

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Southern Tier:
Martin Toombs
268 W. 13th St., B-1
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
(607) 732-3371

Auburn-Geneva:
Mary Ann Ginnerty
294 1/2 South Street Rd.
Auburn, N.Y.
(315) 253-2176

Program Conducted 'In Pursuit of Justice'

By Martin Toombs,
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Seventy-five community leaders grappled with such criminal justice issues as compensation, restitution, dispute mediation and unserved persons during a "Town Meeting on the Pursuit of Justice" sponsored by the Neighborhood Justice Project April 14-16.

Keynote speaker was Frank Rogers, state Division of Criminal Justice Services commissioner, who spoke during the opening session April 14 at Christ United Methodist Church.

The following day, the participants worked in three groups preparing recommendations that were presented to a roundtable of public officials April 16.

The groups, dealing with compensation and restitution for crime victims, dispute mediation, and with those who fall between the "cracks in the system" met all day April 15 and developed recommendations in each area.

The participants represented most local social human service agencies, law

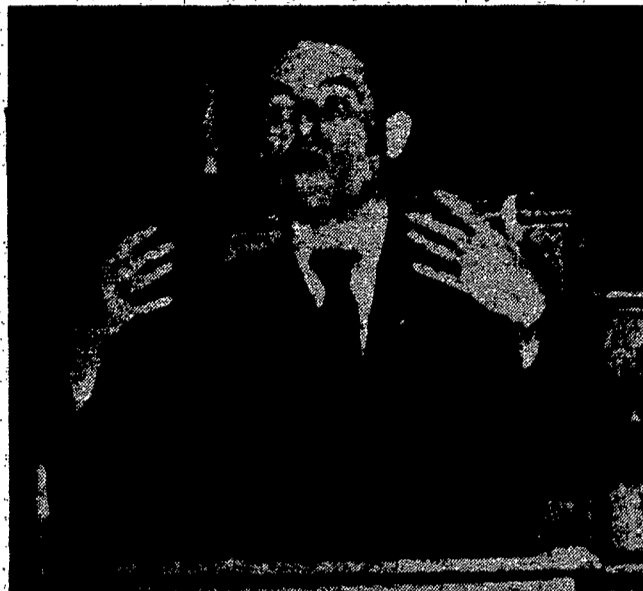
enforcement agencies, the press, the district attorney's office, judges, and criminal justice instructors.

Rogers explained the function of his department, which has oversight responsibility for such things as county jails, collects criminal justice statistics, and administers the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Act (LEAA) program in the state.

Rogers pointed out the reductions in the LEAA program since it began in 1975, noting that the latest cuts in the federal budget put the "entire program in danger," adding that "it's a shame."

It has "gotten to the point where the funds are really necessary," he said, noting that the program's problem is that many had expectations for it that were too high. It is subsidizing programs that are needed, he commented, and is making possible such programs as Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) which sponsors the Neighborhood Justice Project.

OAR, which specializes in counseling and aiding persons in county jails, has



Frank Rogers speaking at the Town Meeting on the Pursuit of Justice at Christ United Methodist Church.

been successful, he noted, reporting that a survey revealed that OAR "graduates" were much less apt to be re-arrested.

While noting that the "state (prison) facilities are bursting at the seams," with populations right around 100 percent of capacity, Rogers noted that there are "too many people in prison," serving time for minor offenses that could be dealt

with outside the prison system.

As for the overcrowding of state prisons, he noted that 80 percent of capacity was a better level at which to operate. He commented that if the state's purchase of Riker's Island from New York City falls through, "we have real problems."

Speaking of the state's crime victims compensation program, Rogers noted that

he hopes to get the limits in the program increased, and to decrease the waiting time for awards from the current two years to 90 days.

Speaking before Rogers arrived, Ed Pariso, head of the Chemung County Probation Department, addressed many of the same themes as the commissioner.

Pariso also proposed some questions for those participating in the discussions during the town meeting.

Referring to the program's topic, he noted the problems in defining justice. For some, he noted, restitution is justice; for others, it is locking up the offender and "throwing away the key." And for others, it means cutting off hands of thieves.

He also noted reasons why restitution often is not possible: often the offender is unemployed, on public assistance, has a large family to support, or is too young to work.

Pariso also asked how restitution should work in the case of a 14-year-old who steals a car and wrecks it. Does the insurance company pay, do the offender's

parents pay, and should the insurance company be reimbursed?

The public also needs to consider the cost of criminal prosecution, he noted, stating that a major felony case can cost \$80,000 to prosecute.

He also noted a problem for probation workers in enforcing restitution provisions of probation. He asked whether a probation officer should "violate" an offender for failure to pay \$100 restitution when that violation will send the offender to the state School at Industry at a cost of \$27,500 a year.

Pariso also pointed out a program his office administered that was successful, noting its impending cancellation through state budget cuts. Fifty-two teenagers who had had brushes with the law were given jobs. They worked in local schools and for other agencies, while being paid directly by Probation. Only two of those given such jobs were re-arrested, he reported.

"Employment is probably the most effective social work tool we have," he said.

