

Transformation

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1996 Women's
Watchcare
Network Log

Women's Watchcare Network Log

Judy Matsuoka

The Women's Project has recorded the murders of women and girls in Arkansas each year since 1988. Those murders in which robbery or drugs were the motive are not included in the annual log. This year's log includes the murders of 47 women and girls; a 15% decrease from the 55 murders logged in 1995.

The decrease in murders is consistent with the decrease in violent crime reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) declined 9% nationally compared to 1995. The decline in the number of violent crimes began two years ago, interrupting a rising trend that existed since the mid-1980s. However, a Justice Department report released in December 1996 indicated that while violent crime rates are falling, the proportion of female victims is rising, mainly because of domestic violence.

Twenty years ago, one female was a crime victim for every two males, the Bureau of Justice Statistics report said. Now the ratio is two female victims for every three males. Men

continue to commit the overwhelming number of crimes and also are more frequently the victims. For example, in 1994, 6.2 million of the reported 10.9 million victims were men.

The report said that women are catching up. They are more likely to be attacked or killed by someone they know—usually a male. "Female homicide victims are more than twice as likely to have been killed by husbands or boyfriends than male victims are to have been killed by wives or girlfriends," the report said.

Murdered Women

In 1996, as in the years 1988-95, women in Arkansas were most at risk from people they knew. Forty-three percent (43%) of the murdered women were killed by a current or former husband or boyfriend. Fifteen percent (15%) of the slayings were perpetuated by a relative other than a husband, such as a son, stepson, brother-in-law, or father-in-law. And 21% of the victims were killed by an acquaintance. Thus, 79% of the victims were killed by someone

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they knew. Only 4% of the murderers were known to be strangers to the victims. (Of the 47 murdered women, no arrests had been made in 13% of their cases and the relationship to the perpetrator was unknown in another 4% of their cases.)

The most frequent cause of death for the murdered women and girls was a wound from a handgun (30%) or other type of gun (19%). Therefore firearms were used in 49% of the murders, which is consistent with our previous data. During the years of 1988 to 1995, firearms were used in 42% to 62% of the murders of women and girls in Arkansas. Other causes of death for 1996 were stabbing or slashing (11%), strangulation or asphyxiation (15%), beating (19%) and other (14%). The "other" category includes being thrown from a moving vehicle and injection with contaminated drugs, as well as the 4% of cases in which the cause of death is being kept confidential pending trial. NOTE: The percentages given above add up to more than 100% because of the multiple methods used in some cases.

As consistent with past years, the women most often murdered were 20-29 years old. In 1996, 21% were in this age category. The next most frequent age categories were 30-39 years (19%) and 40-49 (19%). Thus 59% of the murdered women were between the ages of 20 and 49 years. Although statewide figures show that 43% of murdered women were killed by a husband, boyfriend or ex-partner, the women in the 20-49 years category were more likely to be killed by their intimate partners. Fifty percent (50%) of these 20-49 year-old women were killed by their current or former male partners; 25% by men known to have committed previous domestic violence. Overall, 19% of the murders were committed by men with histories of domestic violence.

Older women, ages 60-89, comprised 21% of the murder victims. Thirty percent (30%) were slain by their husbands, usually in a murder-suicide. Sixty (60%) were killed by acquaintances and 10% by unknown persons.

Murdered Youth

Thirty-seven murders of youth were logged in two categories: child abuse by care-givers and murders resulting from street violence. Five children died as a result of abuse or neglect while in the presence of a caregiver. Thirty-two youth (up to age 20) were murdered as a result of street violence; handguns were the cause in most of these deaths.

Other Violence

There are seven accounts of racist violence described in this year's log. All were reported in local newspapers. Seven incidents are described in the section titled, "Police Brutality," including an account of the shooting of Kevin Williams, who was threatening his girlfriend with a gun at the time of his death. This incident has galvanized the Little Rock community, especially the African American community, into calling for a citizens' review board to look into police actions.

There are also six accounts of anti-gay or anti-lesbian violence recorded; five were reported in local newspapers and one is from a victim's statement. There were other incidents reported to us but we were unable to get the victim's or family's permission to include them in the published log. There were no accounts of violence against transgendered persons reported to us—which does not discount or diminish the everyday discrimination faced by transgendered people.

A new category was included beginning in Octo-

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ber 1997: violence against people with disabilities or HIV/AIDS. Four incidences are reported since data began to be collected: two involving abuse of disabled people residing in nursing homes. This category was included out of an awareness that ableism is based on the same beliefs as sexism—that people with disabilities are like women: different, less able, less capable, less competent and therefore more vulnerable.

This year there was one report of an anti-Semitic incident and no reports of anti-Catholic actions. It is important to remember that not all anti-religious group violence—or all racist, sexist, ethnic, ableist, anti-gay or anti-transgender violence—is reported in the media, to the police, or to the Women's Project. Victims often do not report such violence for fear of more violence against themselves or their families.

Other Activities in Arkansas

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held rallies in Mountain Home and Arkadelphia. There was not a large attendance at these rallies. Most citizens either stayed away or attended counter rallies. A counter rally in Mountain Home was attended by 150-200 people.

The Knights of the KKK also set up tables at a flea market operated by the Alpena Merchants Association and displayed T-shirts, caps, cassette tapes and literature. Residents complained that the Knights had tried to force Klan literature on them. The Knights were told that they could have a booth as long as they abided by the flea market rules of no advertising and no disruption.

Local affiliates of national religious Right organizations were active in supporting strongly conservative candidates for office, opposing the Governor's School, promoting the establishment of charter schools and the loosening of state oversight of home schooling, and opposing same-sex marriages. In July, Gov. Jim Guy Tucker stepped down from office following a felony conviction; Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister, became governor.

Huckabee has attended the Christian Coalition national conferences and the conferences of the Right to Life movement. Since assuming office of governor, he has also led a local anti-abortion march to the Capitol, introduced Phyllis Schlafly at an Eagle Forum breakfast, and testified in the legislature against late-term abortion.

Bills opposing same-sex marriages and late-term abortion were filed in the state Legislature early in the session; and there was a strong commitment to cut spending in both the Medicaid and welfare programs. The same-sex marriage bill has been signed into law, thus defining marriage as "only between a man and a woman" and prohibiting the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states. The late-term abortion bill was also signed which restricts the use of this procedure. Implementation of the welfare reform measures, including a two-year limit on benefits, have been postponed until July 1998 and the provision of health insurance for children of low income but Medicaid-ineligible families was signed.

Final Words

Although it is disheartening to read the details of yet another year of violence against women, people of color, youth, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, we are strengthened by the growing work of coalitions to bring about social change.

When bills were filed in both the House and Senate against same-sex marriages in Arkansas, a coalition, the Arkansas Non-Discrimination Alliance (ANDA), formed to fight for fairness. ANDA included as its members the Women's Project, the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Mainstream, the Coalition for Choice and the ACLU, and worked to get protection against employment discrimination for lesbians and gay men.

When rumblings were heard about massive cuts in Medicaid, Mainstream, ADAPT, the Disability Coalition and the Women's Project were among the groups advocating for the rights of people with dis-

abilities to get consumer-directed community-based care, not institutionalization in a nursing home.

As welfare reform began to take shape, the Women's Project and others joined together in the Kids Count Coalition to fight for the well-being of poor women and their children in the face of proposed welfare cut-backs.

People are also working to address the issues of hate and violence. A number of Arkansans have hosted house parties to view and discuss the video *Not in Our Town* to learn how to say no to intolerance. Similar viewings took place throughout 1996 on college campuses and with church groups. Counter-rallies were held when the Klan came to Arkansas towns and the Teenage Republicans of Baxter County (TAR) issued a proclamation denouncing the message of the Ku Klux Klan in response to their announcement to hold a local rally. And in Fayetteville, a 16-year old gay youth has refused to let his beating by a gang of young men intimidate him into silence. He and his parents are actively working with PFLAG and Parents for Tolerance to address the safety needs of all children in our public schools.

A new network of social change organizations in Arkansas has formed to work around the issues of hate and violence affecting the many people who make up the community. A "Hate Free Zones" campaign is being designed to educate about the harm conveyed through the hate rhetoric or bias violence directed toward any group of people.

It is a very hopeful sign that coalitions of people who usually don't sit at the same table are being formed to reduce hate and violence and to address the economic issues which often separate groups and spawn violence. We do so with the growing realization that our oppressions are connected—to fight against racism is to fight against economic injustice, to fight against sexism is to fight against ableism, homophobia and transgender-phobia. We are finally aware that the bridges to a just and violence-free society must carry us all.

The Women's Watchcare Network

The Women's Watchcare Network, formed in 1989, is a statewide project made up of volunteers who bring their hope for social justice into the work of clipping newspaper reports of violence, organizing community discussion groups, staffing data collection and responding, often at considerable risk, to acts of violence against people because of their race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religious beliefs, or disability.

The Women's Watchcare Network has five purposes:

1. To monitor the activities of white supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the activities of the religious Right and individual acts of racist, religious, ableist, sexist and anti-lesbian/gay violence;
2. To organize community responses to this violence in an effort to end it and create a society where all people can live in wholeness and safety;
3. To work with communities to provide support for victims of biased violence;
4. To provide community education about the nature of biased violence and systemic oppression;
5. To work to change the institutions in this society that give us policies and values which create a climate fostering such violence.

About the Women's Watchcare Network Log

The Women's Watchcare Network Log, published annually, is a documentation of sexist, racist, homophobic and religious violence, the activities of the religious right and the activities of organized hate groups in Arkansas.

Our log only contains information that we can verify by naming the source. We have chosen this method to avoid getting into the debate over the truthfulness of our information.

While this approach simplifies matters on one hand, it also means that if a victim of a hate crime is the source of information (rather than a published report in a newspaper) and does not wish for his or her name to be divulged at any time to any person, we are unable to print the information. This approach results in a log of verifiable information but also means that there are many incidents of bias violence that go unreported by us.

The sources of information that we use for the log are all available to the public by reading newspapers, getting on mailing lists from groups that are being monitored, talking with police and prosecutors and developing relationships with community volunteers.

The Women's Watchcare Network is not an undercover network. We operate the Watchcare Network with the assumption that our work is being monitored by others.

All incidents are listed by the date of the first report to appear in the media. The newspaper cited most often is the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, which is listed as ADG.

SEXIST MURDERS OF WOMEN

We do not log cases of rape, incest, abduction, battering or terroristic threatening of women. We do not document murders of women where workplace robbery or drugs were the precipitating factors.

This log addresses the murders of 47 Arkansas women and girls in 1996.

Little Rock, January 4

The nude, badly burned body of **Martha June Barnes, 58**, was found in a wooded area. David

Mulkey, 27, was charged with capital murder. Mulkey was Barnes' former stepson. He gave a statement in which he confessed to beating Barnes with a brass lamp at home. He then wrapped her in bedding, stuffed her into her car and drove her to a wooded area. There he strangled her, removed her pajamas and doused her with gasoline before setting her body afire. His attorney said that all Mulkey wanted to do was sleep but Barnes followed him around her house, berating him for drinking and smoking marijuana.

Mulkey confessed but pleaded not guilty to a charge of capital murder. He was found guilty on a lesser charge of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.

1/3, 1/4, 1/10, 11/2: ADG; *Ozark Spectator*

Mountain Home, January 5

Imogene Huffman, 80 and **Albert Huffman, 84**, were found dead in their home by their home health care nurse. Both died from single gunshot wounds from a .357-caliber Magnum handgun. Authorities suspect the deaths resulted from a murder-suicide. Last October, police responded to a domestic disturbance call at the Huffmans' residence.

1/5: ADG

Hope, January 6

The body of **Sharonitta Burton, 28**, was found in the bathtub of a burned-out mobile home. The fire occurred on December 16th, but the body was not found until January 2nd, when the Fire Department again searched the ruins of the trailer. The state medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide. The cause of death was "strangulation with submersion and cocaine intoxication." No suspects have been identified.

1/6, 4/7: ADG

Montrose, January 10

Monica Wilson, 17, and her daughter, **Erica Renee Barbee, 1 month**, were killed when the vehicle they

were riding in flipped over after being rammed by a truck driven by Wilson's boyfriend, Shawn Barbee, 25. A friend, Melissa Dorothy Golden, 15, was also killed. All three victims were thrown from the vehicle.

Shawn Barbee, Erica's father, was chasing Wilson's vehicle following a domestic dispute. After the accident, Barbee was held in the Ashley County jail and charged with reckless driving and driving while intoxicated. He was later charged with three counts of negligent homicide. He was found guilty and sentenced to 90 days in county jail, fined \$1000, and given 60 months of supervised probation and a 3-year revocation of his driver's license. Under the terms of his probation, he is to undergo inhouse alcohol and drug treatment and face the victims' families.

1/10: ADG

Montrose, January 10

Melissa Dorothy Golden, 15, was killed when she was thrown from a vehicle rammed by a truck driven by Shawn Barbee. See entry for Monica Wilson.

1/10: ADG

Little Rock, January 20

Judy Dennis, 51, was shot to death by her husband, Michael Dennis, 43, with a .357-caliber Magnum handgun. Police found Judy lying in the bedroom with a gunshot wound in her face. Michael Dennis told police at the house that he accidentally shot his wife while cleaning his gun. Later, at police headquarters, he told officers that he and his wife were struggling over the gun when it fired. They had been arguing about attending a weekend boat show.

Officers had been sent to the home in the past on a number of domestic disturbance calls. Judy Dennis' 11-year granddaughter was inside the home at the time of the shooting. Michael Dennis was charged with first-degree murder and is being held without bond.

1/20: ADG

Pine Bluff, January 21

Jacqueline Wilson, 31, was kidnapped by Jonathan Andre Tisdale, 31 who took her to a friend's house. Once inside, Tisdale took Wilson to the bathroom where he shot her in the head. He then shot himself. Both died from single gunshot wounds to the head.

1/21, 2/4: *Pine Bluff Commercial*

Batesville, January 25

Jean Ann Davidson Sharpe, 34, died as a result of head injuries inflicted by her husband of three months, Charles Phillip Sharpe, 38. The night she was injured, police had been called to the Sharpe residence twice. They arrested Charles Sharpe on their second visit when they found him chasing his bloodied wife down a stairway. Mrs. Sharpe told officers that her husband had been drinking and had gotten mad at her when she told him to clean up the bedroom after he had vomited on the floor. She also told the deputy that her husband banged her head "a lot" against the floor and walls in the apartment.

Charles Sharpe was originally arrested on suspicion of domestic abuse and public intoxication. First degree murder charges were filed when Mrs. Sharpe died of her injuries the next day. Bond was set at \$500,000, and reduced to \$100,000 at a pretrial hearing. Charles Sharpe was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

1/24, 1/25, 1/26, 1/31: ADG, *The Courier, Batesville Guard, Southwest Times Record*

Morrilton, February 11

Rebecca L. Kerr Taylor, 30, died of massive head injuries when she fell from a truck driven by her estranged husband, Kenneth Leon Taylor, 32. Kenneth Taylor told authorities that Rebecca Taylor had reached into her purse "when the door flew open and she fell out." A witness told police that he saw Kenneth Taylor reach out with his right arm toward a frightened-looking woman passenger who then came out of the truck and hit the pavement.

Kenneth Taylor later admitted that he pushed Rebecca out of the truck as the vehicle traveled about

35 miles per hour near Oppelo. Rebecca Taylor's parents said that Kenneth Taylor had abused their daughter and that she had recently filed for divorce and obtained an order of protection against him. Kenneth Taylor was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

2/11, 2/22, 3/1, 4/3-4, 4/10, 11/15 ADG; *Log Cabin Democrat*; *Courier News*; *Daily Press*; *Daily Record*; *Country Headlight*

Pine Bluff, February 16

Lowrean Ringo, 34, was shot to death by her boyfriend, David Peterson, 66, after an argument about money she owed him. Peterson and Ringo had an abusive 5-1/2 year relationship. Friends testified that during the relationship, Peterson had choked her and pulled a gun on her. According to Peterson, he didn't know why he shot Ringo and didn't know he had killed her. Peterson was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 20 years in prison with a fine of \$15,000.

