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JANUARY 1985 X



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A good and happy new year to all!

And how about those New Year's resolutions? You know what they say about that road, the one that's paved with good intentions. For instance, are you one of those people who resolved to quit smoking on January 1, regardless of the fact that there are 8,000 souls who slave to make and sell the noxious weed (which tobacco really is)? Did you know that every year, or at least until recently, \$1.2 billion of the fruits of their labour goes up in smoke? Do you care?

Whether you give them a passing thought or not, all we can say to you is good luck. Having travelled that way ourselves, we know it's not easy. As to any other resolutions, well that's another matter - best kept to one's self we think. If one succeeds, one can brag about it, knowing proof may be demanded, of course. If one fails, no one else is the wiser!

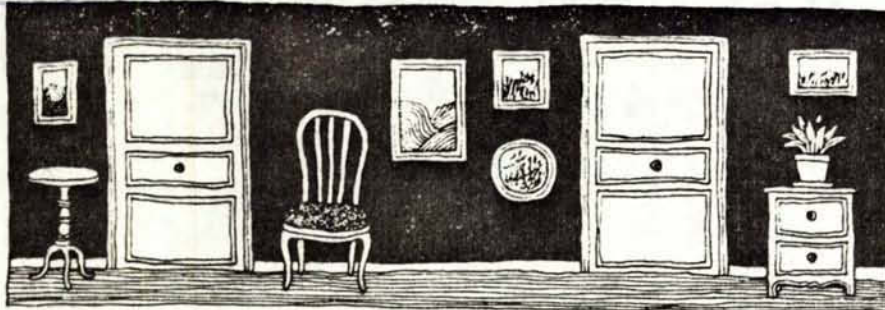
For the Board, it was a busy year with its usual complement of successes and failures. Our 25th anniversary came and went without fanfare and perhaps that's the way it should be...as we change and adapt to the new social and political realities of the 25 years to come.

Shalom

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FROM NOW ON, IT'S ALL OR NONE!



The manner in which the Board conducts its hearings will have to be significantly altered according to a recent decision handed down by the Federal Court of Canada (Trial Division) in Wayne William O'Brien vs The National Parole Board.

In that case, an inmate serving a life sentence applied for a three-day UTA; according to Parole Regulations, seven board members are required to vote on such applications before release can be granted. At the hearing scheduled to deal with the inmate's application, the three board members who were present all voted in favour of granting the inmate's request. However, when the file was sent to Headquarters in order for four board members to vote on it there, they all voted to deny. The inmate, claiming that the voting procedure was unjust on the grounds that his application was rejected by four absent board members in Ottawa who neither saw him nor heard his story, brought an application in the Federal Court to overturn the Board's decision.

Mr. Justice J.C. McNair, speaking for the Court, held that while the Charter of Rights and Freedoms had no application because there was no question of the deprivation of the inmate's liberty, the doctrine of fairness, as enunciated in various common law decisions, did apply. According to Mr. Justice McNair, once an administrative authority such as the Board elects to embark upon a hearing, even though not legally obliged to do so, it automatically follows that such a hearing must be conducted in accordance with the rudiments of natural justice.

In the present case, fundamental fairness required that the inmate be afforded an in-person hearing before all members of the Board who voted on the application. For Mr. Justice McNair, the fact that the four Headquarters members obtained all their knowledge from the written record without having heard the applicant in person was deemed to be "ignorance sufficient to preclude the exercise of any fair judgment upon the merits of the application."

As a result, the decision of the Board vis-à-vis the inmate's request was held to be invalid and a new hearing before a full panel of the required number of Board members to determine the merits of the application was ordered.

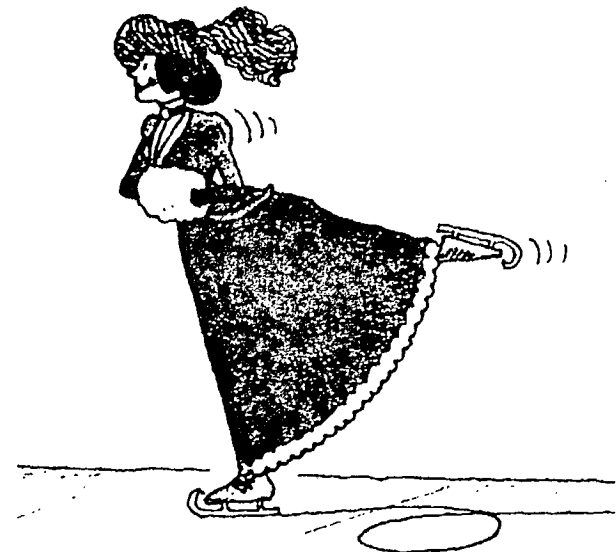
—Ciro Scotti

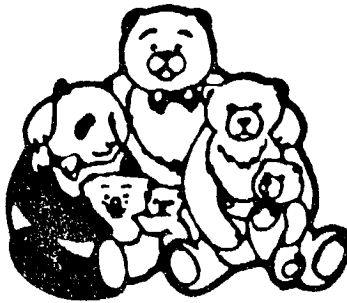


SUCCESS IS THIS

To laugh often and to love much, to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children, to earn the approbation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in everything, to have given one's self, to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition, to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and to have sung with exaltation, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

(From The John Howard Society of Ontario Newsletter, Fall/Winter 1984 Edition, quoting the late Arthur C. Maloney, Q.C. quoting the late Ralph Waldo Emerson).





ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR

The Federal Court decisions (O'Brien and Ford vs NPB) with regard to National Parole Board hearings means that when the Board holds a hearing all board members voting are required to be present at the time of the interview with the inmate. (See story by C. Scotti on Page 2)

In the Pacific region the first regularly-scheduled five and seven member panels were held on December 11th and 13th respectively. For the five-vote cases regular Board Members Lisa Hobbs, Ron Boucher and Germaine Tremblay-Côte were joined by Pacific region temporaries Iqbal Sara and Don Winterton. Community Members Anna Terrana and Evelyn Rosborough participated in the seven-vote panels, as well.

Upon her return to Headquarters Division, we asked Lisa Hobbs for her impressions of "full members" hearings and she stated that everything had gone "quite smoothly".

"Board members took the extra step of meeting on the Monday before the hearings, dividing the files and choosing who would lead the questioning on these cases", she noted. All files were studied by the members but special emphasis was placed on certain ones by the chairperson for those cases. "Although we were all free to ask any questions that we wished in order to help us make a decision, there was a general understanding that we would avoid repetitious type questions and that we would avoid questions that did not directly relate to the decision that we were about to make."

How did it work out?

"It worked out extremely well in practice" Mrs. Hobbs added. "The hearings were neither shorter nor longer than normal hearings - as a matter of fact I think that the sense of responsibility that attached to being a chairperson meant very thorough reading of those files and the focusing on the essential areas. I think that the board members performed very well - that is they prepared their questions in advance, asked questions spontaneously as well - but kept focused on the central issue."

"To my, I must say, surprise, the institutions were prepared for us and there was adequate seating, except in one institution where the board members ended up at the ends of the table. From the inmate's viewpoint - I think seven members was too many, absolutely too many - it was more like a jury than a decision-making body,"

she commented further. "I think that our group - this particular week - went very, very well because we did have a group who were prepared to work as a team".

The quality of the decision:

Mrs. Hobbs commented further that "the decisions will be, by and large, slightly more favourable to the inmate. We have always recognized that on the Board there is a tendency to vote more kindly once you have faced the inmate and heard his sad tale, etc., as opposed to reading the bare bones of the case and the file. I think it would go better for the inmate. One thing I will say as far as the inmate is concerned - there was a great deal of satisfaction for both the inmate and the board members to be able to finish the case right then and there and to give a decision. Now there are some problems to this style and that is the writing of reasons. It creates I think a greater stress for the chairperson who is writing the reasons because you now have six other people sitting there tapping their fingers waiting for you to get through your reasons..."

And overall...

"I think there is no doubt that this process is more humane and fairer in every sense to the inmate," Mrs. Hobbs stressed.

—*Leaman Long*



BOARD MEMBERS

- new and re-appointed

Two full-time members have been re-appointed: Marg Benson, Kingston, Ontario (see story elsewhere), and Nan Harrison, Port Coquitlam, B.C., for a second stint.

Nine new temporary members have been appointed, all for one year to assist regular members in "work load" situations:

The Hon. Melvin McQuaid, Souris, P.E.I. is a retired judge, formerly Leader of the Opposition in the P.E.I. Legislature and MP.

Guy Bureau, Magog, Québec is a management consultant, involved with community and professional groups.

Louis Laporte, Joliette, Québec, has been a judge for the past 14 years.

Robert A. Young, North Battleford, Saskatchewan retired from the RCMP in 1981 after 24 years of service. He is also active with community and service organizations.

William F. MacRae, Regina, Saskatchewan also retired from the RCMP - in 1979 - and is now a lecturer and curriculum consultant at the School of Human Justice, University of Regina, and Chairman of the Rent Appeal Commission.

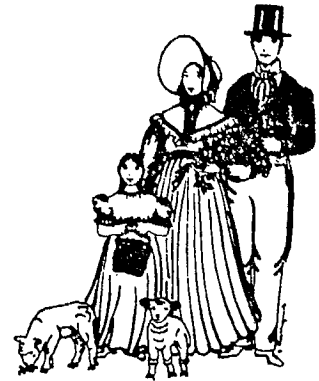
Marcia L. Clark, Calgary, Alberta, formerly a social worker, is co-owner of a small business, active involunteer affairs.

Evelyn Norberg, Slave Lake, Alberta was formerly Executive Director of the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre.

Lynne Connell, Vancouver, B.C., a teacher-librarian at George Weir School, is active in community and school board organizations.

Robert Thompson, Fort Langley, B.C. served as federal MP from 1962 to 1972. He is very active in his community, and a specialist in dyslexic learning disabilities. He has also been on the B.C. Parole Board.

Welcome, one and all.



CONGRATULATIONS, MONCTON!

