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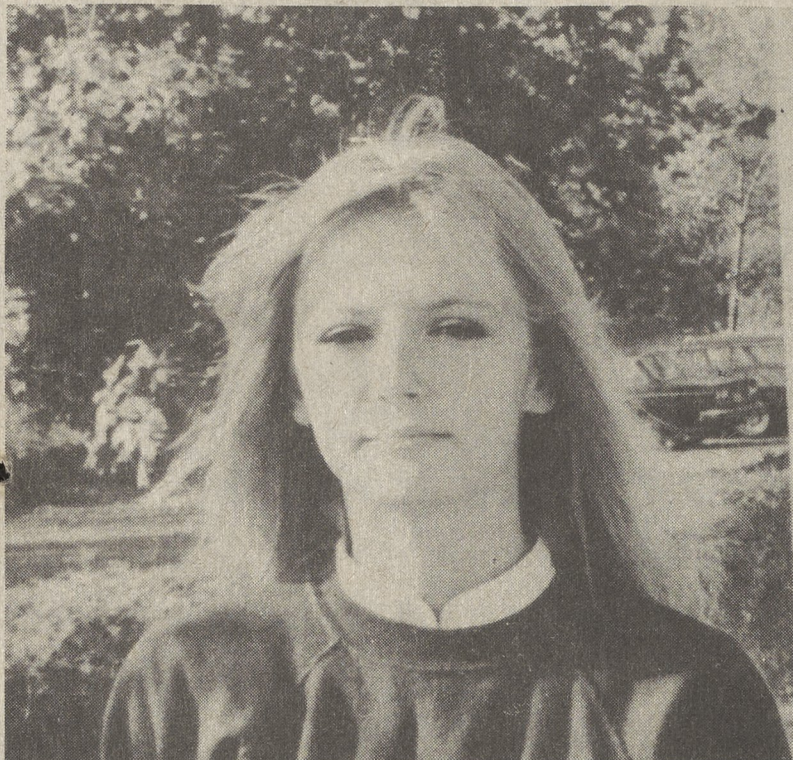
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"I think that a longer prison sentence should be given depending on the severity of the crime; I think the sentences should be made longer if the crime is great," said Denise Szymanski of Dallas. "If judges pass longer sentences than more prisons to hold the prisoners should be built."



"I believe that sentences should be longer because too many criminals are getting off too easily; the victims are the ones getting the worst end of a crime, not the criminal," said Mrs. Jean Monk of Shavertown. "I would be willing to support more prisons with my taxes."



"For the really severe crimes, I do not believe in capital punishment, but life sentences should be given—and I mean the criminals' whole life," said Lorraine Evans of Trucksville.



"I do not think that we need more prisons, but we should expand the existing prisons," said Rick McCarty of Lehman. "I also think that today's prisons should be made more like prisons, and less like country clubs."



"There should definitely be stiffer sentences, and more prisons built," said Kathleen Murray of Jackson Twp. "Prison life should be made harsher, I have to work for what I have while criminals in prisons have, for free, cable TV, a bowling alley and a movie theater."



"Building larger and larger prisons with more and more prisoners will not decrease the crime rate, said Charles Barrick, an inmate at Chase Prison. "When you lock-up a person for 10, or 20, or more years, that does not rehabilitate him. It could make that person worse when he is released, he may not know how to function in society after being isolated for so long."

Crime and Punishment

Some local residents want stiffer sentences

Chase inmates say that only creates anger, frustration

BY GLEN HOFFMAN

"The main reason society imprisons people is to punish them for a crime," said Steven Barrich, an inmate of Chase State Correctional Institution, Dallas. "But at a certain point during a sentence, some inmates' feelings of punishment end, and is replaced by feelings of frustration, anger, or resentment."

"Therefore, the intention of punishment will not be served by longer sentences," said Barrich. "Society may feel justified in punishing a convicted person, but there is no justification in frustrating, angering, or making a person resentful."

Charles Sturdavant, a Chase inmate who also participated in the two hour interview, pointed out, "Each inmate's case is separate, but as for me, I feel punished after my 4.5 years of imprisonment. I could not possibly feel any more punished if I were to spend 50 more years in prison."

