

JUN 23 1976

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
LAGRANGE
PEEWEE VALLEY

BLACKBURN FRENCHBURG

HARLAN

EDDYVILLE FARM DORMITORY

PINEVILLE



the KENTUCKY

INTER-PRISON PRESS

VOLUME IV

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Justice Secretary Announces New Womens Institution

Commissioner To Be Named By Fall; KSP Superintendent Soon

EDDYVILLE—A full time superintendent for the Kentucky State Penitentiary will be hired within 60 days and a commissioner for the Bureau of Corrections will be named by November, according to John L. Smith, secretary of the state Department of Justice.

Smith assumed the duties of acting commissioner of corrections May 7, following the resignation of Charles ... upon the release of the findings of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission which conducted a six-month study of Kentucky's corrections system, Gov. Julian Carroll and Smith relieved Penitentiary Super. Henry Cowan of his duties. Smith named Deputy Secretary of Justice Ken Brandenburg temporary superintendent until a full-time superintendent could be found.

At the penitentiary on June 17, Smith told the 60 newsmen on the Eddyville-leg of the 1976 Prison Press Tour that the management team, leading the restructuring efforts in the Bureau of Corrections, is now reviewing applications for the superintendent's job.

The management team is also reviewing applications for corrections commissioner, whom Smith said he believes will be hired within four months. He said applicants included both Kentucky and out-of-state corrections people.

The acting commissioner went on to say that the management team members, made up of seven criminal justice professionals, will retain their current status until a new corrections commissioner is hired, "and maybe even longer."

Smith also detailed the bureau's plans to open the first minimum security correctional institution for women in Kentucky. To be located at the former Daniel Boone Boys Camp at Bellevue, Boone County, the institution will eventually house 35 to 40 "carefully screened first offender, young and less

criminally sophisticated women" with a gradual transfer of the women from the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women near Pewee Valley beginning by mid to late summer.

The facility will ease overcrowded conditions at Pewee Valley, Smith said, and allow for more individualized and specialized training at both facilities. Anticipating hiring a staff of about 20 for the ... Kentucky facility, Smith said the emphasis will be on individualized vocational and educational training so the women will be employable upon their release.

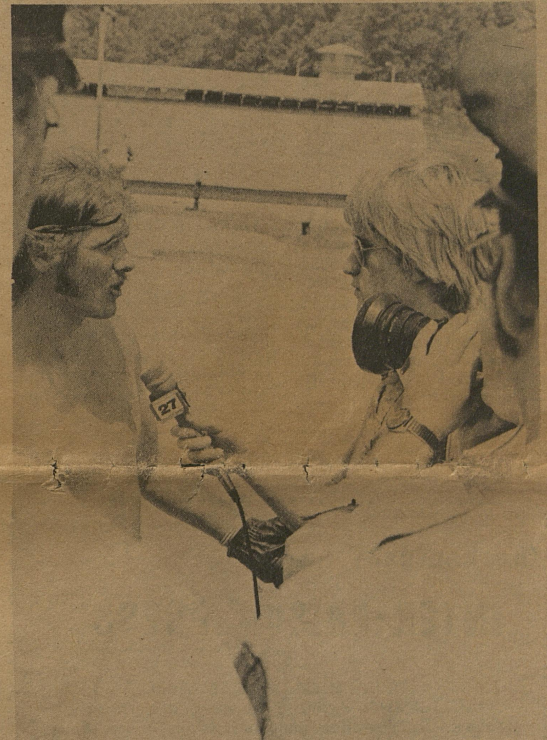
Smith said the opening of the facility is an important step in his efforts to make Kentucky corrections "a progressive and innovative system responsible for the needs of those entrusted to our care and responsive to society at large."

"Separating these first offender, young and less criminally sophisticated women from the more criminal

women will advance rehabilitative efforts for them to a very constructive and workable level," he said. "This minority of our total inmate population has far too often been forgotten in corrections before. The establishment of this facility will go a long way toward meeting their special needs."

Smith said he thought one important aspect of the new facility is that it is being established without spending taxpayers' money on construction. The nine buildings at the old Boys Camp site, Smith said, remain in "fine physical shape," and only minor renovations are necessary before the women begin moving in.

Looking toward the future, Smith said several more innovations will be taking shape in corrections soon, but said the most important accomplishment so far has been the implementation of a philosophy of responsibility and accountability in the Bureau of Corrections.



TELLING IT LIKE IT IS was what this penitentiary resident did as a Lexington TV crew records the interview on film. (A full Prison Press Tour story and photographs on pages 6 and 7.)

Regional Jail Program Being Considered

FRANKFORT—As a temporary step to alleviate the overcrowded conditions in Kentucky correctional institutions, the state Bureau of Corrections is currently looking into the possibilities of housing some minimum security inmates in several local jails.

Joe L. Barbee, executive assistant to the corrections commissioner, said seven counties have been approached with the temporary housing approval, but, so far, the bureau has received no response. He said the counties initially contacted were Barren, Christian, Boyle, Henderson, Bourbon, Bell and Kenton.

He said those counties were contacted because they have adequate facilities which are not totally filled. He said the

seven jails he contacted would have a combined potential of housing up to 98 state inmates temporarily.

The regional jail program now under consideration would help relieve the overcrowded conditions at the State Penitentiary near Eddyville, the State Reformatory near LaGrange, the Blackburn Correctional Complex near Lexington and the Frenchburg Correctional Facility in Menifee County.

Barbee said Kentucky's correctional institutions have been plagued by overcrowding for many years. The overcrowded conditions, he said, have caused various discipline problems, a breakdown in the delivery of treatment services for many inmates and inadequate

rehabilitative services and facilities in the institutions.