Employees of NPB Atlantic were recently presented with a citation by the United Way for surpassing their goal and raising \$1,397. Not bad for a crowd of 22!

Electronic media in the criminal justice system:

THE QUIET REVOLUTION?

In my days as a journalist covering court, we scribes would sit at the press table, scribbling down facts relating to the trial as well as our observations concerning the players -- the Crown prosecutor, defense counsel, witnesses and the accused.

But those in the electronic media -- radio and television reporters -- were forbidden to use recording or camera equipment anywhere in the vicinity of the proceedings. Arguments against its use centred on prejudicing witnesses, influencing public opinion, or effecting the objectivity of the trial proceedings.

At the same time, our stories were printed in the newspapers without raising public cries that we were unfair, inaccurate, or irresponsibly prejudicing witnesses and jury.

In short, the print medium was considered an essential part of the criminal justice system and perceived to be serving its function in a most admirable manner -- while the broadcast medium was not.

As the song says though, the times they are a-changing. South of the border, a great many State courts now permit electronic recording of certain judicial proceedings, whereas as late as the early 1960s, only Colorado and Texas had permitted media equipment in their courtrooms.

Corroboration of the initial success of the use of such equipment, came in a December 1983 report on telephone conferencing in civil and criminal court cases, prepared by the American Bar Association.

The report notes:

"The argument that the presence of electronic media creates psychological interference is based largely on theories and assumptions rather than on fact; Colorado has over 20 years of successful experience with media coverage."

But what of Canada? By and large, electronic media are still denied the right to use their equipment in our Court rooms. There is, however, a growing use of audio recording equipment (sound only) by several quasi-judicial or administrative bodies. These include CSC disciplinary boards, the Public Service Commission Appeal Board, the Entitlement Board of Veterans Affairs, and the Canada Pension Commission's Disability Pension Board. The tapes thus gathered are used mainly for administrative purposes, as a tool to aid in the compiling of information and the writing of decisions. The growing use of electronic equipment in America's courts and its more cautious application in Canada has sparked considerable interest among Board members.

This interest took concrete form in a pilot project in the B.C. Region where hearings were taped for a six-week period between December 1982 and January 1983. The B.C. project was followed up by a two-day session of taping hearings in the Atlantic Region in July 1983.

The results of these sessions and a survey of the opinions of all board members has led to an interesting array of questions and observations.

For example, Senior Board Member Simma Holt made the following points in a report to the Board's Internal Review Committee:

- ° Tapes would provide us with an irrefutable record of Board hearings;
- ° The tapes could serve as a means of ensuring adequate professional standards and interviewing techniques are maintained;
- ° They could act as a training record for board members.

But on the less positive side, Mrs. Holt cautions that inmates may see fit to "... use the tapes possibly to initiate legal - albeit at times frivolous - court action and perhaps even use them to undermine the Board."

Senior Board Member Lisa Hobbs, in a submission to the April 1983 General Board Meeting, made these observations with respect to the taping of hearings:

"A tape of the hearing would provide the Board with an objective record with which to respond to the charges pertaining to the conduct of hearings. The record would also provide members, who are interested, with an opportunity to assess their own performance from an objective, professional viewpoint. The records would

also ensure that Board policy is being implemented on a national level and that the standards laid out by the Professional Standards Committee are being met."

In addition to such observations from board members, the pilot projects raised several important questions which are currently under consideration:

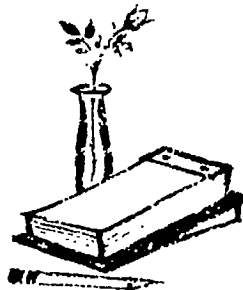
- ° How long do the tapes have to be kept?
- ° Do they become a permanent part of an inmate's file?
- ° Would board members tend to rely too much on the tapes and not put their former efforts into the writing of reasons?
- ° Once a tape is produced, what is its legal status, and what are the legal implications over the short and long term?
- ° To what degree should inmates be provided access to tapes of hearings?
- ° What of operational problems such as ensuring equipment operates properly and that there is adequate storage space for completed tapes?
- ° Would the benefits justify the fairly significant cost of purchasing recording and transcribing equipment and required tapes?

- ° Should the Board explore other alternatives such as using CSC equipment already installed in most institutions?
- ° Who would be responsible for operating the equipment and taking the responsibility of recording hearings? Would this substantially increase the work load of already beleaguered board members?

It appears that the Board's initial experiments with taping hearings has opened a Pandora's box of pros and cons, questions and opinions. And as a result, we are contemplating a number of related legal, operational and financial issues before deciding on a definite course of action with respect to the taping of panel hearings.

But aside from the legitimate and significant questions that have developed from the pilot projects, perhaps, just perhaps, we are expressing a reluctance to part with what we perceive as the safety, the security and the substance of the written word.

