

Facing South

Tony Dunbar: "Prisons are a waste of human lives."

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — Tony Dunbar describes himself as an "optimistic malcontent." Others might be more apt to say he is a human being with a deep social conscience.

Over the past 20 years he has worked on behalf of the South's poor, oppressed, and imprisoned. His love for the region and its people, and his commitment to social change are obvious when he states: "The interesting thing about social change in the South is how both races — whites and blacks — have had to examine their roots and their values. They've had to cross huge barriers to get away from their traditional, passive Southern upbringing, to begin to speak out and struggle for change."

Tony says his own activism began early. "My strange career of complaining about the status quo and trying to change things is probably due to an accident of birth."

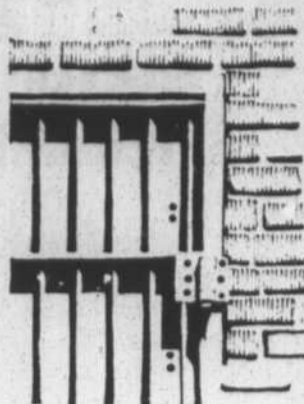
Born in 1949 to white liberal parents, Tony was early imbued with the idea that "The black guys are the good guys and the white guys were the bad ones." That philosophy profoundly affected him. He says, "That single interpretation was radical enough to set me off on a different track from most people."

During Tony's adolescent years, the South was also going through a radical change — desegregation. He had two experiences as a teenager that solidified his concern for the poor and triggered his interest in community organizing. First, he counselled nine-year-olds in a day care center in Atlanta's "Vine City," a black housing project. "That was a great education for me and the other counselors," he said, "but not necessarily for the kids."

Then the following summer he got his first taste of community organizing at the Penn Community Center in South Carolina. He and other activists held night meetings and taught citizenship education, birth control, and mid-wifery.

Tony spent his sixteenth summer in Atlanta, living communally with other organizers. When he and a young black friend were arrested for drag racing, Tony spent several days in jail. This turned his life around.

He and his friend were put in separate sections in the segregated jail,



and Tony says he "began going crazy in that cell. Those two nights in jail planted in me an absolute hatred of imprisonment. And a lot of what I've done since then has been aimed at trying to convince people that prisons are a waste of human lives. I've tried hard to help prisoners get out alive."

When he turned 18, Tony registered as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, and accepted induction. He went to work for the Committee of Southern Churches (CSC), a small Christian organization in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tony spent six years with CSC, developing prison projects — tutoring programs, prisoners' rights, visitor groups. "Our idea, theologically, was that everyone should be released," he explains. "That's a biblical admonition. Jesus said the imprisoned should be released immediately." Using his organizing skills, Tony transformed CSC into a regional prison reform organization, the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons.

He resigned to become a full-time freelance writer, but soon found himself doing prison work again. In 1979, he travelled to Alabama to protest the scheduled execution of John Evans. Tony's conviction runs deep: "Stopping capital punishment is central in determining how moral a society we are."

Evans won a reprieve, and Tony met an activist from Amnesty International (AI), the human rights organization that had received the Nobel prize for Peace. Tony joined the AI staff that year, and has since been their southern coordinator in New Orleans.

Today, Tony's optimism and his discontent work together. He says, "What we do to prisoners is absolutely absurd. It is a consuming hatred of mine. It burns at some level at the back of my soul."

These intense feelings inspire Tony to keep fighting against prisons and human waste.

—SAM & MARTHA TOTTEN
freelance
New York, N. Y.

BUDDY'S WORKSHOP Protect Plumbing In Extreme Cold

If water pipes in an uninsulated basement tend to "sweat" are they likely to freeze in extremely cold weather?

Sometimes, location of the furnace in an uninsulated basement provides sufficient warmth to keep pipes from freezing. If washers and dryers are located in the basement, they also give off some heat. But, persons who live in areas subject to extreme cold should insulate all exposed water pipes, those anchored to the sub-flooring, in crawl spaces and especially where the main line enters the home and extensions run to outdoor faucets. In some areas of extreme cold, insulation may not be enough and heat tape should be used. Heat tapes may be purchased at most hardware stores and the price is reasonable compared to the cost of plumbing repairs.

Is it true that drain cleaners should not be used by homeowners who have septic tanks because the cleaner will kill needed bacteria?

This is an old, but untrue concept. Small amounts of drain cleaner are so diluted in the average size septic tank there is little possibility of any harmful effects.