Barbee said the bureau is stressing that this is a temporary program until permanent facilities can be secured.

Justice Secretary John L. Smith said the men who would be considered for placement in the regional jail program would be men nearing the end of their sentences, those who had been paroled awaiting completion of paper-work, and young, first offender, less criminally sophisticated inmates.

Barbee said the seven local facilities have not turned in definite responses to the bureau on their interest in the program, and if they are not interested, additional counties will be contacted. He said that depending on the responses

from the seven counties, the implementation of the regional jail program is at least six months off.

He said new jail facilities in Fayette and Jefferson counties were not included in the initial inquiries because studies show they may soon be filled.

Barbee stressed that the bureau is dealing with local officials in determining the acceptability of the regional jail program in the communities. He said if the community does not want to participate in the program, no effort will be made to move any state prisoners into the facility.

Barbee said he has heard preliminary favorable comments on the program from some of the counties, but emphasized implementation is still a long way off.



Loneliness

Loneliness can be one of the most disturbing and exhausting facets of any person's life, but it is doubtful that anyone experiences this ugliness more than those behind prison walls.

Daily, the men and women in prison are forced to deal with the menacing blight of loneliness for it is present during every moment of relaxation, taking the form of thoughts about home, friends and the good times gone by.

Loneliness is at the root of many institutional problems as it induces tension and makes a person want to do something to keep his mind occupied, anything to make him forget for a moment where he is. Often times this fight against loneliness will lead a man to the cell-block for disciplinary reasons.

Disputes between staff and residents can often times be traced back to this singular source. The normal institutional pressures can be compounded when a person begins to feel that those on the outside have forgotten him. When that contact is gone, with it goes a great deal of hope and a person can begin to believe that everyone is against him.

The problem of loneliness is one which can and should be dealt with on a cooperative basis between the administration and the resident population.

More scheduled activities could go a long way toward helping this problem. Or, perhaps a program could be established to deal directly with the issue. Certainly the

administration must realize that the effectiveness of their treatment/rehabilitation efforts can only be lessened when an individual has to deal with the problem of loneliness as well as all the other problems he had before coming to prison.

Letters To The Editor

In a somewhat cruel, vicious world it is often unusual that we produce some people with a humanitarian, caring outlook toward life. Fortunately, the Kentucky State Reformatory, Pre-Release Speaker's Program is full of people who care.

In May, five pre-release speakers received letters of commendation from Superintendent, Harold Black, for four years of continuous pre-release service to the rehabilitation process.

Those five men, and the agencies they represent, are: Michael Conliffe, Jefferson County Attorney's Office; Mike England, Alcoholics Anonymous; Richard Mahoney, Human Resources Development Institute; Gene Montfort, Frankfort Social Security Office; and Rev. Howard Teel, Long Run Association of Baptists.

It should be noted that none of these men receive compensation, but come each month because of their motivation to help in the correctional process. If the general community shared their concern the road to correctional progress would be well paved.

Let us hope these outstanding men can continue their service and that society will produce more people with their characteristics.

Marvin Gibson
Pre-Release Department
Kentucky State Reformatory

A Request For True Corrections Reform

The Governor's Select Advisory Commission on Prisons, after exhaustive hearings ranging over a period of thirteen months, recently returned a report that is a scathing indictment of the policies and procedures utilized by the Kentucky corrections system. Characterizing the entire system as "dehumanizing and archaic," the report set forth specific recommendations which, if implemented, would greatly alleviate the present deplorable and overcrowded conditions.

Gov. Julian Carroll and Acting Commissioner John Smith held a joint press conference prior to the issuance of the commission's report and proclaimed that a new day is dawning in the corrections system of this state.

Acting Commissioner Smith promised to "take the hog by the ears" and chart "a new direction" in efforts to correct the present deficiencies.

It is unfortunate that there is reason to believe that these statements made by Governor Carroll and Commissioner Smith are made only to placate the news media and calm the storm, in which the present administration finds itself.

Why are these officials stating to the public, that sorely needed changes are planned for the corrections system, while at the same time the administration is vigorously and strenuously opposing these very same reforms in the United States Supreme Court?

In January 1974 a class action lawsuit on behalf of the prisoners in the state of Kentucky was filed in the federal court system. The action is titled *Ervell Scott v. Kentucky Parole Board* and it challenges the procedures presently relied upon by the parole board in reaching decisions affecting parole.

The prisoners of this state are being represented by Mr. Dean Hill Rivkin, the attorney who has prepared and filed the lawsuit. Mr. Rivkin, who is presently associated with the University of Tennessee Legal Clinic at Knoxville, has stated, "This action is receiving priority from myself and my staff. Any opposition to this action by the Commonwealth has frustrated and delayed these reforms that are so greatly needed."

The changes that are being sought by Mr. Rivkin are in part:

*The parole board is to be required to give a prisoner, prior to a parole hearing, adequate notice of the matters which might result in an adverse decision and adequate opportunity to challenge this material.

*Prisoners should be assisted in presenting their arguments to the board by either an attorney, a law student, another inmate, a family member or a member of the correctional staff chosen by the prisoner.

*The right to a written statement immediately after the parole hearing specifying the reasons for parole denial and setting forth the conditions, which, if fulfilled, would likely result in a favorable parole decision at a future specified date.

It is ironic and incredible that these procedural changes, advocated by Mr. Rivkin, and opposed by the Commonwealth in the federal courts in excess of two and one half years, should prove identical with changes recommended by the Governor's commission.

If Governor Carroll and Commissioner Smith are sincere in their quest to constructively alter the corrections system, their public statements should conform to the known facts and leave no room for doubt as to the direction reforms are to take.

