

Artists talking shop

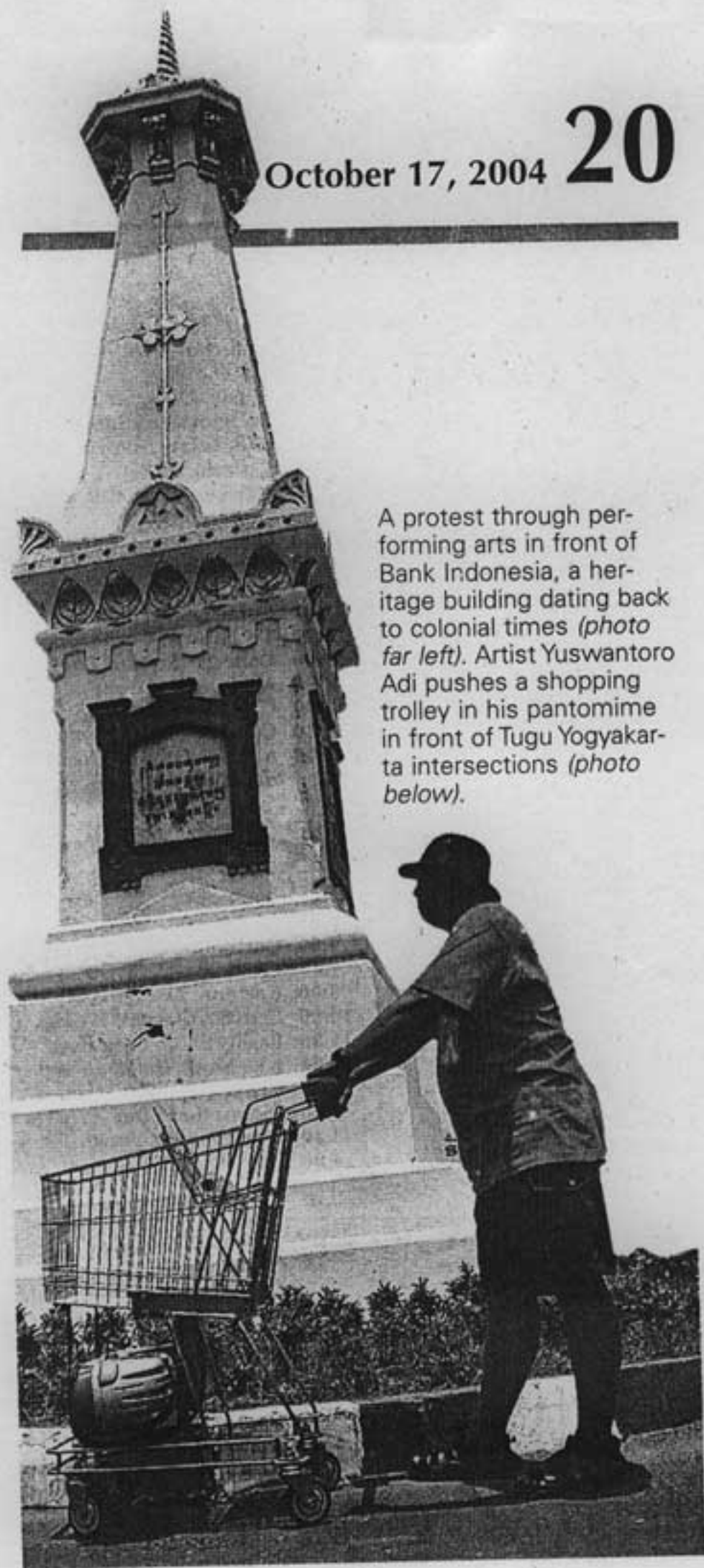
A robot-shaped installation work with a shopping trolley or big posters along Yogyakarta's main streets scream a single message: No more shopping malls.

As the Yogyakarta administration discloses a plan to build more shopping malls to lure investment, activists and artists are stating their dissenting opinion their own way.

Titled *Disini Akan Dibangun Mall* (A Mall Will Be Built Here), the protest this week involved about 40 artists who staged performing arts on the streets and displayed installation works at main spots in the city.

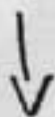
Although the message was delivered in the hope of preventing a shift in social and cultural values, it may be falling on deaf ears among the public, who continue to flock to the malls.

