

Whistle Blower

Volume 1

January 6, 2006

U.S. \$1.00

Is It True

Grand Rapids Is The Most Racist City In America?

Is this really Johannesburg West?

Let's look at the facts

STATE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN GRAND RAPIDS

Because statistics change over time, this information may have a 5% error ratio.

Resources:

The Over The Hill Gang Investigating committee
ABC National news
WZZM television Station
Grand Rapids Chamber Of commerce
Grand Rapids Business Magazine
The Summit On Racism
Grand Rapids Public Library
The U.S. Census Bureau (WWW.GOV.COM)
The Grand Rapids Press
Community Research Institute at GVSU
And others

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Labor force by Occupational Category

	Caucasians	African Americans	Hispanic	Asians
Officials and managers	12,540 54.2%	358 2.9%	131 1.0%	44 0.4%
Professionals	26,802 89%	1380 2.7%	577 1.2%	502 1.1%
Sales Workers	11,050 87%	623 4.8%	371 1.6%	239 1.1%
Administrative Support Workers	20,911 86.6%	1465 7%	767 3.7%	233 0.5%
Service Workers	17,006 75.6%	1604 6.9%	1183 6.8%	200 1.2%
Craft Workers	10,448 88.7%	398 3.8%	648 5.8%	65 0.6%
Technicians	3,700 90.2%	180 4.4%	63 0.7%	20 0.5%

Grand Rapids has always been a

LILY WHITE CITY

that seems to have the same mindset as Johannesburg!

Of the White People,
By the White People,
For the White People!

**CITIZENS IN GRAND RAPIDS ARE
WILLING TO INVEST OVER**

\$200,000,000,000

and thousands of lives to make the people of Iraq free and independent, but are unwilling to invest in its own African American citizens here who are in a crisis!

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME!

Help African Americans in Grand Rapids obtain economic and social independence!!!

**IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER
OF BLACK AND WHITE!**

White People
Control Most
Of The
Money,
Land
Business
And
Political
Power!

Black People
Have No
Money,
No Land,
No Business
Political Power
And No
Economic Power

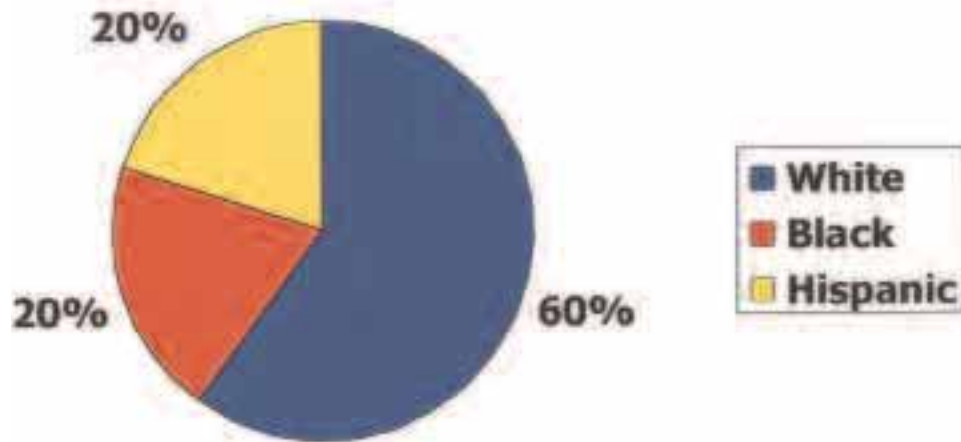
WE ARE

20%

OF THE POPULATION SO WE SHOULD HAVE

20%

OF THE CONTROL AND OWNERSHIP OF BOTH
BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT!



OF:

Auto dealerships

Restaurants

Cable television

Television stations

Grocery stores

Lending institutions

Furniture stores

Clothing Stores

Building contracts

Real Estate

Department stores

and others

THIS IS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL !

