

Port to stay behind bars until issue set for good

United Press International
HOUSTON — Odette Port, jailed two months ago for refusing to testify before a grand jury that indicted her son, wants to remain behind bars until the issue of her confinement is settled for good, her attorney says.
Attorney Randy Schaffer said even if Port is granted bail, she will remain in jail. She does not want to return if other courts rule against her, said Schaffer.
David Port, 17, remains free on \$20,000 bail. He is charged with the slaying of Debora Sue Schatz, 23, a female mail carrier.

Port's husband, Bernard, was released from Harris County Jail a week ago after he spoke to the grand jury for several hours. Mrs. Port refused to answer six questions that might implicate Davie, her stepson.
Port could remain in jail until Jan. 31 if the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals does not rule in her favor.
Port described his wife as an American hero.
"She's staying in there for the love of a husband," Port said. "All I can find is beauty that there's someone who has done something for me. My

concern is my wife, and the sacrifice she made for me. She was a hero. I was the father. It was expected of me."
The Ports were jailed Sept. 12 after refusing to testify, but they asked that the grand jury be brought into session earlier this month and spent two days testifying before them.
The Ports claimed they had a right not to testify against their son because of a parent-child privilege and on the grounds of religious beliefs.

One-teacher schools exist in isolated, farming areas

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Those one-teacher schools that once dotted farming communities across the country have yet to be erased.
Although few and far between, there are still 837 public one-teacher schools operating in isolated areas too remote for busing or consolidation, a Texas Tech University researcher said.
Texas has four one-teacher schools: Allamoore Common in Sierra Blanca; Juno Common in Del Rio; Divide Common in Kerrville and Certa Valley Independent in Certa Valley.
Bruce Barker of Texas Tech's National Center for Smaller Schools said the nostalgic institutions provide more than reading, writing and arithmetic. He said he believes they offer some teaching tips for smaller schools in general.
"These small schools have some of the desired qualities that education systems are working for today," Barker said. "By studying America's remaining one-teacher schools, we hope to gain insights that will benefit education."
More than one-third of the remaining one-teacher schools exist in Nebraska, which has 385 of them, according to a recently completed study that excluded speciality, church and private schools.
Of the 29 states reporting at least one such school in 1984, there were 29 in Montana; 87 in South Dakota; 41 in California; 28 in Alaska; 21 in Idaho; 15 in Oregon and eight in Washington.

"Education in Nebraska from what I can gather is decentralized," Barker said. "There's a lot of local control and the people don't want to give up their school. Nebraska is very rural and very spread out."
"In Montana it's chiefly because they're so isolated."
Most of the one-teacher schools involved grades 1-8 or 1-6 with an average enrollment of 11 students.
Alaska's one-teacher schools were located by villages and provided an education for grades K-12, Barker said.
"They're opening and closing," Barker said of the one-teacher schools. "When you have a family move there's a drastic impact on a one-room school. It might close but would be opened again when another farm family moved in," he said.
Texas Tech's 5-year-old Center for Smaller Schools was created to provide educational research and also to improve the image and education of the small school in general.
"One of the most important factors in effective schooling is the way the teacher relates to the students," Barker said. "The teacher in those one-room schools knew them intimately."
He said a lower teacher-student ratio enhances specialized teaching programs for individual students.
"No one's saying that we go back to one-room schools," Barker said. "But there's an attitude that small schools are not good schools. There's no research that proves that one way or another."

The United States had 200,000 one-teacher schools in 1900, but that number dropped to less than 75,000 by 1948 and to less than 24,000 by 1959.
Barker said education records indicated only 15,600 independent school districts existed in 1980 compared to 127,000 school districts in 1932.
He said many districts were consolidated following a 1959 book "The American High School Today" by James Conant in which Conant suggested any high school having fewer than 100 students should merge with another school.
Students in a graduating class of 30 have a better chance of being known and liked than students in a graduating class of 350, Barker said.
"Students generally have more pride in their community, their school and in themselves," Barker said, adding they have greater opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities because there was less competition.
Teachers in small schools told Barker they believe 35 percent of their students were high achievers, 51 percent were average achievers and 14 percent were below average.
Barker said he was considering keeping track of some of the students to see how they perform in secondary schools and colleges.
"Our nation's few remaining one-teacher schools are a reminder of a public education system which has made education available to virtually any citizen who desires the opportunity to learn," Barker said.

