use of alcohol. He's concerned about that, he's concerned about the effect that it's had on his family and he's hopeful about using this Xmas T.L.A. to repair some of the damage that has happened." So, there's an input to me from the programme or activity side into the Unit for that kind of personal T.L.A.

On the other hand, there is also a valid input from the Unit to pass such as "Accent On Youth" or a programme like that; because the person looking at the program may see the man in the terms of his ability to speak, his ability to get across a message, his ability to relate, at least a perception of his ability to relate to young people - but he may not see any more of that man than the hour or two a week in the "Accent On Youth" meetings. Whereas a fellow in the Unit may see more of that fellow that says to him, "Look, this guy is really, in my opinion, not going to be able to put across a message that is useful, or this guy is liable to take advantage of his pass to take off and that's going to mess up passes for more guys." So, no, I can't see it being black and white. The ideal for me is to create the kind of communication vehicles that will allow for any individual, when he's being considered for a T.L.A., to have as much information, and as many perceptions

about him, fed into that decision. There is no way any group of people can make good decisions (sound decisions) based on only part of the information, whether that's Units or whether that's program people. Neither section can do a really good job without the inputs from all other sections. It's the same reason why in the T.L.A. consideration the input of the work location makes sense to me. Because how a man operates in his work location is also another part of that man, and I think it's legitimate that comes in. Not that any one area should override another, but they all should be put in so that there's as accurate a picture as possible.

BOB: In your capacity as one of our Publishing Board, what criterion do you use for acceptance or rejection of an article written for publishing in the COMMUNICATOR?

ARDEN: Basically, only two. One is that the article, fiction, or whatever it happens to be does not get into identifying individuals on the staff, or the inmate side for that matter, being centered out. This applies to even where the remarks are positive. The remarks that are considered, by the writer, to be positive may not be perceived that way in other areas of the institution, and this can create undue problems for the individual. This, of course, cannot apply in the case of interviews as that is what interviews are all about, but we do want to protect the individual from unnecessary problems.

The other criterion is basically that whenever an article for the COMMUNICATOR is based on opinion, then it must be clearly stated as such, and not passed off as fact and therefore misleading. I think the reason for that is pretty obvious; so that the picture of the institution, or what happens at the institution, is communicated to people outside of the institution as accurately as possible. We want the facts presented as facts, and opinions as opinions. Those are the only two criteria.

You know I am personally interested in the quality of the writing and that kind of thing, but that's really a decision for the people who are editing the COMMUNICATOR - that's not my decision. As you're probably aware, I'm prone to putting a pencilled comment in the margins of things in terms of sentence structure or anything like that, but really, the only censoring criteria are the two that I've mentioned.

BOB: The word censoring today has connotations that it didn't have, say, prior to twenty years ago. I wonder if you could respond to my saying that you are one of the Publishing Board and, therefore, one of our censors?

ARDEN: That's very true. One of my fun-

ctions on the Publishing Board is to act as a censor. A censor using those two criteria that I've mentioned; and to me, that's not a position that I, especially when I first became involved in it, was too comfortable with. But I'm getting more comfortable with it. And this is the case primarily because of the fact that the two criteria are known. I know what they are, and the people writing know what they are; and therefore it's not me censoring on the basis of my value judgements or my particular thinking about a situation - it's me censoring on the basis of two established criteria, and that's something I can accept and something I can see as being necessary and useful. So, wearing the label "censor" doesn't give me as much trouble as it did the first time I had to look over the stensils of the COMMUNICATOR.

BOB: What directions do you visualize your department moving in over the next few years?

ARDEN: The Social Development Section could function in what I call, for lack of a better term, a kind of community development approach; in that the staff in our section would really use the process of trying to be as knowledgeable as possible of this community inside the walls and the individuals in it - to try and identify with the people who are going to be involved and what needs there are that have to be met (and I stress "with the people" because it seems to me to be relatively ineffective, in creating programs and meeting needs of individuals or communities, for somebody else to determine what your needs are). I think, more accurately or more effectively, the approach of staff should be to help give individuals and groups some mechanics and vehicles so that they can assess their own needs and their own strategies for meeting those needs. So that I see this section, in a sense, being a responder to needs that are identified by inmates or individuals or groups. I would like to see us functioning most of the time in that kind of fashion; building the kind of relationship with the guys so that they can identify a need for themselves, and we can then respond, with them, to meet that need. And the needs can be as broad as your imagination wants to go!

