

Humanities Taught

Poor Conditions

Prison education programs are not likely to rehabilitate prison inmates, researchers at The Pennsylvania State University contend.

Although endorsed by many prominent figures in the American correctional system, they can accomplish almost nothing within the traditional prison environment, according to Dr. Morgan V. Lewis, senior research associate in the Institute for Research on Human Resources.

"Neither expenditures of large sums of money for prison education nor substantial changes in the programs themselves will bring about the type of positive personal growth assumed under the term 'rehabilitation,'" Dr. Lewis warns.

He has reached his conclusions after conducting a four-year study of an experimental educational program at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill, a prison which confines 15-21 year old male offenders. Using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Dr. Lewis designed a program to expose young inmates to the humanities in hopes that it would help them achieve a sense of personal identity and develop more socially approved values.

Despite the fact that 75 per cent of the inmates reported feeling positive opinions about the program, follow-up interviews over a three-year period showed that almost one-third of those released were returned to prison. Of those still in society, almost one-third were unemployed at each interview, and many who held jobs expressed dissatisfaction with them.

Inmates who participated in the humanities program were in-

duced to musical instruments, encouraged to write, and to participate in original plays.

Extensive psychological testing, however, revealed no significant differences between them and two control groups of inmates who did not join the program in their attitudes toward humanities after release. They were no more likely to read books, write essays or poems, or attend concerts and plays.

Dr. Lewis believes that both experimental and traditional prison education programs fail to influence inmates because of the overwhelming effect of the prison environment.

"Since the primary function of most prisons is not to rehabilitate but to confine inmates, methods of social control based on coercion are usually adopted," he says, "and inmates tend to be reduced to the status of non-persons. As long as a prison is a prison, that is, as long as it confines inmates, it seems doubtful that honest rehabilitation is possible."

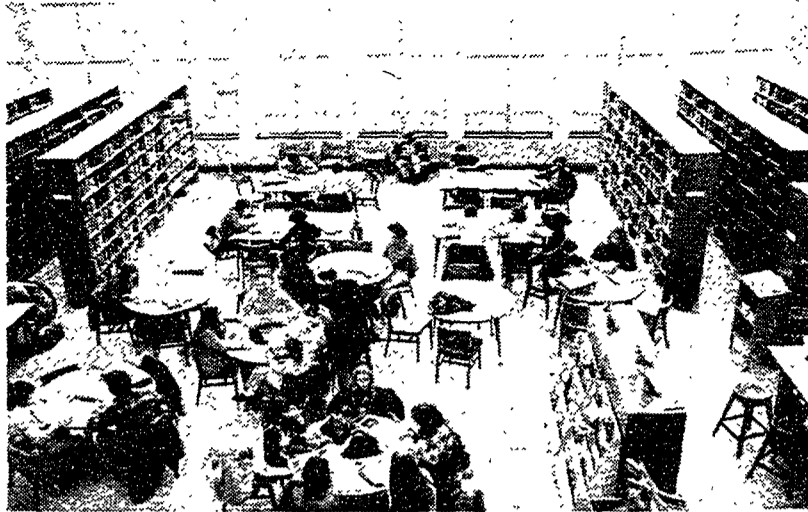
Accordingly, the Penn State researcher suggests that the functions of punishment and treatment should be separated into distinct settings where they could be more effectively accomplished.

"Even though educational programs are unlikely to rehabilitate inmates, it does not

follow that they should be discontinued," he says.

"They can contribute a break in the stifling routine of prison life and open new horizons for some inmates. The humanities, in particular, may give some prisoners new perspectives and make them more responsive and aware of the realities of their own lives."

The final report on the project, "Prison Education and Rehabilitation: Illusion or Reality?" has been published by the Institute for Research on Human Resources.



The Saturday library hours have been a success so far; if attendance does not decline then the library hours should become a permanent fixture.

Pick Your Kid's Sex

There's been a lot of news in the newspapers the past few weeks about research involving pre-ordained sex control in human beings. Parents have been told that they might, in the near future, be able to choose the sex of their offspring.

But an internationally known scientist at the Pennsylvania State University cautions that we shouldn't be overly optimistic about such a monumental breakthrough.

Dr. John O. Almquist, professor of dairy physiology and a recognized expert on the breeding of farm animals through

artificial insemination, warns that society might not be ready to handle such "power."

And he points out that for decades the public has been alerted by various members of the scientific community to the inevitability of pre-ordained sex control. Dr. Almquist says that he has seen various experiments in the area, published as "sure fire" successes, "go just so far" before reaching less-than-startling conclusions.

Recently, there has been much written, both in scientific and lay publications, about a technique developed in Berlin which

allegedly can greatly increase the likelihood that parents wanting to produce a son can do just that.

This method, very basically, involves screening sperm from human semen that would produce females. The "left-over" sperm would then be used in artificial insemination processes to produce male offspring.

