

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

ORGANIZING AND WINNING

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

When the Las Vegas branch of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression holds its Freedom Award Banquet on September 5th at the Moulin Rouge it will be an occasion for celebration of many things, not the least of which will be the fact that the petition campaign requiring the 17,600 signatures to place the issue of civilian control of the police on the ballot in November has been successful.

At this point we are in the excess of 18,000 signatures and

though the campaign will continue through September, the purpose of the continuation at this point is to merely cushion ourselves with an excess number of signatures in case the State decides to play games and invalidates a certain percentage of the signatures. I project that somewhere between twenty-five and twenty-seven thousand signatures will finally be turned in to the Secretary of State's office. This victory in terms of getting this issue on the ballot in November comes about through the concerted efforts of many

people. The news media would have you at times believe that only one or two people have been involved. However, clearly twenty-thousand signatures cannot be gathered by one or two, or even five or six people over a six month period of time, which is what the organization had to do according to State guidelines.

The second victory that will be celebrated will be the fact that many organizations, other than the Alliance, have participated in this effort. And while it is clearly not the end of the story, it does appear that we are well on the road to civilian control of the police in Las Vegas. What will

be necessary will be that there be continued organization to get out the vote in November as well as continued opposition to the disinformation that the Metropolitan Police Department is now, purposely spreading.

We have known for some time that Metro would—if the issue appeared to be headed toward being placed on the ballot—begin to up the ante by a smear campaign in the media at every opportunity. We have seen that the number of "Officer Friendly" commercials that appear on local Channel 5, a Fox affiliate, has increased. Look for it to escalate even more as the police try to convince the citi-

zens of Clark County that they are indeed humane.

Unfortunately for Metro the citizens of Clark County have had adequate experience with their organization to understand what they do and just how "humane" they are.

The Metropolitan Police Department should understand that their antics in terms of attempting the intimidation of signature gatherers by forcefully taking petitions away from people and the various other little dirty tricks have not worked and that there will be civilian control of the police in this State. It is that, that we celebrate on September 5th.

In addition to the local dignitaries and awardees at that banquet, the keynote speaker is to be Attorney Lennox Hines, a co-chair of the Alliance and a well known civil and human rights attorney will be coming to Las Vegas to help us celebrate this victory. His topic is to be The Legal and Political Ramifications of Civilian Control of the Police.

This will then be the opportunity for the entire community of Las Vegas to turn around in celebration of this historic victory. Tickets are available through the Alliance office at 871-5011.

La Lucha continua!
The Struggle Continues!

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

BY RAY E. WILLIS



SEEING GOD IN US

What difference does it make what color or race you think the Supreme Being (God) is? According to mental health experts, it can mean a lot—especially if you're an African-American.

They say it is important that your image of God in human form look similar to you. Because if you can't perceive God in your own image, you will find it difficult if not impossible to think very highly and self respecting of yourself and others who resemble you.

If someone asked you to describe what God looks like, how would you respond? What physical description of God would you provide? How would you envision Him? Would you say that He is white, black, red, brown or yellow?

The standard picture of Jesus, God's son, that we often see in churches portray Christ as having thin lips, alabaster white skin, rosy cheeks and long, flowing straight hair. But rarely, if ever, do you see pictures of a Black Jesus.

It's not documented anywhere in the Bible or elsewhere that Christ was White. Yet that almost singular concept of the savior is seldom challenged. Many find it easier to simply accept the prevalent view of Jesus as white or nearly white.

Given the fact that Christ lived in that region of the world now known as the Middle East, it's probable that he was of a darker complexion. Remember those images from Iraq of Middle Eastern men and women who looked remarkably like Black people we know right here in the U.S.?

And where is the Middle East? Smack dab on the northern tip of Africa—The Motherland.

With a resurgence of interest in Black awareness some progressive Black church leaders are beginning to display stain glass murals and pictures of Christ as a Black man with distinctly Black features.

Such displays make a definite positive statement by allowing that Christ was probably of African descent like us.

Since nine-tenths or more of the people on planet earth are people of color, it stands to reason that Jesus also was of color. The fact that the oldest remains of mortal man were unearthed in that portion of African Bible scholars refer to as Mesopotamia, adds weight to the argument.

That God in all His splendor and glory is reflected in our own image makes a significant, positive psychological statement to all Black people. Because if we can't see God as a reflection of us, then

(See Ray Willis, Page 17)

N.L.V. ... THE WESTSIDE STORY THE VEGAS VALLEY

By R.K. Brown

As we watch the proceedings of the Republican convention, an idea for public reaction and participation came over me. As you all know, at times I can begin to ramble and run my mouth on various topics. I thought for a change of pace, it would be nice to hear what the readers thought about issues, and what you find important.

Since the Sentinel-Voice is an African American community newspaper, I think it would be nice to let you all choose some of the topics for discussion. I would like to include all of the loyal Sentinel-Voice readers, who have wanted to share their political viewpoints with the whole Las Vegas Valley. So in that regard, I thought this is how we could develop our format. Readers in the valley can just address a concern, question, or viewpoint to the editor. At that point, "your" opinion will be the focus of public scrutiny! You then have the opportunity to take the hot seat that my colleagues and I share each week.

What I will need is: the question or concern that you may have. Your name (if you wish to include it), the area of town you live in (Green Valley, Regal Estates, North Town etc.), and what you would suggest we do about the problem (if you have a suggestion). Remember I am open to discuss any topic, from foreign policy, to the football superbowl. The topics can also be questions about black history or performances. If I don't know the answer, which I may not more times than I may, I will go and try to research the conclusion, before your topic is presented to the valley.

This is designed for "any-

one" in the valley who has strong opinions. Gangsters, professionals, politicians, and everyone in between is invited to participate. So...to all of the readers who have written me and said that I have "no idea" what I am talking about, or that I work to divide the black community, this is your chance! With

you all helping to set the political mindset of our local community, we work to help develop an all new concentration and cohesive local platform.

Once again, thanks to all of you who have kept up with my column. This is my way of letting you air your opinions for a change. The Sentinel-Voice is

the best newspaper in the valley, and with the continued support of you readers, it will continue to grow as the city does. What we will need then is: Your name, your question or concern, the area of town you live in and what "you" would do to ease the problem.

Peace...

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