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KSR ACTION Celebrates Reorganization Efforts With Outside Speakers

By James R. Knodel

LA GRANGE—For the previous five months, the Action Therapeutic Program has been under stages of renovation. The project entailed putting a democratic policy into effect, rewriting the by-laws, and finalizing a complete overhaul of the club room in Dormitory 2.

To celebrate the completion, Mr. John Gibson, of Unity

Temple in Louisville, and Mr. Bill King of Volunteers in Corrections were invited to come and give lectures about their respective organizations.

The meeting to christen the new Club Room was opened with prayer by Stanley Briggs, program chaplain, and readings by four of the club members on the subject "To More Progressive Thinking." King was then presented to the club and explained the purpose of Volunteers in Corrections. He said that Volunteers in Corrections is a group of men and women across the nation who visit inmates in correctional institutions. He also said that anyone desiring a visit by one of these volunteers should contact him.

John Gibson, of Unity Temple, was the next speaker. He talked of some of his past experiences and how they helped his psychological makeup and made him the person he is today. Mr. Gibson then talked of Unity Temple and the philosophies it is based on. He stated that the members of Unity Temple believe in the "Religion of Positive Thinking." This method deals with individuals thinking in a progressive and positive manner, and by these actions being ultimately drawn towards God.

Gibson has been with the Unity Temple organization for approximately six years, talking before members of the Temple. This was his first experience in a prison, talking in front of a strange group.

After two hours of friendly talk, lectures and interjected humor, the meeting was closed by prayer from Charles McDonald and the reciting of the Club Motto by each of the members.



Members of the Action Therapeutic Program listen closely as John Gibson talks of his experiences with Unity Temple. Gibson was a guest speaker at the club's celebration upon completion of the club's renovation. (Photo by Chris Jackson)

EKCDC Men Form Ball Team, Join League

By Don Satterly

HIDDEN VALLEY— The warm weather days have brought a new outlook for the residents at the Eastern Kentucky Career Development Center. The long, hard process of moving the facility from Frenchburg to Hidden Valley at Clay City had its rewards, as the "Village Idiots" softball team played its third game in the Church League sponsored by the Powell County Ministerial Association.

Reverend Brewer, pastor of the Powell Valley Church and Institutional Chaplain, has gone all out to plan recreation activities for the residents. Also, Superintendent Mike Martin has not only enjoyed, but played on the team. Coach Charlie Campbell seems to believe that sooner or later the team will win one of the multiple games they will be playing. Their next game is between the Powell Valley Village Idiots and "Bad Brad" and the Saints.

Academic Success At Blackburn Evidenced At Commencement

FRANKFORT— Nineteen men, residents at Blackburn Correctional Complex (BCC), received their G.E.D. certificates in commencement exercises held there June 15.

In addition to those receiving G.E.D. certificates, eight men were recognized for successful completion of vocational training and another five were honored for completion of four grade levels in a six-month-or-less time period.

Both class Valedictorian Willard Northern and Salutatorian Gerald Morris addressed the group prior to the commencement address.

Sam Harris, a representative of the National Alliance of Business, delivered the commencement address.

"You represent people coming to grips with the

problem of lack of education and lack of skills," he told graduates.

Harris, an ex-offender, explained that he received both his high school and college degrees while in prison.

He also offered the group suggestions in dealing with the problem of finding a job.

"On the matter of your criminal record, don't wear it like a badge but deal with it cleanly, openly and honestly—then put it behind you," he advised.

Corrections Commissioner David Bland, who presented the diplomas, also addressed the group.

"Education will not open every door but without it, there are a lot of doors that will never open," he said.

Citing his commitment to

education in the corrections system, Bland said, "I will spend every dollar I can get my hands on to give you a chance for an academic education, an opportunity to learn a trade and a forum by which you can learn to relate to one another and other people productively."

According to Judy Irvin, an instructor in the BCC academic school, 44 men have received their G.E.D. certificates during the past year.

Ms. Irvin, Byron Davis, a BCC resident, and the Blackburn Choir each presented musical performances as part of the evening's program.

A reception and dance followed the commencement exercises.

A Thought To Ponder.....

What Constitutes A Superintendent?