2/16/96, 3/1/97: ADG; *Forrest City/St Francis Times-Herald*

Pine Bluff, February 21

The body of **Clara Middleton Sutton, 88**, was found by her daughter who went to Sutton's house to check on her. Sutton had been stabbed in the throat. The week before her death she had reported to the police that burglars had broken into her house and ransacked it while she was in bed. Her neighbors complained that a house on the block was being used as a drug house and was attracting criminals. The police department is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in this case.

2/21, 2/23, 3/6, 12/2: ADG, *Conway County Headlight*

Clarksville, February 23

The bodies of **Doris Pils, 76**, and her husband, Douglas Roy Pils, 73, were found in their home. According to authorities, the deaths appeared to be the result of a murder-suicide with Mr. Pils shooting first his wife and then himself. The bodies were sent

to the state medical examiner's office in Little Rock for autopsy.

2/23: ADG

Pine Bluff, February 25

Maudie Louise Marshall West, 32, was strangled to death and her body pushed down a stairway. Duane Harold Reilly Jr., 27, confessed to the murder. He has been charged with first-degree murder.

2/25: ADG

Wynne, March 8

Toy Norwood, 72, was found dead in her home. Danny Ray Pettigrew, 42, was charged with capital murder and held without bond. Pettigrew confessed that he killed Norwood after she refused to give him money. Authorities said that Pettigrew sometimes did odd jobs for Norwood to get money for soda and cigarettes. Pettigrew was found not guilty during his April 1997 trial.

3/8, 3/16: *Wynne Progress*; ADG

Cove, March 16

The bodies of **Sheila Goodwin, 23**, and her boyfriend, Paul Jones, 31, were found at Jones' mobile home. Both victims had been stabbed and also had slash wounds to their bodies.

Kevin Baker, 28, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder. Bond was set at \$50,000. A witness reported that Baker and Jones argued outside the mobile home and Jones was stabbed. When Goodwin came out of the home, she also was stabbed. The victims were dragged back inside the home.

3/16-17, 3/21: ADG

Bentonville, March 19

Patricia Wilhelm, 26, died from complications from the onset of gangrene. Wilhelm had told her parents that the infection was the result of a bad tattoo. Before her death, however, Wilhelm told her mother she had been injected in the wrist with methamphetamine by her boyfriend, Jim Sevart. Authorities believe that the methamphetamine was contaminated. Sevart was

charged with injecting a controlled substance into the body of another person. As of April 1997, he was still in jail awaiting trial.

3/19-20: *Daily Record; The Courier-Journal*

Crawfordsville, March 29

Denise Lamb, 29, and her husband, Carl Lamb, 32, were found dead in the home of Denise Lamb's mother. Crittendon County authorities suspect that Carl Lamb shot his wife several times with a .38-caliber handgun before killing himself. Witnesses inside the house said the couple began arguing and moments later they heard gunshots. The couple had been married for about five years, then divorced and remarried. They were living at Rholly Moore's home while attempting to work out their marital problems.

3/29-30: *Evening Times; ADG*

Little Rock, March 31

Mary Boudra, 29, was shot to death by her boyfriend, Lee Edward Ernst, 32, who had reported her missing. Boudra had been beaten with a crowbar, then shot with a small-caliber handgun; her body was found in a creek bed. Ernst was charged with capital murder and was held without bond.

In 1986, Ernst was convicted of first-degree murder in the 1985 shooting of Gary Douglas Stafford, 21, in Shannon Hills and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was paroled July 27, 1994.

3/31-4/1: *ADG; Sun; The Daily Citizen*

Atkins, April 26

Janet Arlene Nichols, 29, and Bobby L. McCain, 31, were found shot to death in their mobile home. The deaths were ruled a murder-suicide. McCain apparently shot Nichols in the head and then killed himself. A .22-caliber Magnum rifle was found near the bodies.

McCain had been arrested two nights before on charges of public intoxication and third-degree battery. Officers reported that Nichols had then had facial bruises but she did not want to press charges against McCain.

4/26: *ADG*

McCrary, May 3

The body of **Brenda Ferguson, 46**, was found in a culvert between Augusta and McCrary by two crayfish fishermen. The cause of death was asphyxiation. She had been reported missing on March 15th by her husband, Jim Ferguson, 41, who said she had gone for a walk and not returned. Jim Ferguson was arrested in Cape Girardeau, Mo., on a capital murder warrant. Ferguson had moved to the Missouri town where he was working as a nursing home aide. He was returned to Arkansas authorities and was charged with capital murder. He has not yet been tried.

5/3, 5/5, 5/8: *ADG*

Center Ridge, May 10

Marvelle Howard, 75, was found dead on the floor of her home by a mail carrier concerned about the mail piling up. She had been shot two times in the neck. Her husband, J. W. Howard, 65, was found lying unresponsive in his bed. He was charged with first-degree murder; bond was set at \$250,000. According to authorities, J.W. Howard had a history of mental problems but had not previously committed any violent crimes. He was found unfit to stand trial and as of April, 1997 was still in the State Hospital in Little Rock.

5/10: *ADG*

DeWitt, May 11

Shirley Ferguson, 43, was shot and killed in her home. Edwin L. Williams, 45, who lived with Ferguson, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Ferguson had been arguing with him before she was shot. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

5/11: *ADG*

Fort Smith, May 29

Beverly Jo Wilson, 37, and her husband, Charles Gus Wilson, 38, were killed at their home by Eddie Gordon Jr., 47, who shot them with a .25-caliber pistol. Gordon surrendered to police about an hour after shooting his wife's sister and her husband. He

was charged with two counts of capital murder. Gordon was listed on the arrest report as disabled due to paranoid schizophrenia. He later committed suicide in jail.

5/29: ADG

Pine Bluff, June 5

Alicestine Thomas Shavers, 52, was found shot to death and her husband, Louis Shavers Sr., was seriously wounded in their home. Her body was found in the bedroom while her husband was found in the front room with multiple wounds in the face, chest and arm. Louis Shavers Sr. died from his injuries on June 19th. Louis Garret Shavers Jr., 26, Alicestine's stepson, was charged with two counts of capital murder. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole for both capital murder charges.

6/5, 7/27, 3/19/97: ADG

Little Rock, June 6

LaShanda Jones, 21, was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend, Emmanuel Maddox, 26, with a .38-caliber revolver. Maddox forced his way into her home, shot Jones twice, and then killed himself. The couple, who had dated since Jones was in 10th grade, had recently broken up and had been arguing.

6/6: ADG

Pulaski County, June 12

Anthony L. Bryant, 27, fatally shot his estranged wife, **Candida Bryant, 24**, in the face with a handgun and then killed himself as neighbors and Candida's stepfather watched. Earlier that same day, Candida had met with a sheriff's detective to discuss a restraining order against her husband. The couple were getting a divorce and Anthony Bryant had recently lost custody of their two children.

6/12: ADG

Washington, July 9

Ruth Evelyn Dotson, 34, died after being shot once in the forehead with a .22-caliber revolver by her live-in boyfriend, David J. Conway, 39. Law

enforcement officers had responded to reports of domestic disputes between Dotson and Conway on several occasions before the murder. Conway was held without bond on suspicion of first-degree murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and received 25 years in prison.

7/5, 7/9: ADG

Drasco, July 14

The badly decomposed bodies of **Cathy Howard, 46**, and her son, Miles Patrick Howard, 12, were found by a hiker in a wooded area west of Drasco. Both had been shot once in the head with a .22-caliber pistol at close range. The Howards were from Orange Park, Fla.

Authorities looked for Julius Wayne Wade, 55, on warrants of two counts of capital murder and theft of property. Wade told Howard that he was going to buy a house near Drasco and give it to her and her son. The Howards drove to Arkansas to see the house. Officers found Wade at his daughter's house in Florida. Wade was hiding in a crawlspace and shot himself in the head while the police searched the house. He later died from his self-inflicted wound.

7/14, 7/19-23: ADG

Menifee, July 27

Authorities found the body of **Dorothy Maxine Flakes, 63**, in her bedroom. She had been shot once in the head. The body of Deborah A. Yancey, 42, was found in Flakes' driveway. Yancey had been shot in her head and back. Yancey, of Nebraska, was the girlfriend of Flakes' son, Larry, 46. His body was found in an area near Dorothy Flakes' house.

Police believe that Larry Flakes was shot at a house he rented across town and that his body was dumped near his mother's home. The burned-out shell of his vehicle was later found.

Four suspects have been arrested: Christopher Brian Johnson, 22; Patrick Walker, 18; Ronita Faith Bell, 19; and Gregory Allen Cook, 19, on three counts each of being an accomplice to capital murder. They are being held without bond. In an affidavit, Cook

said that he and Johnson agreed to rob Larry Flakes. Investigators also believe that Cook was angry after finding out about a sexual relationship between Bell and Larry Flakes, and that Bell and Cook are members of Folks Disciples gang.

7/27-29, 11/20, 11/22, 11/23: ADG

Menifee, July 27

The body of **Deborah A. Yancey, 42**, was found in the driveway of Dorothy Flakes, who was found shot to death in her bed inside the house. Johnson told Bell that he had shot Yancey several times because "she was trying to get away and I fell chasing her and ruined my pants." Yancey had wounds in her head and back. Yancey, of Nebraska, was the girlfriend of Flakes' son, Larry, 46. His body was found in an area near Dorothy Flakes' house. See entry for Dorothy Flakes, July 27.

7/27-29, 11/22, 11/23: ADG

Fort Smith, July 27

The bones of **Lisa Ann Teague, 13**, were found May 31; she had been missing since August 1995. Her body was found about two blocks from her home. Authorities served Jonathan Keith Cole, 18, with a first-degree murder warrant and a warrant for a rape in another case. Cole has been in jail since June 2 for two juvenile rapes that allegedly occurred between 1994 and 1996. Cole was an acquaintance of Teague. Police do not believe that Teague was sexually assaulted; the cause of death is being withheld. Cole is being held in lieu of more than \$750,000 bond and as of April 1997 was still awaiting trial.

7/27: ADG

Joplin, Mo., August 7

A body found July 31 under a viaduct east of downtown Joplin, Mo. was identified as that of **Cara Wells, 17**, of Rogers. She had been hit on the back of her head with a blunt instrument. Wells had been traveling by bus from Bentonville to Pontiac, Mich. During a one-hour layover in Joplin, she left the bus depot, returning to exchange her ticket for a bus that departed six hours later. Witnesses report seeing her

return to the depot for her luggage shortly before the later bus departed. Her body was found partially clothed but no determination could be made about sexual assault because the body was badly decomposed.

Timothy Cable, 29, was arrested in December and charged with first-degree murder. He had caught police attention by repeatedly bicycling through the area where the body was found. At the time of the murder, Cable had been living in an abandoned concession stand in a Little League park near where the body was found. His trial has been set for August 26, 1997.

8/7, 12/9, 3/23/97: ADG

Hot Springs, August 24

The live-in boyfriend of **Tommie Vrzal, 54**, apparently attacked her and beat her with his fists until she fell into a coma. Kamrud Jacobson, 44, was later found dead in the basement of the couple's residence with a self-inflicted shotgun wound to the abdomen. Vrzal died from her injuries on September 9. The Hot Springs Police ruled the double death a murder-suicide.

1/2/97: *Sentinel Record*

Horseshoe Lake, September 12

The bodies of **Sally McKay, 75**, and her nephew, Lee Baker, 53, were found in her burning home by firefighters. Both had been shot to death before the home was set on fire.

Travis Lewis, 16, was arrested and held without bond on two capital murder charges. He was also charged with one count of burglary. Lewis was a student in an English class taught by Baker. Lewis' grandparents rented their home from McKay. Lewis was awaiting trial as of April 1997.

9/12-13/96, 11/10: ADG

Camden, September 29

The bodies of **Vyesta Lewis, 67**, and her husband, Thomas Lewis, 75, were found in their home by one of their daughters. The couple allegedly had been stabbed to death by their son, Cedric Aaron Lewis, 34, of Pine Bluff, who was charged with two counts

of capital murder. He was held in the Ouachita County jail and as of April 1997 was still awaiting trial.

9/29-30: ADG

Stuttgart, October 8

The body of **Debbie Halford, 37**, was found by a girl who was collecting bugs for a school project near a county road four miles south of Stuttgart. Halford had been missing since September 29 and was last seen leaving her job at a convenience store. Stuttgart police found evidence of a struggle and possible abduction when they searched her apartment.

Halford's body was taken to the state medical examiner's office for autopsy which revealed that she died of head trauma. No suspects have been identified.

10/8,10/10: ADG

Malvern, October 11

The bodies of **Veronica Haymon Smith, 37**, and **Amos Smith, 75**, were found shot to death at Amos Smith's mobile home. Both victims were struck with one round each in the head.

No arrests have been made. The two Smiths were unrelated acquaintances.

10/11: ADG

Seligman, Mo., October 12

The body of **Robin Kell, 25**, of Center-ton, was found in the Mark Twain National Forest by tourists. She had been beaten, strangled and run over by a vehicle.

Kell's attorney, Brenda Austin of Fayetteville, reported that Kell said someone was out to get her. Before her death, Kell lived at the Salvation Army shelter and at the homes of friends as she was recently separated and hoping to get custody of her children.

Billy Joe Draper, 38, was arrested on November 29th in Nashville, Tennessee, and charged with first-degree murder. He had met Kell at the Salvation Army shelter.

10/12, 10/16, 12/5, 12/6: ADG

North Little Rock, October 22

The body of **Nadine Hubbard, 48**, was found in the back yard of a house about two blocks from where she lived. She appeared to have been beaten on the head. The victim's body was sent to the state Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

North Little Rock police charged Edward Leaks Jr., 26, with capital murder after some of Hubbard's belongings were found in his house. He was held without bond and as of April 1997 was still awaiting trial.

10/22: ADG

North Little Rock, November 19

Linda Adams, 48, died October 13th but her death is now being investigated as a homicide after the autopsy report showed that she was strangled. Adams' boyfriend, Clarence Williams, 38, told police that he and Adams' roommate, John Harris, 45, found her unconscious on the floor of a bedroom. Emergency room personnel told police at the time that they thought Adams was intoxicated and had suffocated on her own vomit. There are no suspects in custody.

11/19: ADG

Hot Springs, November 24

The body of **Cynthia Dawn Rollans, 22**, was discovered by her live-in boyfriend, Michael J. Chancellor, 28, on the floor of her kitchen. She had numerous stab wounds to her chest. Chancellor told the police that he found her and reported the situation as a suicide attempt. No arrests have been made.

11/23, 11/25, 11/27, 12/4: ADG, *Sentinel Record*

Blue Mountain, November 28

The bodies of **Shirley Heslip, 46**, and her husband, Bruce Heslip, 51, were found November 8th in the living room of their home by their nephews, who had come to Logan County to hunt deer. The autopsy report showed both died from a single gunshot wound to the head. A .357-caliber revolver was found near the bodies. The medical examiner ruled that Bruce Heslip's death was a suicide and Shirley Heslip's

death was a homicide. There was no suicide note.
11/28: ADG

Paragould, November 29

After receiving a tip, police found the body of **Patricia Spring Palmer, 19**, in her apartment. She had been shot several times.

Earlier in the day, Gary Glover, 46, suffered a head wound when he tried to kill himself with a .22-caliber, semi-automatic pistol at a service station. Glover was Palmer's father-in-law and the two may have had a dispute over custody of a child. When word of the service station shooting spread, police got calls from people concerned about Palmer's safety. When a detective went to her house, there was no response; the detective found Palmer's body just inside the door.

Glover died from his self-inflicted gunshot wound several days later. Authorities ruled the double death a murder-suicide.

11/29: ADG

England, December 12

Zena Petty, 80, was found dead in her home by a friend. Ms. Petty's throat had been slashed and she had been sexually assaulted and robbed.

Jason Neal Gates, 20, who had done lawn work for her in the summers, was arrested on a capital murder charge and is being held in Lonoke County.

12/12: ADG

Widener, December 18

The fully clothed body of **Rose Marie Arnett, 41**, was found December 15th, dumped at the Widener entrance ramp on I-40. Kenneth Lee Knight, 37, of Brooklyn, Mississippi was arrested in the murder and held on \$100,000 bond. Authorities said that Knight picked up Arnett at truck stop in West Memphis and after an argument, strangled her.

