

The Publisher Speaks



A newspaper is as strong, whimsical and determined as its editor and publisher. Since this is true, a newspaper must first fight for its own independence before it can fight for that of the community.

The success of this depends on how well this paper is read in the community.

I think the VOICE is well received in its community, because since I took over the reins over 6 years ago, I have always tried to make it the voice of the community.

Although this newspaper is a community effort, I must reserve one right solely to myself -- I must be the final judge as to what does not go into it. That done, I will determine where a particular story is placed in it.

No matter what anyone might think, a newspaper is a business venture just like any other. It must make money before it can gain any status or power.

The old saying in business that the customer is always right, has its limits. Customers are the life blood of any business. Some customers, however, figure because a business is dependent on them in a limited degree for survival they can abuse that business and its owner.

Even though a business must have customers to survive, it must also have a certain amount of autonomy.

If a customer gets poor service from a business, he has a right to complain. On the other hand, if a business is abused by a customer, then that establishment has a right to refuse him service.

One or two of my customers seem to think just because they put an ad in my paper that this gives them the right to dictate to me where I should run certain stories. This cannot and will not be.

As I said before, for this paper to be of any use to this community which it is so concerned about, it must be totally left up to me and my staff how it should be run.



Just the FACTS

THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN IN A U.S. JAIL

Bill Moyers' Journal looks at the realities of an almost forgotten segment of society -- women in trouble with the law -- in the hour-long documentary, **WOMEN INSIDE**, to be telecast nationally over the Public Broadcasting Service Monday, June 18, at 8 p.m.*

Inmates at the country's newest and perhaps its best facility for women -- Dade County Women's Detention Center in Miami talk to Moyers about their present circumstances, their futures and their children who remain on the "outside."

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that there are approximately 15,000 women in jail on any one day. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they there?

Seventy percent of them are mothers with two dependent children. Most are doing time for non-violent, victimless crimes involving prostitution or narcotics or both.

For many the arrest cycle is a way of life. There are few one-time offenders among women in jail. They are victims of poverty, poor education and other difficult life circumstances.

In describing her life outside jail, one inmate says, "We were eight or nine in one room, trying to see that the other eats, sleeps and stays warm."

Bill Moyers observes, "In here you can paint the walls and feed them. But out there it's what they had before. But even in visiting a good jail, if there is such a thing, you have to ask if all these women should be inside."

As Bill Moyers points out in the program, "Jails don't cure drug addicts of their sickness or prostitutes of their enterprise. Neither do they keep women from repeating or children from imitating their mistakes."

WOMEN INSIDE raises some difficult questions. According to Moyers: "Where is the early warning system that would help us to detect young people in trouble and come to their aid before they come here?"

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Business In The Black

by CHARLES E. BELLE

BLACKS GETTING THE GAS PETROLEUM DOESN'T PAY

The state of California is the home of the third largest number of Black Americans. Which means it also has the third largest number of unemployed young black adults in the country.

California's Senator Hayakawa, referred to kindly by some as senile, could have had them in mind when he remarked that only the rich needed gas for their cars since the poor do not work anyway.

It is true that the high unemployment in most black neighborhoods would not argue well for opening up a retail service station on every corner, except to keep them out of white neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, poor people are put into one class in the minds of mines. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates an annual income required for a typical four-member family to maintain lower-level standards of living in the Senator's state from \$11,380 in Bakersfield to \$12,710 in San Francisco.

These are not the unemployed, but the bulk of the working Black Americans and other people who put in their hours for the rich multimillionaires like the Senator.

Two dollars and fifty cents per gallon should be the price for people according to the right wing Republican Senator. Seems like his message is making a mark with most of the retail gasoline station owners. Dealers mark-ups are running up as represented by an average of 13.7% of the pump price of regular gasoline up from the average of 13% for the past two years.

Station owners who use to take a full year to make \$35,000 a year now do it in about one-third less time. National regular leaded gasoline pump prices have moved up from 34.8 cents per gallon on average in 1969 to the 76.3 cents per gallon average so far in 1979.

Dealers are of course not the only ones doing dirt to the public. Petroleum companies are putting unheard of profits on the books. Basking in big bucks for the first quarter were Standard Oil of Indiana with

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"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"

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