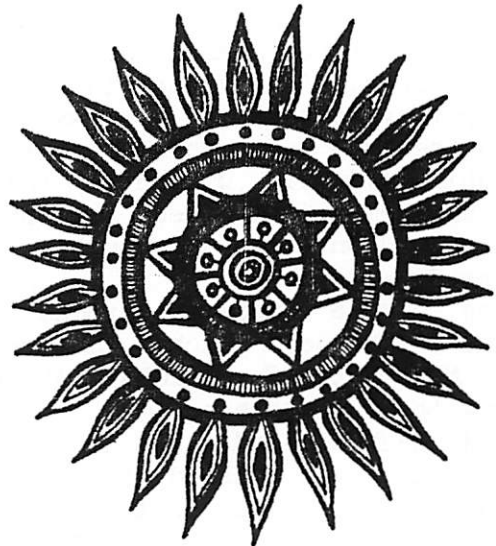
But I don't see the section as only a responder: I think the staff in the section have some skills and some experiences that can be useful, very useful, to guys in the population, and that we have a responsibility to use those to stimulate things that we think make sense. Not to impose and then lay down programs but to suggest some alternatives, to suggest some new ways of doing things so that the guys can decide whether they want things to stay the way they are, or whether they want them to change on the basis of some solid information. Again,

going back to the thing we talked about earlier; the decisions have to be made on the basis of as much information as possible, and I think part of our role is to provide the kind of information input that expands some awarenesses of some new possibilities for activities. I think the reality of the situation is that the majority of the activities of social development are liesure-time activities but I think there are possibilities when projects or ideas arise that have sufficient merit, that we can be other than liesure-time activity oriented.

I think the other part of our section that I referred to at the beginning of our discussion, is stimulating a community involvement. It is something that I hope will become a reality fairly soon because I see it as important for the guys in here, and also for the people in the community to really get to know what each other thinks and are about. I guess those are the kinds of directions and the kinds of approaches that I see the Social Development Section taking in the institution.

BOB: Arden, I would like to thank you for taking the time to do this interview with us. I am sure that we have a good base here that will give people an insight into where you are coming from and I think this can be useful to all of us. Thank you.

* * * * *



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Les Humber Entertainment

BY BOB EBY

She's been some mont' fer concerts and t'ings, Bies. Damn - we had "GODSPELL" and "PERT' COUNTY CONSPIRACY" and "LES HUMBER ENTERPRISES" all in one mont'. Well, I wan' t' tell ya; they was all some fine but LES HUMBER ENTERPRISES holds a special place in m' heart.

Let me tell ya 'bout dem:

Some weeks ago, STU MURRAY got in touch with LES HUMBER in Halifax and asked Les if he could get a show together. Well, for you guys that know LES HUMBER, that's like asking if a fish can bloody well swim! Out Les goes and he comes up with a band of people that are not about to be easily forgotten within these walls.

He brought two dudes that play professionally out in that big bad world, two pretty little ladies that could charm the knee-caps off a lobster, and a host of other people who added to the general air that was created in the auditorium.

What was the air they created? COUNTRY - good time, fun-lovin' country is what they brought with them, and there is no denying that good, foot-stompin' country is what goes over the biggest here. And I have an idea that the reason it goes over so well is that the people who perform it tend to be somewhat more honest in how they approach their music. Judging by what I saw the afternoon that LES HUMBER and his friends were here, I'd say that the brand of country they were laying down was a good reason the guys had such a good time.

CHARLIE PATRIQUIN opened up the show with "Folsom Prison Blues" and brought the house down. He did numbers like "Snakes Crawl At Night," "T.V. Blues," and one of the favorites around here, "Island In The Sea" which I am sure must be the NEWFOUNDLAND NATIONAL ANTHEM by the way the guys cheered.

WANDA GREENOUGH did a set and there is no doubt that she stirred the hearts of many a fellow that day with songs like "Love To Be Alone With You," "Don't Touch Me If You Don't Love Me," and the stand-by of all foxy ladies, "Slowly I'm Falling." Ms. Greenough won herself a couple of hundred fans that day.