12/18, 1/3/97, 1/30/97: ADG

Osceola, December 21

The body of **Ozella McFarland, 74**, was found in a canal near Osceola. Her adopted son, Calvin Davis,

23, was charged with capital murder and was still awaiting trial as of April 1997.

12/21: ADG

St. James, December 25

Carol Turner, 40, and her husband, Darrell Turner, 46, were shot to death by their son-in-law, Brian Keith Bangs, 29, who then abducted, raped and beat his estranged wife, Jennifer, 19. The Turners' two younger daughters and the Bangs' 10-month old child were home at the time of the murders and kidnapping, but were unharmed. There were several reports of domestic abuse involving the Bangses before the shootings.

Brian Bangs had a 1991 conviction for kidnapping and rape and has served time in prison. He is charged with two counts of capital murder, and single counts of rape, kidnapping, first-degree battery, and theft. He is being held without bond.

12/24, 12/25: ADG

RACIST VIOLENCE

Little Rock, March 20

A graduate of Mountain Home High School discussed racial harassment she experienced as a student at the school. The setting for the discussion was the Oprah Winfrey television show, March 19. Kelly Batton's mother is white and her father is African-American. Her parents divorced when she was in the sixth grade and she moved to Mountain Home with her mother and brother. Batton said that she was constantly the victim of name-calling, vandalism and threats while at school. She said that school officials did little about the complaints filed by Batton and her brother.

School officials said that they responded to her complaints. Workshops were held for teachers and tolerance classes for students were added to the curriculum.

3/20: ADG

Camden, July 28

The New Calvary Church of God in Christ was destroyed by fire. According to investigators for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the fire was started by a human. Officials with the FBI and the Arkansas State Police also investigated the fire.

The church has a predominately African-American congregation. This was the first suspicious fire reported at a predominantly black church in Arkansas since 1995.

7/28-30: ADG

Fort Smith, September 14

The body of Pane Sayakhoummane, 51, of Fort Smith, was found near the Robert S. Kerr Lock and Dam, eight miles south of Muldrow, Okla. His body was in the bed of his pickup, which was partially submerged in the Arkansas River. Sayakhoummane's body was riddled with 41 bullets in the face and chest.

He had been fishing at the lock and dam, which the Fort Smith Laotian community considered a bad place because of incidents between Asians and whites there over the years.

Two ministers, Rev. Billy Amonsin and Rev. Vathana Sinbandhit, who are leaders in Fort Smith's Laotian community thought that the slaying was not racially motivated. Others in the Laotian community were upset by the degree of violence in Sayakhoummane's murder.

Donald Ray Wackerly, 27, of Muldrow, Okla., was arrested on charges of first-degree murder and first-degree robbery. His wife, Michelle Wackerly, testified that she was present when her husband shot and robbed Sayakhoummane. Donald Wackerly is being held without bond in the Sequoyah County jail.

9/14, 2/15/97: ADG

Little Rock, October 28

Kevin Anglin, 34, was severely beaten outside the Discovery Club by a group of men. Anglin was attacked after he asked the four or five men to stop yelling anti-immigrant obscenities at several indi-

viduals. The attackers fled in a white Honda Accord and a blue Mazda 626.

Witnesses gave police the names of two of the alleged attackers. They reported that the men were white. Anglin was taken by ambulance to Doctors Hospital.

10/28: ADG

Little Rock, November 2

John Walker, an attorney for black families in the Pulaski County school desegregation lawsuit, asked a federal judge to investigate complaints of discrimination at Robinson High School. Walker said in the motion filed with U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright's court, that he has received complaints from students, teachers, and parents about unfair and unequal treatment at the school. Most of the complaints involve Principal Ralph Hoffman: disproportionate numbers of African-American students are suspended from school for petty reasons and for lengthy periods, a basketball coach was suspended when he objected to rebuilding the team so that it would be a majority-white team, and courses that enable low income students to work and attend school at the same time were eliminated. Walker asked Wright to direct the federal Office of Desegregation Monitoring to investigate the allegations.

Top-level administrators in the Pulaski County Special School District investigated the complaints by interviewing Robinson staff, students, parents, and principal Hoffman. The investigators found that Hoffman routinely called black male students "boy" or "son", told a coach that he wanted more white males on the basketball team so the team would reflect the majority-white makeup of the school, and that black students were more likely than white to be sent home or placed on disciplinary probation for wearing clothes that administrators believed signified gang membership. Hoffman acknowledged to the investigators that he once told a coach: "I'm tired of seeing those g***** black boys out on the basketball court shucking and jiving."

10/10, 11/2, 11/14, 11/21: *Arkansas State Press*, ADG

Little Rock, November 23

Zandra Brown and Denise Henderson filed a lawsuit in federal court contending that they were denied their constitutional rights and were assaulted in a November 1995 incident at Denny's on South University Avenue. The women said a restaurant supervisor ordered them to pay their bill even though they hadn't eaten their food after they complained about a waitress's "rather derogatory and abusive" attitude. The supervisor and three police officers then asked them to leave. The women said a security guard followed them outside. He approached them as they sat in their car, questioned them, told them that he was "tired of n——", and then sprayed a can of Mace or pepper spray into their car.

11/23: ADG

Hot Springs, December 3

Marc Carl Morales, 28, was charged with second-degree battery, criminal mischief, resisting arrest, public intoxication, and disorderly conduct for his part in instigating a fight at Shape's Nightclub. It was reported that Morales allegedly yelled racial slurs at two black men who had entered the club. A fight ensued during which Morales reportedly punched one man in the head, struck another man in the jaw and hit him over the head with a pool cue. When officers confronted Morales, he pushed them away, punched, and yelled obscenities.

12/3: *Sentinel Record*

VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUALS AND TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE

Little Rock, June 14

A Little Rock man, 39, told police that two men raped him about 8:30 p.m. in Boyle Park. The man told officers that the two grabbed him from behind and threatened to kill him. When he told them he had

no money, they told him that that wasn't what they wanted. The men then forced him to the ground and raped him, he reported. The attackers were described as white men, both in their early 30s.

6/14: ADG

Little Rock, August 8

Derrick Dewayne Cohens was accosted at a local club by a security guard who wanted to check his hand stamp. Cohens who was not yet 21, offered to leave the club. The security guard tore Cohens' collar, threw him against a rail, body pressed him, and then shoved him down a flight of stairs while calling him anti-gay obscenities.

Victim statement

Little Rock, November 3

The naked body of James Ray Boone, 45, was found in his bed. He had been shot at least three times in the neck, chest and right thigh, police said. Mitchell Lee Oxford, 32, was arrested on a first-degree murder charge and held on a \$250,000 bond in the slaying. Oxford, a state Department of Correction employee, was also charged with aggravated assault in the beating of James Kelley, 32, who had been struck several times in the head and mouth. Police said that after shooting Boone and beating Kelley, Oxford forced Kelley to drive him to the Arkansas State Hospital. Oxford confessed to the slaying to an employee of the State Hospital and asked to see a doctor. Police found his service revolver and a hammer in the car. He later told investigators that Boone was his ex-lover. Oxford has pleaded innocent to the charge.

11/3, 11/6: ADG

Fayetteville, November 14

The body of Alan Fitzgerald Walker, a 31-year-old African-American man, was found by police after a worried neighbor reported he had not been seen for several days. Walker's station wagon was parked in front of his duplex with its two front tires slashed. Police found his body at the foot of the bed in his bedroom, nude except for silver high heels and a wig. He had been shot in the head, bludgeoned and pos-

sibly strangled. The letters "KKK" had been scrawled on the wall with Walker's blood.

Walker had last been seen by two other patrons talking to two men outside a local club early Saturday morning. Walker occasionally performed as a female impersonator at the club and was in drag. Later the two patrons saw the same two men in a truck following Walker. The patrons followed and got the truck's license plate before losing sight of it.

Yitzhak Abba Marta, 21, a native of Mexico, and Adam David Blackford, 22, were charged with capital murder and held on \$250,000 bond. The truck was registered to Blackford, police said. Police searched Marta's home and found a steak knife hidden in a floor vent and a pile of burned clothes. A bag of makeup, letters, clothes, and bedding were also seized.

Blackford was found guilty of first-degree murder and was recommended to receive 30 years in prison. Formal sentencing will be later in April 1997. Marta has yet to stand trial.

11/13, 11/14, 11/16, 11/21, 12/9, 4/5/97: *Morning News, Northwest Arkansas Times, Ozark Gazette, ADG*

Fayetteville, December 2

While waiting to eat lunch at the Hogwash Laundry, William Wagner, 16, and some of his friends were waylaid by two vehicles full of 6-8 young men, two of whom Wagner recognized. Separating him from his friends, they began attacking Wagner, calling him homophobic names, and yelling, "this is what you deserve." William, who is in the 10th grade at Fayetteville High School, sustained a broken nose, bruised kidney, several hematomas, contusions on his back where he was kicked by his cowboy boot-wearing assailants, and scrapes on his knees. His mother said he may have to undergo surgery to repair some facial bones.

There were 6 eyewitnesses who state that the assault was unprovoked.

Bradley Huford, 17, and Jerry Lynge, 16, two students at the high school, were arrested on suspicion of second-degree battery. The 4th Judicial District Prosecutor's Office filed felonies against the

pair, charging them as adults in Washington County Circuit Court. They are being held on \$5,000 bond. Trial was scheduled for March, 1997 but was postponed when the Circuit Court judge granted a motion to transfer the case to juvenile court. The motion was filed because prosecution of the adult felony charge required that any injuries sustained in the attack result in permanent damage, loss of function or disfigurement. Charged as adult, Huford and Lynge each could have been sentenced to six years in prison and fined \$10,000 if convicted of the battery charge. If convicted of the same charge in juvenile court, a probation officer will recommend alternative sentences which could include community service or commitment to the county juvenile jail.

12/3, 12/5, 12/6, 12/7, 12/9, 12/15, 3/25/97: *Northwest Arkansas Times, Ozark Gazette, Gay and Lesbian Community reports, victim's statement, ADG*

Fayetteville, December 5

A concerned lesbian mother went to a counselor at Woodland Junior High about her daughter who is being harassed because of her mother's sexual orientation.

Danielle (a pseudonym), a 12-year-old, 7th grade Woodland Junior High student told of the constant verbal harassment (cursing, vile names and insults) that she gets daily at school due to the fact that her parents are lesbians. Ironically, Danielle's mother was harassed 30 years ago in the same school when she refused to hide her sexual orientation.

The counselor's response was to spend a half hour talking about all the "bad" lesbian mothers, naming names and children's problems.

12/5, 12/7, 12/9: *Ozark Gazette, Northwest Arkansas Times, Gay and Lesbian Community reports*

Climate of Intolerance Towards Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals and Transgendered People

Little Rock, November 16

Legislators pre-filed six bills on November 15th,

the first day bills could be submitted for consideration when the General Assembly meets January 13th. One bill defines marriage as only between a man and a woman and refuses recognition of same-sex marriages. Rep. Doug Kidd (D-Benton), lead sponsor of the bill, said he introduced it because of constituent calls after President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act in September. Kidd said the federal act "left it up to the states" on whether to recognize same-sex marriages. "People said they didn't want this here. I agreed with them and I told them I'd try to do something," Kidd said. He said that he knew of no instances where same-sex couples had tried to get married or to be recognized as married.

11/16: ADG

Little Rock, December 13

In the last month, about 10 families have pulled their children from preschool classes at west Little Rock's Second Presbyterian Church over moral objections to a multi-faith worship service for gays and lesbians (heterosexuals welcome, too) at the church on October 29th. None of the families who left were members of the congregation, pastor William Poe said.

Poe says 250-300 people attended the service, which was developed after a year of planning by a multi-faith group of Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopalian, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, Temple B'Nai Israel and Metropolitan Community Church leaders. "The purpose of the service was to demonstrate a welcomeness to all people ...," Poe said.

12/13: ADG

RELIGIOUS MINORITY VIOLENCE

Little Rock, April 5

According to police, two students were suspended at Forest Heights Junior High in connection with an

anti-Semitic poem that contained death threats. The poem was titled "Hey Jew." According to the school principal, a male student typed the poem on a school computer and distributed five copies on March 27. Another male student gave a copy of the poem to a female student whose father is Jewish. A police report was filed with a copy of the poem. School officials said that harassing communications usually are punishable by 10-day suspensions.

4/5: ADG

HATE GROUP ACTIVITY

In this section we document the activities of white supremacist groups as well as individuals and groups whose message is racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic or anti-gay.

Rogers, February 14

A cross 4 feet tall was burned in the yard of a family who had not received any threats. The motive for the cross-burning was not known. The family occupying the home have names that appear Hispanic.

2/14: *Daily Record*

Alpena, March 13

Mayor Bobbi Bailey received complaints from residents about the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan's presence at a flea market operated by the Alpena Merchants Association. Residents told Mayor Bailey that the Klan's presence was offensive to them and that Klan representatives had tried to force literature on them.

During the weekend of February 23 through 25, Klan representatives set up tables to display T-shirts, caps, audio tapes and literature. A sign and a flag were displayed. Mayor Bailey talked to the Klan representatives at the booth and informed them of the complaints about their presence. The KKK sign was taken down.

Several hours later, Thom Robb, national director,

and another man went to Mayor Bailey's house and told her that if they were not allowed a booth at the flea market, they would set up their display at the town pavilion that is next to the Community Center.

Flea market rules state that there is to be no advertising at the booths and that renters cannot cause any disruption at the flea market. The Klan was informed that they could have a booth if no sign was used and there were "no problems."

3/13, 4/10: *Times-Echo; Gravette News Herald*

Mountain Home, March 26

The Ku Klux Klan notified officials of the group's intention to meet on the steps of the Baxter County Courthouse in Mountain Home on June 22. Thom Robb said that rally sites are chosen in areas where the local membership can support the cost of the rally. He said that the selection of Mountain Home for the rally had no relationship to the recent allegations of racism in Mountain Home High School by a graduate who has a white mother and an African-American father.

Approximately 300 people attended the rally although it was estimated that 50% of the attendees were members of the news media.

3/26-28, 6/23: *Baxter Bulletin, Daily Record, Evening Times, Northwest Arkansas Times, Pine Bluff Commercial, Texarkansa Gazette, Sun, Mountain Echo, ADG*

Arkadelphia, April 4

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan planned a rally at the Clark County Courthouse on May 11 from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. Thom Robb notified city and county officials by fax and told the authorities that he wants the Klan to occupy the main entrance of the courthouse including all the front steps extending from the bottom at least 10 feet.

According to Robb, 10-20 Klan participants would attend. Klan literature would be distributed and Klan items (t-shirts, caps, etc.) would be sold. The Klan also planned to have political speeches and play music on a public address system. Rachel Pendergraft, of the Grand Council, said that membership and financial support are strong in Clark County.

Approximately 20-30 people attended the rally and were present when Robb addressed the group. Another 100 people protested the Klan's presence and departed before Robb spoke.

4/4: *Daily Siftings Herald*

Gravette, April 10

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan set up a booth at a flea market in Alpena to sell t-shirts, caps, and other merchandise as well as to distribute literature. Residents have complained about the Klan's presence.

4/10: *Gravette News Herald*

St. Louis, Mo., August 22

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rendered its opinion that Ralph Forbes, a former American Nazi Party member from London, Ark., was wrongly excluded from a 1992 congressional debate hosted by the Arkansas Educational Television Network in 1992. The three-judge panel also suggested that Forbes should be compensated for the discrimination.

Only the Democratic and Republican candidates, John Van Winkle and Tim Hutchinson, respectively, were allowed to participate. Forbes ran as an independent candidate. At the time, station officials considered Forbes a "fringe candidate" in the race for the Arkansas 3rd Congressional District seat.

The case was sent back to the U.S. District Court in Fort Smith for a jury-determination of damages. On March 17, 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. The case, said AETN, "presents a fundamental challenge to the freedom of the press of every state public broadcasting network and every public television and radio station licensed to a state university, community college, or school board." The U.S. Supreme Court decision is expected sometime in 1998.