If these officials are acting in good faith, opposition to the pending class action suit should be abandoned and the reforms urged by Mr. Rivkin allowed to become a reality.

Such a course of action would show that the goal set by Commissioner Smith to make the corrections system of Kentucky a model for the nation is not unattainable. It would also enhance the process of reform by creating an atmosphere of honesty and openness in the Bureau of Corrections.

Charles R. Morse

the kentucky



INTER-PRISON PRESS



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Parole Board Results For June

	HCFC	BCFC	FCF	BCC	KCIW	KSR	KSP
Paroles Recommended	4	3	13	20	3	57	17
Percentage Recommended	100%	60%	81%	87%	50%	43%	33%
Cases Deferred	0	1	1	3	2	31	21
Average Length of Deferment (in months)	0	26	4	20.6	12	10.2	11.8
Serve Out Sentence	0	1	2	0	1	45	13
Total Cases Considered	4	5	16	23	6	133	51

Rhythmic Moods

Illusions

Seemingly circles sifting around
translucent in thought and always around.

Hovering always like visions beyond
Gapping and gopping and trying to go on.

Illusions I've seen, then dissipated into beyond
Circling and spinning and trying to go on.

Why must they impare me, and then drift away
Seemingly solid, yet quite ready to sway.

Thing I have wonderd, question I will ask
Must I continue to remember by fading into the past

Future is upon us, we live for it each day
Telling and yelling yet wondering what to say.

I am but me, as your are you
Wondering and hoping is this really true.

Phil Rouse

Why

Speak soothing, gentle words over the dead,
And mention not the devious life they lead;
And question not why they have died,
Be it from natural causes or suicide.

But where your life has touched another,
Fate has drawn you to your brother;
And when it comes his time to die,
Question not the how or why.

Why bear the burden of grief and sorrow?
Because someone that was, is not tomorrow,
Rather enjoy that he once came by;
And question not the how or why;

For your own life goes on, others appear,
To spend a portion with you; why here?
Too complexed to understand, don't even try,
And question not the how or why.

Mike Hurley

So Much Deceived

I didn't think the day would come
When I'd find myself as a bum
A life of displeasure that's slipped up on me
With no hope of help as far as I can see
No chance of parole on any day
I'll have to get used to the prisoner's way
It's a weary life I'm sure you know
Watching the time slowly and surely go.

Before I came, I drank oh so much
Easy living, with the devil's touch
A heaven similar to fool's gold
A story over and over again told
Dreaming only of getting rich so fast
Thinking the booze would make it last
I've fooled myself for such a long time
And now my riches don't amount to a dime.

Instead of being satisfied with what I had
A wife and a little blond haired lad
I had to go my own foolish way
I let drinking lose everything and now I must pay
Looking for it all and receiving none
Was the answer to my drinking fun
Thinking the fun would always last
Now in prison, I am cast.

I deserve everything I have received
For being so much deceived
At least I know where I went wrong
And I hope you listen to my song
Take heed to what I say
Before you end up here someday
Once you start, you're here before you know it
To think, wonder, pray and sit.

James C. Dugon

I Had You

Among the thorns of the brush, I found a rose,
with bright hues of colors that set it aglow
While picking the rose my blood never spilled,
with a steady hand my wish was fulfilled.

And three years passed, three years of bliss,
when nothing I lacked and nothing I missed.
All my times were gay, never feeling blue
thought I had it all just by having you.

But then the day came, when my world just crumbled,
I lost my keen ways, was left to my fumbles.
For the rose I cherished, withered away,
crushing my heart that very same day.

Neglected ambitions fill my short time now,
the rose, unforgotten, has withered my brow;
And my life in shambles, departs with the rose,
because I lost my gambel, after being so close.

Robert Bosco

Little Children Shouldn't Suffer

Sometimes we make mistakes, for which we have to pay,
but little children should suffer not because of our careless ways.
A child without a father and a mother very young,
striving hard for her family, just to keep her little ones.

A mother cries bitter tears, her food stamps never came,
her check is late again this month, tell me who is to blame?
Little children suffer because of some law society made,
so don't you think it's time, they give up the game they play.

A mother hangs her head in sorrow, her son needs a pair of shoes.
her daughter wants to join a club, but she can't afford the dues.
The baby needs pampers, and the three year old has the flu,
where will the money come from, tell me what can she do?

Living from month to month with very little hope,
so she gives up on everything and turns her life to dope.
The welfare takes her children, and before you know it she's in jail,
wondering what went wrong and why she had to fail.

In this lonely prison, her children come to her mind,
she cries many tears for the comfort she wants to find.
Yes little children suffer and mothers loose their way,
let's lift them up to Jesus when we hang our head to pray.

Dusty Moman

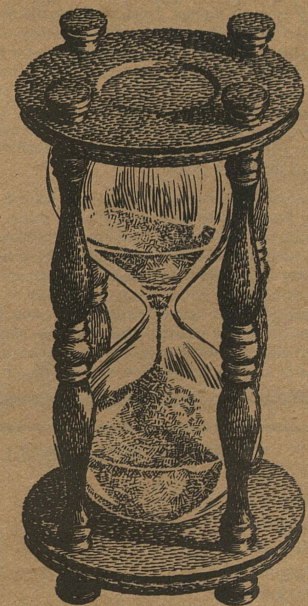
The Hourglass

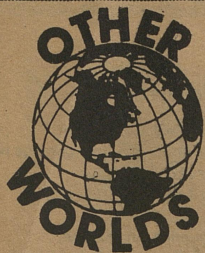
From a tender baby, not yet weaned from his mother's breast,
To a senile old man being laid to rest;
The sands of time sift swiftly by,
To find for each his time to die.

