THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

GUESS WHO'S COMING?

It is downright disheartening to see such a blatantly negative stereotypic portrayal of African-Americans in the movies and on TV as wimps, funny comics, "yes men" sidekicks, and other similar undesirable personalties with few morals.

The term often used to describe a realistic reflection of life in the movies is "art imitating life." But where black folk are concerned, it's more like "art imitating art" because there is nothing realistic when you compare the images of Blacks on the silver screen and small screen to the consistent image of Blacks in everyday life.

It's no secret that media images of Blacks grossly distort how we appear to other people and to the world. It's almost as if we are so negatively stereotyped that we have become undesirable caricatures of ourselves.

Blacks on TV, even in positive roles, are usually shown as comedians, but rarely, if ever, as serious characters.

Listen to sports announcers on TV and you will hear them describe top Black athletes as having exceptional "physical ability," while standout White athletes get rave reviews as "intelligent players."

The characterization of Blacks in the media can be ever-so subtle, or extremely overt. Take the observations on this subject by a recent European immigrant, now a domestic housekeeper in Las Vegas, who shall remain anonymous.

"Back in my country, Black people were so rare we hardly ever saw one. The only clue we had about how Black people acted was what we learned through the media. We actually believed that all Blacks were prostitutes or dope dealers, just like we saw them shown in the movies and on TV," she said.

Little wonder why, when she first moved to America, she was skeptical, even scared of Blacks. It took more than a little prodding to convince her to live in a Black household while working as a domestic. But, after she reluctantly accepted a well paying housekeeping job with a Black family, she quickly began to change her opinion of Blacks in general.

"Now that I have actually become part of a real-life Black family, I literally shudder in amazement at how totally distorted the overall image is of Black people here and throughout the world."

She went on to describe in glowing terms how she grew to like, even adore, the Black family she was living with.

And that's just my point. One approach that has been used successfully to dispel unrealistic racial stereotypes is the Soweto Experience in South Africa. The way the program works is that White families spend a weekend living in the home of a Black family in the Soweto township.

A similar program in the U.S. could also be successful. Since the media images of Blacks are so far removed from reality, why couldn't we encourage White families to temporarily move in with Black households to see for themselves how Black people really live?

Through this arrangement, Whites could replace their own personal misconceptions about us with factual information.

Call it a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" in reverse.

By spending a weekend with a Black family and interacting closely with them, Whites would be able to return to their own communities with a totally new perspective about Black life.

Imagine having White household guests in a Black environment, subject to the cultural and social standard of their Black family hosts. Want a wholesome, therapeutic and completely beneficial way to bridge the understanding gap!

Forget Hollywood. Bring on reality.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

BLACK ON BLACK CRIME (STOPPING THE KILLING)

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D.

We've been recently impressed by the amount of press coverage that purports to showcase the phenomenon of so called black on black crime. Everything from the Government instigated and sanctioned murder of the Inkhata Party in South Africa to the young African American males who kill each other on the streets here in the United States. In all of this hoopla and fanfare the issue of the cause of this crime is never brought forward.

In a recent conversation with Dr. Frances Cress Welsing we were discussing the issue of young African American males engaged in violence, and one of the points that she made and which is very clearly valid is that to understand this phenomenon one must look beyond the issue of just people killing each other, one must also understand that in this society, that is in the United States and/or European dominated society, African American males have no place.

All the wood has been chopped, all the water's been drawn, basically all the cotton has been picked and that which hasn't been can now be picked by someone else other than African American males. Therefore, African American females are superfluous also, except under certain roles and, in any case, African American females present a much less threatening situation for white males.

To examine this phenomenon more closely. If indeed it has been decided that African American males are superfluous and unnecessary, then that means that there is no necessity to provide jobs, therefore these males will not be able to earn money and provide for themselves or their families. The message very clearly will then be given to them that they are worthless. they then have two choices: They can, like cattle, stand around and wait to die or they can struggle to survive which may mean getting involved in the trafficking of drugs to make money or robbing store to make money or robbing any one else to make money. Clearly if they rob and kill a European, they will be put to death in this country. On the other hand, if they rob and kill one of their own who may have a few more cents than they do, the punishment will be relatively light. This is not an accidental message that the Society conveys to people, it is one that is very coldly calculated to obtain the end that it indeed does and that is the extermination of African Americans in general and African American males in particular.

