

# THE PEOPLES JOURNAL

## RACISM: the Myths, the Miles

BY JOEL DREYFUSS

There is a growing fear among blacks that racism is again taking hold in America. The revival is seen by many as more subtle and elusive than in the past, and thus harder to fight, because a majority of white Americans, supported by an influential body of intellectuals, denies it is real.

The controversy over the Bakke case and affirmative action is partly responsible for reopening the debate on race relations that had been dormant since the 1960s. It has also exposed, quite clearly, the new sophistication of racial attitudes that have continued unabated since the 1950s.

Nathan Glazer, one of the leading intellectual champions of neo-conservatism supports the notion that racism is no longer a significant force in America. In his book *Affirmative Discrimination*, Glazer announces that racism has been defeated and calls on the courts to withdraw from the battle for equal opportunity so "the forces of political democracy in a pluralistic society can do their proper work."

The concept is attractive if you believe that race is now a benign factor. But many blacks see signs of just the opposite: signs in unemployment and income statistics and surveys of white racial attitudes, or in the portrayal of blacks in the popular media.

A Louis Harris survey last summer reported that "a majority of blacks feel discriminated against, while a majority of whites feel they are not."

"Much of what passes for benign race relations," said Dr. Price Cobbs, a black psychiatrist and co-author of the best-seller *Black Rage*, "is a kind of social comfort



of whites who are dealing with blacks...many whites can be comfortable with blacks socially but don't have any idea of the depth of their remaining negative assumptions about people who are different."

According to Stanford University sociologist Seymour Lipset, another neo-conservative, most whites "accept the reality of at least some racial discrimination but see black problems as stemming from the moral failings of individuals." In other words, the old stereotype of the lazy and shiftless black persists. At the same time, fully 55 percent of white Americans feel blacks have "moved too fast" in their struggle

for equality, according to a 1977 Harris poll.

The complexity of the new racism was cited in a September 1977 report by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. It noted that "...more subtle forms of discrimination continue to materialize requiring ever more stringent enforcement to ensure compliance with the law."

One example of this new subtlety may be found in sports, an area viewed by many as the best example of equal opportunity.

After analyzing 12 National Football League games on the three major television networks, psychologist Raymond E. Rainville of the State University of New York in Oneonta found that announcers subjected black athletes to more negative comments about their talents, abilities and motivation, concluding that announcers were "building a positive reputation for white players and a comparatively negative reputation for black players."

There are other examples. Most black studies programs that sprang up in the 1960s are gone today, victims of underfunding and neglect. Few books or articles by black authors are published today, and since the demise of "blaxploitation," the film industry has reverted to the lily-white look of the 1950s.

Major box office hits give little evidence of a movement toward Glazer's "pluralistic society." In "Star Wars," "Annie Hall," "The Deep" and other major films, blacks are either excluded or limited to villainous roles.

And despite the success of "Roots," the television industry has made little progress in its portrayal of blacks or other minorities, who are too often cast as modern day versions of Amos and Andy.

"Few blacks" on television, says Dr. Eugene Thomas of the University of Wisconsin, "are seen with the pluses and minuses of the average man, the ambiguity. The black is either super-excellent or super-deficient."

"It appears to mean that the American majority is nowhere near ready to accept blacks as equals--if you see television as a reflection of society."

Thus while opponents of affirmative action still point to the considerable progress blacks have made, blacks are growing more concerned that whites have made little progress in their racial attitudes, and that the new racism will spread and affect opportunities for blacks and other minorities.



Dr. Faustine C. Jones of Howard University studied changes in racial attitudes between 1969 and 1975 and concluded: "Black Americans feel that a significant proportion of the white population has shifted priorities from eliminating the vestiges of racial discrimination as the major goal of this society to reviving feelings that blacks have had as much help as they need or deserve."

She adds: "The feeling is that blacks cannot afford to let this happen again. If you understand history, you don't sit around and let history repeat itself."

by Joel Dreyfuss  
Pacific News Service

## After the dishes, are your fingernails shiny?

by Charles Hamilton

Have you looked at your fingernails lately? They are trully the windows through which one can view the states of physical, mental, and emotional health.

According to *The Law of Scientific Handreading* (1971), nerve problems first show up in white spots on the nails. Since a healthy body takes approximately six months to grow a new nail, spots like this can be dated appropriately. For example, white spots halfway up the nail indicate nervous problems approximately three months in the past.

A nail which has itself become white indicates a constitutional nerve disorder and a more deepseated insecurity. The nail becomes brittle and breaks off. At this point, the person needs to rid the body of toxins and establish an attitude of emotional and mental security. The next stage of nerve disorder is indicated by fluted nails. Ridges on fingernails run parallel to the length of the fingers. The deeper the valleys between the ridges, the more advanced the nerve disorder. At this point, a radical change in diet and lifestyle is in order, as the individual's physical and emotional needs are clearly not being met.

If the nails are deeply fluted and curve away from the tip of the fingers, with the color under the nails being blue or purple,

the individual's heart has an advanced nerve disorder. The heart and lungs are not able to supply the blood with oxygen--thus the tissues are being starved of the nutrients they need. Fortunately this is a rare occurrence.

The tissue underneath the nails reveals still more about the individual. A red color indicates a healthy heart and lungs, and an ardent, enthusiastic, and sometimes overbearing individual. Pink indicates healthy heart and lungs and a cheerful, enthusiastic personality. White indicates weaker heart and lungs, and a cold, unenthusiastic and critical personality. A blue color at the base of the nails indicates poor circulation and a weak heart. If this condition becomes advanced and the blue spreads to the tip of the finger, the heart is failing.

A healthy individual in mind, heart, and body has well rounded, opaque, strong nails that are flexible but not brittle. Healthy heart and lungs send oxygen-rich blood to the fingertips--thus giving a pink or red color underneath the nails. Too much animal pro-

tein, refined foods, and sugars will cause nerve disorders to develop which are revealed clearly in the nails and by the color underneath. A diet of simple foods--

fresh fruits, vegetables, unrefined grains and nuts--will, in most cases, produce a healthy body free from nerve disorders. A simple diet can eliminate most visits to the doctor for most people.

If people want to change--and exert their wills sufficiently--even the most extreme cases of nerve disorder can be modified. If the condition is advanced, complete health can be regained. All it takes is a strong will and consistent effort.

Charles Hamilton is a well-known Humanistic Astrologer and Palmist in Lawrence.



A FRAGMENT

by Peg Kahn

Truth is a prophecy  
Pasted to a paper moon  
And Death is a rumor  
Digging graves with a bent spoon.  
Truth is a goal we're  
Forever moving towards  
But Death too has its  
Price, its promise and rewards.