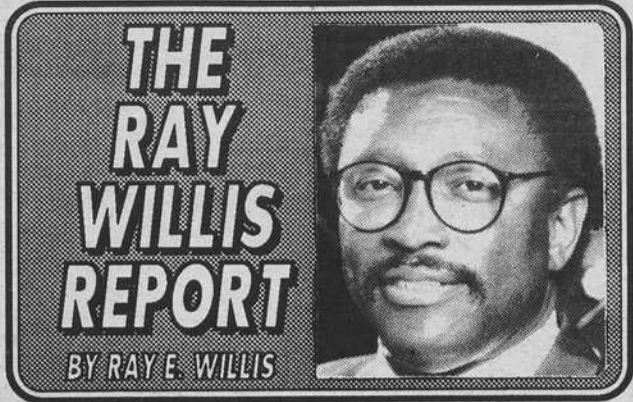


NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

Political Responsibility



READ!

It's confession time, so tell the truth! Would you rather spend \$50 to go to a concert featuring your favorite R&B artist, or spend the same amount of time reading, free?

I know it's no contest. Paying to go to a concert beats going to the library to read hands down where most people are concerned.

With all the technological advances we have grown accustomed to, one of life's simple pleasures, reading, doesn't matter much any more. Nowadays, instead of reading, some people get their information via the visual, audio or electronic media.

If you've read this far into my column, I am probably preaching to one of my choir members who already knows what time it is, and who understands precisely what I'm saying.

However, it's a sad commentary that we have become a nation of passive learners. We receive much of the information that we use to make decisions on from special interests who either want our dollar, or, to influence us to see

the world as they see it.

Walk into any library and you will see very few people, especially those of color. Libraries are having such a difficult time surviving that to attract patrons they now even stock CDs and movies for check out, along with the books that are supposed to be their mainstay.

Far from what we are led to believe, our children are not growing up illiterate today. They know a whole lot. Problem is, what they know doesn't necessarily conform to what they need to know in order to survive under the current economic system. One reason our young people are not on par is because they read far less than people used to back then.

Something has to be done to rekindle the desire in people to read. For our survival, it is absolutely imperative that we make going to the library a priority.

I visit the West Las Vegas Library on a fairly regular basis. I am impressed with the books available there to be checked (See Ray Willis Report, Pg 4)

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D., Co-Chair, NAARPP

I recently had the opportunity to hear an address by Senator Carol Mosley Braun at the 100th Anniversary Convention of the National Medical Association, the predominately African physician association. Senator Braun outlined some of the things that it takes to successfully capture a political office - perhaps the most important thing is that there must be a movement behind you. In other words, you can't just declare that you want to run and expect people to just suddenly come to your side. Both she and the late mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington, were elected out of a grassroots political campaign that swept them to victory.

Additionally, in the case of Senator Braun, she not only had to capture the support of African Americans, Latinos and other city dwellers, but she also had to capture the hearts and minds of those people who live in downstate Illinois; the rural small town farmers, industrial workers, etc., who are predominately European, and who, in the past, have not shown any inclination to look beyond race as a criteria for acceptance. Luckily for Senator Braun and the State of Illinois, they were at least for this occasion able to move beyond simple racism and choose to elect the person with the intelligence, integrity and dedication to make as many changes as possible in the United States Senate.

Another equally telling thing was the fact that she revealed that the average cost for a U.S. Senate race is between 4 and 12 million dollars. When you think about that, there are going to be very few people able to afford running for the U.S. Senate. However, she also made it clear that it is possible with a people's movement to build large numbers of people who will then be able to contribute small amounts of money, and small amounts of money multiplied by large amounts of people adds up to large amounts of money.

Perhaps the most important thing that she said was something that Jesse Jackson also articulated when he was running for U.S. President: Even though they may be the lone person crying in the wilderness (as it were), by having someone in the race (even more so if they win), they do have the ability to change the nature of the debate going on in any legislative body, whether it is the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, state or local legislative body. Therefore, it is important that we

elect as many correct thinking African representatives, senators, etc., as we can.

For even if they are not in a majority or in a controlling position, they can at least 1) convey the information about what is being debated to their constituents, and 2) change the nature of the debate.

It will also do well for us all to consider two things: 1) who,

within the African and Latino communities in Las Vegas, shall the community develop a movement around, and 2) which offices should we seek to take control of. Deciding the offices is easy, but building the movement, that is the hard part. People have to be committed and people have to understand that 1) it can be done and 2) if it is not done, this may well be



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

their "final call." La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

And Just What Would Happen?

By R.K. Brown

The worst thing that will happen to conservative whites is when blacks regain control of their world-wide economic and trading prowess. Whites say they want this to happen in ghettos. But when this happens, life will remain as it has always been in America; full of hate.

If brothas went back to Africa, welfare would still exist. White teenage pregnancy has reached startling record highs. White college grads overflow into unemployment lines.

They say blacks take all the jobs, but affirmative action was created to be the life jacket for poor white workers! Unions and labor associations were created because conservative whites will fry a poor white just like a poor

brotha.

If blacks weren't in America, there would still always be BROKE lower class white people. In 1929, white starved and suffered worse than any inner city. For them it was called a "depression." That is when they created welfare to save the white folks.

Well, remove the blacks and you have as much, if not more, crime as you ever did. No blacks ran Hollywood in the 1940s when every movie was about white bank robbers, gangsters, men with scarred faces and machine guns. This started FIRST in white American society. The rich stealing at the top, and the white poor taking to stay alive. Sound familiar?

(See Westside Story, Page 4)

Jeep PRESENTS THE MAESTRO - LIVE! BARRY WHITE AND THE LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA ICON WORLD TOUR WITH SPECIAL GUEST CHANTE MOORE. Includes Aladdin Theatre logo, date (SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 10PM), and Ticketmaster logo.