

Whites should love Blacks for all we do

By James Clingman
Special to Sentinel-Voice

After arriving in America, Black people played a major role in creating the wealth that is now enjoyed by millions of White people.

Black people fought and died in all of the wars started by White people. Black folks have suffered all sorts of mistreatment by Whites, even the bane of U.S. society: lynching. Black people nurtured White children, sometimes neglecting our own in the process. Black people were the critical link to the prosperity of the so-called Founding Fathers of this country and their families.

Fast forward to 2008, past the enslavement, the torture and murders, the exploitation, the discrimination, and centuries of inequity, and we see the same thing occurring to Black people.

George Bush is in Africa trying to create a "legacy" by mingling with Black folks and making promises; all of this hoopla after seven years in office and after ignoring Black folks in New Orleans.

Teamsters President James Hoffa says, Barack Obama will "remake America," and millions of White voters are saying the same thing. That's a lot of weight for one man to carry; Obama better watch out. Are we still being used?

Is our position in the U.S. part of some divine plan? Is it just another chapter in human history that was written thousands of years ago? That people believe Black people are the ones written about in Deuteronomy 28: a people that did not follow The Law. They say we are a people who now suffer the curse of disobedience. Thus, White folks

were and still are playing their appropriate role by oppressing, exploiting, and in some cases killing us.

Some dismiss that notion and attribute our relationship with White people simply to psychological enslavement, the modern-day chains that bind us and keep us from moving forward collectively, despite having been in this country since its inception and having contributed so much to its tremendous growth and prosperity.

Whatever the reason for our demise, White folks should love Black folks so much that they should finally say enough is enough. They should just admit, "We have enough wealth; we have enough land; we have enough power; let's share what we have with those who helped us get it."

(Somebody pinch me quick; I must be dreaming.)

In 1863, there was an event called the Draft Riot in New York City. Angry Whites who could not afford the \$300 fee needed for a draft deferment made their way up to Harlem, killing Black people along the way, and finally murdering at least 100 and injuring 300 Blacks in total. Riotous Whites needed a scapegoat and found a convenient one in Black people. They were mad at the White-run government, Abe Lincoln, specifically, but took it out on us.

In 1921, angry Whites stormed the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Okla., killing hundreds of Black people, ransacking their homes and businesses and then burning the



JAMES CLINGMAN

entire section to the ground. Once again, angry White people, jealous of the prosperity of Blacks in Tulsa, took their anger out on innocent men, women, and children. They shot them, fire-bombed them with nitroglycerin, corralled them in concentration camps, and took everything they had. Then, to add insult to injury, they made the survivors clean up the mess

the White folks made during their crime spree, without pay — another illegal act committed against Blacks.

Yes, White folks should love us more than any other group. We have done so much for them, and we have been the brunt of their anger and crimes for centuries. We have suffered every sling and arrow, every fiery dart, every negative aspect of behavior, and been subject to every possible means of suppression, oppression and discrimination. Yet, we are still here; we are still fighting for this country; and we are still fighting for our rights with little or, in some cases, no help from White folks. And now a Black man is being ushered in as the "American Messiah." Exploitation? Or real hope?

In 1867, U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens made every attempt to prick the collective conscience of this country with his Reparations Bill. His appeal, based on morality and ethics, has been ignored for 140 years. As much as White politicians talk about character, morality, religion and spirituality, they would at least acknowledge that Black folks have sacrificed more for this country,

relatively speaking, than most folks who live here.

White folks, all over this country, should speak out against the injustices that still beset Blacks; they should rally against the police brutality that still exists; they should share their resources a whole lot more, not out of pity but out of obligation; and White people should look into the mirror and see what Thaddeus Stevens saw in 1867 — it's still there.

Stevens said, "The cause of the war was slavery. We have liberated the slaves. It is our duty to protect them, and provide for them while they are unable to provide for themselves... They and their ancestors have toiled, not for years, but for ages, without one farthing of recompense. They have earned for their masters this very land and much more. Will not he who denies them compensation now be accursed, for he is an unjust man? If we refuse to this downtrodden and oppressed race the rights which Heaven decreed them, and the remuneration which they have earned through long years of hopeless oppression, how can we hope to escape still further punishment if God is just and omnipotent? It may come in the shape of plagues or of intestine wars — race against race, the oppressed against the oppressor. But come it will."

Could the refusal to act upon Stevens' request be the reason for so much contention and dysfunction in this country? Think about it, White people. Meanwhile, as Donny and Roberta sang, "Where is the love?"

