

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

"SISTER SOULJAH WAS RIGHT"

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

Close to a year ago now, I am sure that everyone will remem-

ber the altercation between then candidate Bill Clinton, and Sister Souljah in which Sister Souljah made severe references

to the character of Bill Clinton. Now it appears that Sister Souljah must have a sixth sense when one reflects on the character of now, President Bill Clinton. Here is an individual that has, in the last few weeks, made it very clear what his political priorities are. A number of cases come to mind to illustrate this. One, the handling of his nomination of Lani Guinier for Chief of the Civil Rights Division for the Justice Department. The excuse was that he never read her writings. The question is - So what? Was this woman qualified to head the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department? If she was, then clearly he should not have withdrawn her nomination. She should have had the oppor-

tunity to go before the Senate and deal with the Senators in the same way as people like Robert Bork and some of the other intellectual midgets that were proposed for various positions during the Reagan-Bush era. The fact that Clinton chickened out and withdrew her nomination is a clear indication that one: The man has no guts. Two: He has little integrity. Three: As John Conyers has said, he definitely is not a "Liberal". Four: he can not be trusted.

Other instances, in addition, come to mind. Mr. Clinton, after proposing it, abandoned his economic stimulus package because it angered certain racists neo-facist Republican Senators. It was obviously not written

by Clinton but proposed by him, and would have been of some help in revitalizing the cities and giving people who are presently hopeless, the hope of jobs with justice. Secondly, his most recent Supreme Court nomination clearly indicates that he has totally caved in to the right wing reactionary forces of both the Democratic and Republican party, and in essence has proposed a non-entity for Supreme Court Justice. From all of this, it is clear that Mr. Clinton has little integrity and has even less memory. It is clear that this man does not understand that the people who put him in office, primarily African Americans, can also make sure that he doesn't repeat as President. This is not



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD
a Chicago Bulls basketball game. This is the presidency of a multi-racial, multi-cultural country in which the support of one group can make or break you.

It's about time the Democratic party and Mr. Clinton in particular, learn that lesson. At the same time, we can't be so naive as to let the rest of the Democratic party, get off the hook by merely bringing Clinton to task for his misdeeds. Indeed, the entire Democratic party must be made to understand that if they continue with their nefarious ways, it will be possible to target and replace those persons in the Senate who seem to be bent on destroying the cities, and keeping a three class system of economics present in this country.

As for us as Afro-Americans, we have to do two things. One: make sure that we have very long memories, especially when it comes time for elections. Two: Pay attention next time to Sister Souljah. La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

THE 'F' WORD

There are at least two distinctly separate schools of thought, if not more, in the Black community about swearing. The use of curse words sprinkled generously throughout one's speech is considered by some to be hip, even macho, and an expression of what being Black is all about. Yet many others consider cursing a direct result of being undisciplined, uncaring and just plain lazy with regard to how one chooses to be verbally expressive.

No matter how you view the practice, the pervasive use of expletives, or cursing, is, by and large, common among a growing number of African-Americans.

Fact. The use of swear words together with general English, does not lend any specific clarity to the meaning of what is being spoken.

Fact. Swearing in everyday conversation can negatively distort what you're trying to say, especially if the listener doesn't understand that this form of cursing is not meant to be taken personally.

Fact. The liberal use of swear words in general conversation is often taken as a validation of the reason why African-Americans are not fully civilized enough to be accepted into the American mainstream. In essence, foul talk is perceived as a factor in the moral collapse in the Black community.

Fact. Cursing is an art. To curse effectively, you have to master cadence, pace, emotion and expression in addition to saying the words.

Fact. Most white people who try can't curse convincingly or effectively. We all are familiar with the stereotypic example of a white person putting together a string of verbal epithets, only to have it sound feeble and weak. They can use the same swear words as a Black person, but for some reason it just doesn't have the same feel.

Fact. When white people curse, they usually do so in private, except for the occasional use of words like "hell" or "damn". Some Blacks, however curse extensively and don't seem to care whether they are behind closed doors or in public.

On the other hand, cursing can have a positive, psychologically stabilizing effect on Blacks. Frustrated by a system that is always trying to deny them access, swearing is a way for many Blacks to vent their negative feelings and save their sanity. Cursing is a way of thumbing your nose at the establishment and asserting your independence.

In the long run, as long as cursing continues to be widespread and accepted by so many Blacks, the result will mean a deepening of the vast gap between Blacks and Whites.

To curse or not to curse may not seem to be that big of a deal to some African-Americans. Those who curse, may believe it's the hip thing to do. Just look at the latest spate of Black movies such as "Menace II Society", "New Jack City" and the like. If you're not desensitized to cursing, don't go to see any of these pictures.

Fact. If every person in America learned to speak the King's English, without cursing, there would be little need to use swear words in general conversation.

Fact. Where cursing is concerned, knowledge replaces the lack thereof. To know is to grow. Until next week.

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By R. K. Brown

As the year continues to get older, we realize that some things never change. As has been echoed way before my time, blacks have to make it happen for themselves! Great African American scholars since the turn of the century, have stressed

the importance of self help.

I feel that like at no other time in the history of black America, we have to embrace this position. For the first time in 12 years, we have liberal thinkers in America's "White House!" Now, I know many of you are saying that Bill Clinton hasn't done much

for black America. In fact we have only seen him achieve some minor accomplishments.

A few important black appointments. A few pushes for the enforcement of equal protection and access. A few moves for black ownership and busi- (See Westside Story, Page 21)

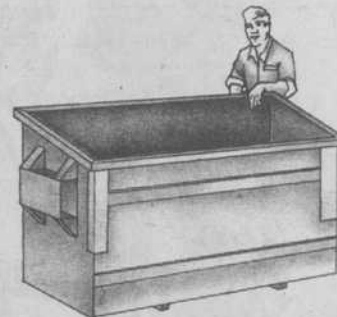
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