

POWER TO THE GRASSROOTS

By RICK HOPTON



BLACK AWARENESS AND MANIPULATION

What is manipulation? Is manipulation a good road to take toward black self-consciousness and total acceptance of ones-self?

To deal with these complex questions you must first understand what I mean when I say "Manipulation".

Hey there, you brothers on the street know exactly what I'm talking about. When was the last time you ran a game on one of those bourgeois Negroes who stopped in front of "The old standby liquor store".

That B. S. game that you use to get the money for a bottle of wine is called "Manipulation". On the other hand I'm not saying that that bottle of wine isn't necessary for your head, because sometimes its necessary for everybodies head, in one form or another.

But dig this, where we make our mistake is when we try to play a false B. S. game that really isn't the way we are on the inside.

This could also be called a "Process of conditioning" that white America loves for us to play against each other. We will have to realize sooner or later that we as black people in a racist orientated country cannot afford to play the dog eat dog game that white America plays against each other.

We must be at least two steps ahead of white America if we expect to survive and progress.

The whites have the power, we don't. White America got it through greed, we must get it by understanding "Manipulation" and practicing how not to use it against our own race.

If you keep stabbing your brother in the back, stealing his stereo tape player and color bar, you never will get off the corner you keep crying about.

You say its the system that keeps you down, when in reality you should be saying, "I keep myself down, by believing the lies the system tells about me". When you steal and lie to your own people you can't expect to be anyplace but "Down" - under white America's thumb.

To get away from white America's trip you will have to stop and look at this word "Manipulation" a little more deeply.

First of all, when I talk about "Manipulation" I'm talking about one person in the process of trying to dehumanize (Use him, or get what you want) another person through devious or underhanded means.

In essence what black people seem to be saying (Sub-Consciously) when they do this to other blacks is, "Yeah, I believe everything white America says about black people and myself, so I'll just treat you and screw you like the "Nigger" white America says you are".

White people have many blacks by the rear end and most of them aren't even aware of it.

We must learn to analyze this game more realistically and confront it accordingly.

If you think white America's mind games are something new your dead wrong.

There are two easy reading books you can find that will give you a little more insight into white America's game against black psychological health.

The books are, "Chronicles of Black Protest", by Bradford Chambers and "Black Rage", by H. Grier

And if you're not a good reader don't feel bad, because neither am I. As a matter of fact we might even bump into each other when we enroll in an evening reading course at the Adult Training Center, located at 1450 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, Calif. 91004 - Phone 798-0529.

Look brothers, if your going to get high, get high reading books. Then turn other black people on to what you read. But, make sure you tell them about the meaning of the book in general. Don't try and show how intellectual you are because you read it and they didn't (That's white America's game, don't let it become yours).

You must self-educate yourself as Eldridge Cleaver and other important black men have done. It doesn't take much time; so stop making excuses. All it takes is a few hours a week and you will be able to liberate both yourself and your people.

So put white America's "Playing cards" down - start dealing your own black awareness and self-commitment that goes with it.

The only way to successfully deal with white America's game is to get educated and learn exactly how the rules are set up.

Black students must think of Sociology only as a last resort for their major in college. Black sociologists are a dime a dozen. We must learn to concentrate our efforts on the things that make this country tick. Things like economics, political science, business, history, law, and journalism.

There will always be a need for black journalists who "Tell it like it is", and who would work hard to start black newspapers all over the country to help educate the masses of blacks that must know the "truth."

Sociology is just another one of the many games white America plays to keep blacks down. If blacks were educated in the things that I've mentioned above there would be no real need for sociology. The reason for that being, we would already have the key to any door we wanted to open.

Along with this formal training we as black people must also cling tightly to our sensitivity toward other blacks. We must not become insensitive like white America - for if we do, we will lose everything we accomplish.

We have many things to do, and we must above all, learn to do those things together as one.

Just remember. "To manipulate people is no accomplishment, anybody can manipulate people in one way or another, but, how many of us can understand or begin to understand ourselves."

The only way to solve a problem is to confront it and deal with it head on, because the longer you run the worse it becomes, and eventually you break down and cease to exist.

We must stop trying to look for the easy way out, because there isn't any.

The sooner we as black people can look at ourselves as a moving force or part involved in the total mechanism of survival, and not as something set aside from everyone else - then and only then will our world and its people be ready to accept life as it really is, and not how they want it to be.

Quote to Remember: "Whatever you are be it - whatever others are accept them for it - because they too have feelings."