

THE NAACP AND YOU



Rev. James Rogers
President
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Stepping Up - Moving Forward

The July 4, 1995 Independence celebration has come and gone; Foster has lost his bid for confirmation, Stupak says that his near death experience has changed his life; Clarence Thomas has shown us that he is UNCLE THOMAS by voting with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Conner, Antonia Scalia to roll back decades of hard fought and earned human, civil and social rights; UNCLE THOMAS must have forgotten that it was the same laws that he and his colleagues voted out, permits him to sit as a Chief Justice.

As we observe the trend, frequently black males and females have forgotten from whence they have come. They may not have personally been affected by the prejudice and racism that exist, but, before this 104th Congress is completed everyone will know where each person stands.

Some black folk have a problem with self identity. Things are not that good with most African Americans. We have not reached equality with whites in America, and never will, from some of their perspectives. I must say in all fairness that all whites do not fall into this category. There are many whites who are trying to make a difference. Many white women are marrying African-American males and having families together. Likewise, many white males are marrying black

females and raising families. There is, however, no excuse for Clarence Thomas (UNCLE THOMAS).

With that in mind, I must pause in this article and give tribute to a long time civil rights fighter who lost the battle to cancer and was funeralized on Monday, July 3, 1995 at Palm Valley View Memorial Park. Mr. Marvin J. Patterson served as president of the Henderson Branch of the NAACP, which is now dissolved. Mr. Patterson served as branch president and his wife served as secretary in the 1950s. President Patterson was sincerely interested in bettering his people and his own condition. He was a hard working, churchgoing man. Patterson was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., August 6, 1925. He was a jet aircraft mechanic in the Air Force and served in both World War II and the Korean War. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and Wesley United Church. We are to pray for Mrs. Jewel (wife), Marvin Anthony (son), and brother Elmer D. Patterson of Stone Mountain, Georgia. Thanks to you Mr. Patterson for your years of service to the Henderson Branch NAACP.

We must continue to fight for Right and Righteousness. We must become more focused in our efforts. There are millions of dollars flowing into Las Vegas

and Clark County. We must organize ourselves and go for some of these large contracts. At McCarran International Airport alone, it will generate more than \$480 million in construction improvements and are under way or on the drawing board. These are scheduled to be completed by 1998:

\*A \$176 million fourth concourse will be finished in 1998 to provide 60 new gates.

\*An \$81.3 million north-south runway upgrade will be completed in mid-1997, and a \$25 million east-west runway extension will be finished next year.

\*A \$77 million nine-story parking garage will open late next year, with 6,000 parking spaces.

\*A \$72.2 million people mover scheduled for completion in spring 1998 will take passengers to the new concourse.

\*A \$15.5 million baggage claim expansion with four new baggage carousels is to be completed in 1997.

\*A \$4 million overflow parking lot, located at Russell Road and Maryland Parkway, will be completed this fall.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. What about the hotel industry and its constructions? The housing boom? The water plant construction?, etc. We are losing the battle for the big money, arguing over a few weed and seed dollars. When will we wake-up?

As you have heard set-aside programs are being scrapped. No more portions given to certain ethnic groups. If ever we needed the NAACP, the time is now! If we would get past small personal likes and dislikes, we will make great progress toward economic empowerment.

Preparing The Next Generation For The Struggle!



CIVIL RIGHTS

(Continued from Page 2)

were arrested for this bias crime. The principal also enlisted the aid of the National Council of Christians and Jews and the Anti-Defamation League to educate the entire school community about the horrors of bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Racism and anti-Semitism are not genetic diseases carried in our DNA. They are not inherited from one generation to another. They are learned attitudes and behaviors.

Every family, every school, every church, temple or mosque, every community organization has a responsibility to help educate our young people about racism-before racist acts occur. Every leader-political, faith, social or community-has a responsibility to speak out against hate-biased crimes.

We can't pretend that racists are a phenomena of the past and that Skinheads, racist militia groups and the KKK don't exist today. We can't allow young people to believe that acting out racist beliefs is acceptable behavior. The old racists might have died, but their racism did not.

RAY WILLIS

(Continued from Page 3)

Black male as strong and virile to make Shaq and Michael more appealing to the mass audience.

