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**EDITORIAL**

*"Our country must abandon all of the habits of racism, because we cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time."*  
President George Walker Bush

**WE MUST UNDERSTAND: Checkmate Ends Games**

Inasmuch as African American News&Issues' pundits have copiously use the term "checkmated" (extracted from Dr. Frances Cress Welsing's lectures on made in America African's political leadership's catch-22 circumstances in the nation's racist political system), we must plead guilty to misrepresenting chess terminology to make a point. Then again, one can easily understand where the renown psychiatrist and author of *The Isis Papers*, is coming from when she used the chess term in context of her lectures on why the misguided agenda of "working within a rotten system to make changes" ultimately puts Black leaders in a no win, "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation.

**We Must Understand**, logic dictates that an oppressive system isn't likely to reward crusaders that are dedicated to equal rights for the oppressed. Yet, Black America somehow fails to grasp the biblical concept found in Matthew 6:24, that elucidates: *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* Even so, if one replaces king, and/or masters with Black leadership, checkmate (FYI: To attack a chess opponent's king in such a manner that no escape or defense is possible, thus ending the game), indeed, tells us what time it is in 2007 Black America, thus, we can't win for losing. If you need an example of where we're coming from, the upcoming bonds that Black Texans will be asked to vote on will suffice.

In fact, since we promised to give insight into various bonds targeting the Nov. 6, 2007 ballot, let's talk about the Houston Independent School District's \$805 million bond request. Not surprisingly, HISD's majority/minority Board of Trustees voted 8-1 for the bond, sans any community input whatsoever. So the question is, why did minority trustees vote aye for the bond that will further tax their already economically depressed

constituents? Particularly Arthur Gaines and Kevin Hoffman who retired from the board forthwith. Longevity notwithstanding, Gaines was lionized in the media and is likely to add to his already massive number of "outstanding citizens," and/or the Black community's "Appreciation Awards," in recognition of his dedicated service during his career in education that spans three decades.

And there's absolutely anything wrong with that. Especially if he truly did the very best that he could under the circumstances. Nevertheless, one has cause to pause and ponder whether, or not, educators that leaves schools they served in worse disrepair; and the kids dumber be honored for doing "a great job?" Perish the thought that we have an axe to grind with Grimes, and surely not Hoffman who we consider a fellow warrior in the ongoing spiritual war. Yet, we would be remiss as an editorial watcher on the wall to not question the effectiveness of minority HISD trustees that condoned the rehiring of the high priced spin doctor Terry Abbott. For sure, we fully understand that one must play the political game well to enjoy minimal success within the system, but much like in chess, when an opponent neutralizes the king, the game ends. Checkmate!

**We Must Understand**, there's a great difference between politicians and public servants. Politicians are more likely to adhere to special interests, while a true public servant serves disenfranchised citizens. Accordingly, we will not rush to judgment because the public servants in question failed to adequately serve the public with the edifying data that AAN&I has requested ad nauseam. The game ain't over until it's over. Ideally, our retired HISD Trustees are obligated to share the results of previous bond election (Detailing how the money was used) with the general public. Surely, retiring educators want their constituents to be educated about the upcoming bond. ★



**BUD'S EYEVUEW**

**ON: Old School's OK!**

**Bud Johnson: The Old African Warrior**

**W**oebeit I'm persistently challenged by detractors that fail to grasp the concept of communicating as opposed to articulating. They enviously critique *The Twilight Zone* methods of my teaching that borders on *The Outer Limits* of disparaging made in America Africans (saying things about my dearly beloved, stuck on stupid brothers and sisters saying that racist "red necks" can't get away with), but I offer no apology whatsoever. In fact, if my acerbic intellectual chastisements offend my more sensitive, brainwashed, political correct brothers and sisters (wont to believe it's intelligent and/or positive reinforcement to tell an ugly child that she, or he, is beautiful)... good! Because it ain't a damn thing positive about a lie.

Denial notwithstanding, if one has the intellectual wherewithal to access the historical archives of their psyches and connect the dots, they can easily discern that Black family values began to erode at the advent of the misguided "positive reinforcement" era, that was duly documented in the inane "Pop Psychology" best seller, *I'm OK-You're OK*, that was written to save a generation of lost and looking White kids. For real, they were suffering from the trauma of integration. White supremacy aside, White kids suddenly realized that Black kids, not only could jump higher on the basketball court, but think on a higher level than they could. Shazam! If you're from my

era you should remember the "Hippie" generation of confused, rich White kids searching for themselves. If not, you might recall a



policy. For sure, I know you're not going to do the research. Ergo (FYI: The book, *I'm OK- You're OK*, by author Thomas Anthony Harris, is one of the most successful self-help books ever published. It was originally published in 1969 by Harper & Row, and gradually grew in popularity until it made the New York Times bestseller list in 1972, where it remained for almost two years.

