

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

THE PRICE OF RACISM

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

It is sometimes strange that life tends to imitate art or life tends to be much more interesting than say, for example, soap operas. In that in life, the plots and twists and turns of fate are often times, more than any writer could imagine. A recent case in point. In the month of November some historic and momentous changes took place at University Medical Center. These changes may, or may not be apparent to an outsider, but are readily apparent to those of us who practice there. Two years ago there was a departmental election held in the Department of Surgery. Two people opposed each other, one, a European, the other, an African. The European pulled out all the stops and although he was virtually hated by most people, he won the election for the same reason that Michael Dukakus won so many elections against Jesse Jackson. All he had to be was a European. The situation remained unchanged until approximately four months ago. At that point in time, while there has not been any real shift in the political forces, a momentous occurrence took place. In the midst of a negotiation for a contract for medical services, the hospital administration decided to back an outside group, that is a group not from the Vegas area. This put everyone up in arms. The hospital administrators, not being bright enough to understand their situation, proceeded with determination to contract with this outside group. Unfortunately for

them, they faced the then, united opposition of the people who would be using this service, the surgical staff. In spite of everything else, including racism, Europeans have the ability to see where their own individual best self-interest lies. As a result of this brutha, the Department Chairman was forced out. The replacement, who was Vice-Chief, was the African. Shortly after this replacement had occurred there was a meeting of several individuals, and at that meeting it was agreed that in order to keep peace in the family of surgeons, in the upcoming elections the African would remain the Chief of Surgery and the European who was under challenge would remain Chief of the Trauma service.

As this scenario unfolded, the brief unity showed in opposition to the hospital evaporated and there was a return to racism as usual. As a result, the partner of the European, who had agreed

to stay in trauma, then ran against the African for the Chief of Surgery, but this time the Africans had gotten all their ducks in a row and the African won and the Europeans lost. That was round one. In addition, since the Europeans had broken the agreement, the two African brothers got together and did some heavy politicking on their own and as a result the second African ran against a European for the Chief of the Trauma spot, and won "Big Time." As a result, when the smoke cleared, the



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

two top surgical positions at the University Medical Center both belonged to Africans, which (See NAARPR, Page 5)

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS

THE OLD SCHOOL

When I was a little boy I used to eavesdrop on what older boys were talking about. I can distinctly remember older boys referring to middle aged men as being from "the old school." At first I was baffled by that reference, old school. Just what did it mean? What ever it meant, it didn't seem complimentary.

At some point after I first heard the term, used, I learned that being from the old school meant that a person had crossed the generation gap and thus, to a young person, had become hopelessly out of touch.

Now, at age 40-something, I am precariously close to being branded by younger people as being from the old school.

Sometimes something as simple as prevailing use of language can magnify communications problems between younger and older people. And older people don't help the communications process when they selectively discriminate against younger people by failing to initiate discussion.

The bottom line, if you are an adolescent, it just isn't too cool to be from the old school. Despite the negative old school brand, older men hold a certain almost magical fascination. I especially recall when I used to hang around older guys while

they slammed "bones" (dominos) in the Arkansas summer-time, shielded from sweltering heat under a shade tree, bolstering their spirits and whetting their thirst with frosty cans of Fallstaff beer chilled to blizzard cold in a weathered igloo nestled closely alongside the paying table.

Even now I can almost hear their animated voices as they boldly "sell wolf tickets" to each other while scoring and blocking their opponents. These recollections remain vividly etched into my memory.

Despite the fact that I perceived these men as being from the old school, I respected them because of their knowledge and experience. They most definitely had the positive confidence and self assurance that I was yet to attain.

Oh yes. Those were the good old days, make no mistake about it. The good old days. When you could look at the weathered faces of older men and classify them as being from the old school. Back then I could say, "They're from the old school, but I'll never be." Now that I'm older and wiser, I see things a bit differently. Being from the old school isn't so bad after all.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY REFLECTIONS

By R.K. Brown

You know some times it's just funny how a race of people who have been the most oppressive and destructive in the history of the world would try to justify their racist legacy. Maybe some blown up studies?

Today's government officials say that the reason blacks are thrown into slave encampments (oops, I mean prison); is because black men consume liquor. That may have minimal merit but let's face it, blacks don't make liquor, drugs, food or anything else, to bring into their community.

First of all, whites broke EVERY LAW IN THE BOOK when they couldn't have alcohol! While a brotha might buy a

40 ounce for himself, I can go to any 7-11 and see white teens buying CASES, or PARTY BALLS or KEGS of BREW! What's the deal? Whites lusted for liquor so much they had to change the U.S. constitution because THEY had to have it!

Government officials say that blacks display card board liquor signs; what... 3 feet by 5 feet hanging in store windows? That has to cost what, at the most 100 dollars for advertising? Well all I have to do is turn on any radio, open any newspaper, or watch any sports presentation, and I'll easily show you where whites spend a billion dollars to advertise all the alcohol they can get on the air in 3 hours!

I see white construction

workers ordering cases of beer everyday at the A.M. P.M.'s Not a 40 ounce. I see films where white youths kill each other by the thousands each year because of drunk driving. If you don't believe me go watch a traffic school movie, and my case is made. The U.S. government's OFFICIAL position is that white youths in the suburbs by far consume more alcohol and drugs than do inner city youths. And then they stoop to false reflections.

I say all of this to say what? Yes, black men do have problems, and they may consume alcohol on occasion more than they should. But don't try to say what our problem is in the black (See Westside Story, Pg 26)

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