So journey back within your mind,
To the days of your youth, so far behind;
And in awesome wonder see life rush past,
Like sifting sand from the hourglass.

For death begets life, and the cycle begins,
And no mortal really knows where it all ends;
So fear not death, for it too will pass,
Like sifting sand from the hourglass.

M. S. Hurley





Thoughts

By Terry Crews

The following article, entitled "Thoughts," originally appeared in the Ft. Grant Bugle and has since been run in many other inmate publications across the country.

No doubt its intrigue stems from the author's ability to vividly portray the fears, doubts and frustrations which are a part of everyday prison life.

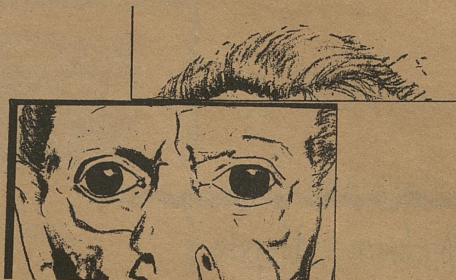
How do you say it? How do you spit it out on paper what you want to have known to a special someone beyond the wall? Never can simple words, funny little marks on a piece of paper tell of the loneliness, doubt, bitterness, and frustration that are the constant companions of everyone in this gray world away from the free world. No one can ever know; no one who hasn't been a brown clad, faceless, numbered nothing. I can't tell them, but I can try. I can try because when this human meat grinder spits me back into the world, I'm going to be different than the all American square John who has never been in hell. All I want is someone to understand . . .

Understand that if I seem hostile and defensive, it is because every facet of my gray world is a threat to the soft mellow secret things I keep inside me. I cannot trot out gentleness because nothing in prison is gentle. I cannot show kindness because in my world kindness is weakness, and to be weak is to invite more hurt. I dare not exhibit love because the wolves of my world, bars, and mocking locked doors would rip me to bloody shreds. I cannot bring forth and demonstrate my loneliness or hunger because they have become a bone deep ache that even I cannot reach and soothe. She has to know . . .

To know that while other young men my age grew up watching fat babies grow into healthy youngsters, I grew up watching healthy youngsters having their guts and minds twisted and ripped; and being turned into emotional cripples. While the young men she knew were learning their trades, I was listening to the belches of 1000 miserable men in a human zoo. Don't pity me, understand me . . .

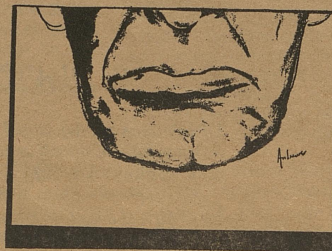
Understand me and the way I change; inside when they stripped away my identity and self-respect. Changed day after day by being treated like an idiot child and being forced to live with every type of human derelect; from filthy old men to pink cheeked girl boys. Changed by the indignity of being forced to scurry about like a mindless fool everytime a voice barked or a bell rang. Never being able to escape the uncaring or hostile eyes, living in a fish bowl where you can't even squat on a toilet without an audience. Can she begin to see the shell forming, the first of many calloused layers of rigid resistance that serves as a protection for the human warmth and sensitivity necessary for sanity. Can she begin to see . . .

To see how being stripped naked and having degrading fingers searching, probing can leave wounds on pride and dignity, that are a long time healing, and find that they leave ugly scars. Can she understand the ugly chill of walking by a nice guy's cell and seeing clots of blood from slashed wrists and throat, slashed because he couldn't take it anymore. Can she understand the mark it leaves to see some friends mind snap under the strain; watch him become a walking vegetable from shock treatment and dope. And seeing these things, the you that is really you, driven deeper inside seeking refuge. Can she understand . . .



"Understand"

that if I seem hostile and defensive, it is because every facet of my gray world is a threat to the soft mellow things I keep inside me."



Understand that in the face of constant assault upon personality you are forced to turn off your emotional faucet, dry up the feelings of pity, compassion, indignation, or lose your mind, you survive by playing a role; acting out a part for the benefit of indifferent eyes; hiding what you really are away from the contamination of your soul sick world. You become a stiff legged individual ready to snap and snarl at the other individuals, prepared to dodge the cold toe of authority's boot. You become tough, hardened, and cold because your world demands it. Tough, hardened, cold; until night comes . . .

Night comes all too quickly after another gray day, and with it the gut twisting loneliness. Laying in dark, cold friendless 9' x 6' cell hating the world, and for that special someone beyond the wall. The defenses relax; the shell opens up; and out comes the real needing, hurting, wanting for you. You look out at the night sky and know that beyond the wall, the same moon you see is looking down on the world of the living. On a married couple enjoying each other's company after the kids are in bed; on two young lovers walking hand in hand wrapped in the magic stillness of first love, and on the outside there is that special someone who loves you, and is lonely too. But bars don't form a lattice work to distort the beauty of their moon. You lay there and think, with your emotions boiling inside, always inside, where no one can see. You ride an emotional roller coaster. Soaring up with the dream of that special someone by your side in a beautiful future; plunging down when your dream is ripped apart by frustration, bitterness, and doubt. Does she love me, will she wait, have I any right to have her? Can she understand . . .

Understand when we sit together in the visiting room with other desparate souls, that my eyes are silently pleading for understanding, comfort, something I can cling to during those damned lonely nights. Can she know that I need and want her more than she'll ever guess. We can't say the things that need saying, not in the throat choking atmosphere of this pit of human misery. When it's time to leave we both are unsatisfied, still hungry and frustration increases and the bitterness, and the uncertainty and the wondering . . .

