

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS PICK WRONG SIDE IN WAR ON CRIME

Black Activists say leaders are defending "low-lives of the black community" while ignoring victims

In the wake of several highly publicized criminal cases involving black defendants, black activists are criticizing civil rights leaders for defending black criminals while ignoring crime victims of all races.

"They're defending the low-

lives of the black community," says Bob Bradshaw, an activist in Atlanta. "What about the fact that innocent people are being raped, assaulted, and killed? Where's the condemnation of the criminals?"

In one recent case, British tourist Gary Colley was killed in the early morning of September 14th as he and his companion, Margaret Jagger, relaxed at a

rest stop on Interstate 10 east of Tallahassee. The assailants were described by Jagger, who was wounded in the assault, as two young black men. As Jefferson County police began their investigation, various civil rights leaders quickly labeled the investigation as racist, and criticized police for questioning nine black youths with criminal records. "The police were told that

the killer was a young black man. What are they suppose to do, waste time and resources questioning a bunch of white kids just to be politically correct?" asks Bradshaw.

Deroy Murdock, a black political commentator who addressed the issue in a recent column in The Chicago Tribune, sees a disturbing pattern. "Every time some black thug gets

arrested, the Jesse Jacksons and Ben Chavis march right out and scream racism," he says.

Murdock is particularly concerned about the relative lack of attention given to the victims of crime, a disproportionate share of whom are black. "Where are the so-called leaders when a black woman is raped, or a black man is killed? What about their rights?" he asks, adding that "the silence of the so-called black leaders on black crime almost looks like consent."

Civil rights leaders have publicly defended black convicted criminals such as Damian Williams and Henry Watson, the

defendants charged with beating truck driver Reginald Denny during the Los Angeles riots.

"They're opportunists," says Bradshaw of the civil rights leadership. "They're the first people in front of the television to cry about racism, but when it comes to blacks being killed by other blacks, they won't even march to the telephone."

Bob Bradshaw and Deroy Murdock are leading participants in The National Center for Public Policy Research's Project 21, a non-profit initiative to promote new leaders and new solutions to the problems facing American communities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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rest of society; realized that police officers are the heroes of our society, and should not be blamed for a high crime rate in the Black community.

Tate also proposes to settle his differences with Lt. Fruge of Metro by "settling that in the parking lot." What an immature, simplistic approach to a complex problem. With leadership like that, it's no wonder the Black community is having trouble unifying.

Also, why has the Black community completely lost their sense of humor? Thank God for Blacks like Whoopi Goldberg, who aren't afraid to make fun of themselves. We are all subject for mockery on this earth, and

when one group considers themselves above mockery - like the Black community has - then they are to be considered racist. Hmmm, and I thought that's what Blacks have been trying to fight all along!

Well, keep up the good work, Mr. Brown - but try not to advocate such a paranoid sensitivity for the Black community. Toughen up! It's a hard world for

everyone, and in today's society accusations of racism are usually little more than desperate excuses and finger-pointing for a group of people unwilling to take responsibility for their own lives.

Thank you for hearing my views.

Sincerely,
M.S. Mattquist

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WAAK-UP

(Continued from Page 1)

jectives. Lewis and Jackson reminisced of the endless school board meetings attended, the countless doors slammed in their faces, and listening to long tirades from bureaucrats who

sought to end their effort. They credited the steadfast community members who joined and worked in unison.

Jackson remembers tense negotiations with the district. At one point the organization sought

TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES FRANK HAWKINS

Given the fact that Hawkins now runs City Hall, I doubt the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice will print this letter, but it should for the sake of his political future. As things stand today, I don't think you could find one non-Black person in Las Vegas who doesn't (See Letters to Editor, Pg 24)

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

You'll forgive me if I don't shed a tear for the family in Pennsylvania who lost a son recently. You may recall the media reports of teens imitating a scene out of the movie The Program in which the characters lie in the middle of a busy road. Well apparently some youngsters felt that this particular scene was worthy of emulation. As a result one was run over by a truck and killed while another suffered serious injuries.

I am moved by this but only in the sense that I feel inspired to comment on the view of reality that many Americans share, a reality shaped, in part, by the destructive tool known as broadcast media.

