

## The Cress Theory - Part I

### The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis

Long before being named one of the 36 "Legends of our Time" in the May 1990 20th anniversary issue of Essence magazine, Dr. Frances Cress Welsing had already earned place for herself in history because of her novel racial consciousness theories which she developed in the 1960's at Howard University in the nation's capitol. Her views on racism and its effects are given from an Afrocentric point of view. Using her maiden name, Cress, as a title, she developed the Cress Theory of Color Confrontation and Racism (White Supremacy). Today, more than 20 years later, she is still refining applications of her theory to apply to virtually every aspect of Black life on planet earth.

In the early 1970's, she was denied tenure as a professor at the Howard University Medical School because her theory was considered too controversial. Today she maintains a private medical practice specializing in general and child psychiatry. Surprising to some, perhaps, not all of her patients are Black. Dr. Welsing comes from a family of Black doctors. She proudly proclaimed to me that she is a "third generation Black physician."

During a long-distance telephone interview, Dr. Welsing shared many personal reflections with me about the Cress Theory as it relates to Black life today.

"We (Blacks) cannot enjoy good mental health unless we understand racism and white supremacy because they are the major sources of stress in our daily lives," she said.

"My psychiatric practice is central to Black people all over this planet. I was raised to help Black people face the problems which are special to Black people," she declared. "My theory is an attempt to explain white supremacy behavior at the global and local levels," Dr. Welsing said. "Since white people are a very tiny minority of the world's people and they are secondly genetically recessive in terms of skin coloration...the potential exists on the planet for whites to experience genetic annihilation.

"Thus whites have developed patterns of domination which are



Ray E. Willis

operative at all levels of activity, economics, education, labor, law, politics, religion, sex and war," Dr. Welsing remarked.

The rap group Public Enemy used the Cress Theory as a basis of their Fear of a Black Planet album which is currently topping the music charts. Listen to the words and you'll see how closely they match what Dr. Welsing is saying. Nevertheless, it wasn't until recently that Dr. Welsing knew who Public Enemy was. "I met Chuck D (of Public Enemy) and their PR man Harry Allen a couple of weeks ago," she revealed. "I feel especially honored that these young people would understand what it is I'm saying because it's critical to Black people's functioning and to their mental health."

Next week, my interview with Dr. Welsing continues - with her views on the Cosby Show, Adolph Hitler and more.

## JOURNAL

From Page 2

once said, "The death sentence should serve as an example for the profit of others." Of course what Plato mistakenly believed, was that capital punishment would serve as a deterrent to crime once others were aware of this final form of punishment. Yet down through the centuries the imposition of the death penalty has only had the opposite result and in states in this country where capital punishment is now operative, the crime rate has in fact not decreased but dramatically increased.

We should not allow politicians to continue to profit from their support of this evil in our national midst.

## MLK Committee President Delivers Historic Speech at Summit

By Muhammad Abdullah

For those of you who are sincere-well-wishers of our SENTINEL-VOICE newspaper, this week we have the full text of a "historic Speech" that was spoken to the audience in attendance at the African-American Summit less than two weeks ago. Don't you miss the next one, okay?

Miss Dora Harris, President of the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee and Vice-President of the sub-committee that coordinated the event, radiated a spirit in the audience that I believe will set the trend among African-Americans and all other concerned individuals for some time to come.

Her central theme is "We Have the Deciding Factor." Meaning has no value here today. The right-minded among us, please, listen well. And let's make the Second Summit our best ever.

Ms. Harris is capturing the entire picture of the four-day summit and urging those in attendance to think about it and "act on it" immediately:

*For the past four days we have gathered together collectively, in harmony and in one accord, to work towards one common goal - the betterment of the quality of life for all African-Americans in the State of Nevada. And I have to say that I am extremely proud to have been a part of Nevada's First African-American Summit. I am very, very honored to have worked with such a fine group of dedicated men, women and young people. You all deserve a very big round of applause.*

*Now, the one thing I think we need to look at is "the need for the Summit anyway." Why did we need it?*

*We needed it because we live in a society capable of sending images around the world in an instant, but this same society cannot come up with a solution to the "homeless problem," "teenage pregnancy" and "gangs." A "society" that, through the implementation of Drugs and many other negative factors, have declared "war" on African-Americans.*