— Text and
photos by Tarko Sudiarno

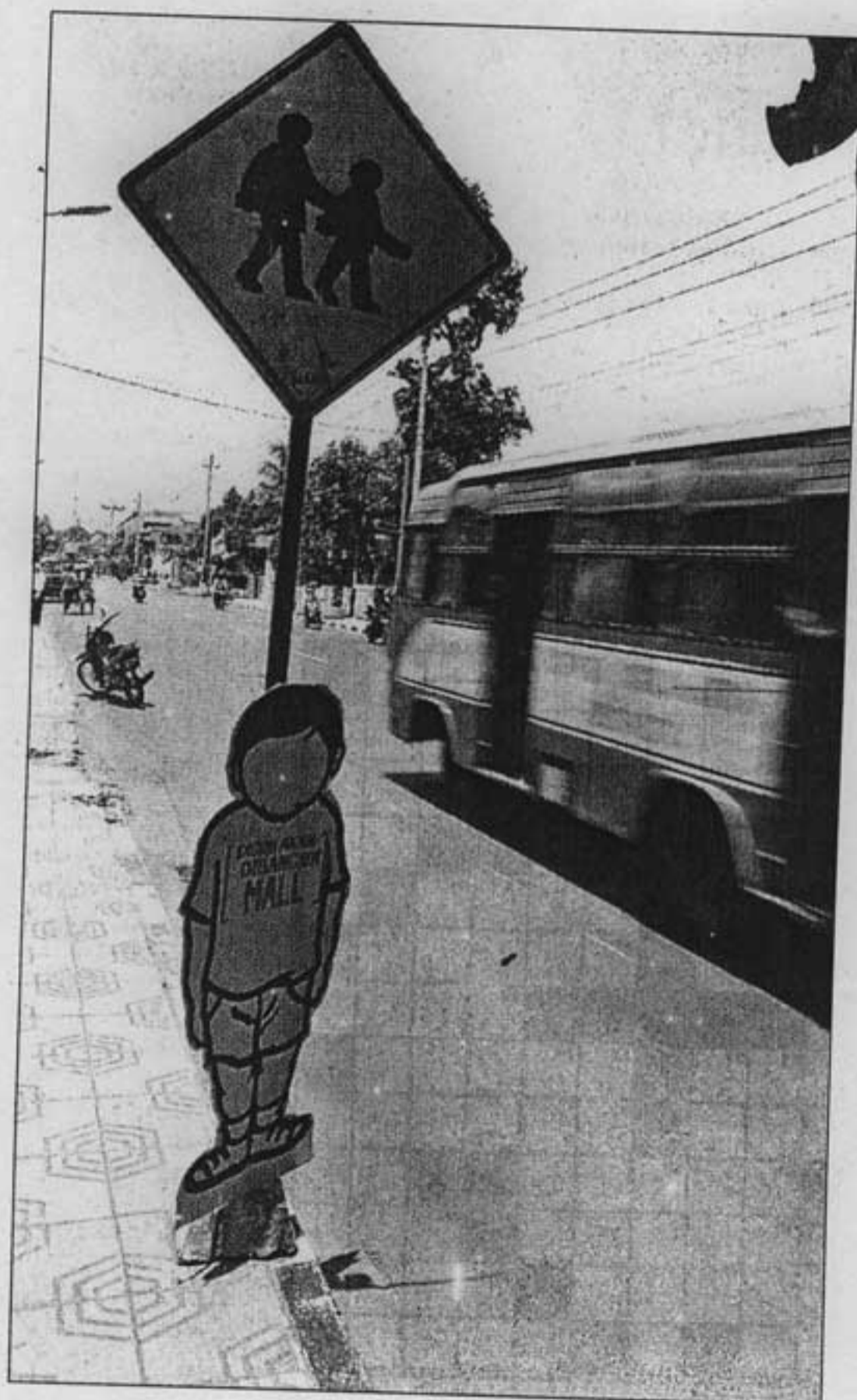


October 17, 2004 **20**

A protest through performing arts in front of Bank Indonesia, a heritage building dating back to colonial times (*photo far left*). Artist Yuswantoro Adi pushes a shopping trolley in his pantomime in front of Tugu Yogyakarta intersections (*photo below*).

