

## THE NAACP AND YOU



Rev. Jesse D. Scott  
President  
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## NAACP A LIVING LEGEND

Happy Birthday to the NAACP. She was born February 12, 1909 in New York City. The city that is so great that they named it twice, New York, New York.

The NAACP is an authentic civil rights organization whose purpose is agitation and it's goal is to advocate change.

First it's method of operations is to identify the racial problem and then methodically use the media, the ballot box, politics, economics, the legislature, the congress and the courts to forged meaningful change in the social order. As one soft drink commercial says relative to it's product as I say about the NAACP "it's the real thing."

The NAACP is national in operational scope and international in performance and respect. Through it's branch operations the prestige and influence located in such far away places as West Germany, Tokyo, Japan, South Korea, Alaska and Hawaii.

Doubtlessly, mother NAACP as registered more people to vote, elected more people to office, fed more hungry people, put more people through school (scholarships), bail more people out of jail, represented more people in the courts and have won more victories for the dispossessed in the courts than all the civil rights organizations in the world combined.

After eighty-five years in the civil rights struggle nationally,

## RALLY

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quirements, harassment, and arbitrary firing at the whims of management. Workers, according to Eric McMurray, are often times required to lift cans beyond the contractual 75 lbs., 33 gallon limit. McMurray, a five-year employee of Silver State, said when approached with grievances, management's reaction was usually a capacious threat of termination. A 15 minute mandatory show-up prior to the beginning of a shift was also required. Workers would not receive compensation for this initial period and would eventually give up 30 minutes to the company after breaks and relief time is calculated.

Other sources of frustration come from a lack of empathy from management. Bernard Williams, a 3-year employee of Silver State, called the oppressive environment a plantation. "It's nothing but a modern day plantation," said Williams. Of the 70 workers locked out, according to Williams, many have faced difficult financial times as they go into the month anniversary of the lock out. Unemployment benefits have been denied for all involved. The union refuses to sanction the lock out, denying the workers any benefits.

The workers are represented by the Teamsters Local 631, yet say the union fails to provided adequate representation, forcing them to appeal to the national office. An estimated \$ 20,000 dollars is contributed in monthly dues to the union from the Silver State facility alone. Earl Salter, Present of Local 631, was unavailable for

and sixty six years locally, the NAACP is preparing under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Benjamin Chavis, to obtain a higher plateau of NAACP leadership for the 21st century.

The NAACP is ideally different in structure in as much as it's roots are deeply planted in the philosophy of being interracial, intercultural, interreligious and now international in it's presence.

To eradicate the scourge of racism, discrimination and denial in America against Blacks and other minorities we need the good will, intellect, cooperation, support, technology and love of everyone. On Saturday, February 12, 1994 the NAACP nationally and locally celebrate it's 85th and 66th birthdays respectively in Baltimore and Las Vegas with a NAACP membership radiothon.

KCEP Radio will serve as the NAACP membership Radiothon flag ship station. Our goal is to sign up more than 5,000 member before the end of 1994. The membership locations are 330 W. Washington and the NAACP office at 1048 W. Owens Ave.

With a field of more than 100,000 Blacks to draw from, we certainly should be able to make our goal plus a large number above it.

You can serve as a volunteer at the NAACP office or at the KCEP building, 330 W. Washington. For further information (See Westside Story, Pg 22)

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# CULTURE, CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESISTANCE

By Thomas Cacho

A proper study of history will reveal that the greatest accomplishment of European colonizers was not the conquest of vast areas of territory, but the conquest of the minds of the people of color of the world, particularly Black people.

The systematic destruction of Afrikan, Asian and Amerindian cultures and societies by Europeans, which began with the second rise of Europe in the early fifteenth century, laid the groundwork for the mental enslavement of people of color. This process of mental colonization was to become a cornerstone of the global white supremacist power structure of today.

The decimation of Afrikan culture and societies was especially crucial and produced the amnesia, alienation and inferiority complex of the "negro" or "nigger," a white supremacist creation. Kenyan writer and political activist Ngugi wa Thiong'o, in his book, "Decolonizing the Mind," describes the effects of what he calls a "cultural bomb":

"The effect of a cultural bomb is to annihilate a people's belief in their names, in their languages, in their environment, in their heritage or struggle, in their unity, in their capacities and ultimately in themselves. It makes them see their past as one wasteland of nonachievement and it makes them want to distance themselves from the wasteland. It makes them want to identify with that which is furthest removed from themselves..."

Ngugi's statement clearly shows that the struggle for Afrikan liberation is actually a struggle for the minds of our people. A collective consciousness precedes true unity, which

preceded liberation and advancement. Furthermore, liberating our minds is not only knowing who we are (self-realization), but also knowing what we are not.

Time and history has shown that Afrikan and European cultures and worldviews are irreconcilable opposites. This is a historical and cultural reality and one which we must learn to accept if the race is to move forward. Those so-called liberals and "integrationists" who move among us proclaiming that "we're all the same" do our people a great disservice by reinforcing our delusory psychological states.