For those of you who haven't been keeping track, the last year has seen a shuffling of superintendents among institutions closely resembling a game of musical chairs. Dewey Sowders is now at the reformatory, following Harold Black's retirement. Bill Seabold is running Blackburn, while Lloyd Fletcher has taken over Bell County. Gary Dennis left Boone County for a job at the central office. Jim Lenhoff is now superintendent for the women's minimum security facility. And, finally, Mike O'Dea is temporarily running the Frankfort Center, after Bill Dotson's resignation last month.

While the comings and goings of superintendents may seem trivial at first glance, they give rise to some thoughts on the nature of superintendents in general. They are worth exploring, for no single personality so affects the men at a given institution as the superintendent.

Perhaps the most important quality necessary in a good superintendent is a keen sense of fairness. If a superintendent cannot look beyond the common labels (inmate, guard, caseworker) to the issues at stake, he quickly loses not only any cooperation from the men under his control, but also their respect. When inmates are always wrong by virtue of their being inmates, and guards are always right because they are guards, the superintendent loses credibility quickly. If he cannot look at the issues and deal fairly in his capacity as arbitrator, he creates hostility, animosity, and general ill-will toward himself and his staff.

A second important quality in good superintendents is their integrity. When all is

said and done, the institution is their show. They run it. They are backed by the bureau and the force of law. They are playing with a deck carefully stacked in their favor. Why, then, should it be necessary for one to deal from the bottom? He should not have to resort to lies, trickery or deceit. If he does, a communications gap develops which is impossible to bridge. Most men will talk often to someone who tells them the truth. They will not talk to someone who says one thing to their face and does another behind their back.

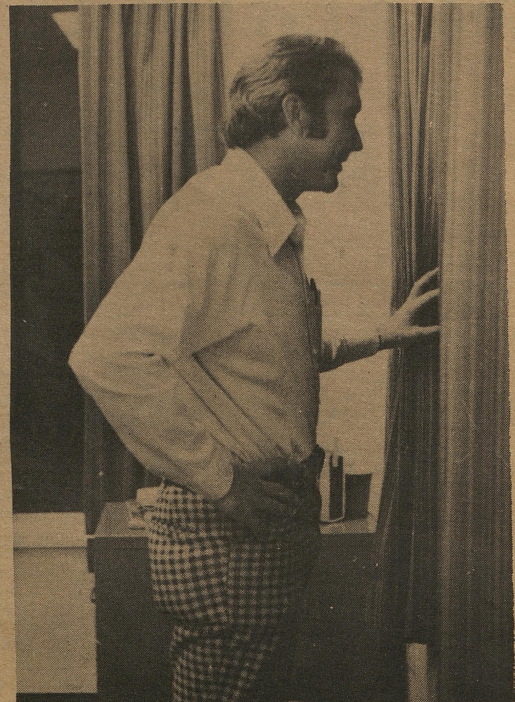
Strength of character is a third quality to be admired in a superintendent. Superintendents have almost unlimited power and authority. Strong personalities exercise that power sparingly, always aware of the human consequences of any administrative action. They may disagree with you and overwhelm you with the force of their personality, but they will do it openly. The weak personality uses his power as a crutch, and abuses it. He sneaks into the Captain's Office and has you locked up for institutional control, because he lacks the forcefulness to tell you to your face to stop whatever he dislikes.

Compassion, patience, and tolerance are also virtues which contribute to a better atmosphere in an institution. Whether he is aware of it or not, the superintendent tends to set an example—good or bad—for the rest of his staff. If he is known as a straight shooter, most of the staff will try to emulate him. If he is known and recognized as a snake, most of the staff will

slither around the institution. The atmosphere at the institution will be determined largely by the attitudes and actions of the staff. The attitudes and actions of the superintendent set the example.

One fact is certain: Superintendents are human. They may not, by nature, possess some of the virtues necessary to be a good superintendent. But the ones they lack by nature can be cultivated. The results are understanding and legitimate communication, if not harmony, within an institution.

The Kentucky Inter-Prison Press has, in the past, maintained a policy against emphasizing personnel changes within the bureau. While our intentions are not to change the policy, the recent resignation of John W. Dotson as Superintendent of the Frankfort Career Development Center deserves mention for Dotson was a man who cultivated these virtues which were mentioned. His resignation is regrettable.