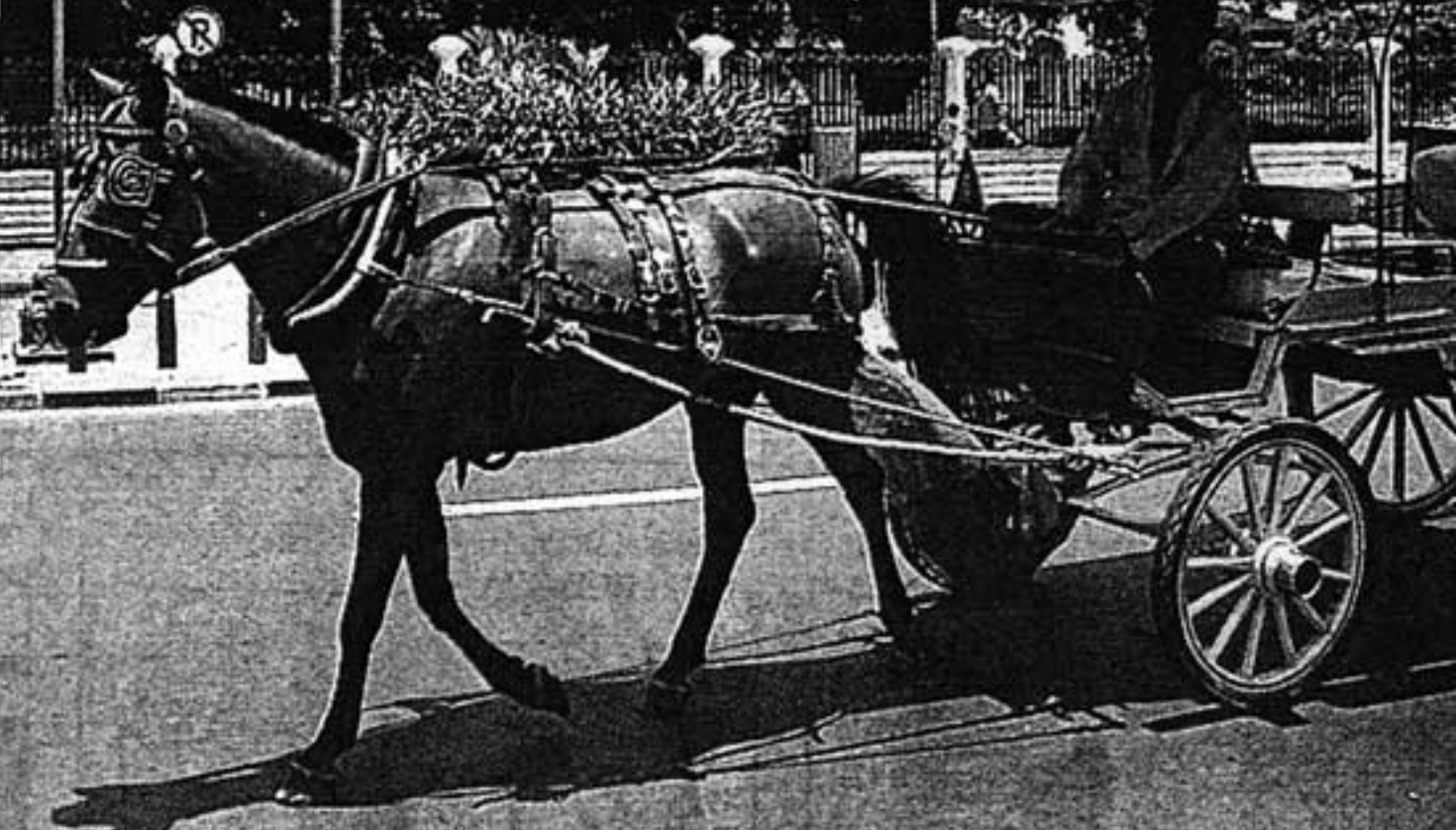






Artists question the use of public space in a mock crossing sign (*photo left*). In a campaign so that heritage buildings will not be sacrificed for the new shopping malls, some artists display their works along the main street of Malioboro (*photo right*).

