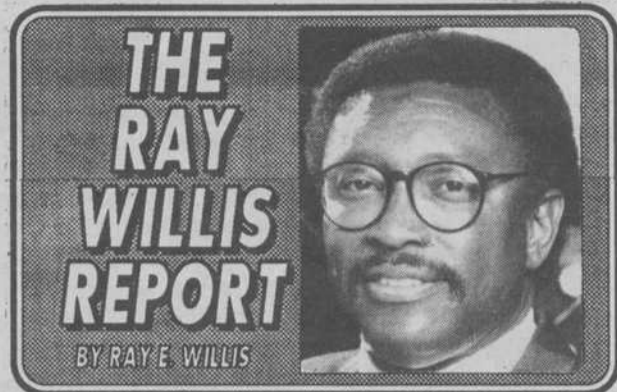


NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

"THE DEFEAT OF DUKEISM"



THINK I'M FUNNY?

Imagine that you are an alien from outerspace. You land on earth and your only method of determining what life on Planet Earth is like is by watching television. You have heard race relations are poor on Earth, which prompts your curiosity about Black lifestyles.

So, you curl up on a couch with some Flaming Hot chips and Coors Light and merrily begin to flip the channels.

Zap! There's a rerun of "Sanford and Son." Isn't Redd Foxx funny? Zap! "In Living Color." Is the laughter genuine or do they use laugh tracks? Zap! again. Yet another comedy. Who's that little Black boy who seems to be the central character? He looks like a little boy, but maybe he's a midget. Whatever, he sure is funny.

Zap. Zap, Zap! Every time the alien turns to a channel featuring Black people, they're all telling jokes and laughing. Naturally, the alien wonders at this point if Black people are capable of being anything but funny.

Now, stop right here. What you have just observed is indeed true. The African-American presence on television is limited mostly entirely to characters who laugh and sing and dance. Modern day court jesters. Bluntly put, buffoons.

Make no mistake about it. Most of these Black-based comedies and their stars are very, very successful. They are successful because they carry a double whammy. They attract Black AND White viewers. Blacks because we enjoy escapist entertainment. Who wouldn't enjoy a few minutes of relief from an unfulfilled life full of despair and hopelessness. Besides, watching comedy on TV sure beats one popular stereotype alternative—drugs.

But what about whites? Why do they enjoy Black comedy so much? For them, seeing Blacks humorous, funny vein strokes their comfort zone. It relaxes them and places them at ease. Besides, it's the way their mind's eye chooses to see us any way. When we're being funny, we're simply reinforcing a prevailing stereotype.

This is not to be constructed as my being negative towards comedy in general where African-Americans are concerned. Comedy plays a very vital, positive role in the psyche and make up of people regardless of race. Without humor, where would we be? In the right place and at the right time, and totally in context with everything else, humor can be very positive medicine.

But it is the misapplication and abuse of humor as it relates to the African-American that worries me. At best, I realize it's a chicken-and-egg proposition. Consider that the Black presence on TV would dwindle to nothing if we stopped being funny.

This point is "dramatically" demonstrated by Black actor Avery Brooks of the ill-fated "Hawk" series. He was stupendous in his role as a serious, strong minded Black detective. He played that role to the hilt. But he failed the White litmus test, big time. Here he was, a Black male authority figure who dominated the screen. But he wasn't funny. The "public" just isn't as accepting of a Black male authority figure who solves problems and makes the world a better place who doesn't cause us to involuntarily go into side splitting laughter every few minutes. The predictable result was that "Hawk" was taken off the air after a very short run.

One indication of the death of discrimination would be the acceptance of Blacks in dramatic roles across the board on TV and in the movies in addition to their established presence in comedies.

At some point in the not-too-distant future, when alien beings land on earth to monitor our lifestyles through TV viewing, will they see anything different from what we have now?

To know is to grow. Until next week.

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

There was a time in this country when the prevailing mentality was that which personified John Wayne. The swaggering, racist, Neo-facist mentality that the police were the power supreme, and that you didn't have to worry about individual rights. You did whatever you felt was necessary to uphold the law as you saw it. You were the "lawman." The recent overwhelming humiliating defeat of the bond issue to add 300 additional police officers to the Metropolitan Police Department is perhaps an indication of an

increased level of sophistication on the part of the population. A realization that the Old John Wayne days of doing things are over, and that it is time for a new day. It would have been perhaps less humiliating for Sheriff Bubba and his boys, had there been a narrow margin of defeat, but in this case, the decision on the part of the voters of Clark County was abundantly clear. One: They were sick of paying out money for a police department that was totally out of control. Two: That as long as the police department did not have any civilian control, it would not have any more civilian money. Three: The public

was somewhat outraged at the tactics that the police were using to promote this bond issue.

For some learned individuals this might serve as a lesson and cause one to re-examine ones activities in the light of this defeat. For the Metropolitan Police Department, I am doubtful that such introspective analysis will take place. I am sure that they will blame various groups, the NAACP, NAARPR, ACLU, etc., for their defeat, especially since some very well meaning but poorly informed public officials, had come out prior to election in favor of the bond issue. Nevertheless, the fact remains



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

that the people are fed up with the Metropolitan Police Department. This defeat does provide an opportunity for that organization, as I have said, to re-evaluate itself, to re-examine itself and perhaps start off in a new direction. First, by accepting significant civilian control over it's activities. Second, by breaking the code of silence on the part of police officers. Third, by acknowledging the fact that they do have members whose activities are less than legal and whose activities reflect poorly on the entire department. Finally, by agreeing to work hand-in-hand with the entire Las Vegas community to chart their new directions. As I said, this is an opportunity, and only history will determine whether they were wise enough to take the opportunity. Without a change in their attitude and direction, any issue that they put before the people is likely to fail again, because at long last their has been an increase in the level of consciousness and sophistication on the part of the citizens of Clark County. From a philosophical, as well as a physical stand point, the duke indeed is dead. La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

ALL POWER

By R. K. Brown

As we move toward the 21st century, it is clear that one influential body in world politics, commands ALL the POWER. The United Nations has moved into the role of, the world's international police force. The fall of Russia made these events take place more quickly than some might have liked.

You might ask, what does the U.N. have to do with black America? The answer is quite simple. First and foremost, the one world government will con-

tinue to have a very potent enforcement arm. The U.N. just sent attack planes to east Africa to blow away native rebels. It was the U.N. that developed the plan to find and execute Saddam during the Golf War. Once they realize their objective, little can stop the U.N.'s war machine.

This brings me back to the exclusion of black America; and for that matter, the world of color! Although the U.N. is supposed to represent all of the independent nation states, the most powerful councils of the body

are run totally by white men.

Recently whites included Asian leaders in some of the more prestigious councils, but the real power brokers are still your good old fashioned pure white males! Obviously the fears and concerns of the world of color, can't be addressed by this group. With just that realization, things are bad enough. When we begin to understand the cataclysmic effect the united Nations will have in the next century, I think all of us should be really (See Westside Story, Page 4)

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