

# Behind the Walls

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## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

In a prison, men's lives become entangled on the narrow path where racial hate, bitterness and fear have little respect. The color of a man's skin and the difference of their total beings are suppose to disintegrate all forms of communication.

This story is about two men who have spent many hours behind the walls of Oregon's state penitentiary trying to acquire survival skills. These are tools, a beneficial form of progress obtained only through mutual cooperation. This is the story of cooperation between two men.

At age twenty-seven, the second of eleven children, Isaac Alfred Boyd has seen as much life as any other Black man raised in the poverty-stricken East side of Chicago. In school he found himself in constant conflict, fighting with classmates and teachers. Fighting and stealing were necessary for survival on the east side. During his senior year, due to criminal activities, Isaac was expelled from school, ending his pursuit of a promising career in music. Now opportunity for scholarships at Wisconsin State, Prairie View, and Jackson State were withdrawn. Since Isaac had known no other world outside of Chicago and it's nightlife, his heroes had become Illinois Jacque, Grover Washington, Hubert Laws, and men like them, renowned men playing the saxophone and flute and making their career in jazz. Isaac dreamed of following in their footsteps with the sax he had learned to play in school and the darkened dives of the crime infested Chicago suburbs -- where one learns early in life, especially if your face is Black, that money is the only freedom in life.

Isaac's mother encouraged him to participate in the neighborhood youth corps (N.Y.C.), and, for a short time, he enjoyed life by teaching music to youths. Soon, lack of money to finance the "Night life" got him involved in a robbery. In his efforts to avoid jail, Isaac came to Oregon to stay with relatives. In October of 1978, he was arrested for another robbery, convicted, and sentenced to ten years in prison.

At the Oregon state penitentiary, Isaac received special training to pass the GED (general education diploma) tests. Shortly thereafter he became interested in drafting and worked in the prison vocational drafting department. His decision to attend the prison's full time college program acquainted Isaac with Guido Listella, a psychology teacher, the second part of our two-man story.



Guido Listella instructs Isaac Boyd.

This is the story of two men. Guido Listella was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1928. Of Italian descent, Guido is the son of an immigrant man who came to America and worked for thirty-seven years in a rubber factory to support his wife, daughter, and son.

The Listellas were a very close, religious family, and Guido's father's number one goal was to have his children receive an education. Listella was well aware of his father's wishes and studied hard to fulfill this dream. He worked part-time at odd jobs and saved his money for college. He attended the University of Akron, majoring in Psychology, where he received his master of Arts Degree.

After graduating Guido was inducted into the army and served during the Korean conflict. Having fulfilled his military obligations, Guido settled in Portland, doing post graduate work at the University of Portland from 1954 to 1955. He then went to work at Fairview Hospital and Training Center where he is still employed as the unit director. Guido married in 1956. He has a son in pre-med, one daughter is a registered nurse, and his second daughter is attending Chemeket Community College where Guido has been teaching since September, 1958. He has also been a consultant to the Oregon State Hospital as a registered psychologist. Guido started teaching at the Oregon state penitentiary college program in 1976, and for the past five months Isaac Boyd has been one of his top students.

Two men...one imprisoned, the other free; one is Black, the other white. One man society finds disgraceful; the other is a model citizen. One has his youth; the other age; one is poverty stricken, the other middle-class. One man has a religious background, the other acts as though he never heard of the

word. One is a teacher, the other a student.

What goals could these two men find of value through association? Or, better yet, why should they ever want to associate? Sometimes prison can develop strange relationships with human beings. In the case of Isaac Boyd and Guido Listella a great deal of respect has been found. "Mr. Listella as a teacher doesn't care what the color of my skin might be, only that I stop using it for an excuse when it comes to my ability to up-grade myself in education," stated Boyd, "for the first time in my life I feel that I have the opportunity to obtain an academic education and there is no one that is going to deny that except myself."

Isaac Boyd is a warm individual and I like relating to people like him in my classroom in this prison without any preconceived ideas," said Listella. "It's only a show of positive vibes that a teacher can develop between a teacher to student relationship and that is something you must learn to do on your own as a teacher."

When Boyd was questioned why he never applied himself toward getting an education before coming to prison, he answered, "How many teachers would actually allow themselves to be as patient with their students as those we have here; and how many of us doing time would take the time to see the values of an education in the environment I was raised in?"

"What do you get out of teaching individuals in prison like Isaac Boyd, who felt that the world owes him everything prior to his incarceration?" Listella was questioned.

"Self-satisfaction that I can teach Isaac there are other tools more positive than what he has been using to be success in life," answered Listella, "but the choice will still be his."

"What makes you want to trust the words of Mr. Listella when your lives and upbringing have been so different?" Boyd was asked.

"Because the man is showing me things in a classroom that I have never known before," answered Boyd.

"Will an education keep you out of prison or committing a crime again?" Boyd was asked.

"Hell, I don't know, but nothing else helped!" Boyd continued. "At least I have begun to like myself for my ability to try," stated Boyd. And anyone who would allow themselves to be placed in these places could not have had much respect for themselves or others."