John W. Dotson, former superintendent at the Frankfort Career Development Center, strikes a typical pose at his office window. [Photo by Darryl Stewart]

Letters To The Editor

Larry made parole the first time he entered the institution, after serving 11 months on three years. He felt he made parole because of his group participation.

James made parole after serving seven months on a one year sentence. He said he didn't know how he made it.

Lee was granted parole after serving 16 months on a 10 year sentence. He had eight incident reports, and entered segregation involuntarily with each report. He wasn't in school or group counseling, took no vocational training, joined no club, and had no idea why he was granted parole. Could this be his reason for being a repeating offender?

Bob, who was recently paroled after serving five months on a two year sentence, felt he was granted parole because the institution is overcrowded.

After these examples, I'm unaware of any set criteria for being granted parole. If you're unaware also, and would like to know the criteria (if there are any), you can write to Mr. Burnett Napier, Chairman of the parole board. I'm sure Mr. Napier can give you or me the answer to the very important

question of how to make parole.

I've also found mixed opinions as to just what parole is. There are three general descriptions: A gift, a reward, and a privilege.

My conception of "gift" is a present to family, friend or lover; to give a very special something. If parole is indeed a gift, may I have mine now, please? I have a life to build.

I was naive enough to accept the description of parole as a reward. "When you get down there, keep yourself clean and do what they ask. You'll get out the first time you see the parole board," my lawyer said. Three years later, I'm not so inclined to accept his words as fact. If parole is a reward, what must I do? What services may I render for the reward?

Then, there is a small minority I'm considering joining that believes parole is a privilege. I consulted Webster's New World Dictionary, and found that a privilege is "a right or immunity granted as an advantage or favor." If parole is a privilege, how may I acquire it?

Charles Bishop

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Groundbreaking Held For LaGrange Expansion

LA GRANGE—Ground was broken on June 30 for a new medium security institution and forensic, psychiatric hospital at the Kentucky State Reformatory.

The \$19.5 million expansion project will include a 96-bed psychiatric hospital and a 288-bed medium security correctional facility. The money for the expansion project was

appropriated by the 1972 and 1974 Kentucky General Assemblies.

Justice Secretary John L. Smith said the project helps fill a void in the Kentucky corrections picture. "There is a significant segment of our inmate population in need of psychiatric care," Smith said. "Prior to this time, we have been unable to meet that demand with our existing facilities. The new psychiatric hospital will help us fill that void."

Smith also said the new medium security institution is being built with the future needs of the Bureau of Corrections in mind. "Corrections planning statistics show that our greatest housing need in the future will come in the area of medium security. Currently, the reformatory is the system's sole medium security institution for male offenders.

"The reformatory, as well as many of our other correctional institutions, is now operating above its housing capacity. This new facility will help ease the strain in our medium security housing," Smith said.

Gov. Julian Carroll has called the expansion project "fiscally responsible." He said, "Based on the funds available, it was determined that it would be financially sound to plan for the construction of the psychiatric hospital and the additional medium security facility at the same time and place. And, since the state already owns the land selected as the site for the facility, more of the allocated funds can be used for the facility itself."

Corrections Commissioner David Bland said the new medium security facility will have its own superintendent

and staff, and the hospital will be a free-standing facility on the site of the new medium security facility.

The hospital will be a licensed facility meeting both state and federal standards and codes. It will have its own administrator, as well as its own psychiatric, medical and correctional staff," Bland said.

He said the psychiatric hospital will allow the Bureau of Corrections to deal with its own inmates in need of evaluation and treatment, emphasizing that the facility will be available to inmates from each of the Commonwealth's 11 existing institutions.

The new hospital will consist of five single-story units—a 13-bed unit for female offenders, an eight-bed infirmary and three 25-bed units for male patients.

EKCDC Fire Claims Life, Injures Several Others

FRANKFORT—An early morning fire at the Eastern Kentucky Career Development Center resulted in the death of one man and injury to 10 others on June 28. The men were part of an inmate work crew performing renovation at the institution.

According to the State Fire Marshal's Office, the fatal fire occurred when gasoline being used as a cleaning agent ignited. Sixty percent of the two-story masonry housing unit undergoing renovation was either destroyed or damaged by the fire.