By now you should all be aware that the media's primary role is to entertain. I'm referring to the television and movie industries in particular. Sure, they attempt to educate you every now and then but this is secondary to keeping you passive and ignorant. Somehow, somewhere Americans have lost a grip on reality, that is, assuming they had a grip in the first place.

The greatest impact is experienced by children who manifest their media generated reality in a variety of ways. I am reminded of the recent news story in which a child burned down his home by imitating a scene from a cartoon. In this incident a youngster was also killed. This is not the first time that such reports have been filed and it certainly won't be the last.

Right now there's a furor going on in Congress about violence in television. Everybody from the Attorney General on down is speaking out about the media's role in either inspiring or perpetuating violence. Well, what about it's role in inspiring stupidity, like lying in the middle of a busy road or what about perpetuating ignorance by portraying people of color in a negative light.

One rock when thrown into the ocean causes a ripple, many rocks cause a wave. When enough people get fed up with the violence in the media and get tired of being "entertained" 24/7, when adults decide to inform children that TV and movies are seldom based on reality; you can't fly like Superman, you can't jump from a 10 story building and not break badly apart, you can't lay in the middle of the road and not expect to be treated as a speed bump, then perhaps we won't have to be forced with these media generated tragedies that are oh so common. Until next week, this has been the Minister of information.

RAY WILLIS REPORT

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"African-Americans are the scapegoats of this racist society" is a perspective that is gaining a lot of attention in Black circles these days. Black thinkers like Derrick Bell, author of "Faces at the Bottom of the Well," believe that Black Americans have been the racial targets in our society all along. As a result, we have been there for other groups and races to look down on as being inferior. This has helped shape everyone else's self-image by making them feel they could elevate themselves because they weren't as bad off as "those Negroes!"

It's been over 30 years since the Civil Rights Movement produced some minor victories in race relations. But like a chameleon, the specter of a society where race matters not is still as distant as ever. Today there's more sophistication in how we view race — but it still matters. How many times has a white person commented to you in so many words that you are a credit to your race?

The bottom line is that race will continue to matter until those with the power to do so declare that it no longer counts. Race matters. Realistically, it matters now and in the foreseeable future.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

the help of a mediator from the United States Justice Department which the district refused. "We felt the Justice Department has enough experience with these types of matters," said Jackson, "We really felt uncomfortable with the fact that the school district did not want to accept the Justice Department as a mediator." The school board did, however, accept Rev. Chester Richardson as a mediator, who in turn orchestrated dialogue.

Assemblyman Wendell Williams, who was one of the few local politicians to support the early effort, was also recognized as a key element in their success. NAACP President, Rev. Jesse Scott, who worked tirelessly towards overcoming obstacles, was an emphatic proponent. "Few would come out and support us because we were perceived as so radical" said Jackson. Lewis said the catalyst for action by the school district was economics. She noted the 1992 boycott, which kept African American students out of (See WAAK-UP, Page 11)

THE WESTSIDE STORY

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entitlements. What a joke! Believe me, whites love the fact that they can control black progress through hand outs.

Really, what is a job working for a white man on the westside, who pays you minimum wages to take black people's money, enabling him to spend it on improvements in his white suburb!

Politicians have said that blacks don't have their own solutions, but I have a few. Why not give brothas access to start up manufacturing businesses. West Las Vegas shop owners could get contracts to Strip and downtown hotels for let's say; ashtrays, playing cards, chips, tables, beds, etc., then all of the Westside would be employed on jobs for life.

You would generate black business giants,

and black corporations and factories on the westside, for products that the City of Las Vegas can't live without! There you have it. Self help. Black empowerment. Blacks off all the welfare and public assistance. What more could we or any politician ask for?

Well, it is a nice dream, but too many people are making too much money the old way. Plus, they don't have that kind of money to invest in the community. Times are hard. Ohh... I forgot about the new pyramid, and the pirate ship, and the new lion's roar. I mean no time to invest in the BLACK community!

So as is always the case, they may promise you a rose garden before your vote, or demonstration, or riot, but after, things never change. And...they want to "get along!" peace



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