

## Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah  
(aka Joe West # 40404)

I've always wondered why many white people become so defensive when Black people accuse them of being racist. The history of racism in Amerika is well documented and Black people are still wearing the scars as further documentation.

Mentally, Black people have suffered greatly from the effects of slavery and it's been just recently that we've begun to show signs of recovery. But what's as equally important is that many whites aren't showing like signs of recovery from the sickness we know as racism.

The racism that festers in America can best be observed in the institutions i.e., schools, courts, law enforcement agencies, prisons and any other area where one class of people have maintained dominance over another for long periods of time. What happens in effect is that these institutions or people have over the years grown so strong or secure in their racist position that the majority of people on the outside aren't able to effect change because of the mental rape that has taken place on their minds.

The institutions defend themselves to the point of violence. They can't conceive of changing even though they've failed time after time. The people who work in institutions are generally hard core Americans. They fought in Korea, Vietnam, they voted for Goldwater and Nixon, they belong to civic groups and secret orders of one type or another. These people are the type who deeply believe in anything American, John Wayne is their favorite western hero and Elvis almost gave them soul. In short, they are American which makes them very racist in concept and practice.

Prison is a prime example of a racist institution. Racist because it is designed to subjugate one class of people while it rehabilitates another. The average prison guard is a 33 degree red neck who gains great degree of pleasure in being able to humiliate a Blackman or other minority people. He envisions himself as John Wayne riding down on renegade Indians or Tarzan beating up a whole tribe of Zulu warriors. In his rare moments of compassion he

is Mr. Charlie consoling his slave Ned about why he can't be free and how things were meant to be the way there are. The very nature of racism is seated deeply into his consciousness and he reacts accordingly.

Prison administrators are diplomatic in their defense of the racist systems they run. There are some who seem to have genuine concern for the problems that minority inmates face but they are few and far between. Oregon State Penitentiary is one such system that has an administration that recognizes the inefficiencies of the system but whether or not they will be able to solve the problems is another question.

Hoyt C. Cupp is the superintendent of O.S.P. He worked his way up from a prison guard to his present position. He is tuff and hard and dotes on qualities of manliness. He is not afraid to address inmates but one gets the feeling that he can't effect meaningful change without support from the higher ups. Don't get me wrong, I'm not glorifying Cupp -- he is on one side of the fence and I'm on the other.

I know that when the chips are down he will call all bets and rise to maintain the security of the institution. Cupp is a determined individual -- he is determined to see that the system is maintained, he believes in the system and I wonder if a man like Cupp can be instrumental in changing a system that he believes in so deeply. One other avenue that must be investigated is that since the system is inherently racist, how much of that racism has rubbed off on Cupp? I'm not suggesting that Hoyt C. Cupp is a racist in racial terms. Because I know him not to be a racist I can only draw the conclusion that institutional racism has rubbed off on him and all of his staff.

Institutional racism is disguised behind a collage of programs and projects that look good on paper but in actuality are racist because they exclude certain groups of people or don't allow for the same quality of treatment for all. In essence, I'm saying that institutions are racist and that if you work in one or live in one for any length of

time you take on its characteristics. You become racist when you defend a system that is racist, you become a racist when you live in a racist system, you become a racist when you can't see the need for change and then work for that change. Racism is a disease that no one has found a cure for and we are all effected by it one way or another.

It's difficult not to turn some people off when you talk about racism because racism is something that Americans deny to the last breathe. I would also say that I'm not call Mr. Cupp or any member of his staff a racist. What I am saying is that this prison, like all prisons, is racist and that it's important that we all recognize the facts. It is only when we recognize and identify the problems that the problems can be solved.

Sometimes we get so locked up in our private world that we can't see the world around us. We do what we can to make things better for ourselves without ever worrying about what we're doing and how it effects others, which is how institutions are created and maintained. It would seem that there would be a reverse process for systems that don't work, maybe the people who designed this particular system should have included a self destruct mechanism. All I know at this point is that this system isn't working, it's constipated or something because nothing comes out of it right.

But...things do seem to be looking up because the community is now involved and the administration is receptive to meeting not only with inmates but with outside parties also. It has been reported that Mr. Cupp has met with the Urban League and the Black United Front in hopes of solving some of the problems that exist here for Black inmates.

Let us hope and pray that some answers are found soon because the conditions here racially are bad. When I say bad I mean that treatment and services for Black inmates are bad not that there is an overt threat of physical violence although that line of thought is ever present in the minds of Black prisoners.

## Carter names Slaughter

The President announced that he will nominate John B. Slaughter, of Pullman, Washington, to be director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). He would replace Richard C. Atkinson.

The National Science Foundation promotes the progress of science through the support of research and education in the sciences. Its major emphasis is on basic research, the search for improved understanding of the fundamental laws of nature, upon which our future well-being as a nation is dependent. The Foundation consists of the National Science Board of 24 members, and a Director, each appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for terms of 6 years.