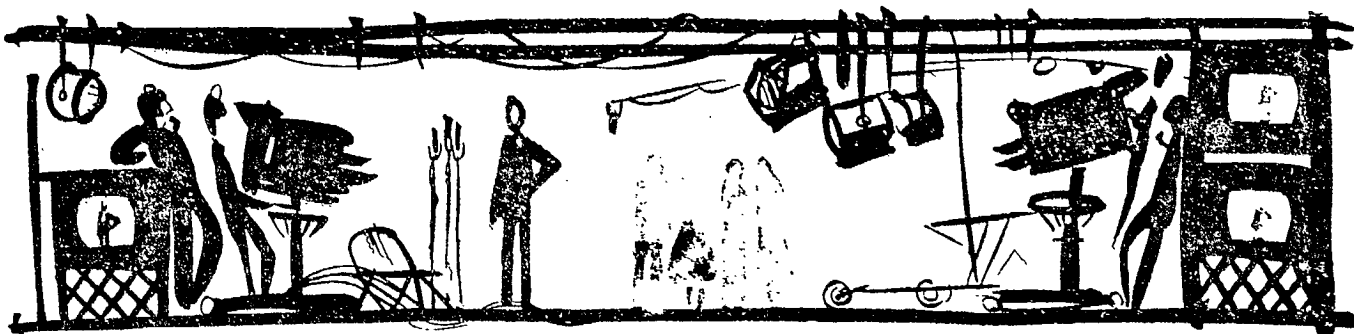
—Al Strickland

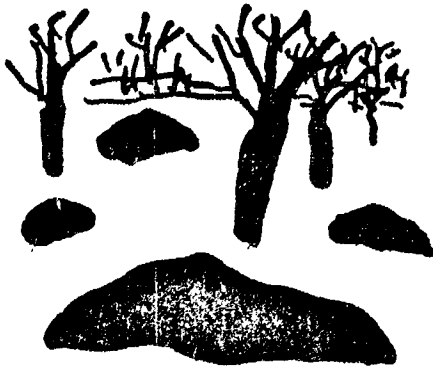


TV TIMES

Mark February 15th, 8 p.m. on your calendar. That's the night that the CBC is airing John Kastner's new documentary "The Lifer and the Lady" - a film that takes "a compassionate look" at the experience of parolee Ron Cooney and the woman who stood by him in jail and after his release.

This program is the second in a trilogy by Kastner about the prison system. The first, "The Parole Dance", presented last winter, dealt with the realities of parole as experienced by three inmates.





JUDICIOUS MEETINGS WITH THE JUDICIARY

During November, I attended criminal justice workshops in Edmundston and Sydney, and a meeting with the CSC parole office staff in Truro.

The Sydney meeting focussed on sentencing with judges, police, Crown prosecutors, CSC and the Board discussing the principles respecting the imposition and administration of sentences.

In Edmundston, the workshop was attended by several provincial court judges and Crown prosecutors, and two judges of the Court of the Queen's Bench. The judges expressed their willingness to be consulted by the Board for their views on parole for persons they had sentenced. However they did indicate that when the consultation takes place long after the sentencing, they do not feel able to be of much assistance.

There was considerable discussion on ways of improving communication between the courts on one hand, and the CSC and the Parole Board on the other. One suggestion was that the Board obtain transcripts of trials - or at least the reasons for the sentence. It was agreed that this would require further discussion.**

It was also agreed that Crown prosecutors would be consulted in a more formal way in future during preparation of community assessments and, more particularly, the assessments for "pen placement" (Ed.: Security level requirement).

These two workshops were among the most interesting I have attended. Perhaps as befits the Cape Breton environment, the Sydney workshop was free-wheeling, at times controversial, and always friendly. What I found interesting and gratifying in Edmundston was the real interest shown in the Board's work, and the willingness to be helpful.

—*Mary Casey*

** Apropos of Ms. Casey's comments above, at the Management Committee meeting on November 8, it was announced by Senior Board Member (Prairies) Ken Howland that an agreement had been reached with the Chief Justice of Alberta whereby reasons for sentencing will be extracted from court transcripts and provided automatically to the Board free of charge. According to REO (Prairies) Norm Fagnou, after contact with the chief prosecutors in Alberta had been made, it was agreed that the courts would absorb the cost of producing a one to five (maximum) page summary of the reasons for sentences of five years or more.

Similar efforts will be made with the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Territories - with the possibility of the other Regional Offices following suit in their respective territories.

...the Editor

WELCOME HOME, MARG BENSON

'There is a Board Member named Benson
whose travels of late we should mention.
She left us in spring
to travel and things,
and to take a break from the tension.'

We welcome Marg's reappointment after seven months off
which included three months of globe trotting and bird
watching. Her travels took her to England, France,
Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji, and
B.C.



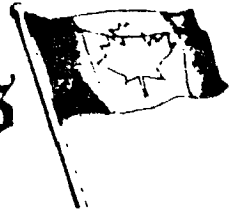
She says the highlight of her trip was seeing 500
lifers. That sounds too much like a busman's
(busperson's?) holiday, but it's not. A lifer, in
ornithological terms, is a bird that you sight for the
first time in your life.

Marg assures NPB ACTION that the break has given her
renewed vigour to deal with the types of lifers that
are more familiar to board members.

