

Rehabilitation success doubtful

By GARY MURRAY
Collegian Staff Writer

Current prison education programs are not likely to rehabilitate inmates within the traditional prison environment, according to a senior research associate at the University's Institute for Research on Human Resources.

Morgan V. Lewis said that since the primary function of most prisons is confinement, methods of social control based on coercion usually are adopted.

"An inmate tends to be reduced to the status of a non-person. As long as it confines inmates, it seems doubtful that honest rehabilitation is possible," he said.

Lewis said to rehabilitate a prisoner, individual growth must be increased while punishment makes one follow society's norms. "Neither

expenditures of large sums of money for prison education nor substantial changes in the programs themselves will bring about the type of personal growth assumed under the term rehabilitation," he added.

"Even though educational programs are unlikely to rehabilitate inmates, it does not follow that they should be discontinued," Lewis said.

"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."

To aid the inmate, Lewis suggested use of prison funds to help him find a job and a place to live, probation for first offenders and a short

sentence for a repeat offender so he does not develop a dependency attitude or lose necessary skills.

Lewis said his conclusion is based on a four-year study of an experimental educational program at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill, which confines 15- to 21-year-old offenders.

Using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Lewis designed a program to expose young inmates to the humanities to help them achieve a sense of personal identity and develop more socially approved values.

"Within the limits of its ability the staff at Camp Hill makes an honest effort at rehabilitation, but everyone realizes that their primary responsibility is detention," Lewis said. "Prison produces social situations that are anti-

rehabilitation — treatment must be community based to be effective."

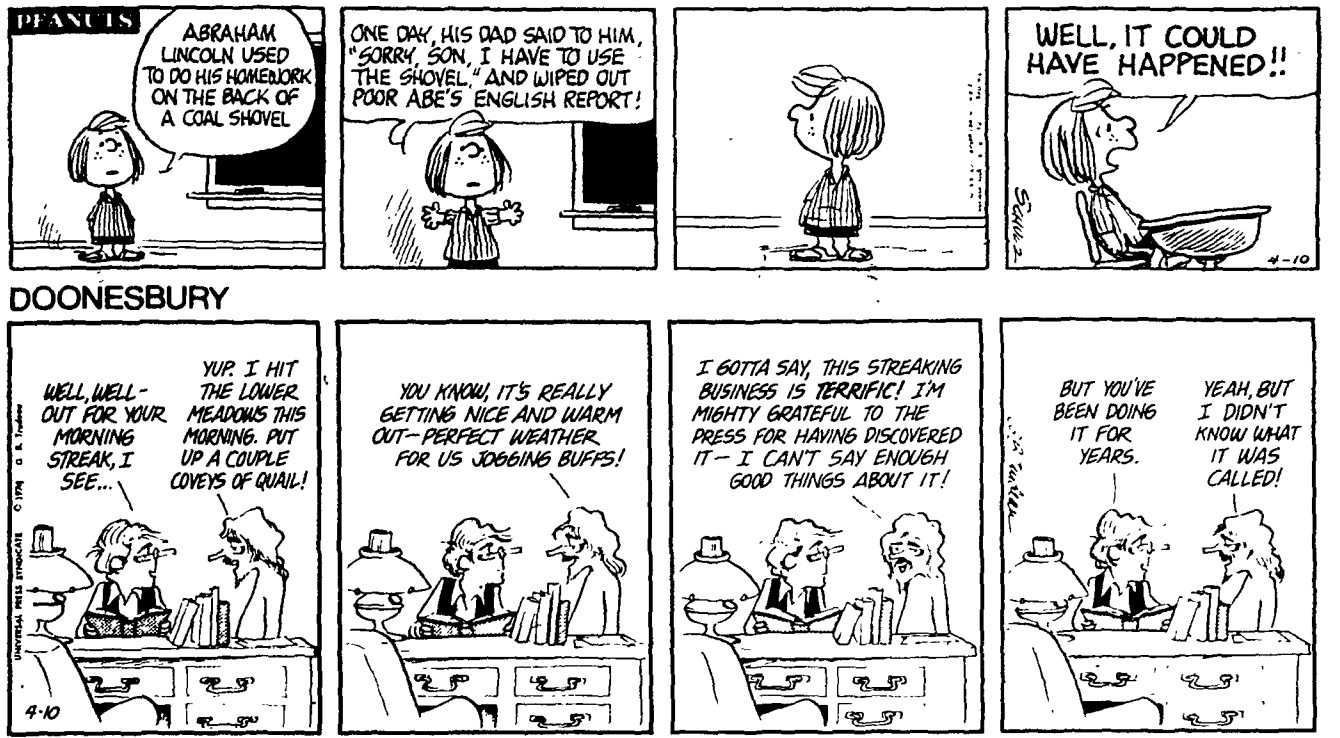
Inmates who participated in the program were introduced to musical instruments and encouraged to write and to put on original plays.

Despite 75 per cent of the inmates reporting 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.

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

"The students seemed to become more aware of themselves and the realities of their environment," Lewis said, "but used defense mechanisms to hide from the realities discovered."



Students build marble-shooters

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—In the spring, the thoughts of dirty-kneed boys and engineering students turn to marbles.

They did, at least, for 80 Massachusetts Institute of Technology students in a mechanical engineering class. Their project was to build a gizmo that would shoot a marble as far as possible in the fastest possible time.

Designs ranged from the simple to the bizarre. But all 80 had the same working material—two rubber bands, five paper clips, six inches of piano wire, four tongue depressors, four feet of string, a plastic cup, 10 straws, 10 pins, a pink eraser. And a marble.

The simplest designs worked best. The object was to fly the marble from an elevated start to the farthest gate on a six-

foot-long water trough below.

Students were disqualified if it took them longer than 45 seconds to set up their contraption. For some, there was utter failure.

"This is very painful for some of the people who have worked for weeks on their projects and have seen them run perfectly in practice," said Prof. David G. Wilson, who dreamed up the contest.

The more complicated machines sometimes refused to leave the starting gate or fell apart in flight. Wilson said this demonstrated Murphy's law: if something can go wrong, it will.

The winner was Thomas S. Birney of Elizabethtown, Pa. His pulley apparatus, made from pieces of straw, a paper clip and a few other odds and ends, sent his marble flying into the highest numbered gate, 76, in the lowest time, 2.07 seconds.

It took about three hours to build.

"And I don't even play marbles," he said.

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Reid piano concert moved to Schwab

Tomorrow's piano concert by Mike Reid, former Penn State All-American, has been rescheduled for Schwab.

Representatives of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity, which is sponsoring the performance for the benefit of the American Cancer Society, said the change was made to provide better performing conditions for the artist after it was determined Rec Hall facilities would not be required.

Penn State football coach Joe Paterno will introduce his former player for the 7:30 p.m. performance, "An Evening of Music and Conversation with Mike Reid."

Reid, defensive tackle and co-captain of the 1969 undefeated Nittany Lions, currently is an all-pro tackle with the Cincinnati Bengals and a concert pianist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra during the off-season.

For his first performance at the University since his graduation, Reid will play a wide range of contemporary music, blended with conversation concerning professional football, music and other subjects.

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