

# THE CRESS THEORY - PART IV

## The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis

This is the fourth and concluding segment of my series on "The Cress Theory." If you knew little or nothing about Dr. Frances Cress Welsing and her Cress Theory of Color Confrontation (White Supremacy) before reading this series about her, I hope you have been at least somewhat enlightened.

The question emerges when I come across a controversial body of knowledge such as the Cress Theory, "Is the glass half-empty, or half-full?" As you review Dr. Welsing's theories, that same question lingers, because she deals with race relations from a totally unique perspective rarely portrayed through the normal methods by which we receive the information on which we base life's decisions.

In case you missed my previous description, the Cress Theory is an explanation of white supremacy behavior at the global and local levels in terms of the prevailing patterns of domination which are operative against Blacks in all aspects of our daily lives.

Is there a solution? Does Dr. Welsing offer a way out? The answer is an unequivocal, "yes!" Referring to her chessboard analogy where white squares represent white people and black ones-Black people. The white side is playing genetic sur-



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vival while the black side is passively reacting. Dr. Welsing poses the question, "Are we ever going to be able to master the black side of the chessboard?" She urges, "We must stop asking other people to help us solve our own problems. We should be proactive in solving them ourselves!"

While that may not be a dramatically new direction, it certainly charts a new course and a new direction of thought for Black people everywhere to rally around, and hopefully, to follow.

To obtain a copy of Dr. Frances Cress Welsing's 15-page Cress Theory handbook, you may write to her at 7603 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012. Please include \$5 for the Cress Theory booklet and \$1.50 to cover postage and handling.

I invite your correspondence to me care of the *Sentinel-Voice* concerning this series.

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

By Faye Duncan-Daniel

## "F" Street - Or - Sammy Davis, Jr. Blvd.

"Here they go again, wanting to change things!!!"

"What did he do for this community, anyway?"

Those are the sentiments we encountered when discussing the idea with friends in bars!!

But think for a moment. The idea has merit! If the city is expanding in every direction, that expansion must include acreage within a one mile radius! The West Side of Las Vegas is about to become "downtown." If the Snow Project is truly "etched in stone" those of you living around Jackson Street may have parking meters in front of your homes in the next five (5) years!!!

According to City Councilman Steve Miller, approved expansions plans have already included "F" Street. It will become a through street from Bonanza through the Union Pacific property located behind the Union Plaza Hotel.

Why not commemorate Sammy with the distinction of a street with the economic potential of "F" Street? We think it will bring millions of tourists. Tourists bring money, money brings more money. So, if you live anywhere between Jackson and Bonanza, "H" and "A", hang on to your property!!!

## Look Out Las Vegas - Another First Black Woman!!!

Mrs. Debra Todd-Johnson was recently elected as treasurer to the Democratic Party!!! She is the first Black person to hold this position!!! She is in charge of all the campaign funds collected in Nevada. She is a graduate of Las Vegas High School, attended Texas Southern University and the University of San Diego. She is currently attending UNLV to complete her degree requirements.

Mrs. Todd-Johnson is employed at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel front office. Her mother is Mrs. Faye Rodd, one of the first Black secretaries and administrators in Nevada

Congratulations, Debra!!! Keep your eyes on that money!!!

## Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators Recipient - 1990

Mrs. Sheila Gilchrist, 4th grade teacher at Faye Herron Elementary School, was selected as "Elementary School Teacher of the Year." Sheila was selected because of her unyielding dedication to her students, the organizational skills she displayed in the planning, coordinating and implementing of the Black History Program at her school.

In addition, she organized and coordinated the first science program (the district's priority objective).

Born in Moorehead, Mississippi, she moved to Las Vegas in 1973. She has two beautiful children and is married to Al Gilchrist (Mr. Fraternity).

Sheila teaches professional growth, classroom organization and social studies to Clark County School Teachers.

She attends Unity Baptist Church and is co-director of the Vacation Bible School.

Sheila, Las Vegas is proud of you!!!

## On Being 100 Years Of Age!!!

Mother Ethel Pearson, 100 years of age in 1990, was born in 1890 (25 years after the abolition of slavery!!!) in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Mother Pearson (as she is fondly called) moved to Las Vegas in 1945. Founder and co-founder of many organizations and neighborhood councils, world renowned pianist, teacher and directress of music at Second Baptist Church is an incentive for any black woman concerned with the issues facing African Americans!!!

Mother Pearson has received too many honors to mention. Her walls and shelves are lined with plaques of commemoration. If only plaques could capture the essence/spirit of the person! Mother Pearson can be seen at City Hall, the Governor's Mansion or the Oval Office displaying passionately the fire of a woman who lived through America's tragic inhumane recorded history of barbarism to people of color and witnessed many historical events.

## Nation's Black Doctors Plan Las Vegas Convention

LAS VEGAS - The Board of Trustees and officers of the National Medical Association met here recently to plan the 95th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the nation's Black physicians to be held here at the Bally Grand Hotel, July 28-August 2, 1990.

"We are on the front lines for those who are medically underserved and disparately affected by potentially preventable or curable diseases," declared Vivan W. Pinn-Wiggins, M.D., of Washington, D.C., NMA's president. She is chairperson of the Department of Pathology at Howard University's college of medicine.

The NMA, founded in Atlanta in 1885 when organized medicine excluded Black doctors, is "a voice for those who are concerned about equal opportunity for the minority health provider and equal access to health care for all Americans," she added.

The NMA, headquartered in a fully paid for new building in Washington,

At 100, Mother Pearson's temper still flares and her body becomes erect when you mention injustice, bigotry, racism or prejudices.

Truly a warrior of light to us all, Mother Pearson is not under the illusion of equality. If only we had more vocla Mother Pearsons!!!

D.C., has influence and visibility although Black physicians comprise only three percent of the nation's practicing physicians. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, newly appointed New York Health Commissioner Woodrow Myers, Jr. and Reed Tuckson, M.D., formerly the commissioner of public health in the nation's capital, are all active NMA members.


The NMA's Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly brings together Black and other physicians and medical researchers to exchange views on diseases adversely affecting Black people such as hypertension, diabetes, AIDS, heart disease, HIV disease, and substance abuse. Throughout the year, NMA members and officers interact with federal and local governments to provide equal access to quality health care for the poor and dispossessed.

Dr. William Matory, M.D., of Howard University medical faculty, is director of NMA's Continuing Medical Education and coordinates the Scientific Assembly.

Each national convention adopts resolutions which serve as the organization's action agenda for the ensuing year.

As the NMA membership is, however, family and

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