Then a young lady came out and sang about being a "Coalminer's Daughter." It was the first time she had ever been on a stage and you can believe that the guys gave her a warm response. LORNA COLE did "Coalminer's Daughter" and "Delta Dawn" for us and it was a gas.

ED SEALY played lead guitar, with some of the prettiest licks I've heard in a long time, and sang some of his own songs; he did "Early Evening Train" and "Streakin'."

DAVE GUSHUE, STEVE PEEBLES, and CARL WESTON backed the group up with rythmn guitar, drums, and stand-up bass. Dave sang a number of his songs and, as usual gave us all goose-bumps with his renditions of "Help Me Make It Through The Night" and "Cocaine."

It was "down home" warm and we had a good time. LARRY BRIDGES added to the good-time feeling by doing "Running Bear" and "Backstreet Affair."

LES HUMBER deserves a big thank-you for remembering that he has friends who get off on good times, and we thank him for bringing his friends in and bringing us a fine afternoon's entertainment.

It is rumoured that he'll be back even before this review gets to press....

All the best to you, Les, Bie.

WHO IS SHE?

We've got a mystery on our hands. It goes something like this: a woman who calls herself "Old Beth" keeps writing us letters, sending us reading material, donating poems and writings, and just generally riding along keeping an eye on what we are up to.

Now, this doesn't create any serious problem with us, except maybe to get us to wondering why she would want to remain anonymous. Actually, it is kind of fun to wonder at who she is and what she looks like.

We're using a couple of her poems in this issue and one of her writings, and we'll be publishing a couple more next month that I am sure will enhance the quality of the poetry that already appears in the COMMUNICATOR. We are going to honour her right to remain anonymous, but if she keeps dropping hints the way she has been over the last number of months, I am afriad that some of the sleuths around here are going to want to try and crack "The Case of The Lady Who Writes Young and Speaks of Orthopedic Shoes."

You ain't foolin' no-one "Old Beth"! We knows yer name and we knows yer game. But we'll hang solid if you'll keep sending us your writings.

Synonymously yours,

The Communicator.

Mental Retardation and Criminal Responsibility

OFFA GAUDET was born in Cormier's Cove, Westmorland County, New Brunswick on October 31st, 1940. He studied Philosophy and Theology and obtained his B.A. degree from the University of Montreal in 1963. He studied Psychology and received his M.A. from the University of Moncton. Since 1970, he has been working as a Psychologist at this institution. Before coming to this institution he worked as a Classification Officer in Dorchester.

It is a known fact that at the present time, the criminal justice system is being reviewed in Canada. This has taken the form of the Federal Law Reform Commission which will later on make recommendations to the Canadian Parliament. Many different organizations are submitting briefs to this Commission. About six weeks ago, I was asked to comment on a brief that was being prepared by one of those organizations. The brief was concerned with the way that the criminal justice system deals with an accused who happens to be mentally retarded. The following are some of the thoughts that I had in relation to that problem.

It seems to me that consideration should be given to the introduction of a standardized measure of mental retardation which would be valid all across the country in the same way that from a legal point of view a person is intoxicated if he gets a breathalyzer reading of .08. It is clear that we are dealing with two completely different situations and that mental retardation is not as easily defined as drunkenness; however, there could be some benefit to such a standardized measure which would not be exclusively based on intellectual functioning. The advantage would be that the courts would have a recognized and accepted test instrument or procedure whose validity and reliability would not have to be questioned or determined with each individual trial. The Canadian Psychological Association could possibly make recommendations as to what particular psychological test or procedure would be best suited for that purpose.

In some American states, the problem of determining the legal responsibility or fitness to stand trial is completely separated from the problem of determining the actual criminal responsibility for an offence of which a person is accused. Also, for quite some time now, it has been felt that the old MacNaughton Rule in determining fitness to stand trial has been too categorical and has been unfair to mentally retarded individuals, especially to those people who fall into the moderately retarded range. Therefore, the thought has occurred that

fitness to stand trial should be defined in terms of degrees of responsibility instead of a completely absolute fit or unfit criterion.