Children protest abuse

United Press International
DERRY, N.H. — A group of seventh graders have formed "Kids Against Child Abuse" after hearing of a 4-year-old child burned to death in an oven in Auburn, Maine.
Lisa Guillemette, 12, said she decided to form the group after reading a news story about Sara Palmer, killed Oct. 27 reportedly by her mother and a live-in boyfriend.
"I was really upset," Guillemette said Sunday, recalling the day she read about the death. "I was crying. I couldn't eat or anything, so I decided to do something about it."
First she wrote President Reagan, telling him, "I am only 12 years old and am very, very concerned about this. Everybody thinks we're too young to do anything about this but it's time to take some action."
Since then, nine seventh graders from Hood Junior High School have met twice at Guillemette's home in the suburban town of 20,000 people outside Boston.
They agreed to raise money for Christmas gifts and write letters to abused children placed in a nearby temporary residence by the state.
"We want to let parents who are abusing the children know there's help," Guillemette said. "I think there's something called Parent's Anonymous."
The group has made posters urging parents to get help and asking for donations. One said, "Stop Before It's Too Late."
"I think parents don't think enough," Daedra Worster, 12, said about the causes of child abuse. "They have stress they take out on their kids and they can't help it."
Worster said one reason she got involved with the club was personal experience. "When I lived in Florida, my friend's parents used to come home with a lot of stress and they couldn't handle it and they took it out on her and I saw the way she looked sometimes," she said.
Ideas of meeting abused children and answering a hotline, so kids could talk to abused children were dashed during the group's second meeting Thursday when they met with Susan Van Osdol, a state welfare officer.

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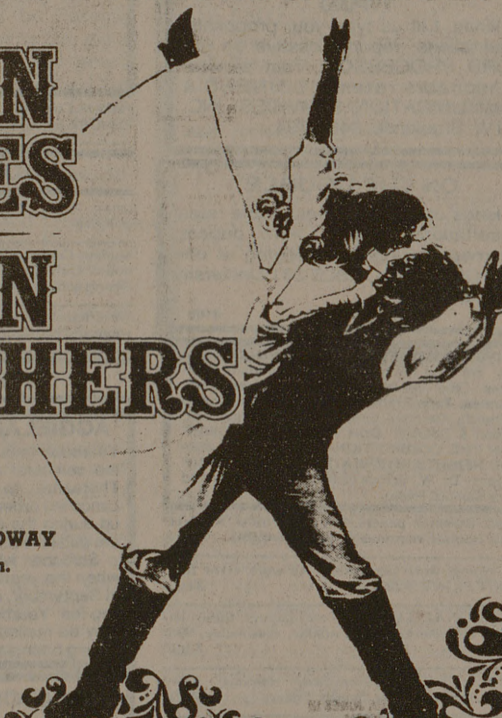


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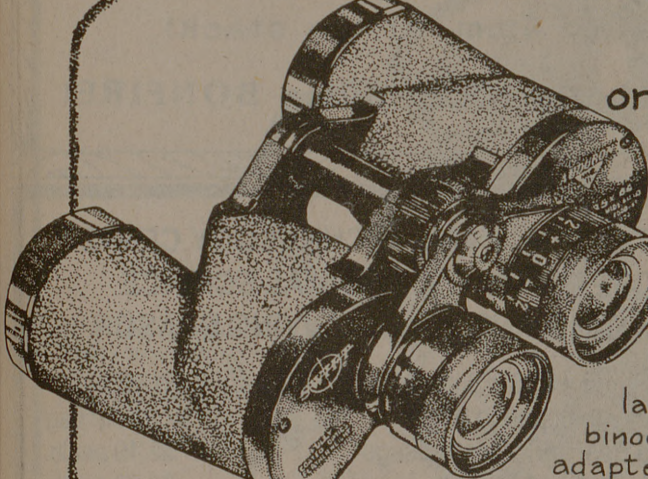
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