

AIDS Facts That Are Not Sure

The last time Gary Null appeared on my television program, the medical doctors who wrote me were thoroughly upset. The lay public, however, was equally as enthusiastic about his assertions that AIDS is curable and the current thrust of medical advice is lacking, at best.

The medical and administrative idiots in New York and other cities who are providing needles to drug addicts to shoot illegal drugs certainly prove Null's case that the fight against AIDS is not even a scrimmage. Saying "yes" to drugs by doctors and city officials is as bad as a junkie saying "yes."

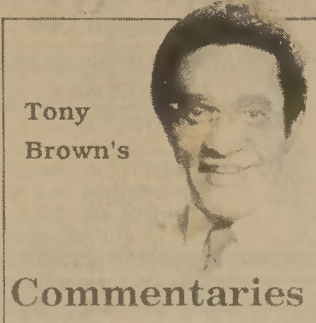
But back to what Null is saying on my program next month when he tackles the origin of AIDS. What he says is a case of brilliant logic - and it is frightening.

It's too much to repeat all of it here, but I will share the highlights.

"Is the average heterosexual, black or white, dying of AIDS or infected? No." After that statement, Null explained that if AIDS were an epidemic, the answer would be "yes."

Of course, you wouldn't know that if you believed the statistics which are unaccompanied by an explanation. For example, "The AIDS epidemic is wreaking havoc among Black Americans," *Parade Magazine* told its readers. It also gave an "800" number for more "facts" in a pamphlet called: "AIDS in The Black Community."

"Statistical shockers" it calls



Tony Brown's Commentaries

these "facts": 55 percent of all children in the U. S. with AIDS are Black; 54 percent of cases among women are black women; and 24 percent of all men with AIDS are black.

But *Parade* never explained that 11 percent of the population is so alarmingly over-represented because all three categories are drug related -- not racial in origin.

Null says that the AIDS virus -- instead of originating among Africans (and now blacks in America by inference) and homosexual men is the result of "genetic engineering."

Specifically, he says that it "is a new, complex hybrid-created recently from two or more retroviruses. He named them as cattle-bovine and visna-sheep viruses."

"They do not affect human beings -- except when you cross them," he adds. Now, how does that fact end up causing AIDS outbreaks among humans and specifically among heterosexu-

als in Africa and homosexuals in America.

Null says this genetically-engineered virus was the innocent basis for the smallpox vaccine. "In every country in the world where you have AIDS, and only in those countries where you have AIDS, did you have the smallpox vaccine," he explained.

Although Africa has much of the AIDS centers, it is not evenly distributed on the continent. "It is only distributed in those populations that received the smallpox vaccine," Null adds. The same is true for South America -- where Brazil became the AIDS center after becoming a smallpox vaccine center. But not Columbia, Ecuador or Peru that were not targeted for the smallpox vaccine.

And gay men in America? And why an AIDS epidemic among the younger gays and not the older ones?

"For two reasons," Null tells the television audience. "First, there was no infecting virus and vaccine back then. Secondly, not all gays have AIDS," Null answers.

"The healthy gays did not receive experimental hepatitis vaccines. Ironically, in '78, '79 and '80, experimental hepatitis vaccines came into the gay community," Null says.

Gary Null has much more to say on TV.

TONY BROWN'S JOURNAL TV series can be seen on public television Sunday, on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

Letters To The Post

Disappointed About Bond Dispute

Dear Editor:

I've just finished reading Gerald Johnson's very thoughtful editorial entitled "Vote Yes On Bond Referendum" (October 20, 1988) and could not agree with him more.

As a city council member who sat through two to three months of discussion about the components of this bond issue, which was ultimately unanimously supported by a city council made up of people from every corner of this city, black and white, Democrat and Republican, it disappoints me to hear all of these concerns at the 11th hour (some of which are being expressed by one or two of the members of

that same city council). That is simply not fair, and I have to wonder whether if Harvey Gant had been mayor and the same bond package were being presented, we would be hearing these complaints at this stage of the bond campaign.

More important than my being disappointed by all of the "Monday morning quarterback," however, is my long-term concern that this opposition is going to be perceived as very "regional" and "political" in a way that may actually hurt the council's efforts to be more sensitive to westside concerns in the future.

I am convinced that these

bonds are going to pass, and that the road bonds will lead the ticket, and fear that after that happens some council members in districts that are immune from westside concerns will become even more intransigent in the future.