IGA

New Year's Resolution

A Consumer Saving Institution

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PRICES EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER 29-30-31, 1983

TABLETITE WHOLE SIRLOIN TIPS
\$1.59 LB

JOHN MORRELL GOLDEN SMOKED FULLY COOKED BONELESS HAMS
WHOLE - 5 to 7 LBS. AVG.
\$1.78 LB

TABLETITE FRANKS
12 OZ. PKG. 89¢

"SALT PORK" FAT BACK 59¢ LB

PORK NECK BONES 69¢ LB

GWALTNEY HOT OR MILD PORK SAUSAGE 1 LB. ROLL 1.19

SLICED BOLOGNA... 1 LB. PKG. 1.39

SWIFT PREMIUM CANNED HAM 3 LB. CAN \$5.79

OLD HICKORY CHOPPED BAR-BE-CUE 1 LB. CUP \$1.89

SAVING RESOLUTION FRESH WHOLE FRYERS
"THE FRESH CHICKEN"
"LIMIT 4 PLEASE"
59¢ LB

CUT UP "PAN READY" FRYERS . LB 69¢

SAVING RESOLUTION LEAN GROUND BEEF
3 Lbs. OR MORE 89¢ LB

LUNDY'S PORK CHITTERLINGS... 10 LB. BUCKET \$5.99

LUNDY'S TEE PEE BRAND SLICED BACON 1 LB. 99¢

JOHN MORRELL GOLDEN SMOKED FULLY COOKED BONELESS HAMS HALF-2 to 4 LBS. AVG. LB 1.88

FRESH, GREEN CABBAGE
15¢ LB

RED POTATOES 5 LB. BAG 89¢

FRESH CAROLINA COLLARDS . . LB 39¢

M. C. SWEET POTATOES . LB 39¢

WAXED RUTABAGAS 4 LBS. 1.00

JUICY LEMONS . . . 6 FOR 69¢

SANDWICH BREAD 1 1/2 LB. LOAF 3/\$1.19

BROWN 'N SERVE ROLLS PKG OF 12 2/88¢

SAVING RESOLUTION PUREX BLEACH
Limit one with an additional \$10 order or more
GALLON JUG 59¢

SAVING RESOLUTION TIDE DETERGENT
GIANT SIZE BOX \$1.79

SAVING RESOLUTION BLUE BONNET MARGARINE
Limit two with an additional \$10 order or more
1 LB. PKG. 39¢

FINE FARE CHOPPED BROCCOLI 10 OZ. PKG. 2/88¢

IGA ICE MILK 1/2 GAL. CTN. 99¢

PACKERS LABEL APPLE SAUCE NO. 303 CAN 3/99¢

TROPICANA GOLD 'N' PURE ORANGE JUICE
Half Cal. Ctn. 88¢

BUSH FRESH BLACK EYE PEAS No. 303 CAN 3/99¢

SOLO ASSORTED PARTY CUPS PKG. OF 24-9 OZ. 59¢

SAVING RESOLUTION DRY BLACK EYE PEAS
HOG JOWLS 69¢ LB 1 LB. BAG 2/99¢

SAVING RESOLUTION GENERIC SHORTENING
Limit one With an Additional \$10 Order Or More
42 OZ. CAN 99¢

SAVING RESOLUTION CHAMP DOG FOOD
25 LB. BAG \$2.49

MINUTE MAID ORANGE JUICE 16 OZ. \$1.25

BREAKSTONE DIP 8 OZ. 5 FLAVORS 79¢

FOLGER'S FLAKED COFFEE 13 OZ. CAN \$2.35

QUAKER QUICK GRITS 5 LB. BAG 88¢

PET MILK TALL CAN 42¢

CRISCO OIL 48 OZ. BOTTLE \$2.38

RED BAND FLOUR 5 LB. BAG 79¢

PRIDE OF THE FARM SWEET PEAS CAN 2/79¢

PRIDE OF THE FARM CORN CREAMSTYLE or #303 WHOLE KERNEL CAN 2/79¢

TREESWEET ORANGE JUICE 46 OZ. CAN 99¢

TREESWEET GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 46 OZ. CAN 69¢

COTTONELLE TISSUE 4 ROLL PKG. 99¢

VIVA PAPER TOWELS LARGE ROLL 69¢

CORONET TISSUE 8 ROLL PKG. \$1.59

DELTA TISSUES BOX OF 150 2/99¢

MASTER BLEND COFFEE
13 OZ. BAG \$1.99

LIPTON TEA BAGS
BOX OF 24 \$1.29

PURITAN OIL
32 OZ. BOTTLE \$1.99

IGA BUTTERMILK
Half Gal. 89¢
Ctn.

SEALTEST EGG NOG
Qt. 88¢
Ctn.