



# BLACK GOLD

It's over. Yes, folks, Black History Month 1995 is gone, passé, finis — a thing of the past.

Personally, I couldn't bear to see Black History Month end without offering a few after-the-fact observations. For the first time in many years, I received only two speaking invitations during Black History Month. Heretofore, my friend Dr. Paul Meachum and I decried the fact that we seemed to only be in demand to speak during February.

The absence of being in great demand this year gives pause to consider that it might not be all that bad. Being in less demand as a speaker specifically during February, could be taken to mean that we as an African people, are finally about to get our just due — recognition throughout the year, instead of just a heavy concentration of Afrocentrism during Black History Month.

Make no mistake. No one can tell our story, past, present and future, better than we can ourselves. So why do we get angry when someone seems to disrespect us by ignoring our past or de-emphasizing our place in history? We need to be proactive.

The Jews are an outstanding example of how to market a significant message for full effect. I was not upset that the Holocaust seemed to get so much attention during Black History Month. It did not represent to me, as some Blacks seem to think, that our time was being stolen away from us. What is represented to me was the skillful use of the news media. Where I come from, they call that good marketing. In this case, the Jews took the atrocity called the Holocaust, and positioned it with the media for

maximum impact.

And that, my friends, is exactly what we should be doing. Instead of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, we should be about the business of letting people know specifically what we endured to get this far. Every angle, every nuance, every detail should be ferreted out to highlight our trials and tribulations before, during and after slavery.

To do the best job, we have to make our story as compelling as possible. Photography obviously hadn't been invented when our ancestors first made the treacherous journey over the Middle Passage to America from Africa.

No photographs exist to virtually depict Africans in captivity being tossed overboard to satiate the waiting schools of sharks lurking in the wake behind slave ships as they sailed across the Atlantic.

No present-day paper scratch and sniff strip could approximate the awful wretched stench of the slaves shackled together alternately head to feet, stacked tightly together like sardines in the bowels of the ships, left there for days without food or drink to wallow in their own excrement.

In the absence of actual pictures or moving images, its left up to our active imaginations to conjure up the pitiful wails which emanated from the mouths of slaves huddled in fear within the deep, dark recesses of the bottom of the ships.

But, you know, historically, we've had to survive by overcoming extreme obstacles. Go to the library. There you will find plenty of books available about the slave trade era. In fact, several written accounts of life and death aboard slave ships (See Ray Willis Report, Pg 4)

# NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION DIVIDE AND CONQUER

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

Recently, there has been a very disturbing trend coming from the Clark County School Board; admittedly most of the trends coming from that august group have been disturbing, but this one is particularly onerous. The plot involves using the Latino population as pawns in the fight to control the African American population here in Las Vegas. There is a member of the Clark County School Board recently elected, who is, or at least claims to be a Latino. We should pause here to make clear the difference

between the term Latino and the term Hispanic, which has been discussed here before. As we understand it, the term Latino recognizes the fact that an individual's culture is comprised of not only European, but African and Native American perspectives. The term Hispanic merely pays homage to the European perspective, which is Spain. Anyway, the newly elected individual has shamelessly used the position to format a division between the African and Latino communities in Las Vegas.

One can only speculate as to

his motives. Maybe he plans to run for some higher office and is using this position as a stepping stone. However, the deed and the manner in which he is carrying it out should be roundly condemned. It is a fair time in this country when there is a necessity for the closing of the ranks of oppressed people of which Latinos certainly are. No individual should be allowed to benefit from driving a wedge between any two oppressed groups. This is a time for unity and organizations such as Unity in the Community have been recognized for pulling groups



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

together. In the marches held by Unity in the Community, there has been a strong and very vocal Latino presence showing that that community recognizes the need for unity also.

This activity on the part of this Clark County School Board member must be roundly condemned, and at the same time it is recognized that the African representation on the Clark County School board is almost non-existent. What is needed from both communities, African and Latino, are strong, dynamic individuals who put the education and the welfare of the youth before their own personal, petty desires. Any short term gains that may be obtained from this divisive behavior will, in the long run, backfire because there can be no true progress without the other. On the part of the African community, it is time for us to call a spade a spade. We call upon our Latino brothers to demand an end to any kind of behavior that is not in the best interest of both communities. I have no doubt that this will be done. If the leadership in the communities can not understand, then the people will have to explain it to them in a way that even they will understand. La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues

## NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

# 2,000

By R.K. Brown

Well, it seems that in just 5 years, we, in America, will have reached a landmark space in time. Not only is it uncommon to be living during a century rollover, it is even more remarkable to be alive during the birth of a new millennium.

As black Americans, we should look back at what these last several years have meant for the children of 2000. While America moved for inclusion and equality during the '70s, from 1980 until today, life has become an absolute disaster.

With conservative propaganda, African America became the even more visible "black sheep" of this nation's flock. Unemployment has reached its highest level since the '40s. Blacks, as always, dominate the poverty of the ghetto and the inner city.

Crime, no stranger to the black community, is patrolled at high levels...not more crime than white communities, but more cops to catch more crime! Thus, more convictions and more black bodies in prison.

With that, drugs from other countries are imported into the black community and the law doesn't enforce its illegal contraband status...that is until it safely reaches the hands of a

lowly black street pusher. With the smallest amounts and the least control in America's drug hierarchy, the brotha gets the book thrown at him every time, while the white kingpin finds another to take his place.

Let's be real, the race question today is in as bad a shape as it was in 1960. All the media say, "race is the reason for the unrest in L.A. Race is the only reason O.J. could get off" (not the evidence?). Race is a key trump card in the national sexual harassment and abuse trials. (At least a brotha is always involved in high profile cases!).

Anyway, while all that is going on in '95, now the right wing wants to go back to the life and politics of the 1950s. I don't know who they think brothas are, but you can't stop the advancement of the black power and spirit!

By 2000, affirmative action, welfare, early education and medical services will be gone in black America. Today, politicians say black youth are bad because they are gangsters and drug dealers. Our women are bad because they have babies. America doesn't want abortions or black babies, and if we have them, the government will ship them to camps!

Black men are bad because

they don't fit in. They are criminals, and the educated ones are trouble makers because they challenge Fortune 500 companies for promotions, and uncover racial discrimination.

Our clergy (from the temples of the Nation, to the storefronts of Christianity) are corrupt and create division in America. Blacks have no morality. Only the white right does?

Finally, if all of our groups are a blackness upon America's whiteness, it would seem that our leaders are at least good enough. But as we reach 2000, where will the answers come from? Jesse, Farrakhan, Waters, and Brown aren't good enough. For whites, who ever will be?

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