

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY**SIX MONTHS LATER**

By R.K. Brown

One of the common occurrences which has flared up over the years is the tendency of leading authorities to study the symptoms and progress of civil unrest. Las Vegas is no exception. We have seen the enthusiastic way local stations have publicized their documentaries analyzing the aftermath of the

Westside riots.

I would like to think that any attempt to right the wrongs of a 12 year conservative raping, should be considered a noble undertaking. But, is this just another news special extravaganza to boost local TV ratings, or do local authorities genuinely care about the concerns and aspirations of Westside citizens.

If we use history as our living model, we might have to suggest, that this is just another way for the outside community to get an "up close and personal" look at the plight of a community they care little about, and would give even less to make positive changes. These studies just allow outside groups to be "entertained" for a thirty minute interval, after which they can get back to suburban life as usual.

This isn't just a local phenomenon; CNN, and national news services have also begun to conduct similar studies, all with one common thread, to examine the "cause and effects of the civil unrest" after the King beating. Usually, all of these well intended documentaries come to the same conclusion; all of the promise for investment in infrastructure, new access to employment for the disenfranchised, new relations between police and community residents, and most of all the opportunity for business and home ownership, continue to fall by the wayside.

It is honorable to promise to do all of these wonderful things for our community, which has been neglected in these most basic American freedoms. It is quite another thing, however, to pledge a genuine commitment to carry them out. This is where the major problem arises! It seems authorities in Las Vegas

MINORITY REPORT*(Continued from Page 2)*

is a veteran lawyer, social uplift advocate, and recipient of many honors and awards in private enterprise and in public service.

Willie Horton lives in Massachusetts and sits behind bars where he belongs.

But Vernon Jordan lives in Washington, D.C., and sits in the Board of Directors' room of big-name companies such as Xerox, J.C. Penny, Dow Jones, American Express, Corning, Bankers Trust, R.J.R. Nabisco, Sara Lee and others.

Willie Horton has been the object of public admiration and subject of hot pursuit by police for criminal behavior.

But Vernon Jordan has been the object of public admiration and subject of many honors bestowed by academic institutions and professional organizations.

Jordan was born in 1935 at Atlanta, Ga. He received the B.A. degree from DePauw U. in 1957 and the J.D. at Howard U.

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and across the nation are willing to STUDY the problem, suggest solutions, air prime time news documentaries and make proposals, but in the end the community suffers the same financial, social, and political injustices it has always endured!

In the late 1960's, after the great riots of that period, the National Congressional bipartisan study concluded; "the only way to curb outbreaks of civil unrest in urban communities is to administer solutions to the problems of poverty, neglect, racism, economic isolation, and class discrimination, in employment and the political setting."

The kinds of problems echoed above, have been closely examined establishing workable solutions over a generation ago! The same answers which were pointed out in that 1970 report, are the same answers we hear today! The problem is, no one is willing to right the wrongs. We will always have people willing to advertise our plight on TV screens across America, but if any changes are going to come, we are going to have to do it ourselves!

Peace...

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP

**MOTHER NAACP WAS SLAPPED RECENTLY**

Who in their right mind would dare slap their mother, by calling her Amos & Andy? Your mother taught you everything you know. She taught you how to clean your body - how to walk and talk.

No baby slaps Mama — that's a no no! There is an unwritten law that says when you begin to smell yourself, and have the gaul to slap Mama, you have just signed your own political death warrant.

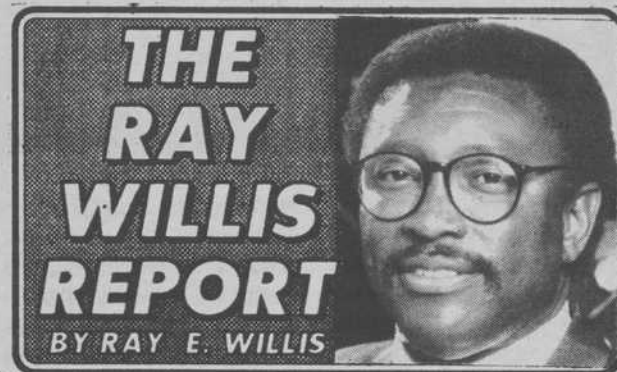
In political jargon Mother NAACP is a Sacred Cow. She is the one that kept the door open until you got to town. She is the one that laid the foundation so that you can now stand up and call "the man" bad names without getting run out of town.

Mother NAACP has credibility. She is widely known, respected, feared and revered around the world. She operates in 50 States and possesses 2200 branches that can be called into play and networked anytime the need arises.

Mother NAACP has a long and distinguished history of making and molding men and women into National and international distinction such as; Former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall; the late great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Medgar Evers; Judge Constance Baker Motley; Rosa Parks; and James Weldon Johnson, as well as others.

Dr. Martin Luther King and the late Malcolm X were very smart men. They knew that their enemy was not Mother NAACP and they had enough sense to know if they could not say something good about mother NAACP they would keep their mouths shut.

Mother NAACP has a long history of dealing with racists, egotistic Red necks, and the Ku Klux Klan, as well as selfish power

(See NAACP and You, Page 4)**MISTAKEN IDENTITY***"A hunting we will go. Hi ho a derry-o a hunting we will go."*

— Traditional English Song.

When is a Black police officer not safe, even from his fellow White officers? Consider the near tragic case of mistaken identity that occurred recently in New York City where a Black undercover Transit Authority officer was "accidentally" shot several times by fellow White undercover officers. The only thing that saved the Black officer from being killed was his bulletproof vest.

Here's what happened. Black undercover cop Derwin Pannell and his partner chased down a woman who allegedly evaded a \$1.25 fare. That's when a team of three White officers, two men and a woman arrived.

Within seconds, the two White male Transit Authority officers unleashed 21 rounds of gunfire directly at officer Pannell, striking him several times all over his body. They even stopped to reload then resumed firing again before somehow realizing they were shooting at a fellow undercover officer who was trying to make an arrest.

What were those officers thinking about in the seconds before they instinctively drew their weapons and began firing on a fellow Black officer? We know that whatever it was, they weren't thinking positive thoughts about Black males or else they would have sized up the situation first before commencing their random assault.

In the aftermath of the incident there were the customary sorrowful apologies and promises of sensitivity training for all officers. Personally, I don't believe sensitivity training can change anyone's deep-seated perceptions about Black people.

As in so many situations of this nature, the root cause of the problem is never dealt with.

Think about it. The specter of a Black man holding a gun in the face of a White woman in a dimly-lit area of the New York subway conjures up an immediate Willie Horton-like association. The mental association is a negative one equating the Black man as an automatic threat, especially one holding a gun. It is virtually inconceivable to anyone White coming upon a scene like this in the New York subway to even remotely associate this Black undercover cop as a preserver of law and order.

In this society Black automatically means bad. To confirm this message, look up the definition of Black in the dictionary. Every reference is negative. Now look up the meanings of the word White. Every reference to White is positive. Totally opposite.

For all intent and purposes, Officer Pannell thought he was upholding the law when he apprehended the female thief.

Imagine his rude awakening when he realized that even as an officer of the law, he is stereotypically viewed as a criminal.

Given the dynamics of present day society, Officer Pannell's case is a racial reality. What it demonstrates is that race will remain a significant negative factor in the lives of African-Americans now and in the foreseeable future.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

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Because that's what Centel is all about. Heart. And that's why we're as dedicated to community services as we are to communications services. After work, you'll find us actively working together with the community. Doing things like organizing bake sales, raising money for charities, or just helping out around the neighborhood. So when we say that we take pride in our work, we're talking about the work we do at the office and away from it.

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