

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

"WHAT IS IN A TITLE"

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

I am sure that many people have by this time seen the article done by the Review Journal on October 25, 1993, which documents the fact that yours truly and the Alliance has filed a lawsuit against the Nevada State Police, the Metropolitan Police Department, and various functionaries over the incident that took place both at the DMV and the aggravated assault performed by the Secretary of State's office. It was pointed out to me by one of the nursing personnel at the University Medical Center that no where in that article does it mention the fact that, 1. I am a physician, 2. I am a trauma surgeon or 3. I am Chief of Surgery at the University Medical Center. It seems that all of these somewhat interesting facts were overlooked by the Review Journal. Nevertheless one cannot expect the voice of right wing neo-fascist in Las Vegas to print facts, unless of course it is to their advantage. By now I am sure most people, at least in the African community, the enlightened European community and Hispanic community know yours truly and what I do for a living. It is interesting to

ponder why the Review Journal was unable to figure that out. Was it because there would be too much of a potential threat that a physician was involved in the cause of African liberation in Las Vegas? Was it because they feared that people might say... "Well, if he can do it as a doctor, certainly I too can get involved as a lay person? Or was it as a friend of mine, also a trauma surgeon, Doctor Willie Blair of Maryland, says... "It is because Europeans have a block when it comes to accepting that black folks, especially black males, can be physicians or pilots or any other professional other than basketball, football, and baseball players. "Yes, Martha there really is such a thing as a black doctor."

I still remember an encounter with a black woman when I first arrived here in Las Vegas. This young lady worked in a bank, which shall for the time remain nameless, and her contention was that there was no such thing as a black doctor and

certainly there were no black doctors in Las Vegas. There have been black physicians present in Las Vegas for at least 30 years. One of whom is particularly prominent at the present time, and that is Joseph Thornton, who is a colon rectal surgeon. Also, John Crear, who is a family practice specialist and Nathan Ozobia, who is a general surgeon. All of whom have been here in excess of 12 years. So, it does appear that perhaps Willie Blair is right and this mental block sometimes spills over into certain members of the African community, making them believe that being black and a physician are mutually exclusive conditions of life. Unfortunately, these are the same "brothers and sisters" who seem to be able to find African physicians, when it comes time to go begging for money. That is something that I have never quite understood. Perhaps, we as African physicians need to become more involved in the activities and the problems that plague our Afri-



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

can community both here and abroad. Perhaps, we as African physicians need to become more conscious of each other and to look out for each other and other health professionals. It is inexcusable that Doctor Thomas Gbenedio has the only African run pharmacy on the Westside and yet his store is not constantly full of people; that is unforgivable. We ought to be referring so many people up there that he would have to hire two or three extra pharmacists just to help with the business. Again it comes back to not understand-

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THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

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.

(See Ray Willis, Page 4)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

SUMMERSIDE

By R.K. Brown

Today, Las Vegas boasts some of the most recent tremendous growth in all the world. Development and profits have made our valley one of the prime areas in America. Yet, when you go to the Westside, you realize that all of advancement and prosperity hasn't reached home.

People are coming from all over the country to take part in the local success. Our county government got called one of the nation's best. City officials have loaned millions to private investors, hoping their generosity would create capital for all of our citizens.

Once again, at the height of all these positive influences, the Westside has been left in the cold: Where is the investment in black business risk takers? More times than I can mention, young brothas have suggested brilliant ideas for Westside business development. I concluded that these ideas contained sound business savvy, and great money making potential. In almost every instance, these plans

were brutally shot down by discriminating private investors, and banking institutions.

Where is Summerside? We can have plush suburban neighborhoods going up like wildfire, but we don't see any major effort for affordable housing in the minority communities. Where is the Westside Lakes or Brothas Trail on the Westside.

They put a sign on the Westside, and all the local TV stations and newspapers were on the scene, to cover the story. Are you kidding? That sign should have been up 10 years ago! Where is the multi purpose shopping mall, and business districts.

Black leaders and officials had to struggle to great ends just to get our elementary school built. But Las Vegas has the thirteenth largest school district in the U.S. There have been a record number of schools built in this valley. So once again, while the rest of the city can grow, prosper, and gain wealth; it is like pulling teeth just to get minority consideration locally.

Where does it all end? Well, I hate to come to this conclusion,

but the facts speak for themselves. Before 1960 blacks couldn't even go on the strip. So our economic development and prosperity is slim and none with that "good old boys" monopoly. Blacks have little chance of obtaining a strip hotel in the near future.

Local government seems to want to give any struggling business dreamer a chance, as long as it isn't a black developer. It is not o.k. to invest in a black project that might cost the taxpayer 10,000 dollars, but we can throw money away to a white one who loses millions of dollars in the first month in business?

Today, as always, the answers to these problems and all of the other ones can be found in black America itself. We have struggled and triumphed through every racist policy. We have achieved ultimate success in every area of American life. Now we must establish our own economic and political freedom. As Vegas has clearly shown... the Westside, and black America, are on their own! peace...

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