



Dick Gregory
the light side / the dark side

Coddling criminals?

Those who feel that one of America's law and order problems is in the coddling of criminals should read the January 18th Time magazine feature "The Shame of the Prisons." Jails and prisons in America can certainly not be said to "coddle" those convicted-or suspected-of crimes. After pointing out that 52 percent of the inhabitants of our nation's jails are awaiting trial and thus are not yet convicted of any crime (four out of five of such persons, by the way, are eligible for bail but cannot raise the cash) the Time story describes the current plight of the incarcerated with these words: "... Leaving the courtroom, where his rights were scrupulously respected, the felon has a good chance of being banished to one of the 187 escape-proof fortresses, 61 of them built before 1900. Now stripped of most rights, he often arrives in chains and becomes a number. His head sheared, he is led to a bare cage dominated by a toilet. In many states his cellmate may represent any kind of human misbehavior—a doleful forger, a vicious killer, an aggressive homosexual."

"In this perverse climate," Time magazine continues, "he (the prisoner) is expected to become socially responsible but is given no chance to do so. He is told when to wake up, eat and sleep; his letters are censored, his visitors sharply limited. His days are spent either in crushing idleness or at jobs that do not exist in the 'free world'... Everything is privilege, including food, that can be taken away by his keepers."

The result is a mockery of the concept of "rehabilitation." Nearly half of the nation's released inmates (as high as 75 percent in some areas) are back behind bars within five years often for worse crimes than they committed the first time around. Prisons in America today CREATE criminals rather than CURE them. Real devotion to the concept of rehabilitation, rather than just lip service, is the answer to part of America's law and order problem. From the first day the convicted man enters a penitentiary, he must be encouraged and enabled to submit his pattern of behavior to the expected norms of the world OUTSIDE. The period of confinement should be a day-to-day preparation for the convict's return to the outside world. Prison life today is a day-to-day hustle to survive the strange world of confinement.

Prison jobs must reflect real job opportunities in the outside world. During their period of confinement, convicted men and women should receive vocational training and meaningful jobs. Decent recompense for actual work performed should be made to each prisoner, a substantial portion of which should be sent to the family back home. Thus the prisoner has a continued feeling of ongoing family support.

Every effort must be made to determine what made a prisoner go wrong—so that he can re-evaluate his behavior pattern and make his second try at social adjustment successful. Prisoners should be allowed to wear civilian clothes on weekends. Certain prisoners, those who are not hardened criminals, should be allowed to leave the jail by day and continue in meaningful employment on the outside, returning to confinement in the evening. In such a manner a man could pay his debt to society without being prejudged a social outcast.

Rehabilitation concern should carry over into an ex-convict's new life in the outside world. If a man goes for five years without running afoul of the law again, he should come before a review board. If the board finds that he has indeed been living as a truly rehabilitated man, his former record should be sent to a private file in a federal location. It should never be made public again, for any purpose, unless the ex-convict is convicted again.

Rehabilitation means quite literally a second chance. It does not mean a partial chance with the stigma of a past mistake. Society can entice people to be good citizens by honestly being willing to forgive and forget. And rehabilitation pays off. It reduces prison costs by decreasing the number of inmates. And the billions of dollars lost as a result of crime are recovered through rehabilitation.

The federal government should establish Crime Prevention Centers throughout the country—patterned after USO lounges. Such centers should be open twenty-four hours a day, attractively decorated, providing snacks and recreation. As soon as an ex-convict begins to get the feeling that he is drifting back into his former way of life, he should be able to go to a conveniently located Crime Prevention Center for guidance, counsel and acceptance.

Crime Prevention Centers would provide an alternative for that poor man who feels compelled to throw a brick through a window because winter is coming on and he needs a place to stay. So he purposely commits a crime in order to get caught and escape the winter cold.

Many persons feel that such suggestions are visionary, impractical and expensive. They would rather talk about law and order and bemoan crime in the streets. But such critics of new approaches believe neither in humanity, nor the real possibility of rehabilitation.