This is a story about two men.

## NOTICE

King Improvement Association will hold its general membership meeting on Tuesday, February 26th at King Neighborhood Facility.

There will be speakers present to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of garbage franchisement. Also HCD projects for 1980-81 will be discussed.

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# Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdu Seifullah  
aka Joe West #40404

## PRELUDE TO AN OBITUARY

This night the poetry verses don't flow... all that flows is vacant deep numbing pain heartbeats pounding, throbbing pain now catching brief glimpses of yesterday's dreams old dreams, new dreams, all dreams red-white-blue dreams a nightmare! two sisters, one brother, me... mama and the rats all fighting for bed space time out for the commercial while the roaches did the double bump people said daddy got shot for desertion on the corners of "what goes around - comes around" and U reap what U sow but we never did get the social security checks or the insurance money never did get the fringe benefits never did get the 200 dollars for passing go, for passing go and monopoly ain't really a game I couldn't make the football team cause I suffer from malnutrition-fear every smile bringing two all the small disappointments cancelled because I shall never let U down I and U equal the oneness of creation stars sit birched in midnight blue with the moon as the tablespread the season come and go in perfect order sunrise signals the break of day and time exists in fleeting moments of memories and dreams today, yesterday and tomorrow are all one that which is to be is called fate and love has always been found in the hearts of those who believe if U believe...then saying I love U is secondary... "faith" only "Faith" is the true measure of love

## IN WORLD GAMES

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah

In the world games what matters men of ashy Black shells whose lips protrude in moving soundless shame whose sightless eyes dream of visions not yet full not yet real enough for life in the world games where stands shoeless sons of Africa whose bare feet kiss the dust of yesterday's gloried dreams whose spear has not yet touched the lion's blood or even sun in harmless practice and where's the dark eyed child of Alma who yesterday called me father in the world games what matters women of dancing ebony eyes crispy afro hair that sways in autumn wind whose lips held chance at bay and gave secret touch in whisperings of night where now stand the other Malcom or has he too fell in the red well of death maybe he lies in junky slumber or entomb in bars and granite walls that hide self from self echos speak and call but none have come to answer all seem lost-dead and buried in world games in the world games what matters men whose loin dry in timeless capsules or birth of sons and where's the dark eyed child of Alma who yesterday called me father.

## The House Of EXODUS

Alcoholism Educational and Treatment Center

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FEBRUARY

## EXODUS

### GENERAL STATEMENT TO BLACKS OF OUR COMMUNITY

#### ATTITUDE

Let me take this opportunity during Black History Month to share one of my valuable publications with you. I have concluded that ATTITUDE is the foundation to the three primary demensions of Life-Mental demension-physical demension-and spiritual demension.

WHAT ARE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES?	WHAT ARE POSITIVE ATTITUDES?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To complain</li> <li>- To criticize</li> <li>- To condemn</li> <li>- To frown and appear non-attentive</li> <li>- To exaggerate</li> <li>- To find the bad of a situation or circumstance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To respect others</li> <li>- To accept people and situations you cannot change</li> <li>- To encourage</li> <li>- To smile and be attentive</li> <li>- To be honest</li> <li>- To find the good of a situation of circumstance of circumstance</li> </ul>
WHAT ARE THE REWARDS/RESULTS OF NEGATIVE ATTITUDES?	WHAT ARE THE REWARDS/RESULTS OF POSITIVE ATTITUDES?
<p><b>MENTAL RESULTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- depression</li> <li>- unrest</li> <li>- frustration</li> <li>- negative friends</li> <li>- totally controlled by others</li> <li>- never enough money</li> </ul>	<p><b>MENTAL RESULTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- self respect</li> <li>- respect of others (others respect you)</li> <li>- peace of mind</li> <li>- true friends</li> <li>- independence of others with many options</li> <li>- unlimited capabilities to produce money and other wealth</li> </ul>
PHYSICAL RESULTS:	PHYSICAL RESULTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facial wrinkles</li> <li>- indigestion, ucler, and other illnesses</li> <li>- habits that lead to bad health</li> <li>- tension and stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- looks younger longer</li> <li>- fewer illnesses or ill producing habits habits</li> <li>- habits that lead to good health</li> <li>- feel better - no tension and stress</li> </ul>
SPIRITUAL RESULTS:	SPIRITUAL RESULTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- discomfort, no faith, very limited trust in others</li> <li>- others are unwilling to trust you, to any great extent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- comfort, faith, and belief in a higher greater power</li> <li>- others are willing to trust you with their valuable and confidence</li> </ul>

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Success, Happiness, Health, and Money are all directly related to the amount of energy projected from your General Attitude toward the experience of Life; and specifically to your attitude toward yourself and others, regardless of the existing situation or circumstance at any given time...Life is perception through Attitude. Life is accurate and accountable and flows with time. The results of your life experiences at any given time are balanced and measured against your Attitude which will be either Negative or Positive...WHICH IS YOUR CHOICE?

Thomas Booine Ph.D

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