8/22, 3/18/97: *ADG*

Harrison, August 26-August 30

The 1996 Christian Leadership School was held at the Soldiers of the Cross Bible Camp the week before the National Klan Congress, as reported by the *White Patriot*. The school is sponsored by the Church of

Jesus Christ and administered by Thom Robb, national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The week-long school included study of the philosophy of Christian leadership, propaganda (what it is and how to use it), Biblical foundation for racial separation, and goal setting for Christian leadership. The school is open to white Christians; Klan membership is not a requirement. Young people, especially those in high school or preparing to attend college, are encouraged to attend.

Harrison, August 30-September 1

According to the *White Patriot*, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held its annual National Klan Congress at the Soldiers of the Cross Bible Camp, east of Harrison. This congress marked the 40th anniversary of the Knights of the KKK. The special speaker was Daniel Johnson of Los Angeles who serves as legal counsel for the Knights. He spoke about creating white consciousness in a hostile world.

Tilly, December 12

The bodies of Nancy Mueller, 28, her husband William Mueller, 52, and her daughter Sarah Elizabeth Powell, 8, were identified. Their bodies were found June 28th and 29th in Illinois Bayou about 1 mile north of Russellville. Their bodies had been bound with duct tape; plastic bags had been placed over their heads. It appeared that the Mueller family had been abducted in January and killed on their way to a gun show. William Mueller was a gun dealer and was reputed to have ties to the militia movement.

Sean Michael Haines, 19, was arrested while traveling through South Dakota and charged with two counts of grand theft. He had two guns including a semi-automatic rifle belonging to William Mueller in his possession. White supremacist literature was also found in his vehicle, as well as plastic bands, rope, duct tape, and a law enforcement-type badge, and he has acknowledged being a white supremacist. He is reputed to be the youth leader of the Aryan Nation group in Spokane and has also been mentioned as a leader of the Spokane skinhead group, Blood and Honor. Haines is not a suspect in the Mueller slayings.

He is currently free on bond while awaiting trial in South Dakota.

Authorities are also seeking Chevie Kehoe, 24, a member of the white supremacist group, Aryan Nations, who has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Spokane, Washington on three firearms violations. He is accused of possessing a pistol and rifle stolen from William Mueller. Kehoe and his brother, Cheyne Kehoe, 20, are sought in relation to a nationally televised shootout with Ohio police officers on February 15, 1997. The Kehoes are from Colville in eastern Washington; Sean Michael Haines is also from eastern Washington. Arkansas State Police consider Chevie Kehoe a suspect in a 1995 burglary of the Mueller home.

12/12, 12/14, 12/18, 2/18/97, 2/19/97, 2/20/97, 2/22/97, 2/26/97, 2/27/97, 3/1/97, 3/2/97, 3/8/97, 3/12/97: ADG

Fort Smith, December 29

Six suspected followers of the evangelist Tony Alamo were alleged to have beaten a restaurant owner and his son who were trying to stop them from leaving pamphlets on customers' cars. Jerry Gardner, 50, and his son, Jeremy, 18, called the police after seeing two white men place Alamo pamphlets on the windshields of customers' cars. As they waited for the police, they were attacked from behind by several other white males. Gardner said all six were clean cut and between the ages of 18 and 35. No arrests have been made.

1/1/97: ADG

POLICE BRUTALITY

Pine Bluff, February 22

Debra Langford filed suit in federal court against the Pine Bluff Police Department, the city of Pine Bluff and the Civil Service Commission. Langford said that Officer Markham Bunn fondled her while investigating a robbery. The city and the Civil Service

Commission were named in the suit for failure to hire a competent police officer.

According to Langford, she was robbed while leaving the store where she was employed. Langford said that when Officer Bunn arrived on the scene, he told her to go into the bathroom and take off her clothes so that he could search her. The suit claims that Bunn "engaged in lewd, offensive touching and fondling." Langford also said that Bunn made statements that were derogatory, embarrassing and explicit.

Officer Bunn resigned before police could conduct an internal investigation.

2/22: ADG

Springdale, March 29

Paula S. Martin of Delaware County, Okla., filed suit against the city of Gravette and three police officers for allegedly using excessive force when she was arrested. Martin claims that Jeffrey Michael Hendren physically attacked her while she was attending traffic court in Gravette on December 28, 1995. She claims that Hendren struck her in the head with his elbow, grabbed her hair and threw her to the floor, violently pulled her arms behind her, handcuffed her and then placed his foot on her head before he picked her up by the hair and handcuffs.

According to the suit, Hendren had not yet attended the Arkansas Police Academy and that officers Terry M. Luker and John R. Gibbs were present at the time and failed to properly supervise and train Hendren or intercede on Martin's behalf. The city was sued for failing to properly train its police officers. Martin is seeking \$100,000 in compensatory damages and the same amount for punitive damages.

3/29, 4/17: *The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas; Gravette News Herald*

Little Rock, April 13

Two prison guards were indicted by a federal grand jury. Sgt. Billy Joe Clark of the Brickeys Unit was accused of beating an inmate on February 13, 1995. Jack Pierce of the Cummins Unit was accused of abusing an inmate on February 1, 1994. Both men

were placed on leave with pay while the state investigates the charges.

4/13: ADG

Little Rock, May 14

Raymond Nelson, 31, filed a complaint against Little Rock police officer Thomas Thompson for allegedly hitting Nelson several times and against Sgt. Timothy Calhoun and Officer Brent Stewart, who helped pin Nelson to the ground.

Thompson stopped Nelson after seeing his car run a stop sign. According to Nelson, Thompson sprayed pepper spray in Nelson's mouth and beat him in the face while trying to get Nelson into the patrol car. Nelson said that Thompson picked him up and "kneaded him in the groin three or four times."

Thompson reported that Nelson's car showed signs that it might have been stolen. When Nelson tried to flee, Thompson grabbed him and Nelson swung his arm at Thompson. According to Nelson, Sgt. Calhoun hit Nelson in the neck three or four times with a flashlight because he thought that Nelson might have a weapon.

Nelson was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and fleeing. He was cited for driving an unsafe vehicle, running a stop sign, driving with an obstructed view, driving with a suspended driver's license and driving with a fraudulent driver's license. Officials of Little Rock's Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now posted a \$6,000 bond for Nelson's release.

5/14: ADG

Little Rock, June 8

Leonard Boyle filed a federal lawsuit against Pulaski County Sheriff Randy Johnson, Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines and five employees of the Pulaski County Jail.

According to Boyle, he was denied his prescription medication for four days in February while he was held at the Pulaski County Jail. He also said that he was treated roughly when he was put in a wheelchair. Boyle charged that the Pulaski County Municipal Court does not comply with the federal Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to accessible parking, accessible restrooms and other access barriers.

6/8: ADG

Jonesboro, August 6

A group of 50 protesters marched from the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church to the Jonesboro Courts, Offices and Police complex to call attention to activities they view as police brutality aimed at blacks.

On August 1, Jonesboro Police conducted a drug bust at an apartment complex. Marcus Brown, 17, fled the scene and was apprehended. A scuffle ensued after which Brown collapsed. When Brown asked the officers for water, he was taken to a nearby apartment where he passed out.

X-rays taken at a regional medical center revealed that Brown had a small plastic bag of crack cocaine inside his lung. He apparently tried to swallow the bag but instead inhaled it.

The protesters claimed that Brown was beaten because he is black. One group member said that witnesses reported seeing police beat Brown during the drug bust.

Assistant Police Chief Jack McCann stated that Brown was not beaten.

8/6: ADG

Little Rock, December 8

Kevin Williams, 25, was fatally shot by police officers as he held his girlfriend, Wanda Michella Sims, 26, at gunpoint. Sims' 6-year-old son called 911, which brought the police to the apartment during the domestic dispute. The five officers kicked in the apartment door and found Sims sitting on Williams' lap on a couch. Williams was holding a revolver to her head and had threatened to shoot her.

When Sims struggled to get away from Williams, he pointed the gun at her and pulled the trigger. An officer fired a single shot that hit Williams, who turned and pointed the gun at police. Williams' gun misfired and the five officers opened fire on Williams, hitting him 16 times.

An investigation showed that the police officers acted appropriately. However, the Williams family alleges police used excessive force in the shooting in which Kevin was shot 16 times and Sims was shot twice. Sims has since filed a lawsuit against the police.

In response to the shooting, there have been community meetings to demonstrate opposition to the police's action and calls for a citizen's review board. The Little Rock Board of Directors refused to consider a review board and the Legislature failed to pass bills to allow the city to create such a panel. On March 25, 1997, the Board of Directors informally adopted initiatives to improve relations between the African-American community and police. The initiatives are: (1) to expand the authority of the Civil Service Commission to hear complaints; (2) to explore forming a police accountability committee; (3) to add audio-visual equipment to patrol cars; (4) to move and expand the internal affairs division; (5) to continue the community-oriented police patrol program; and (6) to expand the citizens police academy.

12/8-10, 12/15-17, 12/22-24, 12/26, 12/28, 4/9/97: ADG

MURDERS OF YOUTH

(20 years of age and younger)

Thirty-seven murders of youth were logged in two categories: child abuse by caregivers and murders resulting from street violence. Five children died as a result of abuse or neglect while in the presence of a caregiver. Thirty-two youth (up to age 20) were murdered as a result of street violence; handguns were the cause in most of these deaths.

Children Whose Deaths Were Related to Abuse, Neglect or Negligence

Montrose, January 10

Erica Renee Barbee, 1 month, was killed when she was thrown from the vehicle in which she was riding

after it was struck by a truck driven by her father, Shawn Barbee. He was chasing the vehicle driven by her mother, Monica Wilson, following a domestic dispute. See entry for Monica Wilson.

1/10: ADG

Fort Smith, February 13

Ollie Efurd, 9 months, died February 12th from head injuries received February 9th. Her parents, James Randall Efurd, 17, and Alisa Danieal Efurd, 20, were charged with first-degree murder, as well as possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Both were held on \$150,000 bond. Ollie suffered a fractured skull, a blood clot on the brain, bruises on the head and face as well as scars, scratches and bruises on other parts of her body.

Both parents pleaded not guilty to the charges. James Efurd was found guilty of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison. Alisa Efurd faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted of murder. Alisa Efurd's request for reduction in bond was denied by Circuit Judge Don Langston.

In 1995, Alisa Efurd reported to Van Buren police that her husband had abused their daughter while they lived in Van Buren. A detective's report indicated that there were bruises and possible burn marks on the infant's face, head, legs, arms, chest, back and buttocks. The case was turned over to the Arkansas Department of Human Services. DHS worked on the case but lost track of the couple because they moved three times in two months.

2/13, 2/15, 2/22, 3/8, 3/11/97, 3/13/97: ADG;
Southwest Times Record

Lepanto, July 2

Dominique Bitner, 4-1/2 months, died after allegedly being shaken by her father, Douglas E. Bitner, 29. Bitner was charged with first-degree murder and was held on \$100,000 bond.

7/2: ADG

Magnolia, July 9

Authorities are investigating the death of a 2-month-old boy as a possible homicide. The body was

sent to the state Crime Laboratory for autopsy. The boy was the second child to die in the care of the boy's 16-year-old mother.

7/9: ADG

Fayetteville, July 20

The death of Tara Martindale Piazza, 5, of Canehill is being investigated. Tara died of head injuries and her body showed scattered bruises. The girl's stepfather told authorities that she had had a seizure and as he carried her into the bathroom, she accidentally fell into a bathtub. Authorities allege that Tara died of "shaken-slammed syndrome," that she was shaken so violently that her head slammed against a hard, flat surface, not a curved one like a bathtub. Joseph Michael Piazza, 31, pleaded innocent to manslaughter. He is free on \$50,000 bond.

7/20, 12/7: ADG

Youth Murdered as a Result of Street Violence

Blytheville, January 31

Jimmy Wilkerson, 15, was shot in the driveway of his home allegedly by Rufus Toliver, 61, who lives across the street from the youth. The two had apparently had an argument. Toliver was charged with second-degree murder.

1/31: ADG

Little Rock, February 2

Bobby Bobros, 19, died from a single wound in the back from a .22-caliber handgun. A 15-year-old male told police that he and Bobros were walking in an alley in North Little Rock when Bobros accidentally shot himself while playing with the gun. Police found the gun in a search of the 15-year-old's home.

2/7: ADG

Little Rock, February 21

Shedrick Sabb Jr., 18, was shot to death while riding in a car on Interstate 30. The shooting resulted from an argument at the Club Cameo in North Little

Rock between Sabb and another man over Sabb's talking to a girl in a rival gang.

Emanuel Lee Hart, 24, was arrested on a charge of first-degree murder. Hart was a friend of the man who argued with Sabb. Hart followed the vehicle in which Sabb left the club and allegedly fired at least three times at the vehicle with a semi-automatic pistol. Sabb was hit in the back.

2/21: ADG

Wynne, March 6

Robert Smith, 15, died from a .38-caliber handgun wound to the chest. Ricky Scott, 34, was arrested on a charge of capital murder. Bond was set at \$250,000.

Scott had argued earlier in the day with Smith's aunt, Lavena Price, who was Scott's ex-girlfriend. He later returned to the area and hid behind the house next door to Smith's residence. When Smith and some friends left the house, Scott allegedly shot Smith once in the chest.

3/6: 3/8: ADG; *Wynne Progress*

Parkin, March 12

Danny Mason, 17, was shot to death with a .380-caliber gun. Latius Tirrell Brown, 22, was arrested and charged with capital murder. There had been an ongoing feud between the two men. Mason and a friend followed Brown in a car. When Brown stopped and got out of his car, Mason got out of his car and walked toward Brown. Brown allegedly fired three shots at Mason.

3/12: ADG

Monticello, March 27

The body of Gregory Rashawn Stepps, 17, was found in a ditch in Drew County. Stepps had been shot four times—twice in the head and twice in the body with a .22 caliber weapon.

Darryl Hussey, 25, of Dermott, and Larry Bealer, 20, of Montrose, were charged with capital murder. They were held without bond. Sheriff Tommy Free said he believes that Stepps had gained access to one of the weapons used in a Monticello robbery in February. His theory is that Stepps was killed to keep

him from linking Hussey's brother to that gun. Stepps, Hussey, and Bealer were reputedly all members of a gang.

3/27, 3/29, 3/31, 4/3: *Advance Monticellian*; ADG

Siloam Springs, March 31

William Andrew Futrelle II, 16, of Boca Raton, Fla., was found dead at the Mountain Park Baptist Academy in Patterson, Mo. Futrelle was beaten and his throat was slashed. Authorities found a four-inch lock blade knife, a wooden club and a brick near Futrelle's body. Preliminary reports indicated that the slash wound to the throat caused Futrelle's death.

Anthony Gene Rutherford, 18, was charged with first-degree murder and armed criminal action. Two other students at the school were held. Rutherford is the son of Benton County Judge Bruce Rutherford. Rutherford will be tried in Rolla, Mo.

According to the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel (Florida), Futrelle's parents were told by school officials that the classmates planned Futrelle's murder because he told the school of a plot to harm a preacher and his family.

3/29, 3/31, 7/27: *The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas*; *Daily Record*; *Herald Leader*; ADG

Hot Springs, April 21

Andrew Jamerson, 17, was killed in a gang-related shootout in front of the old Jones School. He was an innocent bystander. Hot Springs Police initially arrested three suspects but eventually Larricke Jimerson, 22, was charged and convicted of second-degree murder and second-degree battery. He was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

1/2/97: *Sentinel Record*

Hot Springs, May 6

Duston Foster, 18, of Royal was killed in a shootout between two groups camping near Hickory Nut Mountain north of Crystal Springs. According to Garland County officials, a group of local people attacked the buses which housed the group known as the "Rainbow People." The Rainbow People responded with gunfire.

David Scott Merlotti, 32, was charged with manslaughter but the shooting was later ruled justified since Merlotti reportedly was defending his campsite from the youths who were throwing rocks. Merlotti was later extradited to Oregon to face former charges there. Garland County authorities said the shooting was the first time they had received a report of violence in connection with the Rainbow People.