—Al Strickland



Canadian Police News



Doug Austen
Editor

Reginald Dort
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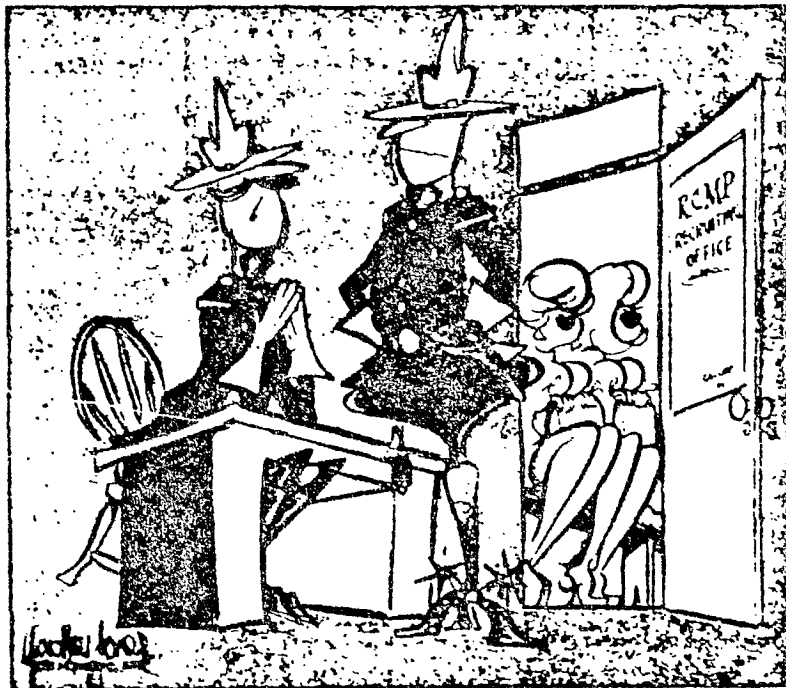
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Production On-Line Graphics

In September of last year, I wrote Doug Austen, Editor of Canadian Police News in protest of the cartoon depicted below.

"Oh, the usual I guess—check out the weight, height, fetlocks, flanks, haunches, hocks, withers..."



I also wondered about this ad for Sil'houette Health Studio. What services did they provide, and for whom?

SIL'HOUETTE HEALTH STUDIO

COMPLETE
PRIVATE
FACILITIES

WHERE A MAN IS KING

276-9395
2400 HAINES ROAD
UNIT 2

Perhaps due to the pressure of business - or for some other "politic" reason - I did not receive an answer.

However I had sent a copy to Commissioner Jane Peppino of the Metropolitan Toronto Police who replied:
"Frankly, this was a publication of which I was not aware. Hopefully, neither are the bulk of police throughout Canada!"

In a letter Ms. Peppino wrote to Mr. Austen (a copy of which she sent to me), she expressed several concerns: "... (the cartoon) makes a mockery of equal opportunity programs being undertaken by many police forces, including the RCMP, in an attempt to ensure that more women officers are attracted to police work, and hired." and "... more troubling, is that the police are portrayed as viewing women as something other than suitable potential candidates: - in this case, as something other than human. Carried to its extreme, this objectification of women... is the very root of the violent pornography against which all police forces are battling."

With regard to the advertisement, she said "... I hope one of your advertisers is not raided."



One wonders if indeed some sort of investigation did ensue. For example, the December 2 issue of the Toronto Sun carried an article by Ian Harvey entitled "Critics concerned about 'police papers' - Who do they serve?"

According to the article, a number of publications (including Canadian Police News) that have "police in their names are not affiliated or sanctioned by any police force or association." In fact, "Paul Walter, of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association, says he's concerned the public and businesses are getting the wrong impression, while Metro Police Chief Jack Marks has dictated that these newspapers are not to be distributed in any police building.

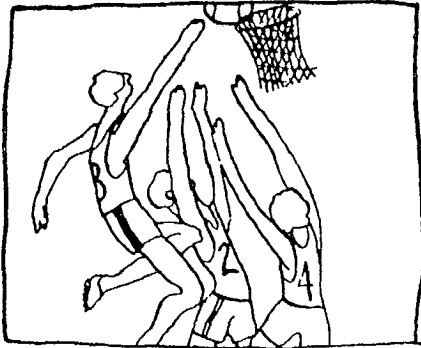
On the surface, it looks like a way of making a fast buck.

Although "principals of the papers say their sales people are under strict instructions not to misrepresent the publications as official papers or themselves as police officers", a random sampling of advertisers turned up the fact that the majority thought they were dealing with bona fide police publications. Caveat emptor. And good question. Who indeed do these publications serve? Who knows?

It seems that the editorial material is gleaned from press releases and publications and includes "news stories from the Sun and other dailies, run without credit or payment." There are also feature articles written by staff and contributing editors. In fact we sent along a piece to Canadian Police News containing some remarks by the Chairman in response to a request last fall.

All of which goes to show, we can be taken in just like anyone else.