***We are not saying
that all
White people
are bad.***

***We are attacking
the system of
“White Supremacy!”***

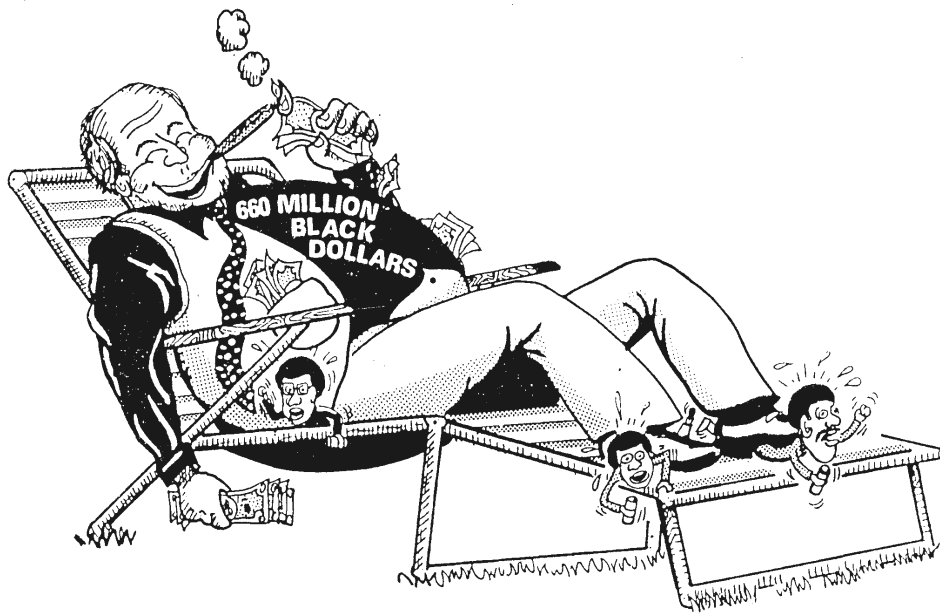
African Americans Are looking for

“PARITY NOT CHARITY”

“OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE PIE.”

Equality Of opportunity

“The Good ole Boys Club”



“ Keep those **BLACK DOLLARS** rollin’ in,
but don’t give them anything back.”

Separate But Not Equal Opportunity

EMPLOYMENT

There are over 40,000 African Americans in Grand Rapids, yet

***THERE ARE LESS THAN 30 IN UPPER MANAGEMENT
IN ANY OF THE 15000 BUSINESSES IN GR.***

There are over 25,000 sales jobs in the Grand Rapids area,

AFRICAN AMERICANS HOLD LESS THAN 40 OF THEM.

THERE ARE NO UPPER LEVEL MANAGERS

in any major restaurants in Grand Rapids.

THERE ARE NO GENERAL MANAGERS

in any major automobile dealerships.

***THERE ARE NO GENERAL MANAGERS
AND NO EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT PEOPLE
in any area banks.***

There are over 15,00 small businesses with

NO AFRICAN AMERICAN EMPLOYEES.

There are over 400 plumbers,

ONLY 2 ARE AFRICAN AMERICANS.

There are over 350 electricians,

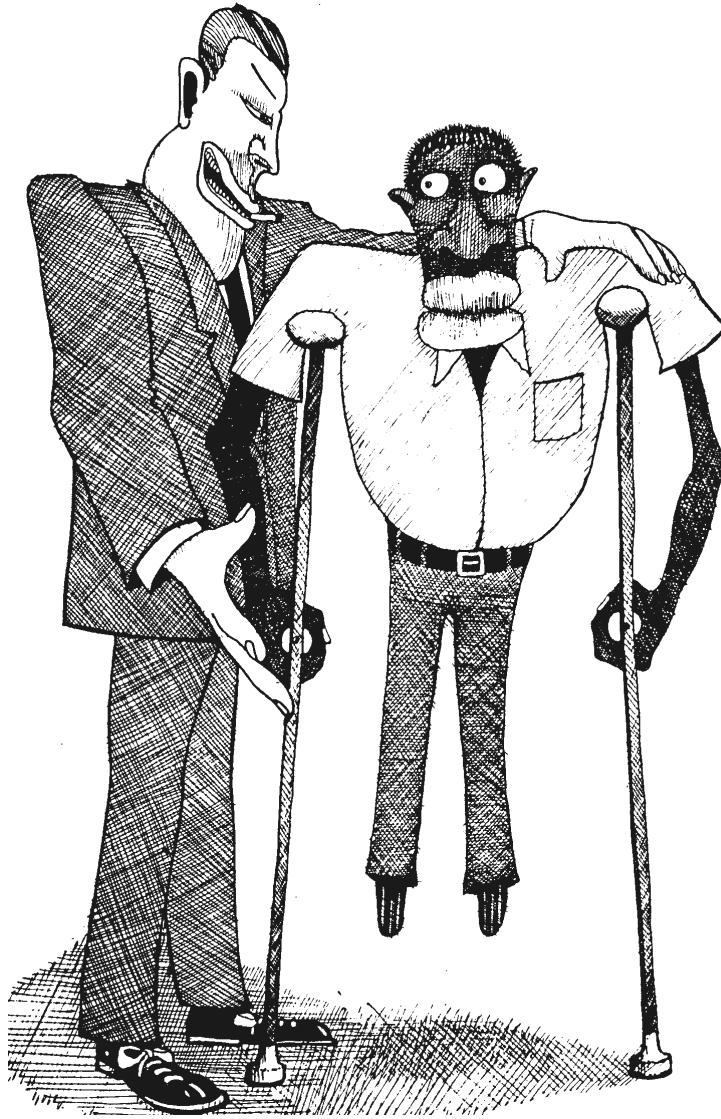
ONLY 4 ARE AFRICAN AMERICANS.

