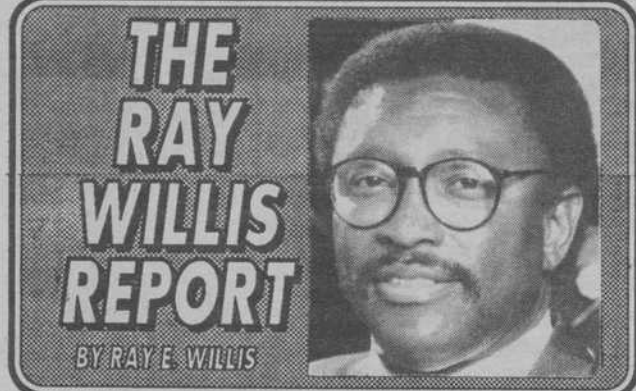


NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

AFFIRMATIVE WHAT?



THINK POSITIVE

Harnessing the power of positive thought is simultaneously a new cutting-edge principle and a throwback to those memorable days of yesteryear—which can be of especial help to Black people.

As a youth growing up in a small urban town in Arkansas, my peers and I were reared in an all-Black environment, having little contact with Whites. I can recall on numerous occasions when, if I doubted my own ability to accomplish a task, a grown-up would encourage me in subtle and overt ways to keep my nose to the grindstone.

"Come on now Ray. You know you can do it. Now go back and try harder this time" were the familiar words I heard with frequent regularity from older people.

It happened so often, that I grew to expect, but always, under any circumstance to appreciate, those who offered me encouragement and soothing words of counsel and advice.

As I progressed through

school, those who I depended on most outside of my immediate family often were teachers. Teachers in an all-Black school, whose main agenda was to see to it that we succeeded.

So what if many of us were bussed long distances past all-White schools to attend my alma mater, Lincoln High School? It mattered not. Where else but at Lincoln High School would I have had the potential to develop positive self-esteem and confidence in myself as a matter of fact. Why? Because it was expected of me. Hardly a day passed without it being drilled into my head that I was a very special person and I could do anything I put my mind to if I would just apply myself.

There are several lessons from those days that stayed with me as I'm sure they stuck with you. But today, the equation is just not the same. As a result, many Black kids grow up aimlessly, without structure or seeming purpose to their lives. And

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

I had occasion this past weekend to attend a social function given in honor of a local physician. One of the few social events that I find myself able to attend. However, what makes this one particularly interesting was not the function itself, but a conversation that I became engaged in with a brother who decided for some reason that he just had to challenge my position on affirmative action or more appropriately in this country affirmative inaction. It seems that this brother had read a couple of books by authors (I must apologize, but I can not recall their names) who felt and he agreed... that we should stop talking about racism, since racism has "always" been there and everybody knows that, we should stop mentioning it, and just work as hard as possible. This is a brother who has never read some of the writings of Booker T. Washington and others more than 100 years ago, who also had that "Pull yourself up by the boot straps" kind of mentality, which has since many times over has discredited.

What is of importance here is the fact that if one is in a race of two people and one person is running with a lead anvil tied to both feet, and the other is totally unfetter, and then 9/10's of the

way through the race, the person is released from the two anvils and told... "Okay, now everything is equal, catch up to the guy almost at the finish line." This would seem patently unfair to even the least intellectually functioning among us. The lesson seemed to be lost on this brother.

So let us clear up what affirmative action really is in this country. When on a rare occasion it is invoked and used, affirmative action really states that in the past you have systematically and deliberately discriminated against either other ethnic groups or gender groups, and as a result of that historic and proven discrimination, you are now required to take remedial steps to make the playing field even. Yes, some times that means quotas, for example: when a class action is filed against the University against Africans for admission to their medical school. They should be required to meet a certain quota of African students being admit-

ted to their medical school classes. Yes, "quotas". My suggestion is that they should have to have the same number of African students in their medical school as they have Africans playing on their athletic teams. They then have a choice of decreasing the number of Africans on their athletic teams and go back to their previous mediocrity or increasing the number of Africans studying in their medical school. It is a simple choice and if needed, as the dean has stated... They can't find qualified African students to study medicine at their medical school... then we should fire the dean and hire the athletic coach, because the athletic coach has no problem finding qualified students to play football, basketball, baseball, etc. In addition, that school in particular should be made to pay a very heavy price because it is not only publicly supported, but this is the same school that at their most recent medical school class refused admission to 2 students



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

who were accepted at 5 other medical schools. Clearly the University of Nevada Reno has perhaps the lowest reputation and the worst reputation of any of the medical schools in this country. They certainly have a lesser reputation than schools such as Howard and University of California. That is what affirmative action is supposed to do; to remedy the wrong of the past.

It is time that we stopped apologizing for the criminal and indeed make the criminal pay the price. No one would argue that if one commits a bank robbery that the robber should be caught and punished. There is

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NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY FROM DAWN TO DUSK

By R.K. Brown

Anyone who has seen the progression of job opportunities in Southern Nevada, would have to be glad about the positive signs. The MGM, and Luxor, along with many other outstanding hotels, have extended their job programs to the westside community.

The recent job fairs and seminars have shown a new direction and concentration in this long-neglected area. There are many reasons for this result. The new liberal government has made the targeting of these job programs much more lucrative, and practical.

But, the overwhelming reason for this new concentration in minority concerns, is quite obviously the civil unrest which happened after the Rodney King verdict. Since that time, whites, conservative and liberal, have made unprecedented efforts to curb the job discrimination and racist hiring practices of the local valley and the whole nation.

The only problem is, here, just like in the rest of the nation, they might give you access to the entry level positions but the upper level management and board of directors is still, and will always be, reserved for white males only.

From the beginning of this nation, until this very day, it has been the norm. I applaud the efforts of local hotels, giving minorities the first real large scale access to all kinds of entry level appointments on a grand scale. But, of all the

major (or minor for that matter) hotels in the valley, not one is owned, managed or operated by a brotha.

From dawn to dusk, brothas work their hearts out to make someone else rich. From the beginning of colonial slavery, to the end of Reaganomics, whites have worked diligently to insure we keep a sharecroppers mentality.

It is a shame, that we had to burn this mutha down, just to get equal representation in the work place. All the while, they, as well as we, know that no matter how much looting and rioting we do, they will never voluntarily relinquish board room and manager's positions.

Some brotha might say, "well that R.K. is smoked out because I am manager in a white company and I live in the Lakes! But working for someone else, no matter how prestigious, only insures the stability of that working generation.

Your sons and daughters have to go to college or wherever and start from scratch. Mr. Walmart, Mr. McDonald's, Mr. IBM and the like, know that if you own your own empire, then you can give that business to your children, or hire your friends children and relatives.

So, once again I am glad the previously biased organizations are now giving more access to create jobs and wealth in the black community, we are going to have to do it for ourselves.

Peace...

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Jim Marsh with Daughter Stacy

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