Associate Superintendent John Sowders said the fire occurred about 10:00 a.m., and was brought under control in approximately one and a half hours. Fire Marshal Bob Estep explained that gasoline was being used to clean glue and other residue from a concrete floor of the structure.

"The flash occurred when fumes from the gasoline were ignited by the motor of a floor buffer," Estep said.

Sowders said the blaze was contained in the housing unit.

Estep said the cause of the fire was determined after an investigation conducted by four members of the Hazardous Materials Section of the Fire Marshal's Office. The investigation included examination of physical evidence at the scene and interviews.

Three men were in the room where the flash occurred, and one was immediately outside the room. The operator of the buffer, Gerald Byrd, was killed, while three of the injured remain hospitalized with second degree burns. Sowders also said the injured men were taken to a Winchester hospital with injuries ranging from burns to smoke inhalation suffered while fighting the fire.

According to Sowders the facility was being readied for occupancy in the fall. Prior to the opening, the renovation work being performed was aimed at bringing the facility into line with existing fire codes and standards.

Sowders said the work, closely coordinated with the

state fire marshal's office, included installing metal roof decking, removing all flammable wood materials and redesigning exit doors. He said 25 men were assigned to the facility to accomplish the renovation. However, he pointed out that these men were not housed in the 64-room unit, but in temporary, fire marshal-approved living quarters.

Perkins Outlines Drug And Alcohol Programs Available To Reformatory Residents

By James R. Knodel

LA GRANGE—On June 19, the Action Therapeutic Program invited Mr. Alfred Perkins, of the River Region Comprehensive Care Center in Louisville, to tell what is involved in the drug and alcohol programs offered to the inmate population at the reformatory.

Perkins, a graduate of the University of Louisville in 1977 with a masters degree in sociology and social work, has been working with River Region for approximately seven months, six of which have been with the inmate population at the reformatory. He is the father of two, and has had experience working with Shelter House, a branch of the UMCA in Louisville, which deals with juvenile problems.

The sessions offered the inmate population deal with drug and alcohol therapy and are offered every Wednesday and Thursday to anyone interested in help along these lines. Also discussed in these sessions are the services available to the inmate upon his release, such as psychiatry, hypnotherapy, social services and a medication dispensing facility.

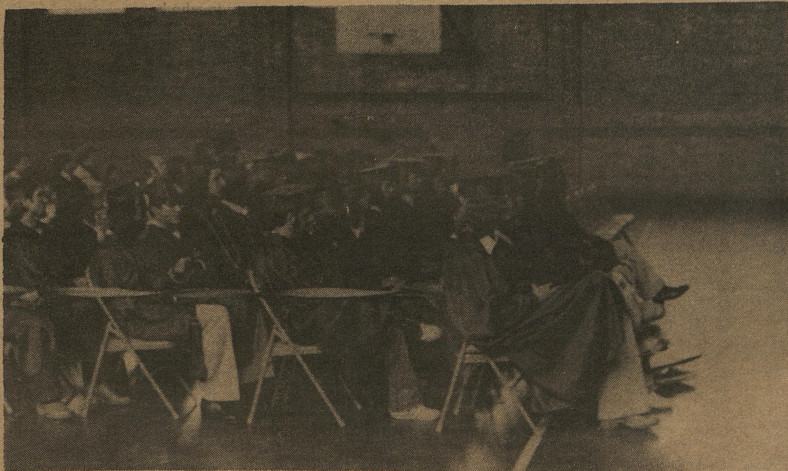
Perkins gave an outline of the River Region programs available, emphasizing the need for continued therapy and counseling upon the release of the inmate from the

institution.

He went on to stress that the programs offered on the yard delve further than just drug and alcohol therapy. The sociologists working with the programs try to instill determination in the achieving of individual goals by the inmate and to point out weaknesses in their character and possible solutions.