HOW WHITES IN GRAND RAPIDS SEE AFRICAN AMERICANS?



"We don't see color, we ignore it!"

“You people simply must learn to stand on your own two feet!”



‘We got ours. you people get yours!’

Let's look At The Facts

ONLY FOUR

FOUR National Franchises In The Entire Grand Rapids Area!

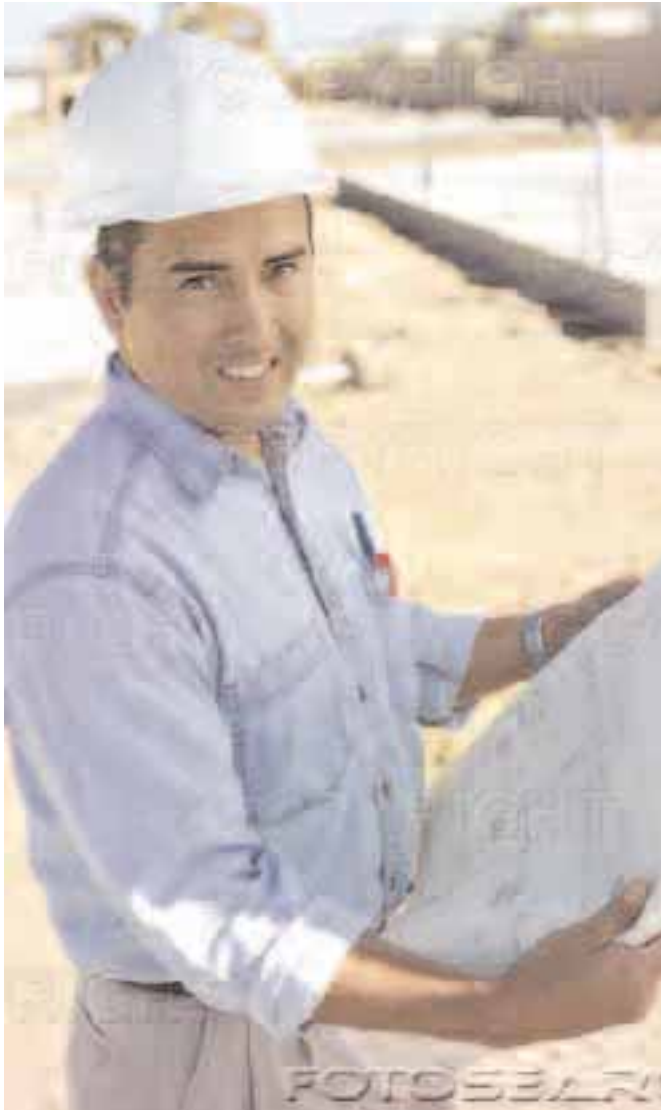
- * Auto dealers
- * Banks
- * Cable companies
- * Carpet dealers
- * Clothing stores
- * Computer stores
- * Convenient stores
- * Department stores
- * Major electric contractors
- * Hospitals
- * Insurance companies
- * Jewelry stores
- * Landscape companies
- * Lumberyards
- * Major schools
- * Major appliances
- * Men's clothing
- * Movie stores
- * Muffler stores
- * Music stores
- * Office Supplies
- * Office furniture
- * Paint stores
- * Pet stores
- * Plumbing companies
- * Pharmacies
- * Photography stores
- * Printers
- * Rental stores
- * Restaurants
- * Roofers
- * Shoe stores
- * Siding companies
- * Sporting good stores
- * Television stores
- * Tires stores
- * Travel agencies
- * Women's clothing
- * Windows & Doors

AIN'T NO JOBS, GET A BUSINESS!

*Anyone can be trained to operate and/or
manage these businesses!*

BUILDING CONTRACTORS & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

LILY WHITE



There are over 2000 contractors with
NO AFRICAN AMERICAN
employees or apprentices.

100%
of all new roads and road repair contractors are awarded to white contractors,

99%
of all the homes, office buildings, road construction and remodeling have been by white companies!