You will recall in the last article to appear in this column, that African American males have the highest cancer mortality rate of any group in the world. Not any group in the United States, any group on this planet. Clearly, their is a plan at work here and it is not a celestial plan. This is a plan that is worked out in board rooms, in the situation rooms, both at the Pentagon and in Langley, Virginia (CIA Headquarters). The key, then to surviving and reversing this situation is to understand where your enemy is coming from. To understand that this is not a matter of control , this is a matter of extermination. To understand that it will do no good for the older generation to approach the younger African American males with the idea of Stop The Violence and wait for your turn at the slaughter house, vis a vis sheep, cattle or pigs. If we are to stop the violence we must create an alternative to the violence and that is an alternative way to survive and to prosper with the same opportunities and the same limitations as everyone else has. In the sixties we attempted this with marches and demonstrations and that had some limited success. In the nineties what we must begin to do is adopt a strategy that was initially outlined by Malcolm and that is: By any means necessary.

La lucha continua!
The Struggle Continues!

N.L.V. ... THE WESTSIDE STORY
THE UNAVOIDABLE BLACK DILEMMA

By R.K. Brown

To understand the dilemma you must examine the success of post civil rights blacks. The gains of the civil rights movement brought about access to the political and economic system, like no other time in Black American History.

The impression was given that everyone from any background could go out and achieve success if they were willing to work hard to obtain it. This era also brought about the generation of black children who would become the vanguards of desegration in the schooling system. I am a product of the change.

These capitalistic gains made it easier to obtain a good home in less depressed areas. Blacks could train and develop their children to aspire for great things, and if necessary provide appropriate schooling to help achieve these goals.

Blacks became examples of what hard work could do. They began to develop their own businesses and political ideologies, putting them to work in the new "color blind America."

The problem with these changes is that you now have the successful black man, or woman, who in many instances has become an orphan in both the black and white world. I don't know if this was a part of the overall plan, or just an ironic bonus, but the success of post civil rights blacks has in many ways worked for the destruction of the black community.

Basically you end up with a larger white society, that takes our best and brightest black achievers. They then incorporate these individuals into their working system. Some blacks make it through the system and achieve success in all professional fields. These are the secret quota of blacks, and minorities that will be allowed to into "their" society.

These success stories have truly worked hard, in most cases, harder then their peers to achieve what they have. They often begin to believe in the premise that if you work hard you can achieve white standards of success. What these minorities fail to realize is that they are many times, just fulfilling quotas. For everyone like them that makes it, there will be five that won't.

The most depressing fact is that the success theory literally breaks apart the black community. For example, you group all blacks together to make the body. you then cut off the head, which is of course, the best economic, social and political achievers, leaving the rest of the leaderless body to soil and fester without direction.

Before desegregation the most successful blacks still had to live and, many times work within their ethic community. This meant black portions of town were really small autonomous cities, complete with central business districts, merchant shops, schools, and public meeting forum.

Although many of the best and brightest strived for wealth and capitalistic gains, the bonds of segregation made it necessary for these renaissance blacks to develop their skills in a totally black setting.

Today you can just move out of the community or even worse, focus entirely on capitalistic gains, dismissing black political and social reforms. Too many times in recent days have successful black people stated that they don't want to be seen as a "black" doctor, writer, or professional. As the affluent blacks separate themselves from the poorest blacks, they begin to feel the resentment of the blacks that are left behind. The classic view of these blacks as "Uncle Toms," becomes prominent. All this just indicates that a body without a head cannot function.

I'm not advocating that blacks who make it owe the black community anything. Nine times out of ten they had to fight and struggle to make it for themselves. What I am saying is that affluent blacks have to invest back into the community, develop programs, establish businesses in these communities to provide jobs and training... Peace.