Di Sini
Ada
Syaiton
رسى الاشيطان
رسى اىس دىعوزمان
DI SINI AKAN
DIBANGUN MALL





DI SINI AKAN DIBANGUN MAL

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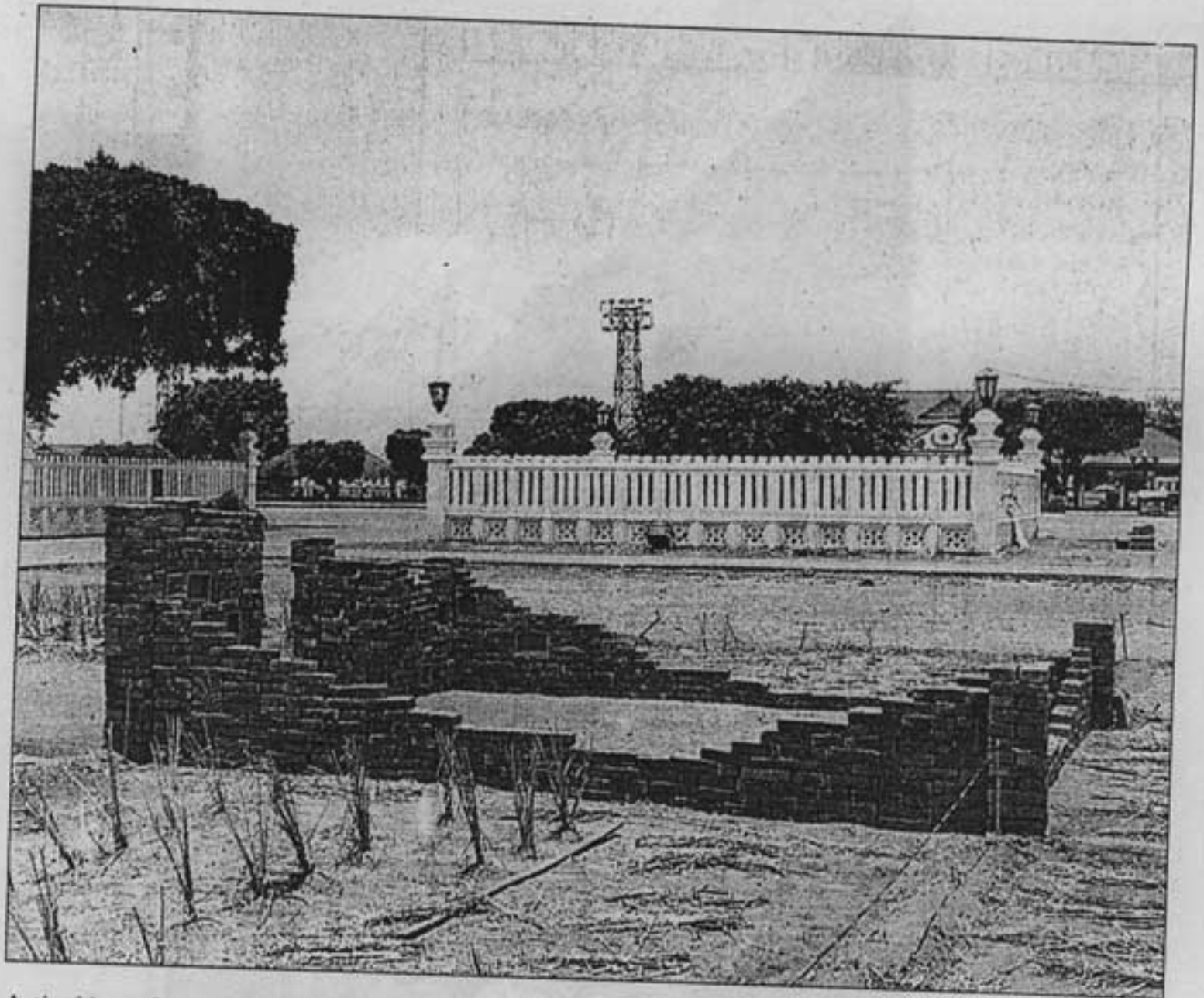
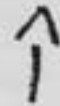
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Artist Yerry Padang wears a spiderman's mask in a performance meant to scare off the new malls (*photos left to right*). A mixed media installation by Mali Efendi is set up at the northern square of Yogyakarta Palace. A robot pushing a shopping trolley stands outside Wirogunan Penitentiary.