—Mike MacNaughton



AA UPDATE

You will remember the Affirmative Action Census circulated to all employees at the end of July, 1984. Response was good, and Liz Phillips, Chief, Personnel and Official Languages Policy and Audits, is currently wrapping up the Affirmative Action Report for the department. Largely, it is based on the findings from the questionnaire, and where it was felt that personnel records could support or clarify findings, this information was reviewed as well. The division wants to extend thanks to everyone, and thinks you'll find the report interesting and helpful. A series of recommendations is in the works and we can probably expect to see the findings early this year.

We are not alone...

the study parallels similar studies being conducted government-wide. Prompted by the public's growing concern for equity of employment opportunities, departments have undertaken a systematic assessment of the status of target-group employees, including women, indigenous and handicapped persons. Where there appears opportunity to ensure a more equitable representation or treatment of the groups concerned, some fine tuning may be in order.

—Janet Hawkins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor: In NPB ACTION dated 'Early Fall 1984', under the heading "The Numbers Game" ("La valse des chiffres") we published extracts from the Statistics report for the last quarter of FY 1983-84. Subsequently we received a memo from Serge Lavallée, REO (Quebec) which, together with later correspondence, we reprint below.)

November 14, 1984

THE NUMBERS GAME

The last issue of NPB ACTION carried an article that, if you will permit me, suited its title very well: The Numbers Game. You quote statistics that might very well recall the tree that hid the forest.

FULL PAROLE GRANT RATES

Atlantic	51.6%
Pacific	36.4%
Quebec	33.6%
Prairies	41.9%
Ontario	44.2%

Reading the above numbers leads us to believe that the Quebec region is by the most severe. But, surprise! when one considers the number of grants:

Atlantic	267
Pacific	196
Quebec	613
Prairies	292
Ontario	511

One realizes that the Quebec region is granting the most full paroles and that it is only the number of denials that are dramatically higher than the others.

Other interesting statistics for FY 1983/84 are the types of release.

Atlantic: of 654 releases from penitentiary
 256 (39.1%) on full parole
 318 (48.6%) on MS

Pacific: of 687 releases from penitentiary
 191 (27.8%) on full parole
 409 (59.5%) on MS

Quebec: of 1,507 releases from penitentiary
 631 (41.9%) on full parole
 776 (51.5%) on MS

Prairies of 1,182 releases from penitentiary
 269 (22.8%) on full parole
 701 (53.4%) on MS

Ontario of 1,296 releases from penitentiary
 468 (36.1%) on full parole
 692 (53.4%) on MS

NOTE: The totals do not add up to 100% because there are other types of release.

In sum, by using the same statistical tables, one can emphasize that Quebec has the lowest grant rate (33%) or that in Quebec chances are better for full parole (41.9%), and that there are fewer releases on MS than in the majority of the other regions.

We had good reason to talk about a Numbers Game!

(Sign.) Serge Lavallée

Source: National Parole Board Decisions
Fiscal Year 1983/84

* * * * *

November 27, 1984

To: Serge Lavallée
re: NPB ACTION - The Numbers Game

In this article, we have reported the statistics for the last quarter of 1983/84. We did not analyze them. Furthermore, we have written about that quarter only. We mention this because you alluded to certain numbers in the second paragraph of your memo that are for the whole year and not the last quarter.

The numbers on page 2 of your memo were taken from another report, for the financial year 1983/84.

I imagine that when the workload study is finished we will have more to say on the subject.

Obviously the number of inmates and the length of their sentences in each region enter into the game!

(Sign.) Mike MacNaughton

* * * * *

December 3, 1984

To: Mike MacNaughton
re: NPB ACTION - Numbers Game

Further to your memo of November 27, I still insist that my different interpretation be brought to the attention of your readers.

(Sign.) Serge Lavallée

(Editor: Here it is.)

* * * * *

Upon returning from Christmas vacation, lo and behold - on the desk was a submission from someone named "Anonymous". The subject? The grande finale of a year-long bridge tournament. We do regret - but we cannot publish unsigned missives and - perhaps more important - material that is not of 'social significance' or of interest Parole Board-wide. It was a well-written piece though, and if Anonymous wishes to produce something under his or her own name, meeting one or the other or both of the above criteria, we'd be glad to consider it!

* * * * *

FROM ONTARIO

The Kingston office had a visit from the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in mid-November - in the persons of Mr. Justice Edson Haines, who conducts Lt. Gov. Warrant hearings, and Ms. Penny McRae, Executive Coordinator for the Lt. Gov.'s Warrant. The purpose was to enable the visitors to familiarize themselves with the panel hearing process with the view of possibly revising their own procedures, considerably lengthier than those of the Board. A summary of the process was given by Senior Board Member Mac Steinburg, REO John Nugent, Mgr. Case Preparation John Wilson, and Mgr. Case Supervision Carol Sparling. On November 15, Haines and McRae attended panel hearings at Warkworth Institution with Board Members Al Beaupré and Rod Blaker for a first-hand look at the process.

(In the April 1984 issue of NPB ACTION, we described the mandate of the provincial Lieutenant Governors as it applies to persons who have been incarcerated under the Lt. Gov.'s Warrant, usually because they have been declared mentally incapable of standing trial, or declared not guilty by reason of insanity. As prescribed by law, the Review Board of the Lieutenant Governor periodically reviews these cases and may make recommendations that could help the recovery of the person, provided that these are not contrary to the public interest.)

