

Point of View

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MINORITY REPORT

Rodney King: Violence Sometimes Needed To Kill Race Superiority Myths, Get Level Playing Field

By James E. Aisbrook

Dear Rodney:

One new, big and valuable thing has risen from the ashes of the April 29 riots and fires in Los Angeles.

This new, valuable asset suddenly gained by residents of the burned-out areas caused President Bush and millions of others to reshuffle their agendas, re-think their priorities and change

their perceptions of local, state and national politics.

This asset cannot be seen, smelled, tasted, heard or touched—not really. But its effects can be sensed.

This new asset is spelled R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

And whence came this respect?

It came from a billion-dollar demonstration of NEGATIVE

POWER. Yes, raw, ugly, Negative Power. The power to destroy.

Negative Power is not new. This power to destroy has changed the course of history dozens of times. It was demonstrated when hungry prehistoric animals fought for occupancy of a cave during a storm, and when hungry Neanderthal men fought over the food of a fresh,

edible carcass,

This Negative Power was used by Alexander the Great, the Vandals, Atilla the Hun, Ivan the Terrible, Napoleon, Gen. U.S. Grant, Gen Perching, Gen. Eisenhower and others. It was used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in 1945.

It was used to kill and chase Native Americans off the precious land their forefathers had

occupied first and was theirs for more than 10,000 years.

Negative power was used to capture African people, chain them, drag them into boats, sail them to America and elsewhere, force them into slavery and rape their women.

This Negative Power was used after the Civil War to segregate, dominate, disfranchise, and humiliate black people. Its legitimacy has been denied by losers but acclaimed by winners.

The fact remains that changes resulting from the use of Negative Power have lasting effects for good or evil.

When the first Molotov Cocktail was thrown at the beginning of the riot, Negative Power was demonstrated. When dozens of fires were shown igniting the skies of Los Angeles, the undeniable potency of negative power (destruction) was terribly evident.

Negative power—the power to affect others adversely—has been shown in the writing of history books our children read—books that ignore or distort the contributions of African and African-Americans.

Negative Power has been used psychologically, economically, socially and in various ways to cripple black people and keep them "in their place." The result is the unendurable situation of those Los Angeles black people who exploded into justified rage when the overpowering insult of the Rodney King verdict was announced.

The verdict told black people they were not due the same respect other people get—that they should be beaten and dishonored. This was too much. This was a contemptible kick in the face to black people, just as the police gave repeated kicks to the face of body and Rodney King.

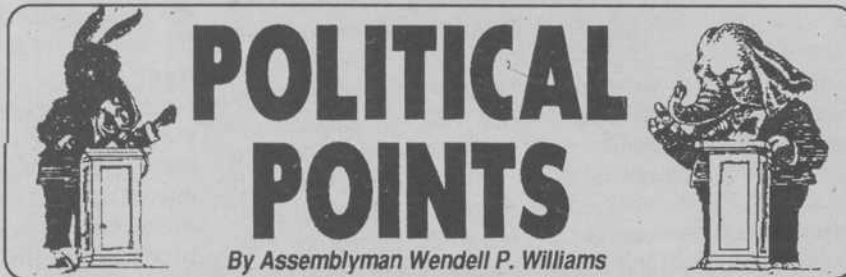
Rodney, your question, "Can we get along?", is a fair and good one. You want calm and peace. We had almost total calm and peace for 250 years down yonder in "Gone With The Wind" territory with white masters and black slaves.

Peace is not good with insults, double standards and humiliations advocated by David Duke, Ronald Reagan and their think-alikes. These were rejected by the fires and riots of your city.

Yes, Rodney, we can get along, but only "with liberty and justice for all." When the police beat you, Rodney, they beat me and millions of others like us. The second beating took place when the jury kicked us and beat us in the body and face with that damnable verdict. That was too much to bear.

It is just as fair for you to protect yourself with the threat of fire as it is for the white zealots to degrade and insult you with the threat and practice of police brutality.