5/6-7, 5/9, 1/2/97: ADG, *Sentinel Record*

Pine Bluff, May 8

Crystal Cagle, 20, was fatally shot in the head while driving on Arkansas 365 with a friend. Someone in a blue or blue-gray Monte Carlo-type vehicle shot Cagle as the car passed Cagle's car. Timothy Riley, a passenger in Cagle's car, slid into the driver's seat and drove Cagle's car to a residential area and called for help. Cagle died the next morning at University Hospital in Little Rock.

5/8: ADG

Little Rock, May 10

Jalal Dawson, 18, was shot as he talked on a pay phone outside a restaurant in Wright Avenue. A witness saw a Cadillac occupied by two or three men pull into the restaurant's parking lot and someone in the car fired a single shot at Dawson, striking him in the chest. There are no suspects. Dawson's killing came two years after the shooting death of his brother, 14-year old Munir Dawson. That murder is also unsolved.

5/10, 1/5/97: ADG

Little Rock, May 21

Corey Horton, 16, died from a gunshot wound in the head. Horton's father, Clemmie Herd, 37, argued with Mark Bolton, 22, and both father and son were found with handgun wounds by police. Bolton was charged with two counts of capital murder. He was held without bond.

5/12: ADG

Little Rock, May 22

Terrance Watson, 19, died from a bullet through the heart at a convenience store on Base Line Road.

Brian Clark, 18, Charles Russey, 21, were charged with first-degree murder and were held on \$250,000 bond. Eric Lamont Roberts, 20, was held on \$10,000 bond. Robert Antone Wilson, 19, was held on \$250,000 bond. Roberts allegedly drove the car from which Clark and Russey allegedly fired the fatal shots. Wilson was a passenger in the car. Watson had been standing outside of the car arguing with its occupants when Clark allegedly opened fire. Watson died less than nine hours after graduating from high school. He was reputed to be a member of the South Side gang.

5/22-25, 1/5/97: ADG

Little Rock, June 6

Ian Houston, 20, was shot to death by a man who walked up to the car in which Houston was sitting at 12th Street and University Avenue. Andra Jackson has been charged with first-degree murder.

6/6, 1/5/97: ADG

Varner, June 8

Chuck "Toby" J. Moppin, 18, was killed while he slept in the Varner Unit of the state Department of Correction. Moppin was stabbed in the right side of the chest with a homemade weapon. Another prisoner, Robert Hoover, 19, was injured. Arkansas State Police officials questioned Jason Brodie, 20, who said he attacked the two men because they had been harassing him. Brodie was charged with capital murder, attempted capital murder, and possession of a weapon by an incarcerated person.

Brodie was serving a life sentence for the 1994 murder of Jason Self. Moppin was serving a two-year sentence on a theft of property conviction and Hoover was serving a five-year sentence on convictions of burglary and theft of property charges.

Brodie pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole plus 36 years.

6/8, 4/6/97: ADG

Little Rock, June 13

Reginald Williams, 18, died from a gunshot wound in the chest. His body was found lying in the street in

the 2600 block of Broadway. Authorities believe that Williams' death was a drive-by shooting. No arrests have been made.

6/13, 1/5/97: ADG

Little Rock, June 13

Roy Anderson, 20, was shot in the face while sitting in a pickup at a gas pump at the E-Z Mart at 1621 Broadway. There are no suspects but police said that Reginald Williams' death and Anderson's murder on the same day may be related.

6/13, 1/5/97: ADG

Pine Bluff, June 20

Fabian Weston Jr., 18, was killed with an aluminum baseball bat allegedly by his neighbor, Bernard Black, 19. The two argued after Weston complained about Black's friends congregating on parked cars in front of the house in which Weston lived with his mother. Black was charged with first-degree murder and was held in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

6/20: ADG

Little Rock, June 24

James "Bulky" Allen, 17, was killed in a drive-by shooting. Allen was walking on Elm Street when the driver of a Toyota Camry fired five shots at him, hitting him in the side. A witness said there were three males in the car. Robert Lovell Brown, 20, was arrested on a charge of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Police believe the shooting to be gang-related, possibly in retaliation for the shooting of reputed South Side gang member, Terrance Watson. Allen was in the West Side gang.

6/24-25, 2/11/97: ADG

Little Rock, July 17

Tavaras Robinson, 18, was standing outside of his house on South Valentine Street around 2 a.m. when someone shot him in the chest. No arrests have been made.

7/17, 1/5/97: ADG

Drasco, July 19

The body of Miles Patrick Howard, 12, of Orange

Park, Fla., was found by a hiker. For the details of this case, see the Murdered Women section entry for "Drasco, July 19."

7/14, 7/19-23: ADG

Little Rock, July 27

Adam Wilstead, 16, was shot to death while leaving a disturbance at a house. Two gunmen opened fire on the car that Wilstead was driving. He was fatally wounded in the head and lost control of the car, which then struck a tree. Three teen-age passengers fled before police arrived. Broderick Collier, 23, has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder. He is being held without bail in the Pulaski County Jail.

7/27, 1/5/97, 3/1/97: ADG

Fort Smith, August 6

Andrew Aldredge, 20, was fatally shot in the back of the head with a .25-caliber gun. Aldredge was driving his car with James Michael Thomas, 16, and Ibn Kamal Islam, 17, sitting in the back. It is alleged that one of the two youths shot Aldredge and both fled the scene with 10 ounces of marijuana that belonged to Aldredge.

Thomas and Islam were allegedly meeting with Aldredge to purchase marijuana. Both men were charged with first-degree murder.

8/6: ADG

Boone County, September 15

The body of John Thomas Melbourne Jr., 15, of Harrison, was found in northern Boone County. Apparently, Melbourne was beaten and strangled in Harrison on August 19. He then was taken by car to a residence near Omaha where he was beaten again. Finally, he was taken to a wooded area and killed. Authorities believe that he was strangled to death.

Three people have been charged with capital murder and kidnapping. Christopher Epps, 20, of Hot Springs, was one of the three people. The other two people were in custody in Utah on charges that were unrelated to Melbourne's death.

Charges of kidnapping and battery in the first-

degree were filed against Robert Diemert, 25, of Harrison, and another person who was in Utah. Authorities believe the homicide involved "a group of people who were participating in relatively minor criminal behavior together" and who were "disciplining someone within their group."

9/15: ADG

North Little Rock, September 22

Tidus Mills, 19, was found lying face down in a parking lot on Pike Avenue. He had been shot in both legs, the upper stomach and left side. Police asked Mills who did the shooting before he was taken to Baptist Memorial Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Five witnesses told authorities that they heard five or six gunshots. No arrests have been made.

9/22: ADG

Rogers, September 24

Steven Dutton, 13, was shot in the chest at close range with a .20-gauge shotgun. Dutton had been wrestling with Martin Shaun Nixon, 17, who allegedly shot him. Nixon was originally charged as an adult with capital murder and held in the Benton County jail. Bond was set at \$150,000. Nixon pleaded guilty to a second degree murder charge and an aggravated assault charge to avoid the capital murder charge, and was sentenced to 25 years.

Donnie Newton, 18, was arrested on suspicion of being an accomplice to manslaughter and hindering apprehension. He is being held in the Benton County Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond. Christopher Carr, 19, was arrested on suspicion of hindering apprehension; his bond has been reduced to \$5,000. Dutton and Nixon claimed gang affiliation with the Northwest Crips.

9/24-26, 9/28, 11/3, 3/2/97: ADG

Texarkana, October 8

Danyon Green, 17, of Texarkana, Ark. was shot to death at the Ace of Clubs nightclub. Five other people were seriously wounded in the incident. Jamie D. Lee, 19, of Texarkana, Texas, was arrested and charged with capital murder and five counts of first-degree

battery. An arrest warrant was issued for Demetric Williams, 20, of Texarkana, Texas. Williams is accused of being an accomplice to murder.

Authorities believe that a number of Texas and Arkansas gangs were at the nightclub. A fistfight occurred before the shooting.

Demery Stevens, 33, manager of the club, was arrested for allegedly admitting underage customers.

10/8-9: ADG

McGehee, October 9

The body of Jeremy Devall Davis, 15, was found on railroad tracks near the Louis-Dreyfus Rice Gin. Davis' body was sent to the state Crime Laboratory to determine the cause of death.

10/9, 10/11: ADG

Sherwood, October 10

James Earl Routt, 20, was fatally shot on a school bus as he rode home from a day at Jacksonville High School. Sherwood police charged Willis Ward Johnson, 14, with capital murder and aggravated assault. He was charged as an adult. Police found a .22-caliber pistol near Johnson's home. They believe the pistol was used in the shooting. The driver of the school bus reported that Johnson had been harassing Routt on the bus.

Johnson pleaded innocent to the charges. At the urging of the Routt's family, prosecutors won't seek the death penalty. Bond was set at \$500,000. Johnson is being held at the Pulaski County Jail.

10/10-11, 3/11/97: ADG

North Little Rock, October 23

Ebony A. Ward, 19, was found lying near an intersection with a gunshot wound in his chest. No suspects have been identified.

10/23: ADG

Little Rock, November 11

Antonio Hall, 20, was shot with a .22-caliber rifle outside of a house on Wolfe Street following an argument with Sherman Worsham, 19. Police said

Hall's history with the department indicates that the shooting was probably gang related. Worsham waived his rights and confessed to the shooting. He was charged with first-degree murder and is being held on \$250,000 bond in the Pulaski County jail.

11/11-13: ADG

North Little Rock, November 17

David Green, 17, was killed when James Hatchett, 24, and Roderick Bone, 24, allegedly fired a shotgun into the home of Clyde Hatchett. One of the shotgun blasts hit Green, who was not involved in the dispute between Clyde Hatchett and the suspects. James Hatchett and Roderick Bone were charged with capital murder and held without bond in Pulaski County jail.

11/17, 11/20: ADG

VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, HIV/AIDS

Little Rock, October 11

State police are investigating the distribution of fliers containing the names of people who are supposedly HIV-positive. The fliers are on state Health Department letterhead and were being distributed at homes and on cars throughout Central Arkansas. Arlene Rose, director of the agency's division of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases stated that the information given is false.

10/11: ADG

Little Rock, October 25

Karen Raulston, a county employee for 16 years, filed suit accusing her employers of trying to force her out of her job because of her physical disability. Raulston, who has worked in the real estate division of the circuit clerk's office since 1985, alleges that division supervisor, Gay Sallee, "began a campaign of intentional harassment and intimidation" in January 1995. As an example, Raulston's attorney, Lewis

Littlepage, said that the supervisors placed her computer keyboard on top of her monitor where she couldn't reach it and told other workers not to move it for her. Littlepage said the supervisors conspired to gradually reduce Raulston's duties until she was no longer serving a "primary function" and so could be legally fired.

10/25: ADG

Mountain View, November 10

William Eugene McConnaughey, 38, was arrested and charged with first-degree sexual abuse of a resident at the Stone County Skilled Nursing Facility. McConnaughey, a nurse's aide, is accused of the November 3 sexual abuse of a 38-year-old woman who is paralyzed and unable to speak. Another employee witnessed the incident and reported it.

11/10: ADG

Conway, December 19

Prosecutors dropped charges against three nursing home employees accused of felony abuse of an adult. The charges were filed after Robert Jernigan, 85, a resident of Salem Place Nursing Home, was left outside the night of November 9, 1995. Later, Jernigan suffered from pneumonia, congestive heart failure and hypothermia. He died in February. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Marcus Vaden said charges were dropped in order to investigate whether other employees should be charged.

12/19: ADG

Would You Like to Help?

The Women's Watchcare Network is dependent upon a steady flow of information about the activities of organized hate groups in Arkansas and the individual incidences of violence against people because of their gender, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, and disability. To get this information, we read and clip newspapers from around the state and obtain victims' statements.

What do we need to do this work? INFORMATION ...

- Newspaper clippings from newspapers other than the Little Rock newspapers in the categories given in the log: murders of women, racist violence, violence due to sexual orientation or gender identity, violence targeting age (youth and elderly), violence against people with disabilities, violence against people because of their religion, and activities of organized hate groups. If you send a clipping, please write the name of the newspaper and the date of the article.

- Newspaper subscriptions to newspapers other than the Little Rock newspapers.

We particularly need the newspapers of the larger cities in Arkansas although any newspaper subscription would be welcome. (Call us before you subscribe.)

- Leaflets, pamphlets and flyers mailed to you, handed to you, or put under your windshield wipers by organized hate groups. Please write where you received it (e.g. in the mail, at the grocery store) and the date you received it.

- Victims' statements. If you are the victim of harassment or more severe violence or you witnessed the incident, please call us and give us a report of the incidence.

Your account will not be published without your permission. However, even if we do not publish your report in our annual log, we can use the statistical information to track the trends in such violence.

What do we need to counter the violence? WILLING HEARTS AND HANDS ...

- Are you willing to host a showing of the video, Not In Our Town, with your friends, neighbors, church group, youth group, or co-workers? This video shows the response of one town when bias violence erupted.

- Are you willing to work with the Women's Project and a coalition of other organizations on a Hate Free Zones campaign?

If you are willing to help, please call us at the Women's Project:

**501-372-5113 (voice),
501-372-6853 (TTY),
501-372-0009 (FAX), or
wproject@aol.com**

Special acknowledgements to: Linda Coyle, Denise Dorton, Chris Christoffel, Arden Kate, Freddie Nixon, Frances Pritchett, Carolyn Wagner, Mollie Wiseman

Current Projects

•Women's Watchcare Network

The Women's Watchcare Network monitors and documents biased violence, whether it be from far right groups such as the KKK or militias, the religious right, or individual acts of violence against people because of their race, gender, class, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. We publish a yearly log of anecdotal evidence of this violence and use it to educate the general public, advocate with public officials to ensure civil rights protections and to work with communities to prevent violence.

•Prison Project

Through the Prison Project we provide support groups for battered women, train women to be HIV/AIDS educators, provide domestic violence education for incarcerated men, work with community organizations on advocacy for prisoners and work with United Methodist Women to provide transportation for children to visit their mothers (MIWATCH) and to provide toiletry items to women who cannot purchase them, .

•Economic Justice Project

In our struggle for economic justice we work with low-income women to understand eco-

nomie realities, to fight discrimination and to create employment opportunities.

•Social Justice Project

Through the Social Justice Project, we provide popular education about the oppressions, how they are linked, and develop strategies for dismantling them. We work with social change organizations to strengthen them, incubate new projects, and bring people together in Arkansas and the South to form progressive networks that support a progressive agenda that includes everyone. Through our African American Women's Institute for Social Justice, we create strategies for overcoming the barriers that hinder African American women's efforts toward power and self-determination.

•Publications and Events

Our publications and events include a newsletter, a lending library, resource manuals, statewide and regional conferences, and the production of women performers and writers. We also distribute **Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism** and **In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation**, by Suzanne Pharr.

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Transformation

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Our Mission...

Our goal is social change or, as the poet Adrienne Rich writes, "the transformation of the world." We believe this world can be changed to become a place of peace and justice for all women.

We take risks in our work; we take unpopular stands. We work for all women and against all forms of discrimination and oppression. We believe that we cannot work for all women and against sexism unless we also work against racism, classism, ageism, anti-Semitism, ableism, heterosexism and homophobia. We see the connection among these oppressions as the context for violence against women in this society.

We are concerned in particular about issues of

importance to traditionally underrepresented women: poor women, aged women, women of color, teenage mothers, lesbians, women in prisons, etc. All are women who experience discrimination and violence against their lives.

We are committed to working multi-culturally, multi- racially, and to making our work and cultural events accessible to low income women. We believe that women will not know equality until they know economic justice.

We believe that a few committed women working in coalition and in consensus with other women can make significant change in the quality of life for all women.

Transformation is published four times every year.

In each issue, members and volunteers receive analysis of contemporary issues, information about Women's Project upcoming events and activities, book reviews, and more.

If you are not a Women's Project member or volunteer and would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please fill out the membership form on this page.



Yes, I would like to join the Women's Project.

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INSIDE

**Special Issue:
Focus on Women
in Prison**

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PART I

An Overview of the Women's Project Work: Women in Prison

Judy Matsuoka

Our society is moving toward incarcerating greater numbers of its citizens than ever before. The numbers of Americans in prison has doubled in the last decade. Nursing homes continue to warehouse people with disabilities against their will and talk about reopening orphanages is again in vogue. As prisons house the least-valued people in our society, it is here where we see tremendous violence and exploitation in the name of criminal justice.