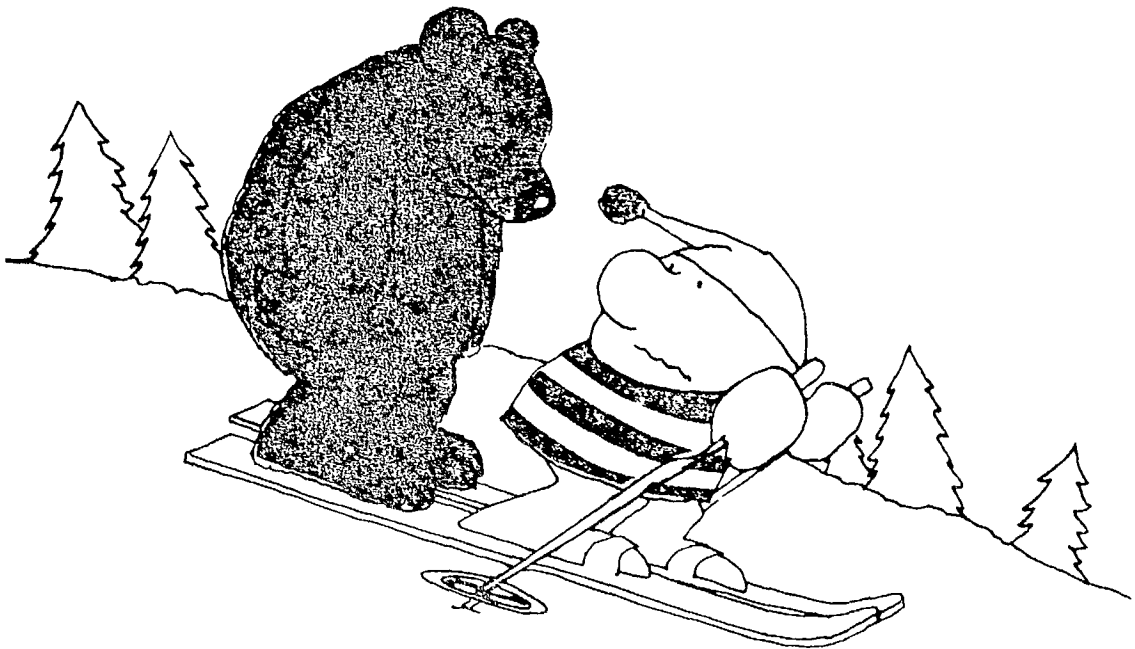
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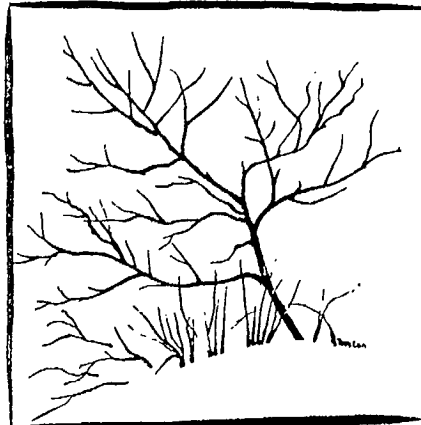
A Professional Development workshop was held at the Donald Gordon Centre of Queen's University, December 10 - 13. Community Board Member attendance was cancelled

due to financial restraints. In addition to regular board members, Vice Chairman Roger Labelle, Senior Member Roy Evans, and Senior Counsel Maurice Charbonneau attended from HQ. (NOTE: Board Member Marc Gallant and Temporary Board Member Fred Roussel (Atlantic) attended a similar session in Ottawa during the last week of November.)

* * * * *

In December, REO John Nugent was guest on a local Cablenet TV program "County Forum", hosted by Professor Peter Watson of Queen's University. The open-line show dealt with all aspects of federal parole.





IN MEMORIAM

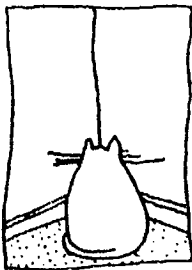
Stephen Rowan

"A big, brash, yet unfailingly courteous and kind teddy bear" - these and other contradictions could describe Steve Rowan, communications consultant, dead of a heart attack at age 56.

Steve and his partner, Ron Gossling are well known to those NPB employees who had attended the communications clinics given by these gentlemen at Touraine, Quebec in 1984.

In the field of journalism, Steve had an illustrious career. Born in Canada, he spent 14 years as a reporter with CBS covering the Viet Nam War, the launches of the Apollo and Gemini space flights, the campaigns of four U.S. presidential hopefuls: Kennedy, Goldwater, Nixon and Johnson. He returned to Canada in the early 1970s and worked for the CBC before establishing his own firm, Communication Counselling of Canada, in 1975.

Steve died in Jamaica, a country he loved, on January 7.



THE BOOK CORNER

In case you don't already know...

The Carson Committee Report (referred to in October/November ACTION) was released just prior to Christmas and it had some interesting things to say. As you recall, the Committee was charged with the task of examining the management practices and philosophy of Correctional Services Canada - a fall-out of the Archambault prison riot investigation a couple of years ago.