99%
of all of the homes built In Grand Rapids were built by white owned contractors.

NO
major building or housing complex has ever been built by African American contractors.

NO
African builders or contractors with major building contracts.

Education

Here are some facts



**What's wrong
with this picture?**

81% of Grand Rapids teachers are white. White people control the school system and the curriculum. Black people have no say in what is being taught, how or when!

74% of the students are of color

68% higher expulsion rate. African American students are expelled from school at a much higher rate than white students.

40% More African American children drop out than whiter students.

60% more African Americans are put in special Ed classes than all other races.

WHAT WE WANT AND NEED

FACILITIES

The facilities and equipment in mostly white schools is far superior to those of schools in predominately non-white schools.

DEDICATED TEACHERS

We need dedicated teachers whose children are also attending the same schools, therefore they are familiar with their problems and have the same aspirations and expectation as the parents and students.

**GRAND RAPIDS IS TRULY
THE CITY OF INOPPORTUNITY**



"WE BELIEVE IN DIVIDING EVERYTHING UP UNEQUALLY!"

ETHNIC RESTAURANTS, BAKERIES AND GROCERY STORES IN THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA

Restaurants

- 1. Chinese.....38
- 2. Mexican.....12
- 3. Indians.....8
- 4. Japanese.....6
- 5. Mid-eastern.....4
- 6. Thai.....3
- 7. German.....2
- 8. Vietnamese.....1
- 9. Cuban.....1
- 10. African American.....4



Grocery stores

- 1. Hispanic.....20
- 2. Asian.....7
- 3. Polish.....5
- 4. Indian/Mid-eastern.....4
- 5. European.....2
- 6. African American.....0



COMMUNICATIONS

RADIO STATIONS

26 Radio stations
24 White stations
2 African American oriented stations
No African American FM stations

TELEVISION STATIONS

3 television stations
3 owned by whites
0 owned by African Americans

CABLE COMPANIES

0 owned by African Americans

These stations employ less than 55 minorities combined.
Many don't have any or just have one or two token minorities.

CELL PHONE COMPANIES

0 owned by African Americans

NATIONAL FRANCHISES IN THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA

109 NATIONAL FRANCHISES

White Owned.....109
African American.....2
Other Non-whites.....0

32 MAJOR AUTO DEALERSHIPS

White Owned.....32
African America Owned.....0
Other Non-whites.....0

52 MAJOR BANKS

White Owned.....25
African American Owned.....0
Other Non-whites.....0

53 MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

White Owned.....49
African American Owned.....2
Other Non-whites.....2

61%

**Of the Jail population are
African Americans.**

48%

**of all former prisoners return
to jail within 2 years.**

*While African Americans account for only 20%
of the population of the jail population is 73%
non-white. Young men coming out of jail have
little or no chance getting a job or turning their
lives around. What other choice do they have
to survive besides returning to a life of crime?*

Who is Poor in Kent County?

It is...

- a family of four with an annual income of **\$17,650** or less.
- a family of three with an annual income of **\$14,630** or less.
- a family of two with an annual income of **\$11,610** or less.
- an individual with an income of **\$8,590** or less.

These are the official federal poverty thresholds in 2001. Most experts agree that it takes twice this annual income to be economically self-sufficient.

It is...

- a family of four with one full-time wage earner making \$8.49 an hour.
- a full-time working single mother of one child with an hourly wage of \$5.58.

Most low-wage working parents are employed in retail (30%) or service (41%) jobs.

It is...

- 1 in 8 school children in Kent County.
- 1 in 4 school children in Grand Rapids.

Two-thirds of all children in Grand Rapids Public Schools qualify for "free and reduced price" lunches. That means their family incomes are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines (shown above).

What does it mean to be poor?

For a low-wage working family, a monthly budget has to stretch to cover basic needs...

- \$566 Rent (*fair market cost of a 2-bedroom apartment*)
- \$416 Child Care (*one child*)
- \$343 Food (*does not include nonfood household items*)
- \$ 30 Transportation (*one-month bus pass*)
- \$ 99 Electric and Gas (*based on low usage*)
- \$ 25 Telephone (*basic service*)

\$1,479 (\$17,748 per year)

- ??? Everything else (*health care, clothing, haircuts, gifts/toys/ recreation, school supplies, savings for a house or car...*)

Budget is based on average costs in Kent County. The Family Independence Agency helps with the cost of rent, childcare, food, transportation, and other services for those who qualify.

