

# Cell Talk

by Asmar Abdul Seifullah

This year Christmas colored itself dingy gray. Its cheer and merriment was lost somewhere between the blue denim pants and the stamping machine that presses red five digit numbers into them. There were no well-wishers; kisses under the mistletoe were non-existent; there was no fireplace or stockings hung with care and Old Saint Nick was never mentioned once.

Images of laughing children and frosty snowmen were far from the desolate climes of Oregon State Penitentiary. For 1400 inmates Christmas was just another day behind bars. There was no expectancy nor was there the urgency of last minute preparation—Christmas was empty of promise and surprise.

The holiday season increased the gnawing feeling of loneliness that accompanies a long separation from friends and loved ones. It compounded the overall feeling of help-

lessness that incarcerated men develop as the bars and walls replace images of sidewalks and lawns in their minds. And even though most of the men claim not to feel anything for the season, the hardest of cons are touched in some way by the spirit of Christmas. Generally there are memories that invade the repetition of prison days and nights—memories of other Christmases... a Christmas when the snow was clean and white, a Christmas when life held a special glow and all the dreams seem to run together like a waterfall. A time of love filled with the smiles and tender feelings, a special girl and a tree covered with lights and dressings. Yes, the memories come without call and cascade one by one—only to be remembered all over again.

It's certain that many of us on both sides of the wall will remember Christmas 1981. Economics being

what they are very few people were able to enjoy the Christmas they were accustomed to. But for the men of Oregon State Penitentiary, Christmas of 1981 will be remembered for a different reason. It will be remembered for cold, numbing reasons—reasons that can only be described in heartbeats and I miss yours. The men will remember it as a procession of days that came together with a climax of "alone." The loneliness will remain long after the season has past and the new year will not bring new life. The only resolution made will be not to be a prisoner next year—not to be "alone." The process of serving time will remain the same and it will be repeated and lived by the men of Oregon State Penitentiary. They will start another year without hope for change. They will sit in their cells day after day and they will become distant and cold inside.

Letters home will reflect the coldness and the bitterness that possess them as the prison reality takes hold. They will wait for another Christmas in Oregon State Penitentiary.

Every year the cars will change and the brothers will comment on the new El-dog, clothes will become more chic and the girls will seem to be more beautiful. Shopping centers will be constructed, new freeways laid, skyscrapers built and maybe even a school here and there. But the drudgery of prison will remain true. It will always be a pit, a cess-pool of human despair and misery.

Christmas 1981 has come and gone by Oregon State Penitentiary. It left us as it found us... "alone." And we will be waiting for its return, waiting and praying that Christmas 1982 won't be remembered as one hell of a lonely day.

## American dream dropped

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

Yet under the revised Consumer Price Index, the gap between the renter and the owner would be quite invisible.

This by no means is an unusual contrast. It is, in fact, typical of our times, and it will grow steadily more typical as the number of those who cannot join the ranks of American property owners rises. In the meantime, the cost-of-living gap also will grow.

Over the short run, of course, the new CPI could pay valuable political dividends. Its reduced assessment of inflation will lend a semblance of success to the president's economic program even if the program is not succeeding. And by ex-

cluding the most damaging by-product of high interest rates—catastrophic home mortgages—from the index, the administration will be able to camouflage the actual cost to the nation of a gargantuan defense budget. Washington must go to the private lending institutions for defense money when the tax intake is insufficient, and interest rates soar accordingly.

But in the years ahead, the decision to abandon the active endorsement of mass home ownership could prove to be social dynamite. "Always before in North American history," the eminent land economist Mason Gaffney observed in 1977, government policies and "the

exuberance of land developers" have combined to keep real estate within the common reach and "blurred the distinctions between the haves and have-nots."

Now, however, with government simultaneously deserting the common buyer and discouraging the construction of new housing through its fiscal policies, warned Gaffney, "we are in danger of developing a class structure more rigid than anything ever seen before over a long period of time on this continent."

We are in danger, in other words, of repudiating the egalitarian materialism of the American dream which has been a fundamental sta-

bilizing force in U.S. history.

Ironically, the rise of Ronald Reagan to the White House was in no small part due to his invocation of that dream—his promise to return us all to the days when no one could challenge the material superiority of the American way. He replaced a president who had the temerity to declare, instead, that the nation must face sacrifices.

Whatever the short-run advantages of breaking that campaign promise and burying the deed in a statistical sleight-of-hand, Reagan and his congressional supporters one day will have to face the consequences.

