## Friday, February 23, 1996

## The Cynical Covenant Of Farrakhan & Qaddafi

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behavior in Libya fits a pattern that too many Americans – black and white – have ignored for too long. Louis Farrakhan's black separatist philosophy has always run counter to the American vision of equality for all citizens. His unabashed displays of friendship toward one of the world's bloodiest terrorists suggest a troubling complacency toward violence and extremism.

In preparation for the Million Man March, Minister Farrakhan drummed up support by reciting words of conciliation. He appeared to moderate his often-harsh rhetoric with appeals to black community responsibility, reconciliation and atonement. Such statements enabled him to curry favor with the mainstream; they encouraged congressmen and leading civil rights figures to pay homage to Minister Farrakhan in speeches at the march.

But Louis Farrakhan has the last laugh now. Respectable black leaders have proven

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Virtuoso guitarist Eliot Fisk joins the Turtle Island String Quartet for an eclectic evening of jazz, pop and classical music Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Community College of Southern Nevada Performing Arts Center.

Named "best classical guitarist" for 1995 by readers of <u>Guitar Player Magazine</u>, Fisk is a stellar recording artist for BMG Records. In addition to his renowned talents in the classical genre, Fisk is also a devotee of both jazz and Flamenco styles.

Reserved seating is \$20, with \$15 seats for students and seniors aged 62 and older. Call 651-LIVE for reservations.



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willing to take a seat at Minister Farrakhan's meeting table, most recently at the November 1995 African American Leadership Summit. Nevertheless, it seems that Minister Farrakhan is only too happy to stride both sides of the fence. He welcomes, even craves, mainstream support, but at the same time forges links to terrorists and extremists.

In fact, Libya is not his only outlaw friend in the Middle East. Minister Farrakhan has also cultivated ties to the Sudan, an Islamic fundamentalist state notorious for harboring accused terrorists, and also reportedly responsible for enslaving black African Christians. His current tour included a cordial visit with the corrupt military dictator General Sani Abacha of Nigeria.

Louis Farrakhan has long poisoned public discourse with malicious words of racism and anti-Semitism. But recently, many Americans have begun to overlook the rhetoric. Minister Farrakhan's hate speech, they seem to be saying, is old news. They believe he has progressed beyond the scapegoating, beyond the divisiveness and has settled into the mainstream.



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Minister Farrakhan's eagerness to cut a deal with one of the world's most violent leaders, should cause these Americans to think again.

Abraham H. Foxman is national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

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Weekdays: 7 a.m.\*

Friday Eve: 6 p.m.

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