Segal performs

Classical guitarist Peter Segal, a student at Temple University and the youngest faculty member at Settlement Music School, presented a concert January 21 in the SUB lounge.

Segal began studying the instrument at age seven. More recently he has studied with Jose Tomas at the University of Santiago, Spain, where the Spanish government granted him a full scholarship. He has toured the concert circuit with soprano Deborah Cook and flutist Patricia Valley. In addition, he has made his debut with the Springfield Symphony.

Segal told his

over-capacity audience that there are two conflicting reports as to the origin of the classical guitar. The first says that it was developed in ancient Mesopotamia while the second sets Argentina as the birthplace.

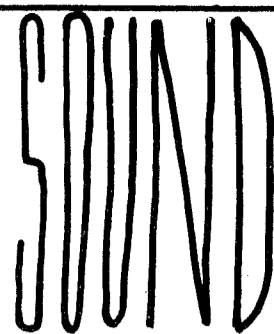
The second story is basically legend, he said, and is "not so true." This is his favorite because the American cowboy fascinates him, and a cowboy allegedly devised the classical guitar.

Segal related that a lonely Argentinian cowboy was camping on the South American pampas one night and longed for his girlfriend. As a substitute he made a

wooden form reminding him of his long-necked friend. Of course the wooden copy turned out to be his guitar.

Before performing each selection, Segal gave a brief and informative sketch of the song, its composer, and its country of origin. He played several compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach. Segal explained that although Bach did not write any music for the classical guitar, the music has been transcribed from scores written for other instruments.

In closing, Segal quipped that the hardest thing for him to do with the classical guitar is "to tune the damn thing!"



by JOHN MARTONICK

American Beauty--The Grateful Dead

Quite frankly, I never have cared for the Dead. But there is something which I can't exactly pinpoint which makes this a real good time recording. The music makes you feel good all over even if indescribably so. From "Box of Rain" through "Truckin," all ten songs, the Dead display a tremendous affinity to make a listener happy.

But it is the second side of this album which is most enjoyable. Rarely if ever can a group, any group, be so versatile in one recording. "Till The Morning Comes" reminds all who listen of the Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young we all miss so much. (It is interesting to note that David Crosby and Steve Still taught the Dead some new harmonies which were first utilized in Workingman's Dead, the prelude to American Beauty.) On "Atties of My Life," one wonders if the Barbershoppers have not invaded Wally Heider's Studios and, last but not least, "Truckin" closes out the album sounding an awfully lot like the Elvis Presley of 1956.

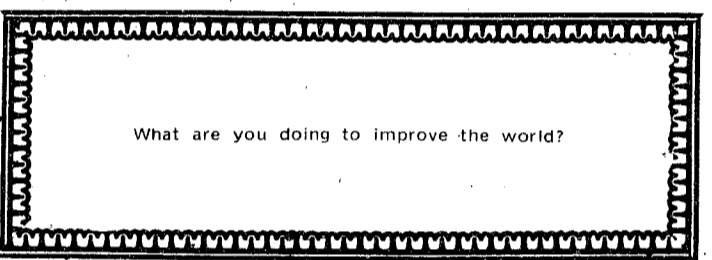
There is one thing I cannot help but think when I listen to the Dead and that is the fact that they appear to be doing a fairly good job of putting on a comedy show. To say that Pig Pen (Rin McKernan) is serious

on his song "Operator" would be ridiculous. But the song is done fantastically well. It has to be for someone to be singing about an ex-love who may be a prostitute. Pig Pen doesn't "care what she's doing as long as she's doing it right."

But to review this album without saying a word about "Ripple" would be a disgrace. "Ripple" has got to be the best song the group has ever recorded. It even turns into a family songfest at the end. But it is the words which make it complete; just plain old happy words.

The mistake most often made by record consumers is that they hear how great the Dead cue in concert and fail to buy their albums. But make a supreme effort to get this one. It is well worth while and I'm sure Jerome John Garcia wouldn't mind at all.