The late great Egyptologist, anthropologist and scientist, Cheikh Anta Diop (1923-1986) has described the contrasting characteristics of early Afrikan and European societies. Afrikan cultures were matriarchal (women were held in high esteem), land was collective property and communalism was a special virtue. Additionally, early Afrikans had no notion of original sin, and were a pacifist (peace-loving) people.

European cultures, on the other hand, were patriarchal (the women were suppressed and degraded). Land was private property and individualism a supreme virtue. The Europeans believed in the notion of original

### POLITICAL POINTS

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"I selves on the authority board." I guess it doesn't matter now, but the roaches and the tenants must now realize that you are really on your own now and it ain't about the roaches or the tenants, but another good ole boy and girl game. Don't miss the big picture - it's not a big can of Raid that's coming after you, but another okee-doke land and power grab. It's sad.

comment at the time of print.

The Federal Labor Relations Board has also been called in to provide arbitration. While they are encouraged by the entry of the labor board, both Williams and McMurray, speculate management will be unyielding to a fair compromise. The arbitration process, according to McMurray, will take two more months to complete. They say Silver State is known for their tactic of keeping employees out for extended periods without pay to merely lose the case in arbitration and deny all back wages. Each suspects this tactic will be attempted, yet the demand for change will be voiced.

Politically, both Williams and McMurray admit a difficult challenge in facing the powerful Isola family who have primary ownership of the company. The Isola family is well recognized for its political clout and securing and retaining the coveted multi million-dollar service contract through the Clark County. For years, according to Williams, the company has operated by coercion and intimidation and remained unchecked. "They don't want you to think....they don't care about the contract....they just want a certain amount of work done," said Williams, "if you don't do the work then they crack the whip on you." He said management corporate philosophy is that of retaliation.

When workers approached local politicians, few would provide active support. Mayor Jan Jones refused, according to McMurray, to

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sin which was held to be the fault of women (as illustrated in the "Adam and Eve" story of the Bible). Additionally, the love of war and conquest was a distinctive European characteristic.

The sexist and racist characteristics of early European societies are revealed in a statement by the ancient Greek scholar Aristotle (389-332 B.C.). In one of his lesser known works entitled "Physiognomy," Aristotle, who was forever trying to prove something, writes: "Those who are too black are cowards, like for instance, the Egyptians and Ethiopians. But those who are excessively white are also cowards as we can see from the example of women, the complexion of courage is between the two."

This is, of course, quite an arrogant statement, especially considering the fact that all the major Greek philosophers (Thales, Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle himself and others) either studied under the Afrikan priests of Ancient Egypt, or were taught by others who had travelled there to study in

the Afrikan Mystery Schools. One of these scholars, Strabo (58 B.C.-A.D. 25) in a work entitled "Geographie" tells us that Plato and Euxodus "stayed for thirteen years among the priests..." Pythagoras spent twenty-two years in Egypt and we are told by his own biographer, Jamblichus, that "Pythagoras acquired in Egypt the science for which he is generally considered to be a scholar."

The reclamation of our great Afrikan history, culture and heritage is moving ahead by leaps and bounds, thanks to the commitment of the many courageous and indefatigable Afrocentric scholars past and present, Black and white. Indeed, in the words of Cheikh Anta Diop, "Only a real knowledge of the past can keep in one's consciousness the feeling of historical continuity essential to the consolidation of a multinational state." Onwards the Afrikan Revolution!

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## NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Once again Black history Month is upon us and as in previous years it is during the month of February that Africans in America are afforded an opportunity to celebrate their blackness. Yippiel! It is my belief that Black history Month should be done away with. This may offend some of you Africans and quite frankly this is my intent.

For eleven months out of the year, or more precisely, for 337 days out of the year, African hibernate, then all of my sudden we awaken to hurriedly try to cram as much African history and culture as possible into the 28 days that have been "graciously" given to us. What a damn joke! Sure, we need to celebrate ourselves but we do not need someone else's approval to do so.

It is my contention that you can not do justice to all the achievements, accomplishments and contributions of Africans in American in 28 days. Our struggle, history and impact in this country is far too profound and extensive to be confined to one month. With 365 days in the year and an understanding of the trial and tribulations that Africans in America and throughout the diaspora have endured, why do we limit or allow the expression of our greatness to be limited to one month?

Currently there is a calendar out: A Journey into 365 Days of Black History, that gives a simple breakdown of something significant in African history for every day of the year. As it is basic, it would be on the consumer of this calendar to read more about the people and events highlighted.

Let me share a little history with you. In January 1964 my father joined the police force in Belize, Central America. By 1970 he had made the rank of seargent.

What's so special about that you ask? My father was the first man in the history of his homeland to be promoted so quickly in the police force. At that time it took an officer ten to fifteen years before he would even be promoted to rank of corporal, the rank below that of sergeant. This may be trivial to you but my father served as a motivation to those who followed him. He is history in the flesh as is most of our elders.

But unfortunately, like an old tuxedo that is taken out of storage only for special occasions, when this is over all the pride and self esteem that is brought to bear will be tucked away and returned to storage until we get the OK to bring it out again. Everyday is worthy of celebrating African history. It is a continuous vigil to pay homage not only to the ancestors but to our elders and those among us presently striving to better the conditions of Africans. In closing the week I ask you to celebrate your Blackness 24/7.

Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.