It is in our prison work where the Women's Project's mission statement is most clearly demonstrated: Our goal is social change... We work for all women and against all forms of discrimination and oppression.

Women in prison represent the fastest growing population in prison. Since 1980, the number of women imprisoned in the U.S. has tripled. This is partly due to the worsening of economic conditions for poor women and also due to the increase in arrest rates and length of sentences due to the "war on drugs." Mandatory minimum sentencing and the lowering of the ages that children are tried as adults has added to the growth spurt.

The majority are in prison for

property crimes such as check forgery, illegal credit card use and theft. These crimes should more aptly be called poverty crimes as 80% of incarcerated women reported incomes of less than \$2,000 per year in the year before their arrest and 92% reported incomes of less than \$10,000. Given our society is classist, it is not surprising that sentences differ by income. If a poor woman is caught with 5 grams or \$29 worth of crack as a first-time nonviolent offense, it is a mandatory 5 year sentence. If a wealthy woman is caught with 500 grams or \$8,000 worth of cocaine, she can get probation, because a prison sentence is not mandatory.

Of the women convicted of violent crimes, the majority were convicted for defending themselves or their children from domestic violence. Women commit only 14% of all homicides, but the majority of those homicides involve the husband, ex-husband or boyfriend. Given that our society is sexist and racist, it is not surprising that the average prison terms are twice as long for killing husbands as for killing wives, and African American women are twice as likely to be convicted of killing their abusive hus-

(continued on page 2)

Women in Prison Overview

bands than are white women. In fact, the majority of women (54%) incarcerated in U.S. prisons are women of color. African American women, on the average, receive longer jail time and higher fines than do white women for the same crimes.

The majority of women (75%) are mothers of dependent children and six percent are pregnant when entering prison. Forty-one percent of the women have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse which means that their children are likely to have observed the abuse or been abused themselves. On a national level, the number of children separated from their incarcerated mothers is approximately half a million, causing damage that will be felt for generations to come. These children are 40 to 60 times more likely to become incarcerated themselves. The violence done to these children is so great that in 1993 Congress authorized the National Institute of Corrections to fund mother/children care facilities as an alternative to incarceration to mothers convicted of non-violent crimes. Congress authorized the allocation of \$8 million dollars a year for these facilities; by 1997 not a single dollar has been spent by the National Institute of Corrections for this purpose, thus ensuring a supply of prisoners for the future.

And why is a steady supply of prisoners needed? The U.S. is experiencing a 35% annual growth in the number of privately owned and operated prisons.

These corporate prisons employ prisoners who will produce \$1 billion dollars of goods and services this year. Since prisoners are exempt from minimum wage laws

Of the women
convicted of violent
crimes, the majority
were convicted for
defending themselves
or their children from
domestic violence.

and occupational safety standards, do not receive benefits and cannot organize, corporations find U.S. prisons an attractive alternative to Third World labor—and an attractive alternative to creating free world jobs that will pay good wages and provide benefits. Today we see prisoners sewing jeans, assembling computer components, and taking phone orders and reservations for major corporations such as JC Penney's and Microsoft. Increasingly we see a world in which some are rich and free and others are poor and incarcerated.

The Women's Project has been engaged in prison work since

1989. Our goal of social change drives all of our prison work but the work is done at a variety of levels: empowering incarcerated individuals, changing institutional policies and systems, developing alternatives, and educating others. We use our newsletter as an educational tool to reach out to others committed to social justice. We work in coalitions to find alternatives to incarceration, to prevent the damage to families caused by a mother's incarceration and to change the prison policies which oppress women, poor people and people of color. Perhaps most radical is our work with individuals who are incarcerated—radical in this society because we believe these women and men are persons of worth who are capable of changing the conditions of their lives. We work in the prisons to empower incarcerated women and men by providing them with information about the causes and consequences of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS—information they are not receiving from any other source—to effect change in their lives and ultimately in the lives of their families and communities.



This issue of *Transformation* will give an overview of our prison work in Arkansas and the Fall issue will introduce you to a recently initiated project and discuss some of the pressing political concerns about our nation's criminal justice system. ■

The Prison Project: Domestic Violence

Felicia Davidson

It is through the Prison Project that the Women's Project has been able to work within the Arkansas prison system to provide a weekly support group/class for incarcerated, battered women, train women to be HIV/AIDS educators, and provide transportation to children through the MIWATCH program to visit their mothers in prison. Recently we began a domestic violence class for incarcerated men and an HIV/AIDS informational class for men. These projects allow us to work directly with incarcerated women and men to empower them to effect change in their lives as well as giving us the opportunity to witness the prison system and its impact on prisoners.

Coalition Work

To effect change in the system, the Women's Project has long worked with community organizations on advocacy efforts. We were supporters of the formation of Second Genesis, a transitional facility for formerly incarcerated women, and worked with the pre-release program at the Women's Unit to provide a non-traditional jobs training program. The Project staff initiated the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee for Women in Prison and Their Children, an Arkansas-based coalition of organizations and individuals. The work of this committee resulted in

Parenting from Prison classes offered by the Parent Center, and is currently involved with lobbying for alternatives to incarceration for mothers convicted of non-violent offenses. Current members of the Ad Hoc Committee also include: Advocates and Relatives for Kids, Arkansas Cares, Black Community Developers, Second Genesis, and the Women's Project.

Domestic Violence Group for Women

In 1989, a weekly support group for battered women was started and in 1991, a class on domestic violence was instituted. These educational classes and support activities for women in prison who had been physically, sexually and emotionally abused have continued virtually uninterrupted. In general, the group included and continues to include personal sharing as well as informational presentations about the dynamics of battering (physical, emotional, economic and sexual abuse, threat and isolation).

Who are the women we see in prison? The profile that emerges in study after study is that of a young, single mother with few job skills, poor education and who lives below the poverty level. Seventy-five percent are between the ages of 25 and 34, 75% are mothers of dependent children, and 85% have experienced sexual

and physical abuse. Ninety percent have a drug or alcohol-related history. The majority of women are in prison for relatively minor offenses such as theft, fraud or forgery, which are typically referred to as property crimes. When women do engage in violent crimes, it is often against a male partner. Women are much more likely to kill a male partner in self-defense in response to the man's battering and threats and typically after an extended period of abuse—making it unlikely a woman will repeat a homicide.

Although no one knows exactly how many American women are in prison for killing an abusive husband or boyfriend, it is believed that 33% of women serving sentences for murder were convicted of killing a husband, ex-husband or boyfriend. Charles Patrick Ewing, a psychologist, states that, "This small but increasingly visible minority of battered women are in many cases doubly victimized: once by the men who have battered them and again by a system of criminal justice which holds them to an unrealistic standard of accountability."

In March, 1991, it hit home for me. I had a sister incarcerated for killing her abuser. She was loving, caring, honest and educated in all the things society expects of a person to "fit in." My sister got married in July, 1981, to what had seemed like a nice man. Six months or less into the marriage, we would see her with black eyes, scratches, bite marks, patches of hair pulled out, and so many more horrible things. She went to the

(continued on page 4)

Women in Prison Domestic Violence

police for help and got an order of protection. This did not stop her husband from coming and beating her, and after each arrest, the beatings got worse. My sister left the house after he tried to kill her and went to a battered women's shelter. She lost jobs because he would show up, talking loud and causing trouble. The

Women are much more likely to kill a male partner in self-defense in response to the man's battering and threats and typically after an extended period of abuse.

night she killed her abuser the police had arrested him only two hours earlier. They let him out and he went to their house where he beat her almost to death with a gun before she got the gun away from him and shot him.

I also survived an abusive relationship—for the record, with a man who had been with me when I answered the late night calls from my sister, took me to pick her up, held her hands on many nights, put ice on her bruises, and gave her money to go away from her abuser. It seemed that when my sister went to prison, he started to make me feel guilty for helping my mother with my sister's children. He played mind games:

(continued on page 5)

Domestic Violence/Battered Women Group: Reflections by Women at Tucker

"...Domestic violence is being abused throughout your life in childhood, marriage or relationship. I was abused in many relationships and didn't realize I was being abused. But now I realize where I went wrong to cause me to accept the abuse I was taking throughout my life." Aurelia Barnes

"To me, this class is the place I found out that I can live a different life with an absence of abuse in any form....This class has become a haven in only two sessions. I feel that if and when I want to share my story or opinions, I can without the fear that I will be judged, or that my "business" will be broadcast all over the compound."

Lou Gentry

"I feel like since I've been going to the Domestic Violence classes that it has helped me become a stronger person. I no longer feel like I have to depend on anyone, except myself, and no matter what we have, we shouldn't stay in an abusive relationship. I now have a perspective on life. And I now can talk about how I was treated without feeling ashamed and embarrassed, because I know I am not alone."

M. Walker

"What I have gotten from this class is that I have been able to forgive myself and learn how other people have been through the same thing that I have, but I can truly honestly say that I will do better for myself and understand why some

things happened the way they did. I realize that after all that I have been through, I don't have to go through the same stuff that I have been through because I know that I don't have to deal with that. I can walk away and not go back."

Mary Cooper

"I come from a very dysfunctional and alcoholic, drug filled childhood. I have come to understand that although I myself have never been violent, or a drug or alcohol user, as a result of my childhood I have lived my life with low self-esteem, self unworthiness, and guilt which led me into a 12-year marriage with an abusive alcoholic. ...I searched for a reason for my behavior which has caused me to write checks, to do self-destructive things to myself, to stay in trouble, to come here to Tucker, and to cause hurt to myself, my family, and my children. Carrying around all this guilt and low self worth throughout my childhood and past marriage had caused me to accept beatings and mental abuse and given me the feeling that I'd done something to deserve it. But until I was willing to accept that I had a problem, search for a cause and a direction, I could not find a solution to change. I also learned no matter how much self destruction we may do, once we are accepting and willing to change, let go and let God, that these are the tools to rebuild a strong foundation for our future."

Chamaine Youngblood
Cousatte

"You care more for them than for me." He threatened to leave if I didn't stop going to visit them. He started to use isolation to control me: took the phones to work with him, and took the keys to both cars. To intimidate me, he would burn my clothes. It never occurred to me that I was being abused because we were not fight-

We empower women by giving them the information and support to know that domestic violence is never deserved.

ing—yet. The fighting came when he found out that I had extra keys made and bought more phones. For a long time I didn't tell anyone because I was ashamed and felt like it was my fault because the fighting wouldn't have started if I hadn't gotten more keys and phones.

Today I know the difference and through the Women's Project work with the domestic violence group at Tucker, we empower women by giving them the information and support to know that domestic violence is never deserved. It is in these classes and support activities that we work for social change, a just and violence-free world—one woman at a time. ■

The Prison Project: HIV/AIDS Peer Training

Felicia Davidson

IV drug use by a woman or her sex partner, having multiple sex partners, being in an abusive relationship where the woman has little control over her sex life, and lack of information about AIDS and safer sex put women at increased risk for HIV infection and AIDS. Women, especially women of color, are the fastest growing group of people being diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS in Arkansas.

The women incarcerated in Arkansas, like women nationwide, tend to be young and poorly educated. Many have alcohol or drug addiction which put them at increased risk for HIV infection. And many come from communities where there has been limited access to health information. Prison then becomes an important time for women to gain access to information that can result in changed behaviors to reduce their risk for HIV infection as well as skills to pass on the information to others in their communities.

Each month women are paroled out into the free world and new women take their place at the Women's Unit at Tucker prison. Many women arrive with concern about their health status, with myths about how HIV is contracted, and with fears about people with HIV and AIDS. Many

women at the Women's Unit have not had access to AIDS information, basic facts about reproduction and sexuality, or opportunities to talk about their bodies and sex.

Given these realities and with the belief that women should have the information to have control over their own bodies, the Women's Project initiated a peer-led training program which focuses on HIV, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive health. We worked with prison residents to develop a project manual entitled *HIV, AIDS and Reproductive Health: A Peer Trainer's Guide* for use in the program and for distribution to programs around the country.

Seventy-five women incarcerated at the Women's Unit have participated in the four 19-hour sessions to become certified in the Centers for Disease Control course for HIV serologic test counseling and partner notification techniques. Prisoners trained through this program act as resource people for their peers in prison as well as being able to return to their homes, communities, schools, churches and workplaces with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver HIV/AIDS information and resources.

Additionally, bi-monthly 2-hour training sessions provide

(continued on page 6)

any woman with the opportunity to learn, without threat of stigma, basic information about HIV/AIDS, high risk behaviors and

Many women at the Women's Unit have not had access to AIDS information, basic facts about reproduction and sexuality, or opportunities to talk about their bodies and sex.

HIV prevention. These prisoner-led sessions are taken seriously by the other incarcerated women who feel that their peers really know about life back out on the street.

These 2-hour training sessions are now being given to the men incarcerated at Tucker. Many of the men are incarcerated at Tucker only until they can be transferred to another facility. This gives the Women's Project the opportunity to give these men information about HIV/AIDS with the hopes that they will incorporate the knowledge into their own lives and share it with their peers. ■

What I Learned from the Battered Women's Group/HIV Training

Shirley Danner

Of all the problems our country is plagued with these days, perhaps domestic violence and HIV/AIDS are two of the most outstanding and especially relevant to the prison population.

Some of the facts I've learned since these topics have been taught at the Tucker Women's Unit:

- Over 1 million women seek help yearly for injuries caused by battering.
- At least 6 million women are battered yearly by husbands or boyfriends; 4,000 are actually killed.
- Children are traumatized by seeing this battering and many grow up to repeat the behavior.
- Batterers have certain characteristics and battered women have certain traits.
- Since 1983, 2,205 cases of AIDS have been reported in Arkansas. Half have died.
- The fastest growing population of people infected with HIV are female and heterosexual. It is not a gay person's disease.
- AIDS has killed 6.4 million worldwide.
- 22.6 million are HIV infected worldwide.

Although AIDS and domestic violence may not appear to

have much in common, both are evidenced in the incarcerated population. Women especially are more often victims of violence, sometimes beginning in childhood. This can be a never ending cycle, leading to dysfunction in the home, low self-esteem, mental illness, prison or death. Likewise AIDS is playing a larger role in the lives of the incarcerated. Drug addiction is spiraling upward and has a direct link to HIV/AIDS? How? Drug addiction can cause a person to lower moral standards, take risks, engage in very dangerous behaviors that spread diseases, cause others harm and lead to disaster for all involved.

The key is education. How can a person fight something of which they are ignorant? The Domestic Violence/Battered Women's group held each week at the Women's Unit enables those involved to learn, share and finally grow into healthier persons emotionally, thus returning to families as better persons, wives, mothers, sisters and daughters.

People everywhere should have the knowledge offered here. But at least some women will leave here and help educate others, thereby no longer being a part of the problem but a portion of the solution in our society.

MIWATCH: Ministries to Incarcerated Women and Their Children

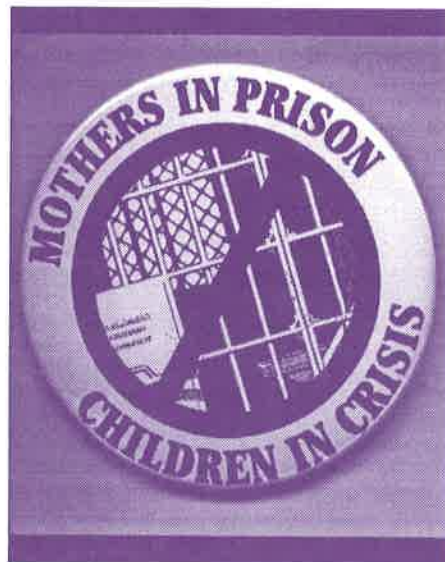
Freddie Nixon

Since 1990, the Women's Project and the United Methodist Women of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences have sponsored the MIWATCH program. At the heart of the program is the desire to keep mothers and their children united in order to stem the tide of children becoming incarcerated.

