Soliloquy of Racism and Favoritism at the Mount Olive Correctional Complex in West Virginia

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For me to bear witness to the most disturbing kind of racism and not going off does show me that I have discipline. I have been in Mount olive Correctional Complex since February of 2007. Now, it is March of 2013 and it is even more disturbing. I see the fake smiles and hellos from these racist and bigots which are really not authentic.

What I am experiencing in this prison is like this, the majority of the population is caucasian inmates. This is a shock to me coming from a Federal prison and they are the minority.
I noticed that the administration here has a high tolerance level when it comes to a troubled caucasian inmate. On numerous occasions I have seen caucasian inmates who would get into trouble just get a slap on the hand and then they go about their way. This is different if it were a black inmate. The favoritism that the administration shows these caucasian inmates is so obvious, and the perception is like this: *"they just made the wrong decision in life," they are not trouble makers," etc.* However, they perceive the Blackman as *"deviants," "liars," "cannot be trusted," etc.*

This negative perception is spread like it is still the 1920's lies and propaganda of the black man. They even treat the black employees in a disrespectful way. There seems to be hidden protocol when it concerns black inmates, we are watched more closely than any other inmates on the complex. The administration is lacking when it comes to disciplining a caucasian inmates who get into trouble, but they are overly zealous toward black inmates getting into trouble even when a prison rule violation is a lower level violation. They are very open at being this way. I can see the racist intent in their actions. Staff members claim to be open minded but their action which contradict those words that they express. It seems that these staff members haven't ever interacted therewith a black person before, because they don't know how to communicate with us to be sociable. I see them talking heavily with a caucasian inmate like they enjoy the conversation. However, they get edgy while speaking with a black inmate. They don't have social skills when it concerns a black inmate.

I remember having this situation where I am writing a book about my experience in Prison. I needed a little assistance on punctuation, so I had asked the grammar teacher for help and she had advised me to talk to an English teacher there. I was attempting to go talk to the English teacher, but he was on vacation at the time. The next day I was called to the lead teachers office, the grammar teacher had reported that I was harassing her and I only had two interactions with this teacher, one was for this punctuation and several months earlier. I think she fell into the stereotype of black people. She didn't know how to take me, a black man coming to her, she probably thought that I was going to rob her. All of the known stereotypes are alive and well in this prison. I also noticed that the staff members in the position to hire inmates don't hire as many black inmates they do caucasian inmates because they are not comfortable being around us and/or they are active in their racial tension. If a teacher is afraid of being around black inmates then how are we supposed to learn in here to better ourselves? This grammar teacher only teaches caucasian inmates, and I see her enjoying being around them but very uptight if around black inmates. This is very disturbing to me.