NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

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

By now, everyone should know about the Million Man March planned for Washington, D.C. on October 16, 1995. There have been a few who have taken up a misguided call which is critical of this march. Admittedly, the march in its present form is

By R.K. Brown

backwards in regard to civil and

human rights, it becomes more

urgent for Black America to stand

up and be counted...as we

white America is playing the race

card in unprecedented levels.

Soon they might request that we

go back to "white only" water

fountains. Some might suggest

that I am taking things too far,

but I am afraid that I haven't

murder trial, a black man can

have the last 20 years of his

private life brought in front of

national audiences. The

government can use any past

domestic violence cases to try to

prove that this man then

committed murder. This judge

in the '90s concludes that even

though domestic violence

doesn't mean murder, in the case

of a black man with a white

woman, the domestic connection

can deal with this if the shoe fits

both ways. But, as we have all

seen historically, it never works

that way! A black national hero

Well, in our racist society, I

is appropriate.

In this century's most famous

taken things far enough.

The 1990s is a time when

always do.

As we watch time move

not perfect, but then it does not have to be. The same can be said about leadership, be it national or local. For some reason we, as a people of color, seem to require little of the white leadership that we follow, such as Clinton, etc., but we require the world of those leaders who have been chosen by us, or other

people of color.

There is all of this strident criticism of Minister Louis Farrakhan. Minister Farrakhan is not perfect; no one is perfect. Minister Farrakhan makes mistakes; everyone makes mistakes. At some point the leadership of this community, the people of color community, must unity around one king. At some point, all the Dukes, the Earls, the Tribal Elders, the District Chiefs, etc., must all pledge their swords to the king. If the problem is the king, then at some point we remove the king and jointly agree on a new king. Still we must all pledge our swords to the king, whoever that may be.

Admittedly, the Million Man March will not be a panacea. It is not intended to be. It is intended to be a part of a broader struggle; that neither begins nor ends with a million men marching on Washington, D.C. It is, however, an important stage, in that it does put those who are in power in Washington, D.C. on notice that 1) It can be done; one million people can be mobilized, and 2) if that number of people



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD can be brought to Washington, think about the number of people that can be mobilized on the local level.

Even if one million people don't show up in Washington, the fact that even a group as small as 100,000 shows up, it still indicates what can be done if necessary.

The issues that have been raised regarding whether it should be all men or be mixed men and women - or whether it should be inclusive to Europeans, is superfluous to the discussion of the march itself. If the march has merit, then it has merit no matter who does it. If it is a group of black males who do it, it has merit. If it is a group of black females who do it, it has merit. If it is a mixed group, it has (See NAARPR Report, Pg 23)

America has a long standing, deep seated love affair with professional sports. Since Roman times when Olympiad events were held pitting ancient sports heroes against one another athletic superiority has been celebrated. Like most people, I like sports too.

BY RAY E. WILLIS

Let's not be deceived though. In many ways, professional sports of today is a throwback to slavery. Both slavery and prosports feature prime masculine human stock, Black men who are renowned for their superior physical strength and athletic prowess. Slave annals recount how the master arranged to have his strongest slave fight a Mandingo from a rival plantation for bragging rights and a purse. The stakes could be, and often were, very high. Today, the athletes involved are no longer "slaves" and command multimillion dollar salaries for services rendered. But it still follows a familiar format — to win brings bragging rights and a pot of gold for the "owner."

Professional athletes should not be offended by my remarks because none is intended. Pro sports are legal under the constitution. Everything is above board and in accordance with law. Rightfully, Black athletes should be viewed as pursuing their personal goals and aspirations in a democratic society. So, what's the problem?

First of all, it poses a problem that society takes such a limited view of the Black male as only having the potential to be successful if he is involved in athletics. This view fits with a stereotype that we are genetically predisposed to excel at feats of physical strength and not so inclined to do well in pursuits that require brain power. The way I look at it is that Blacks excel in sports because it is one of the few areas we are encouraged and expected to do well in. For example, a survey of 25 African American boys ages 10 and 11 indicated 24 of them wanted first and foremost to be professional ballplayers.

Just look at the so-called thinking positions in pro sports. For the most part, coaches, owners and front office people, those who make all the crucial decisions, are non-Black. The unspoken message is that there

is a fairly clear division of labor here: "Blacks do the physical work, WE are the strategists, the thinkers; WE exercise the brain power to best utilize YOUR physical skills."

Every now and then a Black person crosses the line to become a coach or a front office pro sports executive. And that's supposed to appease us that the obvious isn't true.

I am never more upset than when a game is played and a member of the winning team is interviewed afterward. Because this is one of the few times that I know with certainty that a Black man is going to get some air time discuss his winning performance.

Rarely, if ever, outside of athletics does a Black person have the opportunity to provide a verbal discourse on his or her profession. America's viewpoint about Black people is determined by those they see most often portrayed in the media. And that ladies and gentlemen is almost always through the eyes of the professional athlete.

I for one appreciated the comment of Charles Barkley when he said, "I am not a role model for Black children. Their own parents should be their role model." He took alot of heat for saying that, but he must have known that his statement went to the very core of the problem with over promotion of the Black (See Ray Willis Report, Pg 4)

can have his name and image ruined for life even if he is found innocent in the end.

Then this same government has a racist cop, who has himself admitted that he hates blacks and Latinos openly. This cop files for disability and the racist police force says there is nothing wrong with hating blacks and Latinos. Ultimately, the government gives him a promotion?

Clearly, domestic misconduct doesn't mean murder, but the government lets it into this case! On the other hand, a racist police officer admits he is (See Westside Story, Page 4)

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