Community Research Institute

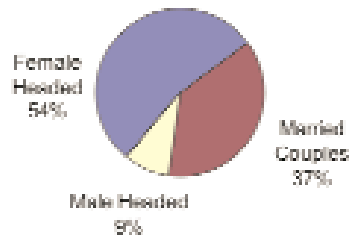
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
232C DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431
616.336.7585, www4.grsu.edu/philanthropy



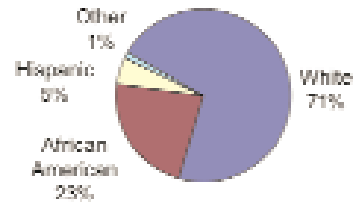
GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Who are the Working Poor Families in Michigan? Mid-1990s

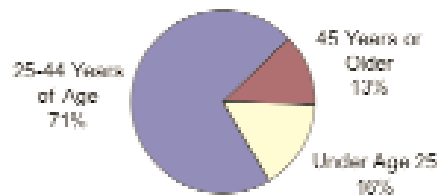
Family Type



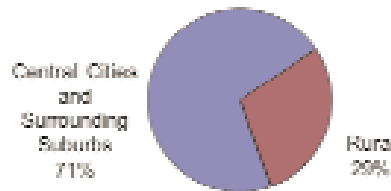
Race/Ethnicity



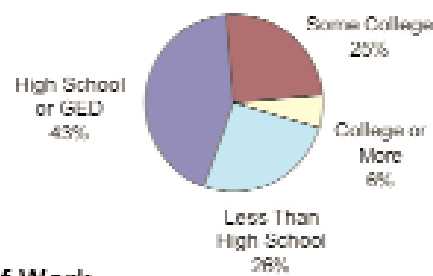
Age of Family Head



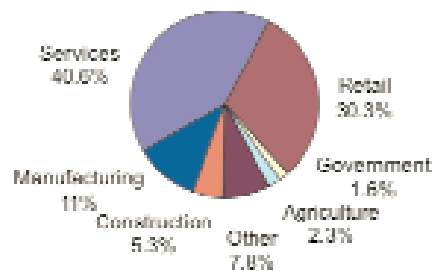
Location/Residence



Education (Family Head)



Place of Work



Source: Michigan League for Human Services, *Michigan's Families, Poor, Despite Work*
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau's March CPS
Data, 1994-1996

WHAT WE DEMAND NOW!

Since we are 20% of the population,
we want 20% Of the action now!

We Want Equality Of Opportunity And Reparations

We want reparations comparable to those presently
given to Iraq, Japan, and other nations.

1. We want 100 million dollars to set up schools to train our young people
for a period of five years to become self-reliant.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We want access to monies for economic development without the usual red
tape and excuses.

We want greater access to federal grants and other philanthropic entities that
frequently make donations to small businesses, corporations and other groups
for the betterment of the Grand Rapids community.

A. We want apprenticeships for the next five years in the following areas:

1. Automobiles
2. Appliances
3. Communications
4. Construction
5. Electronics
6. Insurance
7. Mortgage
- 8 .Real estates
9. Retail stores
10. Sales
11. Technology

3. We want at least 25 national franchises.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Appliance stores | E. Clothing stores | I. Real estates |
| B. Auto dealerships | F. Insurance | J. Retail stores |
| C. Carpet dealers | G. Mortgage | K. Shoe stores |
| D. Cable television | H. Pharmacies | L. Television sales & service |
| | | M. Many Others |

4. Jobs

We need jobs now or be given the ability and opportunity to create our own jobs.

5. BANKS

We want more seats on bank boards

6. UPPER MANAGEMENT

More upper level management people in all area businesses.

Therefore, we want jobs and/or apprenticeships in a Variety of area business that presently employ few or no minorities!

6. APPRENTICESHIPS

We want training and apprenticeships for young people who have been convicted of felonies to become productive citizens.

7. THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A. We want justice in the justice system. We want scrutiny over the judgements and attorneys in the courts in Grand Rapids.

B. We want more community patrols of our inner city streets, by residents.

C. We want the police department to rid the community of drugs and drug dealers.

8. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

We want total revision of the school system, immediately. We want to revise the curriculum to adapt to the needs and culture of non-white students.

We want more non-white teachers.

We want better, more updated equipment for our children.

9. GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Enforcement all government contracts that require minority inclusion.

10. GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Enforcement all government contracts that require minority inclusion.

11. GRANTS

We want greater access to federal grants and other philanthropic entities that frequently make donations to small business, corporations and other groups for the betterment of the Grand Rapids community.

12. THE MEDIA

We want more faces of color on the three major television networks. We want more positive news stories in all area newspapers to help develop positive role models for our children.