A far better future, it seems to me, would have been for the westsiders to make their complaints, but not formally oppose the bonds. That way, I believe they would "have their cake and eat it too." Oh well, what do I know.

Thanks to Gerald Johnson for being so thoughtful, once again.

RICHARD VINROOT

Stand Up And Be Counted, Vote Nov. 8

Dear Editor:

This letter is to those who are like me, I saw no reason to vote. I didn't register either even though my teacher made me swear in school to vote when I turned 18. I didn't, until last year.

Let me talk to you who don't vote. First, if you don't vote you are dishonoring Martin Luther King Jr. who fought for your right to vote. What would

he say if he were alive today?

Are you really that selfish? Do you care about the lives of your family members? Do you want every one else to carry you? Why don't you get involved and change your own circumstances?

You have a voice, use it. Do not let other people decide for you. Stand up and be counted on election day.

Men be men, take the opportunity to vote and use it. Get up

men. Get up women. Get up boys, girls, old men and women and let's go to the polls on election day.

Decide for yourselves. Make a mark on this world.

No, they cannot do what they want to do anyway. That is false. You can change things by voting. It's your choice. Vote.

EVANGELIST M. COOKE

Bond Issue: A Day & A Dollar Short

Dear Editor:

I can certainly appreciate Gerald Johnson's perspective expressed in the editorial "Vote Yes On Bond Referendum" (October 20, 1988). It was a sound, businesslike way of thinking and darn it, that's the way it should be!

We are always a "day late and a dollar short" when it comes to issues.

If Mayor Sue Myrick can't get

the westsiders to address their needs to her through proper community representatives, then too bad for them.

Yes, it's too late to "make hay" of the bond issue just as Johnson pointed out. But what galls me is that the black leadership will not even use the black media, i.e. The Charlotte Post, to keep the community informed of issues.

I, myself, do not know just

how I'll vote on the bonds but I'm awful glad that Gerald Johnson as Publisher of The Charlotte Post, is "up and about" on issues.

I recommend reading The Post to many people if for nothing but Tony Brown's and Gerald Johnson's column. Keep it up!

JAMES A. "BRO" STROUD

What's On Your Mind?

Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions. Write to:

Letters To The Post
P.O. Box 30144
Charlotte, NC 28230

Please include name, address and phone number. We edit letters for clarity and grammar.

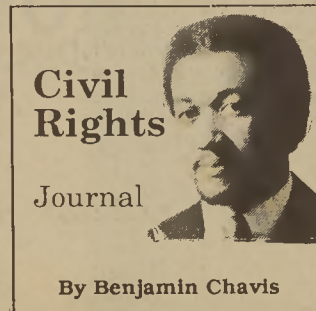
"Trail Of Tears" Remembered

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the infamous "Trail of Tears" forced removal of approximately 20,000 Indians from their native lands in the Southeastern United States. It was back in 1838 that gold was discovered in the tribal lands of the Cherokee Indian Nation located in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. As a result the federal government decided to remove the Cherokees and force them to walk several thousand miles to an Indian reservation in the state of Oklahoma.

History is important, especially if it is remembered in a way that engenders a greater public commitment to correct the causative factors of past historic injustices. The attempted genocide of Native Americans in the United States should never be forgotten. It is important for all victimized communities to be in solidarity with our Native American sisters and brothers.

The persecution and the exploitation of Native Americans is a consequence of two fundamental evils interwoven in the very fabric of this society: Racism and Greed.

Yes, we must remember the "Trail of Tears" march in the same vein that we remember other acts in the history of holo-



Civil Rights Journal

By Benjamin Chavis

causts throughout the world. More than 5,000 Native Americans died as a result of this forced removal. Today the U.S. government has officially recognized the injustice inflicted upon the Cherokees. Since 1974 Native American lawyers have been attempting to reach agreement on the distribution of a five million dollar settlement that was awarded to the Cherokee Nation in partial payment for damages resulting from the "Trail of Tears" march.

Today there are approximately 75,000 Native Americans of Cherokee descent who reside in Oklahoma, and there are still more than 10,000 who remain in Cherokee, North Carolina. In many sections of North Carolina there are thousands of Native

Americans, many of whom are still facing racial discrimination and exploitation. Just within the last few days a victory was won in the case of Eddie Hatcher, a Native American activist, who was facing federal charges of "hostage taking" in a protest that took place earlier this year in North Carolina. Hatcher and others staged a protest at the office of the local newspaper in Lumberton, North Carolina. Hatcher stated that he and others blocked the doors of the newspaper office to dramatize the oppression of Native Americans in Robeson County, North Carolina, where the Tuscarora and Lumbee Indian nations are located. These two tribes refused to take part in the "Trail of Tears" march to Oklahoma. Although they are the majority population of Robeson County, these Native Americans are still systematically exploited. The good news is that Eddie Hatcher was found not guilty.