*Yes! War! Webster defines war as a state of conflict, hostility and antagonism. Is it "conflict" when every person in America cannot have the right to develop his or her maximum potential through the acquisition of a meaningful job at a decent pay?*

*Is it "hostile" when there's a new climate of racial violence emerging, you have drugs in your neighborhood and gangs in your schools? Is it "antagonistic" to have your brothers incarcerated at a rate double that of white men? Yes, brothers and sisters. I say to you today, "we are at war." But what is the "deciding factor?"*

*The "deciding factor" is US. How can we sit back and wait for a society or bureaucracy to help us fulfill our needs, when they have no idea what those needs are? We must do for ourselves and stop blaming everyone for our plight. Everything that has happened is "our own fault" and we must be men and women enough to take*

See SPEECH, Page 5

## Testimonial Dinner Slated for Rev. Jesse D. Scott, Pres., NAACP



Rev. Jesse D. Scott

A Testimonial Dinner, "An Evening With Minister Jesse D. Scott, President of the Las Vegas Chapter, NAACP, has been scheduled to take place Saturday, June 9, 1990 at

the Dunes Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.

Rev. Scott, who is also the Minister of the Second Christian Church, 940 West Owens Avenue, is being honored for his long and faithful service rendered in Nevada.

No-Host cocktails will begin at 6:00 P.M. with dinner following at 7:00 P.M.

Attire for the affair will be Black tie and the donation is \$35.00 per person. Your donation will fund the Minister Jesse D. Scott Scholarship Fund.

Tickets for the event are available at Larry's Sight and Sound, 811 W. Owens; Second Baptist Church, 500 W. Madison; and the Las Vegas Branch NAACP, 940 West Owens.

For further information call Dr. Porter L. Troutman, Jr. at 646-1662.

responsibility for our own actions.

*We are the "cause" of our children being on drugs. We are the "cause" of our not becoming educated. We are the "cause" of our children being pregnant and we are the "cause" of our brothers being incarcerated. WE ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR.*

*I submit to you, "the only*

*way you can ride my back is if I bend over and let you," but if I "stand up" and "stand tall," your only destiny is to fall. So, you see, we have been allowing people to ride our backs for "way too long."*

*It's time to "stand tall," because we can win this*

**Chapman's** **Dodge** LAS VEGAS

**Barry G. Strong**  
Sales Representative

3470 BOULDER HIGHWAY  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89121-1598 (702) 457-1061

**FAST CASH**

# AAL-JAYS

PAWN SHOP

NO PAYMENTS FOR 4 MONTHS  
WE LOAN THE MOST!

**LOANS FROM \$1.00 TO \$100,000.00**

**Jewelry\*Guns\*Stereos\***  
**VCRs\*TVs\*Tools\***  
**Computers\*Cameras & More**

**JEWELRY • GUNS • ANYTHING OF VALUE**

ESTIMATES BY PHONE

MONDAY - SAT 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM SUNDAY 10 - 1

**642-1133**

1618 Las Vegas Blvd. No. North Las Vegas at Queens North of The Strip

**Nevada's Largest**

REPUTABLE CASH PAID

**CASH LOANS 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**PLENTY OF FREE PARKING**

**THE SENTINEL-VOICE**

Nevada's only black community newspaper  
Published every Thursday by the Brown Publishing Co.  
Inc., 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104  
Telephone (702) 383-4030.

Serving Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, Sparks, Hawthorne, Henderson and Tonopah

Betty Brown, President and Publisher-Editor; LeRoy Brown, General Manager; Ramon Savoy, Advertising and Marketing Director; Pamela Jeanne Wright, Secretary-Receptionist; Willis Brown, Production; Don Snook, Graphics; Delores Feemster, Reno General Manager; Kenny Phillips, Distribution.

Members: National Newspaper Publishers Association  
West Coast Black Publishers Association.

This newspaper is audited by Community Papers Verification Service, 6225 University Avenue, Madison, W153705 (608) 238-7550.

Subscriptions payable in advance

Six months \$15.00  
Twelve months \$25.00

The rates apply to Continental United States only