

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

ELECTION? 1994

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

This week's installment is written on the eve of the election 1994. Having been in Las Vegas for 7 years I have been treated to multiple, questionable, political theatrics, but never anything as bizarre as what has been going on for this election. Indeed in this one none of these candidates should predominate in the winner's circle for many of the various contested offices.

Within the greater Las Vegas community we have a sheriff's race, which is comical with one

candidate a proven crook and the other seemingly only too happy to adopt the same tactics as his rival. For example, Mr. Keller's campaign ad promising to put SWAT team members together with the so-called "Gang Unit Members". This is a total breakdown of intellectual thought. It has never been clear to me what effect putting marksmen out on the street on a routine basis will have on preventing crime. When Mr. Keller and Mr. Lamb refer to "Gangs" (in reality streets organizations) they are not

referring to white street organizations, but to black and Latino street organizations.

Let us be clear that there has never been any reluctance on the part of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department members to target and terminate black and Latino youths, both males and females. In reality this so-called suggestion or idea of Mr. Keller will do nothing more than increase the number of "trophies" taken by metro. It will not have any effect on the overall cause of street organization in the community nor is it really intended to. This like so much of the campaign was pandering to overt racism and Mr. Keller should know better.

The ads by Hal Furman were

stupid. No, let me rephrase that, they were stupid and racist. Willie Horton was used by the Republican Party in 1988 and it worked for Bush. They could not use it in 1992 because people had heard it before, and no one was going to buy it. It must be clear that Furman is a non-entity, a brain-dead racist dinosaur, who does not deserve to act as dog catcher in Tonopah. As for his opponent Mr. Bryan, let's be perfectly frank Richard Bryan is no prize either. He is a man who authored some of the most repressive anti-people, anti-African, anti-Latino youth language that the crime bill has in it. He is misguided to think that he did a good job. Sorry Dick, you flunk.

As for the African politicians, once you get passed Wendell Williams the rest tend to pale rapidly in comparison. We have people who are insulted when queried by their constituents as to what their position is vis a vis the school bond. Well senator, wait two years from now and you may be even more angry. We have people, who take one position in public and recant that position in private. We have folks who seem to get upset when this new so called movement "Unity in the Community" uses a public office space. (I don't know what that is all about, since Unity in the Community is a part of the public).

Yes, we have many strange political fish within the African



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community and we need to begin to look at the performance of not only European politicians, but the performance of the African politicians also. They need to be evaluated as to their honesty, integrity, commitment to the community and willingness to step out front. To listen to their constituents, and move accordingly. If they are found lacking in any of these areas, there must be development of individuals within the African community that are willing to step forward and take the positions that these people now hold. I do (See NAARPR Report, Pg 23)

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

BY RAY E. WILLIS

BLACK BLAME

It had all of the ingredients of a classic tragedy. A young mother in Union, South Carolina, estranged from her husband pending divorce, is despondent after her boyfriend breaks off their relationship.

She becomes emotionally overwhelmed. In a state of mental confusion she drowns her two small children by steering her car off a boat ramp into the murky waters of a lake.

When the realization of what she has done hits home, she panics. Now, it's alibi time. Who can she shift the blame to for committing this awful crime? No rocket scientist is needed to figure out this one. By now you know who the intended scapegoat is.

He is the person many say is at the lowest of the social ladder. He is a Black man.

A phantom Black man is who Smith said kidnapped her kids after putting her out of the vehicle at gun point and speeding away. It would take nine days and the glare of the national media before she would finally confess to the murders. In the meantime, posters with a drawing of the "suspect" were circulated throughout the country.

From the beginning, the sinister-looking Black kidnapper never existed. It was a figment of her imagination and the imagination of millions of Americans who perceive Black men as criminals, every bit as capable of doing what Smith alleged.

A couple of years ago, there was another celebrated case in Boston involving a man who claimed his pregnant wife was killed by a Black man who attacked them. They even arrested a suspect. Much later, the husband was exposed as the killer and the Black man was freed.

The day after Smith's confession, the Justice Department issued a 220-page manual detailing procedures to be used when children are reported missing. Among them, that the person reporting the incident must submit to an immediate lie detector test. Further, the manual advises authorities not to assume anything.

Ironically, the day after the Smith children were missing, police suspected Smith was not telling the truth. But they did not act on those suspicions.

That means they spent at least seven days looking for a Black suspect they knew probably didn't exist.

This latest ordeal is finally over. The children, rest their souls, have been buried. Smith herself remains behind bars and will eventually be brought to trial. But where is the justice for Black men?

For the Black male victims in this saga, and I'm talking about Black men everywhere, there were no flowers, no tears and certainly no apologies offered. Yet, we suffer by mere implication.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

IT'S TRUE

By R.K. Brown

Time and again we hear scholars on these editorial pages, along with writers across this country, state how we must move for total self help to deal with the problems of historical American racism.

Although there is nothing I can add to the commentary of our valley's local standouts, I should say that obviously this is our only real solution.

Today in America there are two types of standards for all things, and each of these is judged in black and white. Every other color falls somewhere between these two.

In the 90's, after desegregation, we still have two types of school funding and community redevelopment for our every public tax dollar. This is why our suburban local communities continue to outgrow the west side. But you don't see it on your paycheck. Then they are only too happy to take your money up front before you get it. And for what?

After taking money out of our wallets where does the money go? There are only two type of crime. White collar and black collar. With white collar you steal billions of dollars and usually get away with it. If you are caught you serve 6 months to a year, in federal dorms oops.. I mean pens, getting out to keep all your money. Then you get paid to lecture about how you did it.

In the process you leave millions of average Americans your mess, which we will pay

taxes to cover. Then we have the black crime in which I roba 7-11 for \$50.00 to stay alive during the winter. I go in front of the judge and they throw away the key. I leave the courtroom shackled from head to toe.

Crime is crime and shouldn't be condoned but where is the just-us!? All housing was equal

after civil rights, but now they just move to the suburb. It's this versus the ghetto. They make their country and other clubs private, while your player's clubs are the public property of the police and FBI.

It's true that this has always been the case. Yes all of the great black minds of the local valley

along with the brothas around the country are on the ball, when they say self help is our only out. They will always try to sabotage our ranks, but as long as we keep our heads to the sky, no one or no thing can stop the progression of the ever powerful black spirit!
peace...

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