Dr. Almquist emphasizes, though, that even when the sperm that produces males and females is separated, a tremendous achievement in itself, the odds against successful completion are great. Thus, he is wary of many of the early statistical reports stemming from such research. He feels that early reports of marked successes often later "balance out" statistically, showing that the "breakthrough" wasn't so mind-boggling after all.

Dr. Almquist is quick to point out that successful applications of sex control techniques to farm animals would be of tremendous economic importance if accompanied by no harmful effects on fertility.

"But it is one thing to work for sex control methods that can produce a higher proportion of heifers for dairy farmers and steers for cattlemen and another thing to apply this knowledge to human life," he says, "I'm not so sure I want to be associated with that part of it."

Benefits For Vets

The Veterans Outreach Office. What can it do for the Penn State University student veteran and what can it do for the veteran who is considering utilization of his "G.I. Bill" benefits?

First of all, it contacts by direct mail all University Park Veterans in order to notify them of any information important to their academic careers. Commonwealth campus veterans will be notified through the responsible individual at their campus.

Secondly, a "Problem Center" on each Commonwealth campus is capable of providing the same level of assistance as provided at University Park. In addition, within the limits of the budget and the size of the veteran

population, provision of services and programs equal to those at University Park at each Commonwealth Campus.

Thirdly, there is admissions counseling and admission (with final approval of the Director of Admissions) of all veterans to all Penn State campuses.

There is also a simplified procedure for provision of qualified veteran tutors for those who need them. (Paid for them by V.A.).

Also offered is financial aid in the form of:

A. Tuition deferment for the first two terms at PSU or when G.I. Bill checks are mistakenly halted or late.

B. Veterans' 90 day interest

free emergency loan for \$250 or as much as \$500 upon special recommendation of the Veterans Counselor.

C. PHEAA veterans grant. Virtually all undergraduate veterans can qualify for cost of tuition.

D. Veterans financial aid counselor, Mr. Zell, who handles all veterans applications for such aid as: College Work-Study, National Defense Loans, PHEAA Loans, and Basic Opportunity Grants.

Other benefits that this office serves are a learning support center to strengthen basic academic skills and a PREP Program to prepare those who would not otherwise be able to qualify for entrance into Penn State.

Certification of attendance and change of marital status, address, etc., and peer and professional counseling designed to assist in solving virtually any student veterans problems including any dealing with the V.A. (such as late checks), are two other benefits offered.

Lastly, a statewide Outreach Program is designed to encourage all veterans to utilize their V.A. education benefits and to find ways of doing so, and also to find part-time job placement.

Nickel Movies Return in Perry

All can laugh and enjoy the great names of comedy and cartoons in Perry Dorm's lobby for several hours Friday night, February 8. The festival will begin at 11 p.m. and hosts the funniest from Hollywood: the Marx Brothers, W.C. Fields and the Three Stooges, just to name a few. The cartoons will include Roadrunner, Speedy Gonzalos and more. Imagine a festival such as this for only a nickel donation. There'll also be subs, potato chips and pop on sale to cure your munchies.

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State Appoints Director

Dr. Glenn G. Carter has been appointed director of secondary school relations at The Pennsylvania State University.

He has been assistant director for continuing education at the

Admission Up to 24059

Applications for admission to The Pennsylvania State University for the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Terms of 1974 are running ahead of those of a year ago.

University officials reported to the Board of Trustees as of January 4, 24,059 applications for admission had been received as compared to 22,944 on the same date in 1973.

There were 20,964 for admission as baccalaureate degree students, 1,051 for the associate degree programs, 1,967 for admission with advanced standing, and 77 for extended degree programs, such as the two-year letters, arts and sciences program.

Admission goals for the four terms in 1974 are 10,425 for baccalaureate programs, 1,775 for associate degree programs, and 1,950 for students with advanced standing. Admissions at the Capitol campus at Middletown and at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center are not included in the figures reported at the Trustee meeting.

Altoona Campus of the University and in his role will report to Dr. Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs.

The office of Secondary School Relations was established by the Board of Trustees of the University to develop a formal program for making information on educational opportunities at the University more readily available to prospective students.

A long range program to be conducted on a system-wide basis, the plan is designed to improve the understanding of prospective students, guidance counselors and parents regarding policies and procedures related to undergraduate admissions.

The office also will serve as an open channel of communication between the University and secondary schools.

Dr. Carter, a native of Washington, Pa., received his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Penn State as

well as his doctor of education degree in higher education administration.

He joined the Penn State Agricultural Extension Service in Tioga County and later served as executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives. He was executive vice president and general manager of Eastern Dehydrating Co., Lexington, N.C., before joining the University's Continuing Education Division at the McKeesport Campus.

He moved to the Altoona Campus as area representative and in 1966 was named assistant director of continuing education.

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