This is why you will likely never see a major motion picture featuring these same illustrious sports figures in a serious dramatic presentation. By no means is my dialogue on this topic meant to cast personal aspirations on Shaq and Michael Jordan. We live in a free society and they should be respected for making financial decisions which are in their own best interest. However, the debate

(See Ray Willis, Page 21)

BLACK EMPOWERMENT

(Continued from Page 2)

was condemned to death long ago. Endemic poverty, unemployment, poor education, drugs and the day-to-day abuse and violence of racism are built into American society.

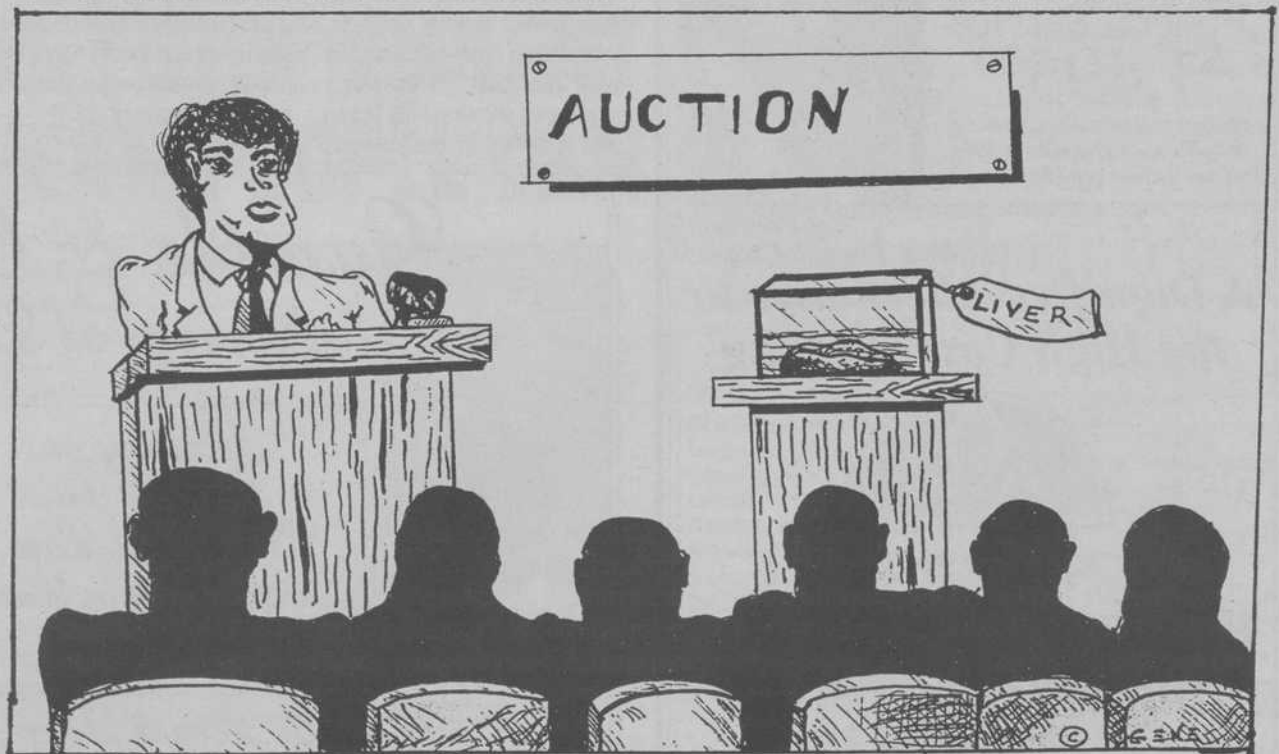
Ironically, the rise of violent crime and the increased popularity of the death penalty share a similar cause: powerlessness. Unable to make a life for themselves due to economic, social and/or psychological instability, and powerless to change these conditions, some turn to violent crimes. Unable to get the government to set the country on a developmental path, and powerless to change the government, more and more Americans support

non-solutions like the death penalty.

The serious question in dealing with the pervasive problem of violent crime is how to get the country on a developmental path — economically, socially, psychologically and culturally. The popularity of the death penalty, and willingness of politicians of both parties to put it forth as a genuine solution in spite of the fact that it isn't, is just one more indicator that under the present political arrangements, there is no such path to development. You and I and other ordinary Americans are going to have to create it. And we're going to have to restructure the political arrangement in order to do so.

SOME-WHERE OUT-THERE

BY GENE REDDEN



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