Monument Dedication Scheduled

Elmira — A monument honoring Mikolaj Kopernik, more commonly known by his Latin name, Copernicus, will be dedicated Sunday, May 4, on the grounds of St. Casimir's Parish.

The monument is the second erected by St. Casimir's Polish Arts Club. The first, dedicated in 1973, honors General Casimir Pulaski, American Revolutionary War hero.

Kopernik, 1473-1543, was born in Torun and was educated at the University of Krakow, Poland, and in Bologna, Italy. He gained world renown for his promulgation of the heliocentric theory, that the earth is part of a sun-centered universe. He was an astronomer, physician, economist, and a priest of the diocese of Warmia, Poland.

The granite and bronze bas-relief memorial was designed by Jan Grybos, local artist and a member of the Arts Club. The memorial fund drive, conducted over the past three years, was coordinated by Stanley Klobuchowski.

Dedication ceremonies will begin at 3 p.m. at the memorial, and will be followed by a reception in St. Casimir's School.

Legion Slates 'Acies'

Geneva — Father Paul J. Cuddy, Courier-Journal columnist, will speak at the

Workshop to Address Special Instruction

Elmira — Several topics will be addressed during the workshop on the religious education of the handicapped

Cancer Discussion Slated

Hornell — An open forum on the "Social-Cultural and Ethical-Legal Aspects of Cancer" will be conducted Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon in DeSales Hall, sponsored by the faculty and junior students of the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing.

Panel participants will be Stoner Horey, MD; Robert Hammond, MD; Mrs. Barbara Bohomey, MPN, nurse oncologist; Rev. Carlos Mooney, pastor of Canisteo First Baptist Church; Father Eugene Emo, St. James Mercy Hospital chaplain; a nurse representative of Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, and two patients from the Hornell chapter of "Make Today Count."

Issues to be discussed will include the rights of patient and family to be informed about diagnosis, side effects of radio-therapy and anti-cancer drugs, nursing, use of life support equipment and euthanasia.

Interested health care personnel are invited.

at St. Patrick's Junior High School Sunday, April 27.

Among the subjects to be discussed are: the philosophy for special religious education, the psychology of the handicapped person, including those facing mental, physical and learning handicaps; handicapped teenagers, and sacramental preparation for the handicapped.

The workshop will run from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m.; a beverage will be provided for those who wish to bring a brown bag supper.

The workshop, sponsored by the Chemung-Schuyler Region Education Committee, will be presented by Marie Stenge and Sister Mary Norine of the Buffalo diocese. Registration may be made by calling either Sister Bernarde during the day at 734-6984 or Sister Robertina in the evenings at 733-1197.

Early Treatment Fights Disease

Dryden — The New York Region of the National Rye's Syndrome Foundation will meet on Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m. at the Holy Cross Parish Center. The public is invited. The group believes that public awareness of this disease has lowered the fatality rate by encouraging early treatment, according to a recent press release.

Sunday, April 27 at 4 p.m. The rite is open to all active and auxiliary members.

Trinity Students Set 'Wiz'

Auburn — Students of Blessed Trinity School, under the direction of Sister Walter Anne, SSJ, and Charles G. Eckert, will stage a production of the musical, "The Wiz," an adaptation of the children's story, "The Wizard of Oz," Monday and Tuesday, April 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cayuga County Community College auditorium.

The stage crew is headed by Mrs. Helene Stapleton, James Baaden and Ronald Kaney.

Cast members include Sean O'Brien, Colleen Barker, Margaret Masley, Christopher Nolan, Timothy Fallon, William Brennan, Mary Wittman Nancy Maun and Pamela Myers.

Wayland Parish Plans Census

Wayland — The Coordinating Committee of St. Joseph's Parish will conduct a parish census on Sunday, May 4. Volunteer census takers will visit all Catholics in Wayland and Springwater.

Residents will be asked to fill out simple census cards designed by members of the Coordinating Committee. The information provided on these cards will assist in the planning of future parish programs and projects. The census will also enable those who have been waiting to be invited an opportunity to become a part of St. Joseph's

Program Draws 150 Families

Elmira — An experimental program offering families a way to sacrifice for Lent while helping out the less fortunate produced results which exceeded the expectations of the organizers at St. Anthony's Parish.

Working with Father Neil Miller of the Southern Tier Office of Human Development (OHD), the parish introduced the program early in Lent, calling on families to make sacrifices during Lent, and for them to accumulate the food saved by the denial for distribution to a needy family, according to Teresa and Ted Semesky, who worked on the project.

Semesky explained that they thought the approach would be more meaningful for the families than if they simply practiced some type of denial, or if they were asked to contribute cash. The project connected the denial with the gift of provisions for others.

When Lent was over, 150 baskets of food, each sufficient to feed a family of four for a week, were collected, Semesky reported.

To help families put the baskets together, he noted, a list of food that would be needed was offered. But they found that most families exceeded the recommendations of the list, he said.

Semesky noted that it was an experimental project undertaken with a view toward the crisis that could occur if an impending cut-off of Food Stamps does occur in June and July.

Gerould's Pharmacies

S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman Elmira

Delivery Service
733-6696

A. W. BELBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotsell
Darrell O'Brian
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.