

BRUCE BAECHLER SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

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No. 8

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BRUCE ON PAROLE: NO CLEMENCY, NO PARDON

Since September 7, Bruce has officially been on parole. His parole period lasts until September 19, 1977, 26 months from the date of his incarceration. After he was paroled, the U.S. Pardon Attorney notified him that his application for executive clemency was being dropped without action. President Carter's pardon of Vietnam-era draft resisters did not affect him, since his 18th birthday came the day after the end of the so-called "Vietnam era".

During the time he was at Troy House, a halfway house in Durham (N.C.), last summer, he got a job as a dishwasher in a restaurant in Chapel Hill, which he has retained. There are eight conditions of his parole, summarized here:

- 1) Notify his parole officer within two days of any job change, address change, arrest or police questioning.
- 2) Not leave the Middle District of North Carolina.
- 3) Not violate the law, or associate with "persons engaged in criminal activity" or persons with a criminal record.
- 4) Hold regular employment.
- 5) Not get drunk, or use or possess drugs or be in a place where drugs are used.
- 6) Not be a police informer.
- 7) Not possess firearms.
- 8) Mail a report to his parole officer every month.

Obviously the parole is quite restrictive. While some of the conditions prohibit things Bruce is quite unlikely to do, others would prevent him from associating with many of his friends and being active in national Quaker, peace, etc. activities. The parole restrictions constitute a warning by the government that they may act against Bruce if he does not fully abide by them. He has not agreed to them.

MESSAGE FROM BRUCE

Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone for their support of me during my trial and imprisonment. The cards and letters (all too many of which I couldn't answer) were a tremendous source of encouragement for me.

The struggle is not over. In this country huge amounts are spent on death each year. Questionable recruiting practices and the high unemployment among military age youth make the volunteer army something less than voluntary. Our nation's prisons still hold people whose only crime is love of peace and justice. Abroad, many members of International Collective Resistance are in prison for refusing to cooperate with conscription. There is much to be done.

I hope everyone who reads this will get involved with such groups as AFSC, WRL, WILPF, FOR and CCCO. Write me for their addresses if you need them.

Finally, I think the best prescription for a peaceful world is still to live in the power of that life and spirit that takes away the occasion for war.

Again, thanks for your support. I hope to meet many of you on my future travels.

Love, Bruce
107 Hillcrest Ave., Carrboro, NC 27510

October, 1976