The human rights of Native Americans must be respected if this society is to ever have a standard of equal justice. The challenge of the future is not only to remember this anniversary of the "Trail of Tears" but also we all must re-commit ourselves to continue to challenge all the old and new manifestations of racism and exploitation.

paign rhetoric into opportunity for all Americans.

The obvious question becomes, "Who are the credible black Republicans?" There are two black Republican U.S. senatorial candidates, in Maryland and Virginia, who ought to be guiding forces for this process regardless of how they fare at the polls on Election Day. Portia Scott, who ran for the U.S. House of Representatives from Atlanta, can offer this group a lot.

There are also non-candidates who touch a broad spectrum of the black community's interest. Isaac Washington, publisher of a host of newspapers in South Carolina, is actively supporting the Bush presidential election effort. Ron Reese, president of the Pennsylvania Black Republican Council, brings an understanding of the everyday black person's needs. Guale Owens uses her journalist skills behind the scenes in Houston, Texas to foster the lot of black Republicans in the party's mainstream. Jim House, second vice chairman of the Maryland State Republican Committee, is a very active insider in local party politics. Marie Watkins (Maryland) is hell-bent on opening the National Republican Party to the little people.

The above names are merely a few people who immediately come to mind. Surely, there are many other excellent black Republicans who ought to be at this political summit.

If black Republicans are serious about turning their two party rhetoric into reality, they will seize this golden opportunity to show some leadership. Black Republicans can be the catalyst to stem the present socioeconomic regression in the black community should they evolve past their present "token nigger" status.

Stemming Socioeconomic Regression

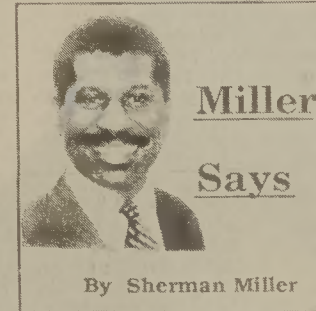
Vice President George Bush's sound defeat of Governor Michael Dukakis in the last 1988 Presidential Debate was a nightmare for America's liberal black leadership. With the polls showing Bush positioned to deliver a third consecutive conservative Republican presidential landslide victory in the November General Election, there is plenty reason for panic in the black community. An imminent Bush victory exposes the foolhardiness in the black community failing to have credible black leaders in the inner-circles of both major parties.

In the past, the liberal black leadership merely wrote off Republican Presidential tenures. But Bush's presidency means another 8 consecutive years of a conservative Republican White House unless he defeats himself. No people should have to suffer 16 years while their recalcitrant leadership merely feeds them rhetoric on how conservatives are turning back the clock on social gains.

When I hear black leaders ranting and ralling on the regression of black socioeconomic progress during President Ronald Reagan's tenure, I am embarrassed. It hurts to think that black Americans have ignored the opportunity to advance regardless of what party comes to power. Yet, there is still time for black America to turn this bleak scenario around.

Black ministers can encourage their membership to discard the anti-Republican prejudice which pervades the black community. Their membership should become the margin of victory for Republican candidates. This gives the black community significant political leverage over these politicians which spells the death-knell for black American benign neglect.