National statistics show 75% of women prisoners have children and 50% are the sole supporters of their family. In Arkansas, at any time there are 14,000 children whose mothers are in prison. In August, 1990, in a survey of 288 women at Tucker, 43 women reported that they were unable to see their children on a regular basis because of the lack of transportation for their children. The population at the Women's Unit has grown to 568 in 1997, with another 144 women incarcerated at the Central Arkansas Community Punishment Center, which only increases the number of incarcerated women unable to see their children.

The incarceration of their mothers is highly traumatic for the children and often results in a lack of contact with their mothers and the move from one home to another. Children often respond with poor school performance

and inappropriate behavior, resulting for some in their own incarceration. For many children with mothers in prison, months, even years pass with no physical contact with their mothers. The reasons for this are numerous, but often involve the inability of



the children's primary caretaker to bring them to the prison.

MIWATCH remedies this problem by pairing children, living in Arkansas who are unable to visit their mothers, with volunteers in the child's community who will transport them on a monthly basis to the Women's Unit at Tucker Prison or the Central Arkansas Community Punishment Center in Little Rock. During an average year, 65 chil-

dren are given transportation by MIWATCH volunteers to visit their mothers.

MIWATCH has also held two retreats for children and their caretakers. The retreats brought together youth, their caretakers, formerly incarcerated women and community resource people for a day of information and resource sharing. Currently, MIWATCH participates in the Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Prison and their Children, advocating for alternatives to incarceration for women convicted of violent crimes. The committee has given presentations to community groups to bring awareness of the needs and issues of incarcerated women, their children and the families providing care.

Additionally, the women in local church units provide personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, etc.) for the incarcerated women as the prison or the Community Punishment Center requires residents to purchase these items, thus penalizing poor women and women without family support. In 1996, over 15,000 personal hygiene items were donated. The chaplains of each facility distributes the items to women in need.

As we look forward to 1998, we are faced with the challenges that the new privately operated women's prison will bring. The new 600-bed prison, one of two being built near Newport in northern Arkansas, will be operated by the Wackenhut Correction Corporation of Palm Beach Gardens,

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Fla. Upon completion, it is planned that the Women's Unit will be moved there from Pine Bluff in central Arkansas. This move will significantly increase the distance that some children

The incarceration of their mothers is highly traumatic for the children and often results in a lack of contact with their mothers and a move from one home to another.

will have to travel in order to visit their mothers and may decrease the opportunity for visits. It will also mean that the MIWATCH program operated by the Women's Project will have to negotiate with the operators of this for-profit prison in order to continue our work with the women incarcerated in the Women's Unit or find other ways to fulfill our commitment to mothers in prison.

Freddie Nixon is the Coordinator of the MIWATCH Program and is a board member of the Women's Project. ■

From A MIWATCH Volunteer

Debbie and Bill Thomas

I travel with two young children, ages three and four, from Fort Smith to Tucker. It's about a three and a half hour drive. The first time the prison came into view, the young boy cried out, "There's my Mom's house." I felt sick to my stomach but then I came to learn he had said the truth, this was his mother's house. He taught my eyes to see in a different light. The children are now five and six and when I come for our journey, I'm greeted with hugs and kisses, for this day is a real treat for them.

I also teach a High School-age class at church and usually have one of my teenagers with me as a helper. They truly are a big help. They read and color with the children. We have donuts for breakfast and we stop along the way to play at a park and on the way home McDonald's is a must. I have learned to make their day a special day ...'cause you see, we're on our way to Mom's house.

Congratulations

Dana Shook
1997 Volunteer of the Year

The MIWATCH Volunteers were presented the Evangeline K. Brown Award at the Women's Project Annual Open House, June 13, 1997

**Women in Prison
Wishlist**

A big thank-you to those who have helped the work of the Women's Project by donating office supplies and equipment. These tax deductible gifts facilitate our work while reducing our operating expenses. To support our prison work, we have a continuing need for:

**Supplies for Domestic Violence
and HIV/AIDS Classes**

- photocopier paper (white)
- black pens
- folders (2 pocket)
- manila file folders
- 8-1/2 x 11 inch writing pads
- double density 3.5 inch diskettes
- 1" 3-ring binders

For the Library

- \$ to purchase resource books on HIV/AIDS and domestic violence
- bookshelf

For Meetings

- flip chart pads
- bold tipped markers

For MIWATCH Project

- personal hygiene products
- used books and magazines

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BOOKNOTES

Lynn Frost



**Books on
Prison in our
library:**

Criminal Injustice: Confronting the Prison Crisis, edited by Elihu Rosenblatt (South End Press). This book "explores the connections between imprisonment, racism, class domination, misogyny, and homophobia and offers us invaluable information and compelling arguments for placing prison issues on the agenda of every progressive organization." ...Angela Davis

Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the U.S. by Helen Prejean, C.S.J. (Random House). The author's indictment of capital punishment sensitively navigates the complex personal, ethical, and legal issues involved, balancing compassion for both the criminals and the people whose lives they destroy.

Cages of Steel: The Politics of Imprisonment in the U.S., edited by Ward Churchill & J.J. Vander Wall (Maisonneuve Press) collects the work of some 50

political prisoners and prisoner's rights activists to document a systematic program to isolate political prisoners and subject them to psychological experiments designed to destroy their revolutionary beliefs and breakdown their ability to organize political action with others.



New Books in the Library

Oral Tradition: Selected Poems Old & New by Jewelle Gomez (Firebrand Books) Taking their inspiration from the author's African American and Native American storytelling heritage, these are poems of finding home, making love, learning history. They tell the tales of women and satisfaction, regret, love, danger, death, and eternal life.

Gender Shock: Exploding the Myths of Male & Female by Phyllis Burke (Anchor) deftly interweaves investigative journalism, personal stories, and cultural criticism. The author examines how gender differences emerge, how we are trained to inhabit them, and how the psychiatric profession has developed a diagnosis known as Gender Identi-

tity Disorder for children who exhibit "gender inappropriate" behavior.

Hunger's Table: Women, Food & Politics by Margaret Randall (Papier-Mache Press)

"The poems are about being alive in a world filled with injustice, with pain and misery, but one in which hope, ideals, love and responsibility exist in equal measure. From the heat of stove and anger, from the warmth of hearth and heart, comes this book as a generous feast for all." ...Paula Frosch, Small Press Magazine

Into the Forest by Jean Hegland (Bantam). Originally published by the feminist press, Calyx, this book has garnered wonderful reviews, calling it "stunning in its power" and comparing the writing to Margaret Atwood's and Doris Lessing's. The story is both inspiring and disturbing; a fantastic voyage to the near future, and a touching journey of two sisters searching for their place in the world, and with each other. "Highly recommended" (Lynn)

Current Projects

• Women's Watchcare Network

The Women's Watchcare Network monitors and documents biased violence, whether it be from far right groups such as the KKK or militias, the religious right, or individual acts of violence against people because of their race, gender, class, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. We publish a yearly log of anecdotal evidence of this violence and use it to educate the general public, advocate with public officials to ensure civil rights protections and to work with communities to prevent violence.

• Prison Project

Through the Prison Project we provide support groups for battered women, train women to be HIV/AIDS educators, provide domestic violence education for incarcerated men, work with community organizations on advocacy for prisoners and work with United Methodist Women to provide transportation for children to visit their mothers (MIWATCH) and to provide toiletry items to women who cannot purchase them.

• Economic Justice Project

In our struggle for economic justice we work with low-income women to understand economic realities, to fight discrimination and to create employment opportunities.

• Social Justice Project

Through the Social Justice Project, we provide popular education about the oppressions, how they are linked, and develop strategies for dismantling them. We work with social change organizations to strengthen them, incubate new projects, and bring people together in Arkansas and the South to form progressive networks that support a progressive agenda that includes everyone. Through our African American Women's Institute for Social Justice, we create strategies for overcoming the barriers that hinder African American women's efforts toward power and self-determination.

• Publications and Events

Our publications and events include a newsletter, a lending library, resource manuals, statewide and regional conferences, and the production of women performers and writers. We also distribute **Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism** and **In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation**, by Suzanne Pharr.

Transformation is also available as an ASCII file and on audiotape.

Transformation

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INSIDE

**Special Issue:
Focus on Women
in Prison, Part II**

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PART II: Focus on Prison Work

Criminal Justice: Moving to Prisons for Profit

Suzanne Pharr

For a very long time, I have made fun of the name “criminal justice,” calling it an oxymoron, or two words in complete contradiction of each other. Today, I am beyond making fun: I can no longer call it the “criminal justice system.” Witnessing the way this system works in the U.S., I am led to call it the “criminal system” or the “injustice system.” It is a system that behaves in a criminal manner toward great numbers of people in this society, especially poor people. It is hard to remain quiet while this system targets poor people—and the wealthy go free.

There is a kind of hysteria in this country about crime—though only certain kinds of crime. The crimes of bankers, developers, or corporations dumping toxic wastes go almost unpunished, but legislators can get almost any anti-crime bill passed as well as big packages of funding for police and prisons to punish individuals, particularly people of color and poor people. Indeed, building prisons has become a major growth industry and is seen as a source of jobs and income for communities. We are now spending more money on building prisons than building uni-

versities. Private police forces (guards for gated communities, businesses, etc.) have grown exponentially. There has been a heightening of penalties for involvement with drugs, and an increase in the use of the death penalty. The rate of people incarcerated in the U.S. is 6 to 8 times the rates in other industrialized countries—a greater percentage than in the former Soviet Union or the old South Africa. And all of this goes on despite statistical evidence that crime has decreased.

Here are three examples of recent shameful changes in criminal policy:

- Public officials now target teenagers (especially young people of color) as “super predators,” or “amoral” criminals and enemies of the people. I am appalled that there is serious discussion in Congress about trying and sentencing teenagers as adults, and there is movement toward the elimination of their basic rights such as freedom of movement, association, congregation. What does it mean when groups of three or more youth can be classified as a gang, simply because of their num-

(continued on page 2)

Women in Prison Criminal Justice

bers? The fact that U.S. children die by murder and suicide at 12 times the rate of other industrialized nations—that children are killing children—is an indication that there is something terribly wrong with U.S. adults and our systemic lack of support of children and families. (What would good support look like? Universal and equalized health care, education, and child care, jobs with livable wages, good libraries, parks, and after-school programs.)

- Congress has expanded the use of the death penalty, and many states are using it with relish. Arkansas executed three men in a single day last year, and the state of Texas is heading for the Guinness Book of Records for the most killed in the death chamber. In fact, a recent NY Times article reported that the high frequency has had a numbing effect on local citizens who pay less and less attention to the executions.

- Greater numbers of women are now being incarcerated for non-violent crimes: hot checks, petty theft, drugs, prostitution, accomplices to men's crimes. In the majority of their cases, their crime is trying to survive poverty. In Little Rock, they are jailed in a "Community Punishment Center." They are separated from their children and families, and they return to them as "punished" individuals, not rehabilitated and trained to contribute to the work force and their community.

Not only do I feel ashamed of our treatment of people in "the land of the free," but I worry about the future. On the one hand, corporate globalization has eliminated good-paying jobs here and created the greatest disparity between the rich and the poor since the last century, job training programs and services are being eliminated, and welfare is being re-

There are now
124 private prisons
open which have
74,000 beds.

pealed. At the same time, in the last decade, we have had a doubling of the numbers of people incarcerated (to 1.63 million or 615 for every 100,000 persons) along with the rapid development of prisons which are now privatized and being managed by corporations that are not accountable to voters. There are now 124 private prisons open which have 74,000 beds and the private prison industry is growing at an annual rate of 35%. As corporations take over the prison industry, more and more prisoners are required to work for businesses to pay for their care. The number of prisoners em-

ployed grew from 31,000 in 1980 to 75,000 workers in 1995 who produced \$1 billion dollars of goods and services. Companies such as TWA, Microsoft, Eddie Bauer, and JC Penney's have prison businesses where prisoners take reservations and clothing orders, package computer parts, and make uniforms. The majority of prisoners are employed by state and federal programs making everything from office furniture to military uniforms. Prisoners work for wages similar to what businesses pay Third World workers, are prevented from organizing, and are not protected by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards.

Where can this lead as more people lose jobs from downsizing and 4 million welfare recipients are put on the street without job possibilities as welfare cutbacks are implemented? I worry that prisons will increasingly become warehouses for holding and controlling the people our economic system considers to be throw-aways.

I fear a future where the only hope for poor people to find work in this country will be within prison walls, working for the profit of private companies. We have fought long and hard to dismantle systems of slavery: what we currently call criminal justice is moving us again to the inhumane and immoral practice of using imprisoned humans for the profit of those who do not consider them fully human. ■

Working on Both Sides of the Domestic Violence Issue

Janet Perkins

All my life I had to fight. I had to fight my daddy. I had to fight my brothers. I had to fight my cousins and my uncles. A girl child ain't safe in a family of men. But I never thought I'd have to fight in my own house." She let out her breath. "I loves Harpo," she says. "God knows I do. But I'll kill him dead before I let him beat me."

This is a quote from the book, *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker. The speaker is Sophia, who is expressing her anger and frustration to Miss Celie, her mother-in-law, about how her husband Harpo is very determined to make her be submissive to him.

In a conversation with his father, Harpo questions what he has to do to make Sophia mind. "I tell her one thing, she do another. Never do what I say. Always backtalk." In response to his son's comment the father asks, "You ever hit her?" Looking down at his hands and somewhat embarrassed, Harpo admits he has never hit Sophia, which his father replies, "Well how you spect to make her mind? Wives is like children. You have to let 'em know

who got the upper hand. Nothing can do that better than a good sound beating."

These scenes are too familiar

The decision to offer weekly classes to incarcerated men was based on many factors.

for many of us. Women talking to other women about their experiences of being abused. Men advising other men on how to "handle their women."

So many women have been subjected to being beaten, raped and emotionally abused all of their lives. We know that a woman is more likely to be attacked in her own home by a rela-

tive than on city streets by a stranger. In the above scenario, Sophia speaks of having to fight all of her life. Many women never fight back, because they fear the severity of the beating if they try to defend themselves. And we know, if a woman attempts to flee the abusive situation she risks being killed or killing her abuser.

The Women's Project has a long history of working on the issue of domestic violence. In the early 80s the Women's Project, along with other women in northwest Arkansas, worked tirelessly to create safe space for women and their children. The first battered women's shelters grew out of this effort. More importantly the old guard rules were challenged and no longer did women have to suffer the abuse they were experiencing in silence and shame. No longer could the issue of domestic violence be denied and seen as an insignificant problem, because now it had a public face which was demonstrated by the numbers of women and children that sought refuge in shelters. As many of us know, even today shelters operate at capacity, or near capacity most of the time, which speaks to the fact that much more work is needed to eliminate violence in the lives of women and children.

As many other organizations and individuals joined in the effort to work on behalf of battered

A Participant's Reaction to the Men's Domestic Violence Class at Tucker

I've been going to the Domestic Violence classes for a while now. And I would like to thank Ms. Janet Perkins and Ms. Felicia Davidson for taking the time to bring the Domestic Violence class to the men in the pre-release program. I also would like to thank Ms. Beulah Hampton for allowing me to be part of the pre-release and domestic violence classes. In being the oldest person in the classes, I'd like to say that I've learned a great deal about myself as a person.

In one of the classes we talked about wearing masks. I thought of all the years I wore the mask of violence. Though I really didn't like to be violent, I had to be because of the life I was living. You see, when I was coming up it was a lot harder than it is

now. And from my beliefs, I formed a mask of violence to shield myself from my own fears, from that which I could not understand at the time. Though I've never beat on my woman, I've learned through our classes my verbal abuse was just as bad as if I had beat her. However I've learned through the domestic violence classes to stop and think about others' feelings, to talk things over in a civil manner and to compromise to both our benefits while growing together and becoming more aware of each other. These are just some of the things I am learning while growing mentally. And it goes without saying: It's time to wake up, my brothers and sisters, and stop the violence against one another!

J. Branam

women and their children by developing shelters, domestic violence coalitions, support groups and affecting public policy, the Women's Project moved our focus on domestic violence to working with women who are incarcerated.