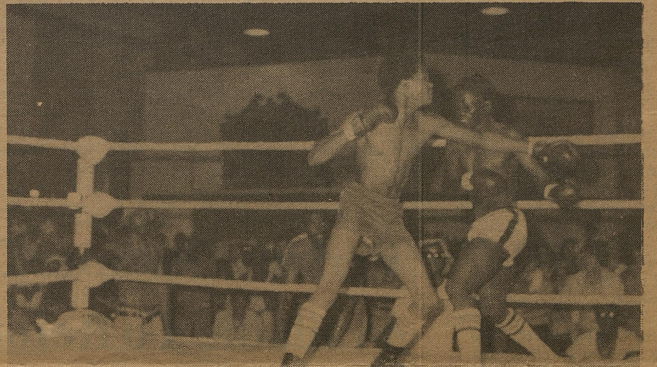
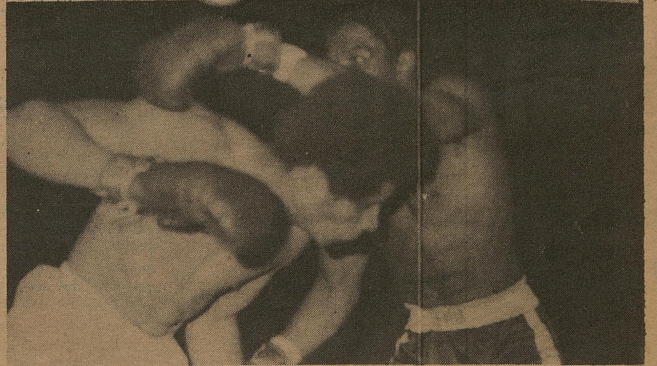
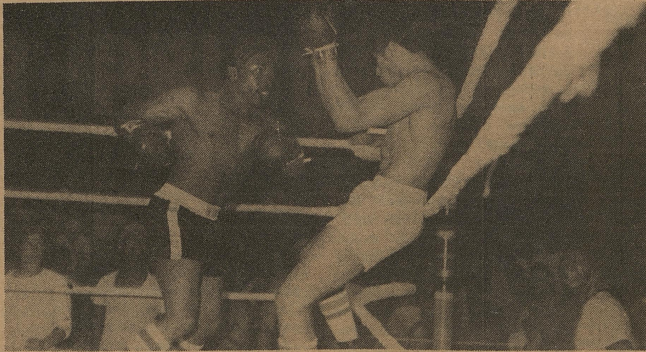
The point was brought up that counseling, both individual and group, is needed not for the sake of parole but to solve the problems that put the individual in here. They should be stressed more upon entry to the institution, so that one can prepare for the eventuality of release. This should be uppermost in the inmate's mind.

A question and answer period followed, in which the members of the club enthusiastically participated with an emphasis on the desire to seek added therapy upon release. The enthusiasm for the question and answer period was so great that the group carried the talk beyond the allotted time given by the administration.



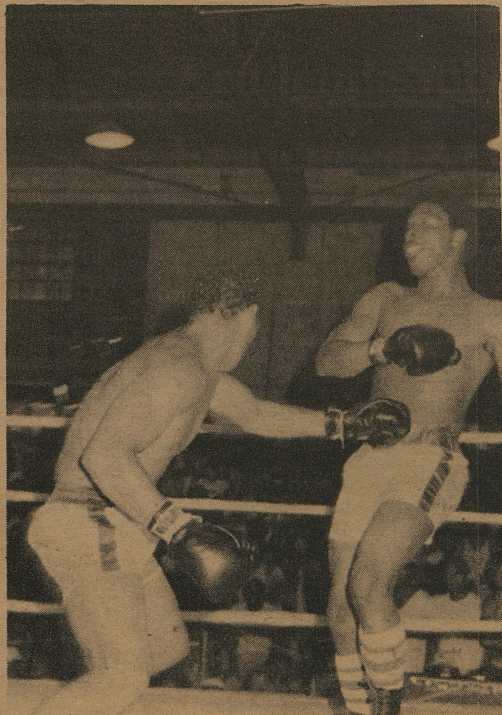
While being praised for their academic accomplishments, these Blackburn residents, dressed in caps and gowns, await the portion of the commencement exercises when they will receive their certificates.

Fight Night At Kentucky State Reformatory



Look closely. These shots of the Memorial Day Fight Night at the reformatory may be the last you'll ever see. The administration has stopped the fight program until they can arrange to have a doctor at ringside.

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