Musicianship is at its absolute finest on this album. I must admit that I've only heard three of the Dead's five albums but I heartily doubt if the musicianship on the two I've missed, Axcomoxoa and Live Dead could possibly be better. The Dead now seem to be coming into their own at long last. They have travelled a long and hard road and American Beauty has brought them out of the woods with a great clearing in front of them.



Comeriety proceeds

Comeriety is proceeding full steam. The skits are being written and rehearsals will start next week.

Mark Braskie is co-ordinating the student band with the faculty chorus. The members of the band are: tenor sax, M. Braskie; trumpet, J. Sovecchio; trombone, J. Schreibermaier; drums, M. Osif; organ, R. Nork; guitar, R. Wasatonic; bass, T. Belekianich; alto sax, G. Wisgo; singer, Gregg Weiler.

John Martonick, student co-chairman, urges student co-operation. The money from the tickets will go to the Faculty Award Fund which presents a monetary award to the outstanding students at the end of the year. Keep this in mind when someone approaches you to buy a ticket.

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Book review

DUNE, by Frank Herbert, Ace Books, Inc., New York, N.Y., 1965, 544 pages, \$9.95.

In the annals of literary works, the realm of science fiction has always been the most fascinating. Holding true to this precedent is DUNE, an exceptional book which relates the saga of young Paul Atreides, born as a mistake in a line of the genetically controlled Bene Gesserit women in their attempt to produce a special being who is to be the savior of the planet Dune.

Dune is a world of vast deserts upon which the inhabitants value water as the most precious item in their lives—so precious that it forces the reader to wake up to the problems of our own earth. A completely believable world, comparable to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth, Dune houses gigantic sand worms which lurk beneath the desolation and keep an eternal vigil in order to destroy those who would disrupt the planet's only resource—its hordes of spice. The amazing way in which the worms and the spice relate to the future of Dune will be startling to the reader.

But Dune is more than an ecological novel. The pen of long time science fiction writer Frank Herbert takes the reader deep into the life of Paul, offspring of Duke Leto, ruler of Dune, and the Duke's Lady Jessica, a Bene Gesserit "witch" who has disobeyed the orders of her superiors by producing a son.

It is soon apparent that Paul is not an altogether normal individual. As a child he is able to remember his dreams in remarkable detail—dreams which often prove prophetic! He is trained in the Bene Gesserit method of observing the minute details of his environment in order to draw conclusions—details so subtle that they would be beneath the notice of normal individuals. It is these skills, as well as other yet undiscovered powers, which will be essential to Paul in overcoming the tremendous obstacles that lie in his path.

Is Paul really the legendary messiah of the world Dune, the one destined to bring water to the planet so that its inhabitants are never to want for it again? Not even Paul knows as he continues to learn about himself and the mysterious planet Dune.

If you bothered to read this, then you should have bothered to vote.

B&Econ news

January 19, 1971 the Business and Economic Club held their first meeting of the new year. Joe Wisdo, the club president, opened the meeting and a new secretary-treasurer Pat Weicker was elected. The club made final arrangements for the plant tour of Dorr-Oliver which was on January 20. A drawing was held at which time a memento of The University was awarded to Steve Wilson.

Plans for future meetings were also discussed. Coming events will include tours of Continental Can and Leader Data. A General Mills Salesman and a Stock Broker will come to the school to talk to the club members about their various fields.

A large group attended the plant tour of Dorr-Oliver on January 21. This included the workshop area, office area and computer area. A recent graduate of Penn State and now an employee at Dorr-Oliver, Billy Lutz talked to the group about his position at Dorr-Oliver.

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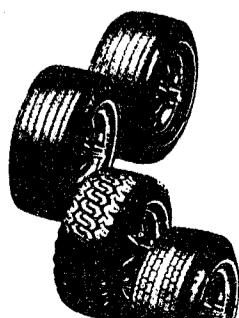
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