Our ancestors would not have been enslaved for so long if they had used the cleansing effect of fire on the "big houses."



By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

TRIX ARE FOR KIDS

For over thirty years, cartoon viewers have watched during the commercial breaks, a determined rabbit attempt countless tactics to camouflage his way to partake a bowl of cereal that is in the possession of a group of kids. However, in each case, just as the rabbit has maneuvered himself to the point of accomplishing his scheme, the kids pull the cover off of his game with the usual reprimand, "silly rabbit, Trix are for kids!"

The message in this commercial was two-fold. First the cereal "Trix" is for kids only, and pulling "tricks" should be for kids only also. However, we know that tricks and schemes are also too often attempted by adults, camouflaged as sincere proposals to do the right thing.

Now that we are sitting in the aftermath of civil disturbance throughout America, including Las Vegas, that was sparked by the so called "Rodney King Verdict." In actuality, it wasn't a Rodney King Verdict because King was not on trial, the police officers were. I guess however in reality, now that the verdict is in maybe the victim, King was on trial, but that's another story.

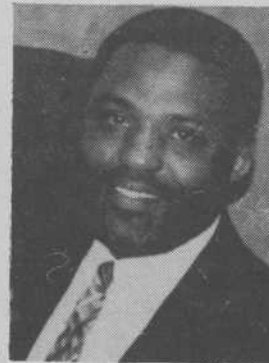
Just as the explosions of the 1930's, 40's and 1960's were really the result of years of denial and neglect, the recent uprising here in Las Vegas is no different. And just as those times in the past, some people have tried to use the bad conditions of masses to further their own causes and camouflage their real intent to do nothing but politicize the suffering of people through cutting deals and talking out of the side of their necks.

On the national level, not one single word has been spoken in the last ten years from the nation's president on behalf of the humans of this country who have been locked out of every single door of opportunity. Not because they didn't have the will, but because they were not allowed a way. While at the same time we were busy spending 2.3 trillion dollars on a military budget when we are not even in a war. 2.3 trillion is a shameful and sinful amount of money to spend on a military buildup when men, women and children in America are dying everyday from poverty, hunger and sickness in the richest country in the world. If one would spend one million dollars a day from the day that Jesus was born until today, we would have

only spent one half of two trillion dollars. Shameful. Now Bush and his crew is now talking about helping Americans in need. "Sorry, Silly President, Trix are for kids." We just won't buy it from Bush or anyone else, especially at the state and local level.

April 30th marked the day of the unrest in West Las Vegas, almost a month ago. Since that time local elected officials have been caught up a plurality of reviewing the aftermath and meeting to only plan more meetings. In the mean time the masses continue to suffer, as plans are made to grease the grips of a select few. While not admitting that a misdirection of priorities is the real reason that the negative conditions exist in the first place.

We have not forgotten that many of the programs developed after the riots of the 1960's were only ways to hire and provide jobs for those who didn't need them, while those who did were thrown crumbs. For instance, 75% of all money allocated for welfare goes to those who administer the program and not the recipients. The amount that we pay to those that work in public housing is paid enough to buy a low income house for most living in public housing. Local



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

officials talk about revitalizing West Las Vegas in principle, but their actions dictate something else in practice. It is no accident that Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in America. Its no accident because policymakers developed policy to create it. By the same token, it is no accident that West Las Vegas has the most regressive growth, simply because the same will is not there. One would have to admit though, the camouflage is pretty good, but not good enough. It is not enough to replace what was lost, but moreover replace and place what was never there and should have been there. I'm sorry, but sitting at the dining table is not enough when everyone else is dining and you are sitting, but only looking. This game that is in the making here in Las Vegas will be exposed by any means necessary. Sorry, silly rabbits Trix are for kids. You can keep your band-aids and slap'em across your mouths. Real people need real lives and real answers, not proposals that only make yourselves feel good.

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