As a psychologist working in the field, I see this development as a very good step in the right direction, especially with regards to the mildly retarded accused. Also, it seems to me that certain categories of non-mentally retarded offenders such as juvenile delinquents and youthful offenders should be able to benefit from these criteria of different degrees of responsibility and this, separate from the problem of determining their criminal responsibility for the offence of which they are accused. Although a person can have normal intellectual capabilities, he may have acquired serious defects in other areas such as socialization, stress tolerance and delay of need gratification. This can be explained very well by principles of social psychology as well as the social learning theories of personality. These theories seem to question the legal theories assumption that there is a normal-and-reasonable man standard in relation to which deviations are measured. In other words, up to the present time, the courts have shown some concern about mental retardation defined in terms of a defective I.Q. and this invokes to a large degree genetic factors. No doubt that this still will have to be considered by the courts. Separate from this and from the problem of determining if the accused committed the offence or not, it is felt that the courts, in disposing of the case, should take into consideration environmental factors such as the family situation of the accused, deprivation in the social and educational spheres, etc. Although these factors are not of a biological or genetic nature, it is well known that they exert a tremendous influence on a person's behaviour.

It is not intended that all non-retarded criminals should benefit from varying degrees of responsibility in a court of law. When a person reaches adulthood, let this question be asked only where it is appropriate and that is in the presence of mental retardation.

The Original Plan

I have this friend, see; and he's a really cool guy. He's got a good sense of humour, is well spoken, and carries a smile about with him - and isn't slow to lend you some of its light. Well, the other day, we were standing around bullshit-ing and we got to talking about "The Original Plan." "The Original Plan" is what the people here ask you to come up with when you first hit this place. It matters for nothing that you might be doing, and just starting, a fifteen year bit but what the "plan" is all about is that you have to come up with a thought-out plan for what you are going to do with your time while you are here, and how this relates to your plans for when you hit the streets. This "plan" is not something that you can take lightly, for if you ever decide you want to change it; you had better know what you are about because there are folks that take your change of mind very seriously, indeed.

Well, anyway, my friend and I got into the subject and we got to talking about how messed-up a dude's head can get when he has to start making plans that are expected to project years into the future, and how even more confused a dude can get when he's got to come up with an air-tight scheme for wanting to change that original plan.

I suggested that he should put his thoughts down on paper for publishing in the COMMUNICATOR. His response to that suggestion was that "nobody'll ever believe me if I get into it, Man!" So, I suggested he do what he could with it; and here's what he came up with: (You judge for yourself where he's coming from.)

THE ORIGINAL PLAN

The original plan originated originally
within the origins of originality.
He originally originated the original
plan originally to originate originality.
The origins of his original plan were
originally originated originally.
Originality originated originally within
the original origins which originate in
his original plan.
He originally planned originally to originate
his original plan originating from plans of
originality.
Planning to plan plans with origins which originated
originally, the original planned plans were
originated within the original origins of
originality.

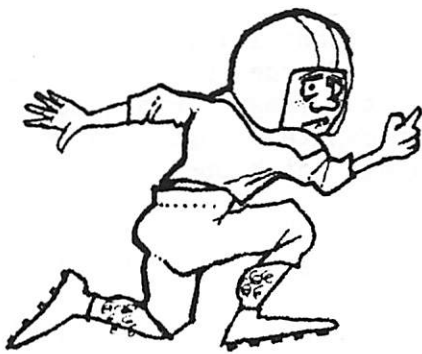
D. Lawrence Snow

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Snow is presently enrolled in the Anthropology course at this institution, which may help explain what might be happening with my friend.

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Time For SPORTS REVIEW

DAVE BURNS SPORTS REPORTER



Recreational Supervisor, EARL LEES hopes to see our new gymnasium operative by the first of the New Year. There is still more work left to do by the sub-contractors, so there is no definite date established for the opening as yet.

The new building will provide a total activity area of 160 feet by 100 feet. This will be an immense improvement over the auditorium currently in use. It will provide for five different activities being run simultaneously.

The body building area, 50 feet by 30 feet, will be improved and, as a safety feature, screened off from the other activities. There will be two badminton courts and a ping-pong area with room for two or three tables.