The wondering if any woman can understand a man that has gone through the meat grinder. If such a woman has the heart, patience and soul to accept such a man the way he is; and wait for time and love to work a magic healing. When he comes out can she accept the restlessness of a newly released bird from it's cage; accept a certain remoteness when he is haunted by some ugliness from the past; accept blunt honesty from a man unused to the streets . . .

Study Release Now A Reality At Pewee Valley

PEWEE VALLEY—KCIW currently has two women attending classes at Jefferson community college, JCC, as the first female participants in the Kentucky Bureau of Corrections Study Release Program.

Study release is a new program offered to inmates in Kentucky correctional institutions enabling them to attend colleges on campus during the day and return to the institution in the evening.

"I feel like this is my opportunity to a new life, a step in the right direction," says Linda Burton, one of the residents currently attending JCC.

The other participant, Linda Records, agreed with her fellow student by saying, "I feel study release is a beneficial program for several reasons. First, it has given me a goal, something to work for, a future. Also exposure to the community enables me to rebuild my self-confidence and prepares me for release. Mostly, study release has given me a new sense of direction and hope for a successful life."

Linda went on to say that she plans to continue in college upon her release.

Only those inmates who meet specific eligibility requirements may apply for the program. The resident must be approved at the institutional level after which their application is submitted to Frankfort for final approval by the commissioner and other officials.

The tuition and books are provided through a grant or by the Bureau of Corrections.

Residents are transported to the college in the morning dropped off, then picked up in the afternoon and returned to the institution.

KSR TIGERS BASEBALL SCHEDULE

July 11	Free Spirit A.C.
July 18	No. 692 Playboys
July 25	Chemetron-Votator
August 1	St. Helen's A. C.
August 8	Rains Furniture
August 15	Sylvania Community Center
August 22	Vermont A. C.

The schedule for the remainder of the KSR Tiger's 1976 baseball season is listed above. The Tigers have a 4-2 record to date. All games are played on Sundays starting at 1:30 p.m.

Population Figures

Kentucky State Reformatory	1759
Kentucky State Penitentiary	1179
Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women	139
Frenchburg Correctional Facility	122
Blackburn Correctional Complex	177
Bell County Forestry Camp	52
Harrison County Forestry Camp	39
Farm Dormitory	115



DISPLAYING O-J-T CERTIFICATES are Margaret Wright, Ann Johnson, Glenda Mobley and Johnnie Duffy. The four women were the first at KCIW to complete a newly created 320-hour on-the-job training program in food services. Others are now enrolled in the program which has been established as a permanent training feature at the women's institution.

Matrix Founder Asks For Understanding At Annual Banquet

By Walter Harris

LAGRANGE—The Matrix banquet, held in the reformatory's cafeteria on the evening of May 18, began with the organization's director, Clifton Martin, asking the members to rise and recite The Matrix Philosophy. With that a collective voice rose chanting, "Man must accept himself with neither reluctance nor fear, for shallowness is the supreme vice . . . and . . . only by constantly reevaluating himself and realizing who, what, and why he is . . . will he find comfort with truth . . ."

After the recital, Martin went on to welcome the guests with a warm greeting and a sincere wish that they enjoy and avail themselves of the ceremonious and social aspects of the evening.

Following the dinner the guest speaker, Mrs. Catherine Finger, co-founder of the Matrix program, was presented to the assemblage. "We are here tonight," she began, "to congratulate and give support to the men in Matrix, men who are seriously trying to find themselves . . . and to find a value system they can live with and one that will also be compatible with living on the outside."

Quoting Norm Carlson of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Mrs. Finger said, "The finest

facility, the latest treatment techniques and the finest staff can't prevent a man from returning to crime if he returns to a negative environment."

Then, turning her remarks to the guests gathered at the banquet, she explained that "negative environment" doesn't just mean economic deprivation. "It's negative environment when a man, who could always before play the indulged or protected child or husband, goes back to a situation where no one encourages his new-found resolutions either because you people at home can't change your frame of reference or because having him dependent on you feeds some need of your own," she explained. "This climate could stifle and sap all the courage and independence that your man has gained from the self-discipline in the Matrix therapy."

Mrs. Finger concluded her stirring speech by saying, "... if there is any doubt in the minds of any of you—as to how you will act when the man returns—give thought to showing your support. Help the man live up to his new expectations, not your old ones."

As Mrs. Finger left the rostrum to a vigorous round of applause, Leon Estill came forward to begin the awards segment of the program.

The first awards were Outstanding Achievement Awards presented to Roland Bergeron, Clifton Martin and Roger Snyder for attaining their GED certificates. The Most Determination Awards went to John Fowler, S. Holmes and Bruce McGuire while Achievement Certificates went to Clifton Martin and K. Smith.

Other awards presented that evening included three Phase Two Awards presented to Roland Bergeron, Michael Williams and K. Smith, and Best Brother of the Month Awards given to James Campbell and Harry Walker.

A group of six outside guests and KSR staff members were presented with Honorary Memberships. They were: Harold Black, Mrs. Zara Cuffe, Mrs. Catherine Finger, Harold Keown, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Samberg and Steve Smith.

In addition, 18 certificates of appreciation were presented to individuals who had worked with the Matrix organization.

Choir Returns To LaGrange To Give Inspirational Performance

By Walter Harris

LAGRANGE—Messiah's Review, the youth choir of the First Baptist Church of Duncanville, Texas, returned to the reformatory on June 15 to stage an inspiring revival of last year's spiritual performance. The program, "music for today's generation," was presented with a few candid but brief testimonials intermixed with the performance.