As some of the 1038 inmates at Chase were conducted to the meal hall, and others worked in areas such as the box factory, shoe shop, powerhouse, barber shop, machine shop and auto body shop, Barrich, age 34, and Sturdavant, age 50, spoke their feeling and thoughts of prison life.

"Sure society should punish transgressors, but sometimes I feel that in some cases the sentences from judges are so long, so many years of ones life that society is seeking revenge," said Barrich.

"Doing less time - a shorter sentence - would be helpful for both society and myself because my experience at the prison is not

teaching me anything; I feel that I am doing punishment and vengeance time, not rehabilitation time," said Barrich.

"I really have learned one thing," said Barrich, "I very much regret the act that put me into prison." Barrich leaned forward in his chair, and said, "I was regretful two seconds after the act."

"Right after the act, it hit me: my family, my friends the good job I had fell apart - I lost everything," said Barrich. "I feel that I offended God and society."

Sturdavant serving a life sentence also expressed regret. "In hindsight, I would not have committed the crime. I think society has punished me, and now I feel sentences are too long. Society is now addressing the problems of people who commit crimes. Crime is a disease, and research should be conducted to get to the roots of the cause of crime."

"If they spent as much money on treating the real cause of crimes as they do on prisons and police departments, than the rate of crime would decrease instead of increase," said Sturdavant.

"But as things are today, all society is doing is trying to keep people who commit crimes off the streets. This policy is not decreasing the crime rate, and it is not humane," said Sturdavant.

Sturdavant, along with Barrich, said, "the younger inmates are really hurting from too long of sentences because they have not had the chance to live at least part of their lives on the outside. They don't have memories of their families growing-up, and working at a job."

Police Reports

Motorcyclist thrown

A cyclist was thrown 42 feet when his motorcycle lost control and turned over on its side on East Center St., Kingston Twp. last Thursday.

Robert J. Zukosky of Manor Drive, Trucksville, was traveling west when he attempted to turn onto Youngblood Ave. Skidding, Zukosky's 1981 Yamaha tumbled 132 feet before coming to a rest.

Caddy vs. Olds

A 1978 Dodge driven by John Iorio of Main and Walnut Streets, Luzerne was stopped waiting to turn, and a 1969 Oldsmobile driven by William Pace of 75D Manor Drive, Edwardsville, was also stopped when a Cadillac driven by James Wertman of 50 Shaver Ave., Shavertown, rear-ended the Oldsmobile which hit the Dodge. Ptm. Lou Rozelle of the Kingston Twp. police department is investigating the accident.

Upset cycle

When Donald R. Kelly of 26 Orchard St., Dallas walked out of a bar on Carverton Drive, Kingston Twp., he found his 1970 Hona cycle had been pushed over by another vehicle. Investigating Ptm. Gary E. Beisel reported that he found no traces of paint on the cycle, and there was not witness to the accident.

Overnight parking banned

Winter overnight parking will be prohibited on all streets between the hours 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. starting in November throughout Kingston Twp.

Police warning

Area police departments are issuing a warning that during Halloween patrols will be increased, and any one found destroying property or causing mischief will be charged and prosecuted.

Gate of Heaven blood drive big success

On Tuesday, October 20th, the Back Mountain Blood Drive Committee filled the American Red Cross quota of 170 units of blood and then some. Successful recruiting of donors brought 316 volunteers to Gate of Heaven School to give blood during the visit of the Bloodmobile.

296 units were collected and sent to the Red Cross processing center. The record blood collection made this one of the most effective blood drives ever chaired by Mrs. Robert Cartier of Dallas. Mrs. Cartier wishes to express her thanks to all the donors and volunteers who helped her put the drive over the top.

All you can eat

BAND PARENTS Michael Hoidra (foreground right) and Mr. and Mrs. Don Gavigan, left, supported the Dallas Senior High School Band attempt to raise funds with an "all you can eat" dinner Saturday. (Mark Moran Photo)

