

Fear of a Black Planet

The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis



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Not all rap music is so much gobbledygook of meaningless syncopated melodic rhythms set to an infectious African-based beat.

Because rap music is usually equated only with "gettin' down" and having a "good time," few view it having a message or being political. That was the largely held belief about music before the group Public Enemy emerged on the scene.

The New York-based superstar group made headlines last spring when its Minister of Information, Professor Griff, made a controversial statement about Jews that resulted in the group being forced into temporary retirement.

After a brief hiatus in the wake of that controversy Public Enemy is back, stronger than ever. Griff, however, is no longer a member of the group. True to form, the group quickly became embroiled in yet another flap. This time it's because of a 15-page booklet titled "The Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation and Racism (White Supremacy). The booklet was distributed to music critics throughout the nation to coincide with the release of Public Enemy's latest new album, "Fear of a Black Planet."

According to Harry Allen, who is the group's Director of Enemy Relations, the booklet was an inspiration for the new album.

The question is, what is in the booklet that caused this latest controversy?

The booklet was written by Dr. Frances L. Cress Welsing, a Washington, D.C. psychiatrist who formerly was a professor at the

Howard University Medical School in the early 1970's. To get to the point, Dr. Welsing's theories are considered by some as racist because she minces no words in stating her case. Others view her theories as representing very real and very logical explanations of present conditions between the races--Black and White.

Welsing's "Color Confrontation" theory holds that racism is a by-product of "white or color deficient Europeans who responded psychologically with a profound sense of numerical inadequacy and color inferiority upon their confrontations with the massive majority of the world's people, all of whom possessed varying degrees of color producing capacity."

Welsing's provocative theories about White Supremacy further state that:

- "Whites desire to have sexual alliances with the 'non-whites,' both male and female, because it is only through this route that whites can achieve the illusion of producing color."

- "The body area attacked during most lynchings of Black males by White males is the area of the genitals

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MLK Committee Puts Mayor On Defensive

By Muhammad Abdullah

The Martin Luther King Committee sent Ron Lurie, mayor of Las Vegas, on the defense recently, concerning the renovation and remodeling of the A.D. Guy Center into a Boys Club facility. Dora Miller, President of the Martin Luther King Committee (MLK Committee), said that the Mayor used his influence as President of the local Boys Club to muscle the A.D. Guy Center away from the MLK Committee.

If our readers will reflect back, they will recall that the L.V. Housing Authority closed down all eleven of the recreational facilities in late December, when the then-embattled Executive Director, Art Sartini, came under fire for alleged administrative misconduct.

According to Mayor Lurie, the Boys and Girls Club has negotiated a five year lease and did not seek to compete with the MLK Committee for the A.D. Guy Center.

"The Boys and Girls Club has a five year lease to remodel and re-open the A.D. Guy Center on or about June 9th or 10th...it will be a first class facility...We are open to involve other organizations," he said.

When asked about the allegations of the MLK Committee, Lurie said, "That's not all the facts." He emphasized that the MLK Committee did not come forward with their proposal until after the Boys and Girls Clubs were approved by the L.V. Housing Authority. He noted that the MLK Committee had neither the resources nor were they able to meet the time constraints to have the center renovated by the summer when the children would be out of school.

"The MLK Committee presented no proposal to the Housing Authority, to my knowledge, that stated that they had the resources available to open the center within the time frame to have it opened for the kids by summer..."

In the midst of a political season full of storms, the last thing the Honorable Mayor needs is another controversy. City Manager, Ahley Hall appears to be walking a political tight-rope, Mayor Lurie is being questioned concerning various land deals and business partnerships that may jeopardize his political future, Steve Miller, City Commissioner, is positioning himself as a possible mayoral successor, Bob Stupak is having "his way" in the midst of Federal Aviation Administration's dismay, concerning his proposed "tower," questionable block grant money allegedly has been given to Housing Commissioner Louis Conner for renovation of his Seven Seas Restaurant, and now this! Wheew! What a year!!

Anyway, Mayor Lurie was more than willing to admit that he was not concerned with the allegations. His main concern is that the A.D. Guy Center be re-opened so that the children in the area have something to look forward to this summer.

THE SENTINEL-VOICE contacted Carl Rowe, Executive Director of the Las Vegas Housing Authority to get more perspective on this issue. Rowe said that there were only three groups that had submitted proposals for the vacant centers (The Boys And Girls Clubs for the A.D. Guy Center and the Gerson Park Center and the National Association of Latin Americans (NALA) for the Weeks Recreation Center at Searles and Eastern Avenue).

"The board had contingencies that had to be met financially to complete necessary renovations prior to the opening of the Centers...The Boys and Girls Club met the contingencies and so were awarded the lease," he said.

Rowe admitted that the Housing Commission Board did not plan for re-opening the Centers so soon and therefore no "guidelines" for proposals or leasing of centers to community organizations were developed.

"We did not plan for re-opening the recreation centers due to the nature of budget cuts and other financial constraints within the Housing Authority at that time...So we were not prepared for organizations who voiced interest in the centers...It was not until the Boys and Girls Club and NALA came forward that we began considering setting up guidelines."

Rowe said that two considerations had to occur. "Whether the organization was 1) a well-heeled program coming in with strong funds and good programs or 2) whether the organization did not have strong funds but good programs..." he said.

Strongly funded programs would be required to follow two prerequisites in order to be approved.

He said that stronger organizations had to make space available to smaller organizations and they would also be required to subsidize the smaller organizations so that they

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Senator Richard Bryan recently visited the West Las Vegas Library, where he presented the newly published book, "Black Americans In Congress - 1817-1989" to Library Administrator Marie Jordan. The copy was the first in Las Vegas. Further copies will be distributed thru the High School Libraries, the Clark County Library District and the North Las Vegas and Boulder City Libraries.

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