That provocative mixture of testimonials, gospel songs, and contemporary RB/Disco rhythms intensified the group's appeal and made it easier for many of the residents to relate to the message coiled about the question: "If you were to die

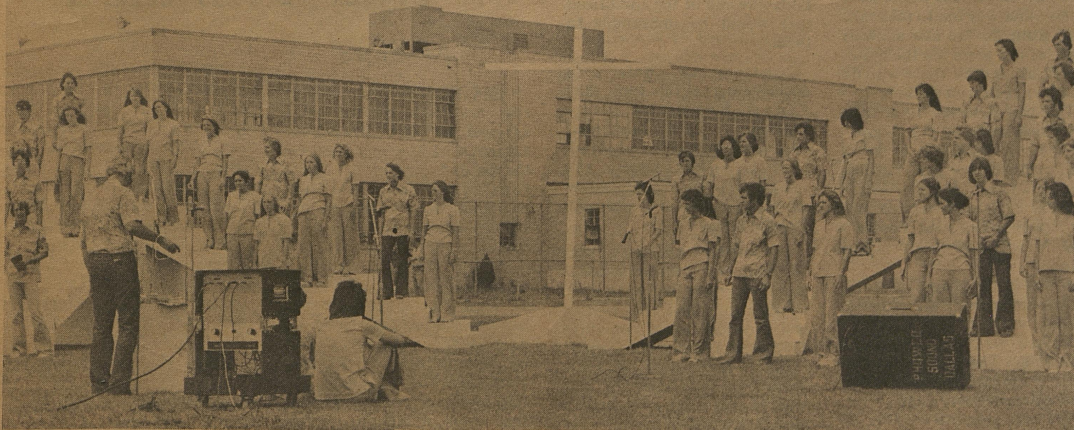
this very moment, do you have the assurance that you would be in heaven?"

Yet Messiah's people, sixty-five youths and nine sponsors, didn't come here to lecture, but rather to share that elusive peace of mind and spirit that comes with acceptance of Christ.

As a fitting conclusion to an hour or so of refreshing and stimulating entertainment by earnest, articulate, and talented young people, Superintendent Harold Black—on behalf of Governor Julian Carroll—presented Don Jackson, Messiah's director, with an Honorary Kentucky Colonel award for the group as a "token of appreciation from all concerned."

The two local performances (at Eddyville and LaGrange) were only a small part of the 16 performances scheduled during the group's 10 day tour of prisons in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois and Oklahoma.

The tour, which was put on at a cost of \$14,000, was made possible through various fund raising projects organized by the choir members. The sound system which they used was donated by George Cason, an owner of a sound equipment store in the choir's home town of Duncanville. Cason accompanied the group, at his own expense, and donated his time to operate the equipment during the tour.



MESSIAH'S REVIEW, a 65 member youth choir from Duncanville, Texas, performed at the LaGrange Reformatory on

June 15 as part of their tour to prisons in five states. The group had sung at the Eddyville Penitentiary earlier in the month. (Photo by Larry Lenston)

From The Inside Looking Out

Maybe it was because of the many changes which had taken place within the state Bureau of Corrections. Or, perhaps it was because this was the last prison press tour. Whatever the reason, more news representatives attended this,

the third annual prison press tour, than any other.

Nearly 80 newsmen and women took part in the June 17-18 tour of four Kentucky correctional institutions. They came to see the change, or lack of change; to question both

inmate and staff; and to report what they saw to their readers and listeners so they might better understand what is happening inside their prisons.

It was a difficult assignment; to grasp the essence of prison life and to understand the

complexities of the correctional process in that brief two day period. But they tried, and with varying degrees of success, and from every angle imaginable, they told the stories of the men and women in Kentucky prisons.

There is yet one more story

to be told, a story written from the inmate's vantage point by reporters for the Kentucky Inter-Prison Press.

The articles which appear on these two pages reflect their thoughts about Kentucky's third and final press tour.

EDDYVILLE...

"Seeing The Same Old Faces"

By Jack Henry

EDDYVILLE—After three years of investigations, charges, counter-charges and accusations; all of which must be accredited to the news media's repeated attacks upon the prison system, here they were at the state penitentiary to see the results.

On June 16, eight convicts were called to the office of Associate Superintendent L. T. Brown and informed that they were elected to serve as tour guides for this year's press tour. It was stressed that there were no "tame inmates" among them, that there was nothing to hide, no facade was to be put up for the eyes of the press and that we could show or tell them anything we desired.

With perhaps two exceptions this proved to be the case as far as this writer knows. One of the two exceptions was in the form of a convict who was kept out of the yard until after 10:00 p.m. the night before the tour as he made an urged effort to make the prison pretty for the oncoming prying eyes of the press. The other incident came when a guard tried hard not to let me take the group I was with to see the old showers that are horribly in need of repair and have but four working shower heads for some five to six-hundred men. Battle as he did, I must admit that the guard finally relented and allowed me to take my group to the showers where my point was proven.

At the outset of the tour we were taken to the industrial area of the institution where we met the 80-plus members of the tri-state media, along with some 40 guards who served as guides/security for the visitors.

They filed through the industrial gate at the rear of the penitentiary, asking of—and to see—the changes they had been reporting about Kentucky's maximum security prison at Eddyville.

The visiting media representatives did get to see virtually all of the institution as promised, and little if anything was hidden from them.

We first took them to the vocational school, the

showplace of the institution, where they saw the students in the process of learning a trade, and were amazed to learn that of the nearly 1200 prisoners only 48 have earned certificates from the trade school over the past two years.

They saw the garment and furniture factories, also out in the industrial complex, and watched the men as they made clothes and furniture for the various state government agencies.