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## JOB

### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK

Immediate opening for experienced accounts payable clerk. Successful candidate must have at least 3 yrs of extensive AP background with a computerized payable system, experience analyzing and processing invoices and purchase orders, good understanding of contracts and payment terms, and ability to relate well to others, perform well under pressure, and work on detail in a problem-solving manner.

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## CITY OF PORTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received in Room 412, City Hall, Portland, Oregon 97204 for items detailed herein until 2:00 P.M. on the dates indicated.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the above address. For additional information telephone buyer at number listed.

When Bid Surety is required, proposals shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond, payable to the City of Portland for an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the aggregate amount of the bid as guaranty that the bid shall be irrevocable for the period specified in the proposal. Said bond to be forfeited as fixed and liquidated damages should the bidder seek to revoke his offer for any reason not authorized by law and not consented to by City within the irrevocable period, or neglect or refuse to enter into contract and provide a suitable bond for the faithful performance of the contract, in the event the said contract is awarded to him.

NON-DISCRIMINATION: No proposal or bid will be considered unless the bidder is certified as an EEO Affirmative Action Employer as prescribed by Chapter 3.100 of the Code of the City of Portland. All bidders not currently certified should file the required documentation with the Contract Compliance Division, Room 209, City Hall, 1220 SW Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, 248-4696, at least five (5) days prior to the Bid Opening. Failure to achieve certification by the Bid Opening Date and Time shall result in the return of your Bid Unopened.

BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID OPENING DATE
C-9384	Construct SE Bybee Blvd West of 48 Ave. Sanitary Sewer. For information call Nancy Kearney, Buyer, 248-4486. 10% Bid Surety & Prequalification of Bidder Required.	01/12/82
66	Labor, Material & Equipment for Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. For information call Michele Ackerman, Buyer, 248-4191. 10% Bid Surety & Prequalification of Bidders Required (in Class 19 and/or 20).	01/28/82

## Notice Of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met) at the Tri-Met Administration Building, 4012 S.E. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon, at 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 8, 1982, for the purpose of considering a project for which Federal capital assistance under Section 3 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, is being sought, generally described as follows:

The project includes construction of a Tri-Met Customer Assistance Office in the Pioneer Courthouse Square between 6th and Broadway, and Yamhill and Morrison Streets in downtown Portland. The office would be between 2,000-5,000 square feet in the below grade arcade. The estimated project cost is \$500,000.

This project will be programmed in the FY 82 and FY 83 annual elements of the Transportation Improvement Program for the region.

No persons, families, or business will be displaced by this project. This project is to be located within the Pioneer Square Development which is currently underway and as such will have no additional significant environmental impact. The project is undergoing review by the A-95 clearinghouse.

At the hearing, Tri-Met will afford an opportunity for interested persons or agencies to be heard with respect to the social, economic and environmental aspects of the project. Interested persons may submit oral or written evidence and recommendations with respect to the project.

A copy of the grant application for the project is available for public inspection at the Tri-Met Office, 4012 S.E. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

January 6, 1982

John R. Post  
Director, Engineering and Contracts

## Albina Youth Opportunity School

REMODELING  
BIDS DUE 3:30 P.M. JAN. 15  
NOTICE TO SUBCONTRACTORS

The Albina Youth Opportunity School, 3710 North Mississippi, Portland, Oregon 97227, (503) 288-5813, will be the general contractor. Sealed subcontractor bids must be itemized for labor and material or either of the two. The contractor reserves the right to reject any part or all bids and informalities. Plans will be available for review on January 4, 1982, at the above location. All subcontractors must be prequalified by the contractor. All subcontractors materials and workmanship must meet city code for schools. The job will consist of remodeling for handicapped access entrance and bathrooms with required equipment. A suspended ceiling with lighting and R-30 insulation. Partitioning of balcony. Revamping of heating system. Successful bidders will be notified January 15, 1982. Interested parties may contact Rance C. Spruill at the above address, telephone. The target completion date is February 29, 1982. Published December 30, 31, 1981, Jan. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12, 1982.

5340B-10t

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Contrary to popular opinion, the Mason-Dixon Line, which divides Pennsylvania and Maryland, did NOT separate the North from the South. Both Pennsylvania and Maryland fought on the side of the North in the Civil War.

Julius Caesar's real first name was Gaius; Julius was his middle name.

London, England, is farther north than any city in the U.S. except those in Alaska.



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