On the other hand, black mini-



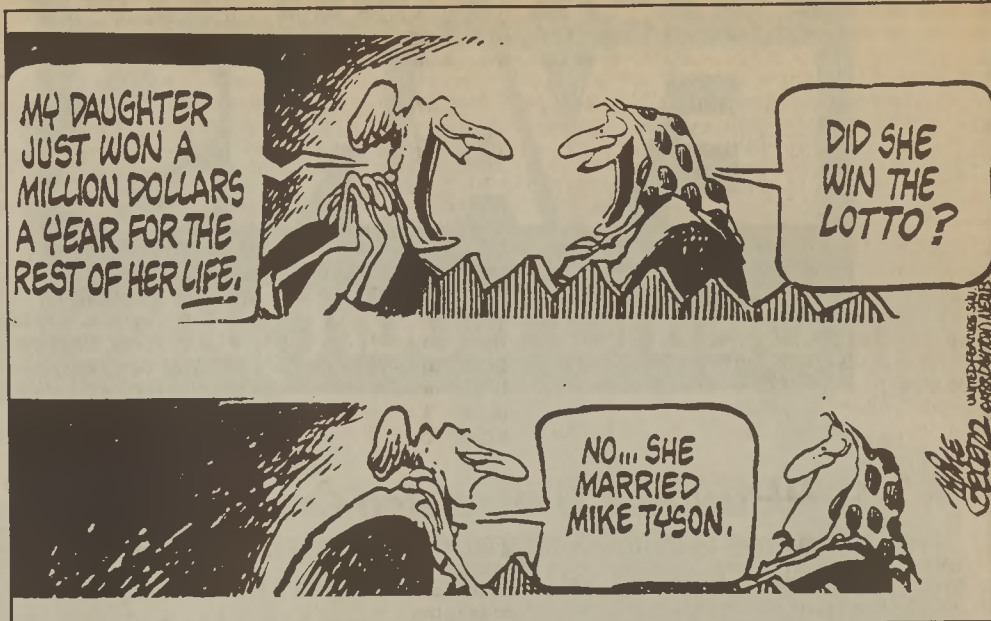
Miller Says

By Sherman Miller

sters must foster the development of black Republican leaders to represent the black community in the inner-circles of the Republican Party. Should a significant black vote go to George Bush, black Republicans will evolve beyond "political otteroons" or "white conservative clones" to true champions of the black community's socioeconomic agenda.

I know these cold hard practical ideas are difficult for many black leaders to stomach. But they highlight a cultural change that white America has already undergone. One need only look at the prominent Democratic white ethnic leaders, in Philadelphia, PA and Chicago, who have become Republican Party converts to see the hand writing on the wall against the Democratic Party maintaining long-term dominance of these white ethnic votes.

Black Republicans also have a responsibility to earn the black community's trust. A national summit of credible black Republican leaders needs to commence immediately to define a route to integrate the socioeconomic needs of the black community into a conservative agenda. Once this program is defined, black Republicans must challenge the Bush's Administration to turn their cam-



Politicians Won't Change Until We Do

"Why don't they tell us what they are gonna do?" my friend asked. "Instead of telling me what they have in mind, they are always talking about how bad their opponents are."

That is what a lot of people will say these days when you ask them what they think about politics.

So, why are so many politicians spending so much time running down their opponents, and so little time telling us about their own programs and plans?

All of us say that we hate negative campaigning. We don't like the ads that take unfair digs and misrepresent the positions of the other side.

That is what we say.

But whatever we say, the politicians know that their messages about their opponents work on us. The negative ads may offend us, but they change our minds -- more quickly and more effectively than the good old simple messages that we say we would prefer.

Jim Martin and Bob Jordan as nice guys as you would ever want to meet. Until the campaign got started, it would have been hard to imagine that either one of them would say negative things -- in public -- about anybody.

But in the campaign, both of

them and welcome them as helpers in our drive to succeed.

Kids can get away with cheating in places where they can't get away with bad grades. Fudging and stretching in business deals get to be an expected and accepted practice.

You don't think that you are affected?

Doesn't your character change when you get behind the wheel of a car? Don't we get mean and impatient when we drive. Then we justly our aggressive and inconsiderate behavior because we have a special need to get somewhere quick. Or we refuse to acknowledge how bad we are, and justify our angry state by blaming every other driver who pulls in front of us, tries to pass, crowds in a lane, drives too fast, or drive too slow.

"I have to be an angry driver if I am ever going to get anywhere," we tell ourselves. "If I were patient and kind in the car, I would be stuck in traffic forever."

It is the same old story for us and the politicians. "The end justifies the means." And as long as negative politics works on us, politicians who want to win are going to keep on being negative.

In short, they won't change until we do.



D.G. Martin

One-On-One

them learned these that they couldn't win without destroying the positive image that the other enjoyed.

And if you can't win without going negative these days, well, you pretty much have to do it -- if you can get away with it.

It is not just in politics that the compulsion to win changes the way people act.

In sports, we will overlook or forgive (and even encourage) steroid use, recruiting violations, compromise of academic standards, and almost anything else -- if it will make out team a winner.

A little cheating, small compromises of standards, and tiny creep into everyday life around us. We accept them, rationalize