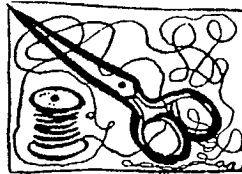
While the Report praises "the discipline and modernization that have been introduced in recent years", the Committee has come up with 56 recommendations that it considers will improve the system - primarily by strengthening the emphasis on institutions, inmates and staff.

It is also suggested, for example, that the policies of cascading and inter-regional transfers be reviewed; that there be a more determined attack on drug abuse (an action with which no one could quarrel); and that the special needs of native peoples be given more consideration. In terms of major policy issues, more research should be done on prison violence; particular attention should be paid to long-term offenders - and more alternatives to incarceration should be pursued. In the Report, there is not much that is "un-discussed".

Copies can be had from:

Communications Division
Programs Branch
Ministry of the Solicitor General

Telephone: 995-4811

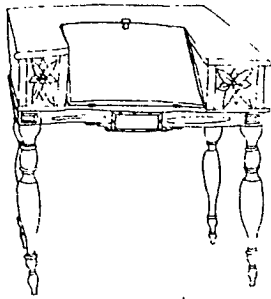


Among its many recommendations, the Carson Committee also indicated that the Correctional Investigator should report directly to Parliament, thereby strengthening the independence of the office and further guaranteeing the rule of law.

It so happens that the tenth Annual Report (for 1982-83) of the Investigator was also published just before Christmas. This office was set up to investigate complaints of inmates, report and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Solicitor General. Not surprising, the majority of complaints come directly from inmates, although a number are referred by MPs, lawyers, families and organizations.

During the past year, the number of complaints has risen by 12%. According to the Correctional Investigator, Ron Stewart, it is difficult to pinpoint the reasons for this - although the rise in the inmate population and the concurrent over-crowding situation is undoubtedly a major factor.

For the record, there were 1,507 complaints received of which the largest number - 293 - were regarding transfers. (Maybe the Carson Committee had a point!)



Another interesting little booklet that is also available from the SG's Programs Branch is Impact, one of a series of publications that presents research, statistics, and other information pertaining to crime and criminal justice in a highly readable form. Topics in this issue, entitled "Costs of Criminal Justice", include: "Criminal Justice Spending in Canada: Recent Trends" - a global look at some aspects of the cost of crime control; "Costs of Municipal Police Services" - in 1980 these cost each Canadian taxpayer \$71.25; "Corrections Costs" and "Cost of Crime to Victims: Preliminary Findings of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey".



In the November issue of LIAISON, the Secretariat's monthly publication, there are thoughtful articles on two of society's alienated groups, parolees and native women.

In an interview, a former parolee explains the mental process that hardens the inmate against society, especially when he returns to the street; native women describe their poor self-image and mistrust of the law. There is also a brief note (and photo) of the work being done by our own Community Board Member Chester Cunningham. The issue is definitely worth a 'read'.



Finally, if you're a lover or collector of statistics, Stats Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, has released "Homicide in Canada - 1982: A Statistical Perspective". The report identifies and discusses patterns in homicide observable at the national and provincial levels.

Formerly entitled "Homicide Statistics", this 150-page volume may be ordered from Publication Sales & Services, Ottawa K1A 0T6. The Catalogue No. is 85-209, the price (in Canada) is \$8.85 - and you make your cheque out to the Receiver General - as usual.

In case you missed it, the following notice appeared in the Globe and Mail, Monday, December 17, 1984.



THE CANADIAN SENTENCING COMMISSION SUBMISSION OF BRIEFS

Order-in-Council P.C. 1984-1585 of May 10, 1984, established The Canadian Sentencing Commission under Part I of the **Inquiries Act** of Canada.

The Commission is required to examine the following aspects of sentencing:

- (a) Maximum penalties, and changes considered desirable with respect to the relative seriousness of offences.
- (b) Possible approaches to sentencing guidelines within the Canadian context
- (c) The relationship between guidelines and prosecutorial discretion and plea and charge negotiation, mandatory minimum sentences, and parole and remission.
- (d) Information systems necessary for the use and updating of guidelines

Interested persons and organizations are invited to submit written information and views on these matters on or before April 15, 1985.

Persons or organizations who have filed written submissions may be invited by the Commission to meet for consultation or to provide additional information during May and June 1985.

Any person wishing to make a submission should obtain and consult the Order-in-Council as well as the provisions governing the presentation of submissions. Submissions not complying with these provisions will not be accepted.

The issues of capital punishment and dispositions under the **Young Offenders Act** are not included in the Commission's mandate and will not be dealt with. The Commission intends to restrict its study to offences contained in the **Criminal Code**, the **Narcotics Control Act** and Parts III and IV of the **Food and Drugs Act**.

Inquiries and communications should be addressed to the Commission's Office:

In person
5th floor
Jackson Building
122 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario

By mail
P O Box 2399
Postal Station "D"
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5W5

By telephone
(613) 996-2059

Judge J.R. Omer Archambault
Executive Director