It is still in print, published by Harper- Collins and is estimated to have sold over 15 million copies in three years. It was translated into over a dozen languages.-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.) In essence, the book rationalized mediocrity and engendered the notion that one can build kid's self esteem by stroking their ego. Even if one lies to them. Hey, if you're too dumb to know where

I'm coming from, **"What we have here is a failure to communicate."** Square business, as I've explained in the past, consider yourself in a classroom when you read *Eyeview*. Accordingly, I'm the "old school," no nonsense teacher who doesn't give a damn if I hurt your feelings or not, as long as I unlock your closed minds and make you think about what I'm saying. Truth is, I learned the most from teachers I disliked. Mayhaps you differ from me. When those mean, old teachers embarrassed me in front of those pretty gals, I conspired pay back. I researched books all night to find flaws in teacher's version of the lesson to rebut in their class the next day. The teachers (insecure in their knowledge) usually put me out of their class. But the good ones often smiled and nodded. And I knew I was OK. **I wonder if anybody knows where I'm coming from?** ★

**PUBLISHER'S NEWS ANALYSIS**  
**Run Carol, Run!**  
**Roy Douglas Malonson**

I'd heard the cliché about remembering our history all of my life. But I hadn't bothered to analyze the often misquoted saying: *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,"* (credited to the 17th century Spanish philosopher George Santayana), until I started publishing *African American News&Issues*. In addition, I never really thought much about it because like far too many history illiterate Americans I confused collective history with personal past. If you read Santayana's *Life of Reason*, you'll realize the popular cliché was taken out of context. What I'm saying is, while the average African American might not know Black History, they certainly should remember their own past.

You can't forget something you never knew. I say this, because my past is an intricate part of my Northwest Houston, Texas' Acres Home community's history. I not only made some of that history, but dedicated myself to reserving it. Yet, unlike most people, who think history is something that you only learn in school, I realize Black History is a chronicle of our culture that's handed down from our ancestors. Ideally, we're obligated to add to that history (FYI: Noah Webster, in his 1828 dictionary defined "history" as: *.... a narrative of events in the order in which they happened with their causes and effects.*), and pass it on to the next generation. With this in mind, I'm duty bound to share what I learned about school bond issues in the past.

Cutting to the chase, any Black person who has voted for school bonds should've immediately thought of the old English saying *"Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me,"* when Superintendent Abe Saavedra had the gall to convince his "rubber stamp," minority/majority Board of Trustees to sanction an \$805 million bond proposal with absolutely "nada" community input. Voters are asked to vote for the bond on Nov. 6, 2007. So, please don't ignore how HISD misused our tax money in the past, because Ignorance Voids History. Meanwhile, let's turn back the clock to 1989 and I'll refresh your memory, or give you a mini-history lesson to consider before you vote aye, or nay for HISD's current bond proposal that will negatively



Carol Galloway

impact inner-city schools. I'm not about to let HISD hold our kids hostage so that they can cram bond proposals and higher taxes down our collective throat. Even so, we must remember when Superintendent Frank Petruzielo did what Saavedra is trying to do. If you remember, voters choked on a bond proposal that was hard to swallow. As much as I like that analogy, maybe you don't know where I'm coming from? I'm talking when Petruzielo conned the voters into voting 2-1 (27, 190 yea-13, 056 nay), for a two-phase, \$300 million bond in 1989. If you recall, he not only failed to keep his promises, but citizens were hit with a staggering 32 percent tax increase in

1992. Yet, he brazenly added insult to injury in 1993 when he moved to get the second phase approved without community input.

However, Carol Mims Galloway (former City Councilmember who was then on the school board) raised so much hell until she made Petruzielo cut and run. Dr. Rod Paige picked up HISD's baton, but

had to fight Galloway, who rallied the community against any proposal that would close schools in the 'hood. History repeats notwithstanding, I got a phone call from NAACP's president Galloway shortly after Arthur Gaines and Kevin Hoffman voted 'yea' for a bond proposal that included closing schools in their respective dis-

tricts and retired. She was as mad as hell, and (in spite of already being over burdened trying to resurrect her organization's historical image in the 'hood) asked me if I would help her reclaim her seat on school board. Since Carol knows HISD's divisive bond history, inside-out, I shouted into the phone...**Run Carol run!** ★