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The state of Black politics: Forecast for confusion

By Ron Walters
Special to Sentinel-Voice

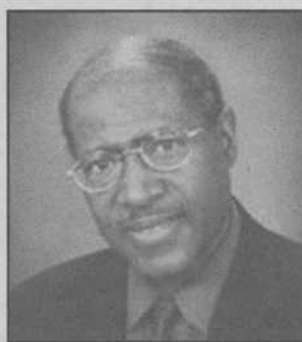
I noted some time ago that it was a good thing that the Black masses were gravitating toward Barack Obama on their own because the leadership was divided. That division now amounts to confusion and continues even as he stands poised on the brink of doing something never done before, a Black person winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States. What do I mean by confusion?

First, there is the fact that as a result of Obama's sterling performance, some of those Black Superdelegates in the Democratic Party who had committed early to Hillary Clinton are now moving back to Obama. This reminds me that when Rev. Jesse Jackson ran for president in 1984, most of the Black political class was not on his side, but by 1988 they were all there because in 1984 he had won most of the votes in their districts and they were afraid to be caught off base again.

So, Black Superdelegates like John Lewis

are said to be reconsidering their commitment to Hillary, while other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, for example, are having conference calls commiserating over the fact that some are officials of Hillary's campaign but their districts voted, or will vote, for Obama. Since Super Tuesday, among all Superdelegates 25 more have committed to Barack Obama, while Hillary Clinton has lost five, an indication that even among Blacks there will be plenty of shifting ahead as he continues to win in Black districts.

Then, there is the letter that Julian Bond, Chair of the NAACP sent to the Democratic National Committee suggesting that not to seat the Florida and Michigan delegates would result in million of voters in the two states not having their votes counted, an act that would remind some of recent racially



RON WALTERS

discriminatory elections, asking Howard Dean, the DNC Chair, to come up with a resolution of the problem. On that, a counterpoint letter was launched by Rev. Al Sharpton who is neutral with respect to the candidates, which objected to seating the delegates, asking Dean to protect both candidates from charges that the process was tainted, since

it would amount to a change of the rules in the middle of the game.

In fact, Bond's letter was interpreted by some observers as a "pro-Hillary delegate move", since it was so late in responding to rules that were enacted by the party last year that governed both primaries this year. Moreover, his letter is puzzling, since the greater disfranchisement would amount to those Black voters who abided by the rules and didn't vote in Michigan and Florida, but would have their situation negated by a

change of the rules.

The last example among many is the dust-up between Barack Obama and Tavis Smiley over his appearance at Tavis' State of Black America event in New Orleans. Tavis was said to have invited Obama to appear at the event, and Obama wrote him back to say that he was campaigning but that he would send Michelle Obama, his wife and a good surrogate to represent him. But Tavis rejected her, wanting to seat only principals. The result was that while Hillary Clinton came, there was no representation from the Obama camp.

Hillary had to come because of her low standing with Blacks. But for all of the excitement that she created by reading her speech, she could have faxed it to the event and had it distributed. Even her response to Tavis' question about the reputed racist remarks of her husband toward Obama were addressed in the fashion — the Clinton administration did a lot of good things for Blacks, so you know that he couldn't have meant to be racist.

I've thought hard about this and concluded that since Hillary has a 100 percent name recognition in this campaign and Obama is still introducing himself to people, he was right to stay in the field, especially at the most critical time of the campaign.

The point this makes is that the political confusion among Black leaders in this campaign may eventually prevent effective bargaining for the things their community needs. And yes, they may have to bargain — even if a Black president wins the White House.

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Alford

(Continued from Page 8)
the drugstore for Peppid.

It is nauseating and self-incriminating. Black folks who don't understand their Blackness and hate every drop of it.

"Blacks are their own enemy. They aren't discriminated against. They just live savagely — no daddies, drop out of school, can't speak good English, love crime, etc. etc."

While there are some great Black Republicans such as General Colin Powell and Lt. Gov. Michael Steele they are vastly outnumbered

by the celebrated self-hating Blacks like Thomas Sowell, Clarence Thomas, and Shelby Steele. Good solid-thinking progressive capitalists (with the general philosophy of the Republican Party) who happen to be Black find themselves isolated and on the defense.

They certainly don't want any part of the self-haters, so they choose to go it alone. Many progressive Blacks, who are conservative in their thinking, are actually hiding out in the closet. They choose not to actively

publicize their views.

The intolerance displayed by the ultra conservatives in the media is too much for them to be comfortable.

Hate just isn't our (African-American culture) way and we refuse to get mixed up in it. So, the typical Black Republican travels like the lone wolf. It's not fun and is indeed challenging.

Harry Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.