The Women's Project began working with women who are incarcerated at the Arkansas Department of Correction Women's Unit through the Pre-Release Program, which focused on assisting women to make the transition from prison back into the community. Our role was to provide two classes per month to offer information on building employment skills. In these classes, many of the women shared their experiences with incest, rape, physical and emotional violence. A closer examination of physical and sexual abuse experienced by women who are incarcerated, revealed that over 85% of these women had experienced violence as children or as an adult. According to a national report published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, an estimated 41% of women in prison reported that they had been previously sexually or physically abused. It became very apparent that classes which dealt with sexual and physical abuse were needed for incarcerated women.

In 1989, Women's Project former staff member, Kerry Lobel

Women in Prison Domestic Violence

initiated the first classes for incarcerated women on Understanding Domestic Violence and Abuse Against Women. Today we continue our work with incarcerated women, giving them information and support that will hopefully enhance their lives and prepare them to move back into the community to live a life that is free of violence.

As we continue to evaluate our work and question where we should focus our efforts, we expanded our involvement on domestic violence in the prison to incarcerated men. The decision to offer weekly classes to incarcerated men was based on many factors.

We are seeing this growing movement among men to be re-

sponsible and take their rightful places in the family and in the community. Those who advocate for the reestablishment of family values encourage men to go back in their homes, be real men, and be the heads of their households. A lot of the information I have read has this nostalgic flavor, romanticizing yesterday as a standard by which our families should

The Male Illusion: Another Participant's Reaction to the Domestic Violence Class for Men

The male's perspective of domestic violence somewhat differs from the female's. We, as men, fail to acknowledge the part we play in this social disease that affects the whole family.

Domestic violence from a male's perspective has a number of starting points: verbal abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse. The use of verbal confrontation and then the more aggressive behavior we justify as acknowledging our manhood. Funny how we can justify the means by which we create fear and pain in those we say we love. We found out that 87% of the men in each class didn't understand or would not acknowledge their responsibility for the problem.

One of the biggest problems is that some men refuse to accept ownership of the problem and therefore the problem is carried over into the next relationship. We want to be in command—or total control might be a better word.

By making the females feel at fault, we delude ourselves into believing we're okay. "It is not my fault. It is not me." I've learned and tried to convey that we must take the real meaning of what manhood is and hold onto it: that when confronted with crisis we must learn to communicate our feelings and at the same time, elevate our loved ones. That we as men must respect the rights and opinions of our women and listen. If domestic violence is to stop, we as

men must stand up and be true men again by stop treating our wives or loved ones as if they were objects to answer our every little want. When we as men start to protect the most precious beings—our women—then and only then will the problems of domestic violence, child abuse, spouse abuse, rape, family abuse, dysfunctional relationships, and drug use by children cease to exist.

Thank you Women's Project for all of the great work you are doing for family, community and society.

Odel Holman
Pre-Release Counselor and
Inmate, Tucker Unit

Women in Prison Domestic Violence

be governed today.

It is very hard to argue with the fact that men should be responsible, contribute to the financial stability of their families and be involved in strengthening their homes and communities. But very little of the philosophy and teachings of most of these movements for men suggest that they are scrutinizing how they have devalued and dehumanized women. Very little suggests that men are evaluating how they have misused their power to control and dominate women. I have not seen where they are promoting that men understand, regret, apologize and stop attempting to beat women into humbly submitting to men's rules, desires and needs.

Large numbers of men are joining these movements across the country, which indicates that men are searching for those places to have contact with other men and to grow. But has this need to bond and network with other men been born out of their fear that they have lost control of women?

The weekly sessions we are now offering to incarcerated men is an effort to give them an opportunity to be involved in discussions which are directed toward understanding the dynamics of domestic violence and their role as men in ending violence in the lives of women and children.

I'm not going to tell you that all the information that Felicia

Davidson and I present in these sessions is accepted without resistance.

One group of men participates in the sessions for a month. Without fail, at the beginning of each

**Much more work is
needed to eliminate
violence in the lives
of women and
children.**

monthly session, one man will be brave enough to open his mouth to say, "Well what about how women beat up men," to which we reply that 99% of those who are beaten each year are women, 98% of those arrested on domestic violence charges are men and each year over 1 million women seek medical treatment for injuries inflicted by husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends.

During these sessions we utilize videos which describe the violence women have experienced and how this has affected their lives and the lives of their children. One powerful video inter-

views women who are incarcerated for killing their abusers, which has a profound impact and sparks very good discussions.

We acknowledge that men and women experience the world differently, and we may never agree on some things, but one point we continue to keep up front in our classes is that violence does not have to be the cornerstone of our relationships. Violence hurts and too often kills women and does irreversible harm to children. Men are damaged by their violent acts and the community suffers.

Often when Felicia and I leave the prison after working with both the women and the men, we know that some of the information we are presenting is being absorbed and processed. We are painfully aware that much more work must be done to bring an end to domestic violence but our dream is that the women will leave prison with a better understanding of their self-worth and recognize that they are valuable human beings who deserve to be treated with respect. Hopefully we have planted seeds in the minds of the men that will help them to understand how they participate in and support domestic violence, and their role in ending abuse.

Currently this is our work on ending domestic violence, but we will continue to strengthen our work and move to those places where we see we are needed. ■

Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis

Susan Phillips

The Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis campaign is in its third year. More than 350 groups in 36 states are involved in the effort to get people to understand the harm that is being done to children and families by our current criminal justice policies. The Women's Project has been involved because our work with the MIWATCH program and the domestic violence classes for incarcerated women have clearly demonstrated to us the harm that comes from the emphasis on punishment, not prevention.

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world. The National Institute of Justice predicts that at the rate we're going, 1 in every 20 U.S. residents can expect to be incarcerated at some time in their life. That's not 1 in 20 of some other distant people. It's 1 in 20 of us and it's 1 in 20 of our children.

It's been said that "the United States doesn't have a crime epidemic but that what we're really facing is an 'epidemic of incarceration.'" We're spending billions of dollars building prisons hoping we can lock away the so-

cial and economic injustice in this country. If the mass incarcerations of Americans was the solution to our problems, America

It's been said "that the United States doesn't have a crime epidemic but that what we're really facing is an 'epidemic of incarceration'."

would be the safest country in the world—BUT IT IS NOT!

Sociologists and criminologists are telling us that the very policies that we intended to fight crime are destroying families and devastating entire countries and, rather than reducing crime, we are feeding the conditions that lead to crime. Nowhere is that truth more evident than in the plight of the 1.5 million children in this

country whose mothers are imprisoned. This isn't just a problem that someone else's children face. Part of those 1.5 million children are right here in Arkansas.

The greatest growth in the prison population in Arkansas has been among women. Eight out of 10 of these women are mothers. Their children are left with grandparents and aunts and uncles who have to give custody of the children over to the state in order to get any substantial help. There are 14,000 children in Arkansas who have a mother under the supervision of the courts. That's 14,000 children who, according to research studies, are 5 to 6 times more likely than other children to end up incarcerated. Without multiple means of support, we know that many of these children will end up taking their parent's place behind bars.

What have we done to prevent the future incarceration of these at-risk children?

Well, our decision-makers spent nearly \$20 million dollars on a new for-profit prison for women—a prison that can potentially hold 2/3 more women than the present women's prison. The one great truth we have learned is: If you build them, they will come. We know that from the growth of the prison industries and the burgeoning of the prison population. Wall Street investors know that and back the construction of prisons. And the stock holders who

Women in Prison Mothers in Prison

are making money from the for-profit prisons know it as well.

We could have made other decisions.

We could have decided to spend the \$20 million on drug treatment for women. Substance abuse is the number one reason that women are sent to prison, but only 3% of the money spent on substance abuse treatment in Arkansas is spent on women with children. For the same money we're spending to build a prison to incarcerate 600 women, we could have invested in drug treatment and comprehensive services for 5,800 mothers and therapeutic intervention for more than 11,000 children.

We could have decided to spend that money on child abuse prevention or battered women's shelters—options that would have addressed factors that are often precursors to women becoming incarcerated. We could have spent the money to prevent abuse or help women escape domestic violence, but we didn't. We bought a prison.

We could have decided to spend \$20 million on Drug Courts. Drug courts require first-time offenders to participate in an extensive drug treatment program while they continue to work and support their families. We could have, but we didn't. We bought a prison.

We could have decided to spend \$20 million on programs

available through the Department of Community Punishment—programs that provide substance abuse treatment while teaching mothers how to be better citizens and better parents. We could have invested in those programs, but we didn't. In fact, we cut spending for those programs because

**The consequences
of our decisions will
not be felt only by
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children but by
generations to
come.**

we decided to buy a prison.

Are prisons cost-effective punishment for most women? No. Women in this state are most often locked up for fraud, forgery and theft. Many of these crimes are related to a substance abuse problem. A report from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences finds that a woman and her two children could receive substance abuse treatment, edu-

cation, trauma counseling, and family and employment counseling for less than it costs to lock her up for one year. And when a mother goes to prison, the children often end up in foster care. We could have been humane and cost-effective, but we bought a prison.

The consequences of our decisions will not be felt only by this generation of children but they'll be felt by generations to come. We made a decision to follow the path that has taken other states to a place where they're cutting spending for education and health in order to support the prison-industrial complex.

The Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis campaign came into being because we want something better for our children's future than prisons. But to get something better, we have to ask for something better. We have to tell people who are in decision-making positions that we want them to invest in drug courts, community-based punishment and substance abuse treatment so that there will be alternatives to sending mothers who commit non-violent crimes to prison. ■

Susan Phillips is the Parenting from Prison Community Resource Development Coordinator for the Centers for Youth and Families in Little Rock.

UPDATE

Since the last issue of *Transformation* was published, the Women's Project has extended its prison programs to include the facilities at Wrightsville and Benton. We are now providing the men incarcerated at Wrightsville with HIV / AIDS information and conducting the Understanding Domestic Abuse of Women and Children for the men incarcerated at Benton.

The Women's Project staff and representatives of other community organizations that work with the women incarcerated at the Tucker Women's Unit have met with the new warden of the private prison being constructed in Newport by the Wackenhut Corporation. This new prison is scheduled to open in January, 1998 which will mean the transfer of women from the old site in central

Arkansas to the new prison in northern Arkansas, about 2-1/2 hours from Little Rock.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Since the Women's Project became involved in working with incarcerated women in the 1980s, we have benefited from the time, commitment and talents of many individuals. To those who have negotiated with prison staff, set up and taught classes, led support groups, written instructional materials, advocated for individual women inmates, transported children to visit their mothers, donated items, or gave of their time to change policies affecting incarcerated women, we say thank you!

We appreciate those who have helped the work of the Women's Project by donating office supplies and equipment. These tax deductible gifts facilitate our work while reducing our operating expenses. To support our prison work, we have a continuing need for:

Supplies for Domestic Violence and HIV/AIDS Classes

- ✓ photocopier paper (white)
- ✓ black pens.
- ✓ folders (two pocket)
- ✓ manila file folders
- ✓ 8-1/2 x 11 inch writing pads
- ✓ double density 3.5 inch diskettes
- ✓ 1" 3-ring binders
- ✓ blank videocassettes to tape educational programs
- ✓ laser cartridges for printers

For MIWATCH Project

- ✓ personal hygiene products
- ✓ children's car seats
- ✓ used books and magazines

For Meetings and Classes

- ✓ flip chart pads
- ✓ bold tipped markers

For the Library

- ✓ \$ to purchase resource books on HIV/AIDS and domestic violence
- ✓ bookshelf

For General Office Use

- ✓ FAX paper rolls
- ✓ cleaning supplies
- ✓ paper towels, toilet paper

Mark Your Calendars

**WORLD
AIDS DAY**
November 30, 1997
3:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Arkansas Arts
Center
MacArthur Park

**WOMEN'S PROJECT
HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE
AND
SILENT AUCTION**
Friday, Dec. 12
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Books on Prison in our Library



Unruly Women: The Politics of Confinement & Resistance, by **Karlene Faith**

(Press Gang Publishers), challenges misconceptions of "deviant" women and investigates the many ways by which women transgress social order. ...this incisive work critically examines such topics as patterns of female crimes and punishments, institutionalized violence against incarcerated women; women loving women in prison; Hollywood's formulaic women-in-prison films; and more, all firmly grounded in a feminist analysis.

They Always Call Us Ladies: Stories from Prison, by **Jean Harris** (Charles Scribner's Sons). The author brings us inside the walls of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, where she is an inmate, and reveals more about the brutal life of women in prison than we have ever seen before.

Legal Lynching: Racism, Injustice & the Death Penalty, by **Rev. Jesse Jackson** (Marlowe & Co.) "Using real people and real evidence, (Rev. Jackson) makes a powerful argument against a reversion to barbarism and for a return to reasonableness." ...Governor Mario Cuomo

Finding Freedom: Writings from Death Row, by **Jarvis Jay Masters** (Padma Publishing) is a thoughtful, inspiring and often humorous collection of stories and personal reflections by a 35-year-old African American inmate on San Quentin's death row. Unlike most prison stories written primarily from an experience of predation and horror, this unflinching account presents the healing perspective of compassionate observation and courageous action for the good of others.

New Books in the Library

Waterlily by **Ella Cara Deloria** (Univ. of Nebraska). Written nearly a half century ago, but published now for the first time, *Waterlily* is a novel of the Dakotas, or Sioux. The author, herself a Sioux, sought to record and preserve traditional Sioux ways through this imaginative recreation of life in the camp circle. It is of special value because it is told from a woman's perspective.

Carryin' On in the Lesbian & Gay South, edited by **John Howard** (New York Univ. Press). "This assortment of touching, hilarious, and very smart essays moves lesbian and gay history to a new place, geographically and analytically. ...the authors explore the intersecting meanings of southernness and sexuality with attention

to the widest angles of vision, and to the telling details of daily experience." ...Lisa Duggan

Great Books for Girls by **Kathleen Odean** (Ballantine Books). This first reference of its kind is an invaluable list of more than six hundred titles that will encourage, challenge, and ultimately nurture in girls the strong qualities our culture so often suppresses.

Feminism and Disability by **Barbara Hillyer** (Univ. of Oklahoma Press). "Hillyer breaks fearlessly into new territory... Her book is a major contribution to the growing dialogue between the two movements." ...Women's Review of Books

Toward Amnesia by **Sarah Van Arsdale** (Riverhead Books). Nominated for the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction,..."Van Arsdale understands both loss and the reeducation of the heart to which loss, if we're lucky, can lead. Here's a wonderful new writer, passionate, funny, charming, and wise." ...Mark Doty, author of *My Alexandria*

Everyday Acts Against Racism: Raising Children in A Multiracial World, edited by **Maureen T. Reddy** (Seal Press). In this empowering book, mothers and teachers look at the effects of racism on our children and communities—and suggest practical ways to end racial divisions.

Current Projects

• Women's Watchcare Network

The Women's Watchcare Network monitors and documents biased violence, whether it be from far right groups such as the KKK or militias, the religious right, or individual acts of violence against people because of their race, gender, class, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or religion. We publish a yearly log of anecdotal evidence of this violence and use it to educate the general public, advocate with public officials to ensure civil rights protections and to work with communities to prevent violence.

• Prison Project

Through the Prison Project we provide support groups for battered women, train women to be HIV / AIDS educators, provide domestic violence education for incarcerated men, work with community organizations on advocacy for prisoners and work with United Methodist Women to provide transportation for children to visit their mothers (MIWATCH) and to provide toiletry items to women who cannot purchase them.

• Economic Justice Project

In our struggle for economic justice we work with low-income women to understand economic realities, to fight discrimination and to create employment opportunities.

• Social Justice Project

Through the Social Justice Project, we provide popular education about the oppressions, how they are linked, and develop strategies for dismantling them. We work with social change organizations to strengthen them, incubate new projects, and bring people together in Arkansas and the South to form progressive networks that support a progressive agenda that includes everyone. Through our African American Women's Institute for Social Justice, we create strategies for overcoming the barriers that hinder African American women's efforts toward power and self-determination.

• Publications and Events

Our publications and events include a newsletter, a lending library, resource manuals, statewide and regional conferences, and the production of women performers and writers. We also distribute **Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism** and **In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation**, by Suzanne Pharr.

Transformation is also available as an ASCII file and on audiotape.

Transformation

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