There will also be two courts of 100 feet by 50 feet; one for basketball and tennis, the other for hockey and volleyball. Pull-out bleachers will provide seating and dividers between the courts.

At the far end of the building, towards the reception area, space will be provided for a testing room, an issue room, a club room, offices and dressing rooms and showers. Movies will still be shown in the old auditorium.

So, you can see, our new gymnasium should further expand our already impressive sports program.

I find that a lot of inmates have no idea who the recreation staff are or what programs those staff members are responsible for. In an attempt to clear up some of the confusion on this score, I am listing each of the staff below and their area of responsibility.

ED McCORMICK: Body Building
Swimming
Ice Hockey
Number 11 Unit.

DAN MacDonald: Volleyball
Badminton
Darts
Floor Hockey
Number 9 Unit.

EARL LEES: Floor Hockey
(acting) Number 10 Unit.

KIM THOMPSON: Soccer
Basketball
Cribbage

So if you have any questions about any of the programs, feel free to ask these officers and I am sure you will get a better idea of what is going on at the present.

JD **B**urgess

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The UNIT SOCCER LEAGUE ended its seasonal schedule on October 14th. This was a premature halt to league play because of inclement weather. Fierce competition prevailed throughout the season and it is unfortunate that the league was unable to hold playoffs because further competition and play was anticipated. Had good weather set in, playoffs would have taken place; however, this did not happen.

After TEN GAMES, here is how the three teams wound up:

UNIT NUMBER NINE:	5 wins	3 losses	2 ties	12 points.
UNIT NUMBER TEN:	4 wins	3 losses	3 ties	11 points.
UNIT NUMBER EIGHT:	2 wins	5 losses	3 ties	7 points.

(Wins = 2 pts., ties = 1 pt., losses = 0 pts.)

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

<u>Names:</u>	<u>Team:</u>	<u>Goals:</u>	<u>Assists:</u>	<u>Total Points:</u>
HIBERT	9	10	5	15
MARTIN	8	8	2	10
BOONE	8	6	3	9
MELANSON	9	6	3	9
KENNEDY	10	4	2	6
STUBBARD	8	1	5	6
ROBERTS	10	1	5	6
MONTOUR	9	3	2	5
TONEY	10	5	0	5
ROBICHAUD	8	5	0	5
WHITE	9	3	2	5
MAHONEY	10	2	2	4
DAUOD	10	2	2	4
POWELL	8	3	1	4
JACKSON	10	3	0	3
LEROY	9	3	0	3
SURRETTE	8	2	1	3
BURKE	9	1	2	3
ARSENAULT	9	1	2	3

(NOTE: With three or more official points).

ED HIBERT of UNIT NUMBER NINE won the INDIVIDUAL SCORING TITLE by a five point margin over Number Eight's, BOBBY MARTIN.

2nd place; UNIT ELEVEN will not be making things easy for anyone. CONRAD PLEASANT and JOE JACKSON will be looking after the offence for the team, while JUNIOR MARSHALL will be their new hard hitting defenceman. The fine goal tending of ART NELLIGAN should give the opposing teams nightmares, as usual. The ELEVEN UNIT TEAM is getting it together and JOE JACKSON won't be happy until they beat the Number One team, NUMBER NINE. "It won't be easy" he says, "but, we can do it."

3rd place: UNIT NUMBER EIGHT, with the hustle and team spirit of PETE STUBBARD, along with JOHN PAUL and JIM BOONE'S scoring ability, EIGHT will not be taking a back seat to anyone. Rugged BOBBY RICHARDS will keep their defence respected by the opposing teams' scorers so that they will have their troubles getting within scoring range.

4th place; NUMBER TEN UNIT has been having trouble flooring a full team most of the time, but with the steady play of LES SPENCER and the aggressiveness of RAY CURNEW and PHIL KENNEDY, TEN should make a good account of themselves.

