

opinions

BLACKS ON BLACK

SEPARATION, REPARATIONS, SELF-DETERMINATION
WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?
(part two of a two-part article)

The last solution that I'm going to discuss is that of self-determination. To be consistent I'll use Webster's Dictionary to define self-determination, "to decide one's own course". Blacks living in the U.S. and Canada have a tremendous purchasing power, in 1992 approximately 220 billion dollars will be spent by Blacks in the U.S. This means that if the Blacks in America had a country, it would be ranked 14th in the world for goods and services produced (GNP). However, most of that money is spent on things that the White community produces; the money doesn't go towards our own empowerment. What a lot of Black leaders, such as Reverend Jemison, of the Southern Leadership Council, and Minister Farrakhan of the NOI, are saying, is that if we pool our vast resource of hard currency we can do a lot more for ourselves than we have been doing. By doing for ourselves, we can support already existing Black business', run our own farms, construct clothing factories, and most importantly purchase land.

I'll admit, that at first this plan seemed a bit off the wall, but after doing some analysis, I believe it's quite possible and probable. If we follow Minister Farrakhan's "3 YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAM" then both U.S. Blacks and Canadian Blacks both will have a better chance of progressing as a people. Minister Farrakhan's plan calls for Black men

and women to engage in a national savings of \$10 a month for three years. Since, the population of the U.S. is about 40 million that would lead to a lot of savings in hard currency. Actually, Newsweek and the Detroit Free Press said that in polls conducted early this year, that Minister Farrakhan and the NOI were supported by 47-52% of Blacks in America. If half of Blacks in the States support Farrakhan as suggested, then the potential revenue generated could exceed 7 billion dollars in three short years. Thus, putting Blacks in a position to start making some of the changes outlined by Farrakhan and others.

I know that some Blacks will say after reading this opinion, "Jasen, you don't speak for me!" and "Jasen, this isn't the States you know!" But I feel that we are in a very similar, if not the same position that our U.S. brothers and sisters are in, it's just a numbers or population thing. I also believe that we as Black people living in Canada must rise above this liberal tokenism that is presented to us on a daily basis and start doing something as a collective people, not as individuals. Because the longer we continue to take crumbs from the White man's table our bellies will never be full.

STAY STRONG MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Jasen Gannon, Co-Chair
Black United Students (BUS)

Disturbed

I was disturbed when I sat down to read a copy of my Daily News on Saturday (Oct. 3rd). On the front page was a picture of police officers at a house on Creighton Street. I turned to page 5 and I read a headline that reads "Heavily armed police hit suspected crack den."

One officer is reported as saying, "it was exciting. You get all pumped up, a little bit of a high, a natural high."

Why is it that whenever the mainstream media reports on events in that part of Halifax, it relates to either drugs, prostitution or violence? After the shooting of Glen Neil Palmer in August we were treated to visual images of Creighton Street associating it with drug related violence.

Why does the media feed its readers a steady diet of crime, drugs and violence when dealing with places like Creighton Street?

The answer is simple. The media is business. Its main job is to sell its readership to advertisers. Look at the Dal Gazette. Take out all the ads. The "news" would cover about three pages!

The news media caters only to those people from the middle and upper because these people can afford to buy the items advertised on its pages.

The media wants to keep this readership. Its job is to give legitimacy to the existing divisions of power, wealth and opportunity in Halifax.

It is easier to reinforce stereotypes than it is to change them. Its easier to report the "facts" about the latest drug raid than it is to investigate how those drugs get into Creighton Street in the first place.

John Burchall, BA (Hons)

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