Slaughter is academic vice president and provost of Washington State University and is a former assistant director of NSF.

He was born March 16, 1934, in Topeka, Kansas. He received a B.S. from Kansas State University in 1956, an M.S. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1961, and a Ph.D. in engineering science from the University of California at San Diego in 1971.

Slaughter was an engineer at Convair Division of General Dynamics corporation from 1956 to 1960, and was physical science administrator of information systems at the Naval Electronics Laboratory Center from 1961 to 1975. From 1975 to 1977 he was director of the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington. From 1977 to 1979 he was assistant director of NSF for astronomical, atmospheric, earth, and ocean sciences.



The greatest number of individual Olympic gold medals won for fencing is three by Ramon Fonst of Cuba.

Cable franchising schedule. July 31: 7 PM, Council Chambers. Task Force Meeting, final recommendation to Mayor McCready. Aug. 8: Mayor files recommendation to Council. Aug. 14: 2 PM, Council Chambers. Council Hearing on cable franchise.

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## Suit continues in police killing

The Western Regional Office of the NAACP announced that the attorneys representing the estate of Mr. Charles James ("Poppa Charlie") have filed a motion for a default judgment against the City and County of San Francisco and those police officers who were involved in Mr. James' violent death.

Mr. James, a disabled Black senior citizen, was killed by a barrage of police weapon fire after an early morning intrusion into his Hunter's Point residence in July of 1978.

The Civil Rights and Wrongful Death complaint was filed in federal court in September of 1979. The

defendant police officers and the City and County of San Francisco have failed to answer this complaint in spite of the fact that plaintiffs extended the time for answering to February 4, 1980. As a result of this failure to answer or otherwise respond, the attorneys for the estate of Mr. James have filed this current motion so that the Court can enter judgment for plaintiffs.

A hearing for the Motion for Entry of the Default Judgment has been scheduled for August 4th, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

## Graduates honored

The following young women qualified and received the award. Robin Marks, Lincoln High, Teresa Tyler, Cleveland High, Tracie Smith, Wilson High, Rosalind Love, Marshall High, Otie Ghant, Madison High, Barbara Young, Grant High, Pamela Jelks, Jefferson High, Janice King, Washington Monroe High, Aretha Littleton, Roosevelt High, Sisareeta King, Adams High, Teresa, Otie, Barbara, are members of "All Kinds of Action," an affiliate of Alpha Kappa Alpha, consisting of twenty-four young women committed to high scholastic and ethical standards.

Zeta Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority presented to outstanding female graduates, "The Finer Womanhood Award for 1980." The criteria for this Certificate of recognition were: minimum G.P.A. 2.5, active participation in school and community activities, possession of qualities that serve as a standard for other young women to follow.



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## FROM THE FRONT DOOR

By Tom Boothe

From the front door, I wish to further explain and describe the four zones of relationships and interactions, which are: The family zone, the social and acceptance zone, the policy belief zone and the economic zone. This week I will speak only of the family zone, which is the most important and primary zone from which all other relationships and interactions spring.

The family zone is the zone of the greatest amount of familiarity and informalities. the quality and consistency of the family is most important, for this is where our children develop their values and behavior patterns, which subsequently set the tone of their social attitudes.

The family zone is the beginning point of all civilization, it is the mother of all social psychology. Children are directly affected genetically, as well as, by their immediate environment. children carry with them what they are taught, or what they are not taught, into the social zone. Children learn confidence and respect from the family, they also learn how to take responsibility and temper their emotions with love and understanding.

People who don't respect the family zone, are simply people who don't understand the value and strength of the single most powerful force on earth, it is the root of all we know, and it is the primary force behind all accomplishments in the development of modern civilization. It is the family forces that influence, inspire and motivate; communication, transportation and industrial technologies.

Adult people who loose their respect for their family through drugs, alcohol or senseless vanity, are people who loose their social and economical qualities and become subjected to those who hold strong the inspirations of the family zone.

Constructive and productive people, are people who value his or her family as priority number one.

Disruptive and destructive people, are people who value their addictions, social belief and economic vanities as priority number one.

Remember, your family should be number one on your mind. Your purpose should be to develop your family to a collective force of constructive productivity.

Your family is your natural foundation to life itself.

Your family is your source of confidence, strength, sense of security and home base of refuge from negative forces.

Your family, your children, they are your responsibility, don't expect outside social-economic entities to help you, for they are busy responding to their own responsibilities.

Know from this day forward that the quality of your family's environmental zone is your responsibility, it will be no better, or worse than you make it; regardless of your situation of circumstances, your blame factors and excuses. The reality of your family zone always speak the truth through you and your children's attitudes.

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