THE TEAM STANDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER THE 12TH ARE:

NUMBER NINE UNIT:	8 wins	0 ties	0 losses	16 pts.
NUMBER ELEVEN UNIT:	3	1	5	7
NUMBER EIGHT UNIT:	3	1	5	7
NUMBER TEN UNIT:	2	0	6	4

THE TEN TOP SCORERS OF THE LEAGUE ARE:

LEROY	54 goals	25 assists	79 points
MELANSON	44	18	62
PLEASANT	34	20	54
HIBBERT	21	30	51
STUBBARD	27	19	46
MONTOUR	27	16	43
HANSON	16	24	40
L. SPENCER	27	8	35
J. PAUL	24	8	32
J. JACKSON	24	4	28

THE INDIVIDUAL SCORERS ON EACH TEAM ARE:

NUMBER NINE:

LEROY	54 goals	25 assists	79 points
MELANSON	44	18	62
HIBBERT	21	30	51
MONTOUR	27	16	43
HANSON	16	24	40
TURNER	14	11	25
ARSENAULT	20	3	23
GUSHIE	3	8	11
DENNIS	5	3	8
TUCKER	3	4	7

NUMBER ELEVEN:

PLEASANT	34	20	54
JACKSON	24	4	28
NELIGAN	14	12	26
HALL	12	11	23
MARSHALL	1	8	9
WHITE	6	1	7
J. DENNIS	4	3	7
DUPRE	4	2	6
SKEEHAN	2	4	6

NUMBER EIGHT:

STUBBARD	27 goals	19 assists	46 points
J. PAUL	24	8	32
BOONE	12	7	19
BUSHVAN	3	7	10
BEVIS	7	2	10
POWELL	7	1	8
RICHARDS	1	4	5

NUMBER TEN:

SPENCER	27	8	35
CURNEW	10	5	15
KENNEDY	4	10	14
RALPH	8	3	11
WALKER	7	4	11
KELLY	2	3	5

A FEW WORDS FOR THE PHOENIX ALL-STARS

I have a couple of things to say that relate to sports:

I think that all of the players that played in THE BORDER LEAGUE this year deserve a big hand for the way in which they carried themselves. As coach of the PHOENIX ALL-STARS I would like to thank the guys for the fine team spirit and co-operation they showed me.

A special thanks to:

DAVE BURNS,
PETE STUBBARD,
DAVE GUSHUE,
MIKE MELANSON,
BOB SUNSFORD,
STEVE PEEBLES,
FRENCHIE VADNAIS,
DENNY STATES,
GEORGE DENNIS,
EDDIE SHEERWOOD,
JOHN WILSON

It is my belief that any of these guys could be playing on any of the better ball teams on the outside.

I will be turning out as a hockey coach once the season starts, and I hope to see some of these same guys out again to give us another fine sporting season.

I also think the recreation staff did a fine job and I thank them.

Thank you,

John R. MacLeod
5545 Unit Eight.

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF ?

My beef is that at the present time the major difficulty facing both the inmate population and the recreation staff is the lack of adequate facilities to carry on the full scale program we all know should be operating in this institution. Until the new gymnasium opens sometime in the New Year, the program seems to be at an all-time low, and all concerned are working with a certain amount of frustration and discouragement. The winter supplies have not yet arrived and this also serves as a detriment to the program at present. We all hope this will be solved as soon as possible. So stick in there fellows.

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Floor Hockey Predictions

~~This year's~~ FLOOR-HOCKEY LEAGUE promises to be an action filled season. The league is made up of four unit teams and, so far, all the teams have shown some fine competitive play and a better quality of sportsmanship, which is something that some of us have overlooked in the past. We have some new rules drawn up by our Sports Commissioner and the Sports Committee that should help to keep the games under control. The rules will be enforced by the officials so that the players can show their individual talent, instead of reverting to un-called-for violence in the games.

The way the teams are lining up to date, this is the way I see them finishing out the season:

1st place; UNIT NUMBER NINE, led by the potent goal scoring of MIKE MELANSON and DON LEROY, along with the play-making of CHRIS HANSON, NUMBER NINE shouldn't have any trouble winning the league title. With a consistent second line and the defence anchored by CHARLIE TURNER, Nine should dominate it all.

'This is indeed a pleasure, Mr. Trudeau.

"ONLY
FIVE
DOLLARS
A
YEAR"

"FIVE BUCKS!
MAN WHAT A
POWERFUL
DEAL"

"What do
you think
Gerry?"

WOW!



*"I'm so glad you remembered to bring
my copy of the Communicator with you."*

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