Next, it was inside the walls to have a look at the inmate barber shop, radio and T.V. repair shop, news office, and the leather shop; a thriving business for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

From there the media made their way to the hospital, where they found a very modern and well attended facility, at the very able hands of Dr. Larry Bogart. Then off to the academic school to learn of the curriculum that embraces most of the men who want to learn; from the totally illiterate to those aspiring toward a college education.

The cannery came next, and they saw it set up waiting for the food to start coming in from the prison farm, where the news media themselves had just been prior to coming behind "the walls."

Then came the shower incident previously described, and the Lieutenant would have it no other way but to then take our group to the new showers and let the press see the better facilities used by those who do not own their own clothing.

This was followed by a string of quick stops at the "shops" where the men can go in or out of the weather, play pool and ping pong, watch T.V., and in the newest of these areas, go into the legal office that houses a hardly adequate shelf of law books.

A visit to the chapel followed. A Muslim service was in progress with an outside Muslim speaking to the followers at Eddyville. Then on to the mess hall where the media found the not quite adequate food.

The cell houses were next on the tour list. First, a visit to

number three cell house used for punishment and detention, as a ward for mental patients and as the new abode for the condemned prisoners and their nemesis; the electric chair.

The last leg of the journey took us into the other cell houses, numbers one and two in their dungeon like splendor, having been built in 1884, and the newer four and five cell houses. The press was astonished to learn that many of the convicts far prefer the older cells as they offer almost the only privacy and quiet within the institution.

Having seen the tired old grey prison from the business end, they left into the administration building where we convict guides were not allowed to go. Thus ended our tour with the visitors from the media.

It was not the end for them however. After their tour of the yard they were allowed to visit/interview any convict they might choose. The interview took place in both the visiting area in cell house four and on the recreation field in back of the prison where we are allowed picnic visits with friends.

Throughout the tour the media commented that the penitentiary was unchanged from last year. They spoke of seeing the same old faces with pain showing on them, of the idleness of the men within Eddyville and of the conditions that would be unbearable to them.

Contrary to their own coverage before this tour, they found Kentucky State Penitentiary to be unchanged even after the media led attack had brought about the resignation of Commissioner Charles Holmes and Eddyville Warden Henry Cowan.

Is it possible? Are they victims of their own disseminations? Did they really believe the vast changes they had been writing and broadcasting of ever since the fall of Holmes and Cowan?

Don't they know it takes years, huge sums of money, plus a lot of caring people to make a change in a system that does not work?



PERSONAL INTERVIEWS with inmates were set up upon request by the news media. Some of the interviews at the Kentucky State Penitentiary were conducted in the visiting area of cell house four.

BLACKBURN...

"Their Numbers Had Dwindled"

By Donald Moore

LEXINGTON—By the time the members of the press arrived at the Blackburn Correctional Complex, late on the second day of the press tour, their numbers had dwindled from nearly eighty, at the penitentiary, to only five.

All of the media representatives had been inside at least one of the state's correctional institutions before and were aware of the conditions that exist. And, after their tour of Blackburn, they were in total agreement that more minimum security institutions of this type are

needed.

Blackburn was a refreshing experience for the press that had visited Eddyville and LaGrange. The differences between the institutions are apparent, and it is meant to be that way. Hopefully though, the press and the public realize that Blackburn is not a country club. The men who are assigned to this complex have to work hard and show that they are responsible to get here and must continue to work hard in order to stay here.

Regardless of what the news media says about Blackburn, it is still a prison, even though it is the best Kentucky has to offer.

PEWEE VALLEY... "Many Different Feelings"

By Gloria Nunally

PEWEE VALLEY—For the third year in a row the news media, some 45-50, toured the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women.

The June 18 tour began at 9:30 a.m., in the recreational hall of the women's facility, where the press were matched with resident and staff tour guides, before beginning their journey throughout all parts of the institution.

There were many different feelings about the press tour. Many of the residents felt that there should be no advance warning of the tour so there could be no time for special preparations. The residents felt the newsmen and women should see the institution as it is everyday.

On the positive side, some of the women felt that the tour

enabled the press to see the different programs that are available, and gave them a chance to talk personally with the women and find out what the resident population feels needs to be done.

All of the women were free to answer any questions, and were not told what to discuss or what not to discuss. The majority of the press talked freely with the women, asking questions pertaining to their crimes, and activities at the institution.

Some of the residents commented that the press has been here before but that we haven't seen any positive changes because of their tours.

The women in the cell block had a very negative attitude about the tour as it made them feel like they were being looked at like animals in cages. Routing the press through the

cell block area does point out that even the worst parts of the institution were open for news media inspection.

Quite a few of the residents felt that the tour was just a formality and that the press saw exactly what they expected to see.

Several of the women felt that the press thought we had it far too easy here, but hoped they were able to convey to them an idea of the loneliness and separation we feel is a major part of institutional living.

The tour ended at 11:30 a.m., at the honor cottage with Mrs. Kassulke answering questions at a press conference.

This will be the last formal press tour and we hope that the institution and residents will benefit from the knowledge that was gained by the media and the public.



TALKING WITH NEWSWOMEN Janet Farmer of radio station WKY, Frankfort, is Ferdonia Martin.



A VIEW THROUGH THE FENCE at the Kentucky State Reformatory shows Jimmy Washington talking with announcer Ralph Dix of radio station WAKY, Louisville. (Photo by Larry Lenston)



GETTING THE RIGHT ANGLE is Courier-Journal, Louisville Times photographer Paul Schumman as his subject, reformatory resident David Warnell, continues to play his guitar.

