Forum

top N.Y. prison guard brutality

All forms of police brutality abhorrent and objectionable. ne of the most brutal forms of violent law enforcement misnduct is "prison guard brutality." ison inmates who are held capve in a closed prison system are Ilnerable to the malicious and ten violent retribution of sick ison guards.

This is not a loose indictment all prison guards in America. ut what happened several weeks o at New York City's Riker's land Prison demands a national otest against prison guard brutaly. Prison guards, who were angry the city for not giving in to all of e demands of the Correction fficers Benevolent Association, ent on a violent rampage which ft 162 persons injured, 20 guards nd 142 inmates. Like the majority the population at Riker's Island, e vast majority of the injured isoners were African-American.

The prison guards precipitated prison riot when nearly a thouand members of the Correction fficers Benevolent Association ockaded the bridge leading to iker's Island to demand the right use greater physical force gainst prisoners.

On Aug. 14, this illegal blockle at Riker's Island turned into a ee-for-all -- a drunken, violent tack on hundreds of defenseless mates. For hours at the bridge, e prison guards drank beer and her alcoholic substances.

We understand why Mayor inkins was at first reluctant to der the New York Police Departent to clear the bridge attempting avoid a violent confrontation. he mayor was successful at the idge. But the prison guards

turned on the mayor, the city and the law. These guards disrespected themselves and all the people of

As soon as Phil Seelig, president of the Correction Officers would beat a prisoner just to satisfy his own bloodthirst? Who will correct these "correctional officers"? Although it is nearly 20 years later, we still remember the Attica Prison massacre in upstate



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By BENJAMIN CHAVIS JR.

Benevolent Association, stood on top of a van and shouted, "We got just about everything that we wanted," hundreds of prison guards stampeded off the bridge and headed toward the prison complex. Ted Katz of the N.Y. Legal Aid Society's prisoners' rights project said that the prison guards appeared to be "very pumped up ... they were even flashing their guns ... and not exactly in a law-abiding frame of mind." After the prison riot was quelled, some prison guards, according to Katz, took inmates to the lobby of the North Unit, which has a 45-foot-long corridor. It was in that corridor where numerous inmates were "payback" beaten with nightsticks and clubs. Katz confirmed that "a long corridor wall on both sides is covered with

Now we have learned that one of those beaten, 36-year-old Steven Glover of Harlem, has died. Although his death and the socalled "payback" beatings of inmates by the prison guards are being investigated by different law enforcement agencies, a nasty smell surrounds the whole affair.

What kind of a man in uniform

New York. The Riker's Island attack cannot be tolerated in New York City nor anywhere else in

The New York City Correction Officers Association is not "Benevolent" -- some of their members are psychopathic thugs who violate human rights under the color of the law with utter impunity. No wonder the recidivism rate is so high for prison inmates, given the institutionalized barbarity that they have to endure. Now is the time to once again declare: Stop Prison Guard Brutality in America and Throughout the

The prison guards responsible for the Riker's Island brutality must be brought to justice. Even the Emergency Service personnel were attacked by the prison guards to prevent the injured inmates from receiving emergency medical treatment. The New York City Correction Officers Violent Association is dangerous and a moral disgrace.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ.

Rock group accused of assault on children

"I know all of that," he cried, it what are we going to do about

This was the plea of a despere parent fighting a seemingly peless battle against a disease r which there appears to be no

There is a war being fought in mmunities across America, and the victor goes the minds and ouls of our young people and our tion. These children don't belong somebody else. They are ours.

They are not the targets of reats made by Saddam Hussein; st we become distracted by our ne automobiles. Rather, they are rgets of a sophisticated LBO, "a veraged buy out" in which the ue barbarians at the gates ride on usical Trojan horses conducting all-out war to totally destroy eir prey.

