

VIEWPOINT

BLACK INK

The essence of freedom is understanding.
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Carter frees Patty, Chavis still ignored

Esquire magazine reported that Patty Hearst was seen in prison wearing a T-shirt that read "Being kidnapped is always having to say you're sorry."

By now she must be happier because President Carter has granted her executive clemency and commuted her seven-year sentence for bank robbery. She served 1 year and 10 months of her sentence.

reasons for freeing her included "she needs no further rehabilitation and it is the consensus of all involved in her proceeding and confinement that she is no risk to the community and that on the contrary, she will be a law-abiding citizen." No argument here. But if this can be said for Hearst, why can't the same be said for the countless other prisoners that have been in jail for various amounts of time?

The answer could be that since she was so well known she was given special attention—observed more by "all involved in her proceeding and confinement...."

But let's face it, Patty Hearst is not the only one who does not need further rehabilitation. There are others with just as much notoriety as Hearst and also there are those who could be considered rehabilitated.

Take Ben Chavis of the Wilmington 10 for example. Much publicity has been circulated about the Wilmington 10. Public support has been tremendous through marches and speeches pleading their innocence. Pamphlets and leaflets have been circulated also. Yet he has to serve his term until 1980—no president or governor's commutation for Ben Chavis.

Too, Chavis has been attending Duke University in the day to acquire his divinity degree. It seems that a man inspired enough to seek a divinity degree would also be law-abiding and no risk to the community.

Since the main witnesses recanted their testimonies, saying they were bribed to accuse the Wilmington 10 of arson, it would seem that Chavis needs no further rehabilitation for a crime he did not commit.

It is a shame that we cannot expect President Carter, on Monday, to announce Chavis' release and have Chavis walk out the prison doors a free man on Thursday. Yet Patty Hearst could.

And if we sound racist...PARDON US.

New test may nab pot heads

CHICAGO, IL. (CPS)—Local police may soon have a practical blood test to accurately detect if someone has been smoking marijuana, according to an Illinois toxicologist.

Dr. John Spikes, chief toxicologist of the Illinois Department of Health, says his laboratory has developed a "forensic toxicology service to law enforcement personnel in Illinois" that allows them to submit blood samples from people suspected of being under the influence of marijuana. "I don't think it will be too long before the test becomes a routine police procedure," said

Spikes.

The procedure used is similar to that performed by television's Dr. Quincy when he tests for the presence of drugs using a gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer. A blood sample is placed in the elaborate mechanism and a computer read-out indicates the presence of THC molecular compounds in the blood. THC, of course, is the active chemical in marijuana.

This is the first time a procedure that can stand up as court evidence has been made available to police.

If approved, Carter's budget to make financial scarce

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS) -- The first major battle over Jimmy Carter's 1979-80 higher education budget settled recently into an uneasy truce between administration officials and education lobbying groups. The debate, quietly raging since last fall, has left college groups happy with, of all things, budget cut.

Before adjourning in October, Congress approved increases in federal higher education spending. since then, though, President Carter's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is responsible for preparing the entire federal budget the President will present to Congress this session, recommended massive cuts in education spending.

Student aid programs worth \$3.9 billion in the 1978-79 school year, were to be reduced by \$1.4 billion. But when the OMB's intent became public, a united front of education lobbyists pressured the U.S. Office of Education into an appeal.

OMB wanted to end the National Direct Student Loans program entirely, and to cut funding for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOGs) by 50 percent. Other federal aid programs -- including Work-Study, SSIG's and library aid were to absorb the rest of the cuts.

The cuts would have, according to Allan Ostar of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, effectively meant the end of the Middle Income Student Assistance Act Congress passed in October. "If (the budget cuts) are not reinstated by President Carter or Congress," Ostar warned, "all our hopes to aid middle-income college students are dashed."

Ostar was part of the intense

pressure applied to the administration in the first two weeks of January. He was joined by, among other, Glenn Dumke, head of the California state system, who described the OMB cuts as a "hit list."

The lobbying culminated in an early January meeting between 14 education groups, led by the American Council on Education's J.W. Peltason, and a contingent from the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, led by U.S. Education Commissioner Ernest Boyer. Boyer went from the meeting to the OMB to detail the appeal.

The result was a compromise stuck the day Congress reconvened. The education budget the President will send to Congress includes a request for \$3.6 billion for student aid programs. the BEOG will get \$2.4 billion in 1979-80 if Congress approves, versus \$2.6 billion this year. College library aid, which got \$10 million this year, has been dropped, but money for graduate help is increased from \$8 million to \$15 million. The TRIO program was reduced to \$130 million.

Many of the education lobbyists, though, were happy to get away with that much. For example, Frank Jackalone, chairman of the United States Student Association (USSA), said he was pleased the "appalling cutback scheme" was itself cut back, though he still thinks the BEOG program should be expanded.

The budget now goes to Congress. There, USSA lobbyists Joel Packer sees "an uphill fight" to keep the hard-won compromise intact.