LAGRANGE...

"Looking For Sensationalism"

By Alfred Jones

LAGRANGE—For the third year in a row the news media has made a tour of the penal institutions in Kentucky, and again the resulting stories have proven ineffective in telling the public about the plight of the condemned men and women in state prisons. The media was still looking for that story of sensationalism, that story which could win them a Pulitzer Prize.

There were those who were aware of the overcrowded conditions at LaGrange, Eddyville and Pewee Valley, but nothing seemed to attract their attention like the more sensational, brutal aspects of inmate life.

As far as asking questions of

their resident guides or other inmates on the yard, few reporters did. There was one reporter who had read my rebuff of last year's tour and wanted to know why I had criticized the media's efforts.

I told her that the visiting newsmen and women had reported of fine academic and vocational programs that went along with the treatment programs in the institutions, but they had failed to tell the community about another important phase of an inmate's life. They had failed to write about an inmate's return to society and how they are rejected, given only the low paying jobs and given little, if any, help when it is most needed. They failed to report about communities screaming

for stiffer sentences for crimes while at the same time rejecting the thought of a halfway house being established in their section of town; often an area where many parolees come from.

To summarize, and make a short story shorter, the residents of the penal institutions of Kentucky can't look for help from the majority of the news media because the only headlines they write about prisons deal with riots, murders, suicides and homosexual attacks.

And now, since these attention getting acts are down to a minimum, it appears that the media's interest is turning to the rising crime rate and what the Bureau of Corrections is doing to rehabilitate those "terrible criminals."



ASKING A QUESTION of reformatory resident Vernon David, is a news representative from Lexington radio station WVLK.

7th Step Shows 5.3% Rate Of Recidivism

LOUISVILLE—According to statistics provided by the 7th Step Foundation of Kentucky, the return rate for ex-offenders released from Kentucky correctional institutions is only 5.3 per cent for those who were involved in 7th Step programs while incarcerated.

The statistics cover a 23 month period beginning at the program's inception, July 1974 and ending in June of this year. During that period 190 7th Step participants were released from prison and only 10 have since been re-incarcerated. These figures do not include five participants who have, or are believed to have, absconded from parole supervision.

The 7th Step Foundation is run by inmates and ex-offenders and is designed to

bring about a positive attitude change on the part of its members through a daily application of the 7th Step philosophy.

The Kentucky chapter of the national organization is headquartered in Louisville where its Executive Director, Bill West, and his staff provide day-to-day direction for the institutional chapters and counseling for any ex-offender who needs help.

The 7th Step Foundation has established chapters at four institutions in Kentucky: the Kentucky State Reformatory, the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, Blackburn Correctional Complex, and, the newest chapter at the Federal Correctional Institution in Lexington.

The Tikis Tune-Up And Turn On At KSP

By Thomas Bond

EDDYVILLE—The Tikis, a rock group from Nashville, Tennessee, made their second appearance at the state penitentiary on June 10 and treated the resident population to a musical show that could be enjoyed by all.

The afternoon program was held on the back lot and started with numbers from the resident's Music Appreciation Club. Three inmate bands, "The Rock Group," "The Internationals" and "The Jive Five" brought everyone to their feet in a standing ovation for their talented performances.

The second half of the show was highlighted by the feature

group, "The Tikis." They came to entertain and they did just that by offering a practiced performance and a tasteful variety of rock music.

The Tikis wasted no time as they tuned up and got down. Lead vocalist and guitarist Steve Harp put it all together with Clyde Masters on bass, Hayes Harper on trombone and harmonica, Doug Anders on sax and Tim Smith on drums as the group smoothly rolled out tunes with the precision of heartbeats.

With songs such as "Shaft", "Along Came Jones" and "The Hustle" The Tikis put entertained smiles on the faces of many and won themselves a grateful place in the hearts of those who were in attendance.



A CREATIVE IMAGINATION, along with 40 hours of work, over a five week period has enabled Earl Cantrell to create this replica of a 1924 Oakland two door sedan. Cantrell's model was completely handmade without aid of a design and only a photograph to go by. The 33 year old native of Paintsville, Kentucky has had only four years of formal education, but has been enrolled in the reformatory's auto body shop for the past 15 months.

Materials used in the production were: 1/16 gauge sheet metal, fiberglass auto filler and welding rods for the spokes in the wheels. Cantrell's next project; a 1926 Pontiac. (Photo by Larry Lenston)

Good Turnout At KCIW's Second Annual Revival

By Gloria Nunally

PEWEE VALLEY—Approximately 70 women attended the annual revival held June 11-13 in the recreation hall at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women.

The revival began on Friday night with Reverend Coleman and his church choir, of The First Baptist Church of Jeffersontown, rendering services. The guest speaker for the evening was Reverend Ron Holder.

On the second day of the revival the Reverend Wayne White, LaGrange Church of God, was the guest speaker. Also in attendance was a regular visitor to the women's institution, Reverend Hardy Lowry.

Closing the revival on Sunday night were the Reverend Ward, members of the Neighborhood Baptist Church along with the gospel singing group, The Phillippians.

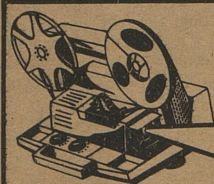
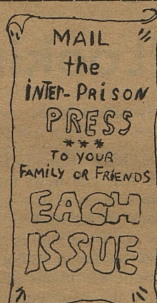
Also participating in the second annual revival was a Pentecostal religious group, The Abundance of Joy with Frank and Sharon Salinger; Dr. Harman, a guest speaker from Louisville; and KCIW's Church Choir which contributed musical inspiration during the services.

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