Who is doing the fighting? In is corner is the everyday, workig, decent human being who is eking to make the community a etter place not only for himself ut also for you, for me, and for ur children. He believes in the alues of hard work, education, nd sound moral values. He saves oney for a rainy day, and more ften than not, he goes to church

n Sunday In the other corner is none ther than groups like the Miamiased 2 Live Crew, led by the fiery p artist Luther Campbell. Their ission: To seek and destroy the lack family by using the patriarch destroy the matriarch and in the ocess, reduce both of them to the atus of mere animals, thus renering the union and its offspring otally incapable of sustaining self beyond the most primitive evels of existence

Here is public enemy number ne, or whatever you want to call

The feeling of helplessness xpressed by so many parents omes at a time when many in this ountry are also fighting for their ves against the AIDS virus. Right ow, scientists have no cure for the isease. They know it's a virus; ley know it when they see it, but ney haven't been able to stop it. here again, is the sense of help-

Similarly, the black family is fighting a battle. There are so many threats to our children. They come in the form of childhood accidents, teen pregnancy, poverty, illiteracy, peer pressure, television, violence, the temptation to experiment with sex, AIDS, and, of course, the ubiquitous presence of

thought about their little minds and how they were made in the image of God and how groups like 2 Live Crew were actually trying to stone them to death, throwing rocks at children while hiding their dirty hands behind their backs.

But if you listen to Campbell, he will tell you that "his" 7-year-



AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

drugs and alcohol.

Just as scientists have found it extremely difficult to fight AIDS because the mutating virus renders the body's own immune system vulnerable, so is it that Black America is finding it difficult to fight off the antibodies that are produced in its "own body," knowing full well that the mission of the antibody is to destroy the whole

until a few months ago that I'd ever heard of the rap group 2 Live Crew or their album "Nasty As They Wanna Be." It appeared to me that this was yet another one of the debates argued by the ACLU over the use of a few nasty words being hollered over more mindless rap music. But when Benjamin Hooks, Spike Lee, and USA Today columnist Barbara Reynolds took a look at the actual lyric content of the album, I determined that this was not about free speech. It wasn't about racism. This was about whether or not somebody has the right to walk into a crowded theater and scream "fire!"

These so-called lyrics are an invitation by Campbell's cronies to violently attack black women. There is no other explanation. There is no other rationalization.

When I read excerpts from some of their "tunes," my mind immediately flashed to the little boys and girls that play every day on the playground at the Winston Lake YMCA. There they are in all of their innocence, protected by a cyclone fence, carefully watched by the women who stand nearby. I

old daughter can't listen to daddy's music. But what about the rest of the 7-year-olds in the world whose parents don't give a damn whether or not they listen to 2 Live Crew?

He is shrewd. This is a man who actually considers himself a hero, a business man, a man who, after he made his money, "gave back to the community." The nerve of this so-called cult hero.

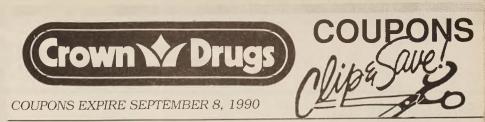
While Campbell may pretend Like many of us, it wasn't to be the "protector," his actual mission is to seek and destroy the black family. No matter how you phrase it, dress it, cover it, rub it, print it, or hide it, if you sell women on the street, you're a pimp. What Campbell and others like him are doing is "rapping" to the community by day and raping it by night. 2 Live Crew is a disgrace to the history and legacy of everything good that black folks in this country have stood for.

Sure, there is a lot of good going on in rap music, but everything that has a good beat may not be good to dance to or to live to.

No, I am not against free speech, and no, I am not being a prude. But as far as I am concerned, you don't have to be a prude to not want to see somebody come into your community, rape, pillage and destroy, and then, on his way out, leave a tip as if to say, "Oh, by the way man, here is a little something for the kids.'

Keep it, Luther!

One can only imagine what the community outrage would be if this same album were written, produced and performed by nonblacks. Think about it. Why aren't we more angry about this?



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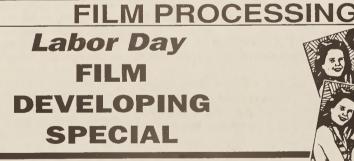
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