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From: Eric L. Wattree, Sr. [mailto:eric@wattree.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 2:59 AM

To: James Lisbon

Subject: RE: It's Time For a New Black Credo: I'm Black and I'm Feeding My Own Kids

James:

A Credo is a little too controversial? You must have gotten a little heat behind the article on Affirmative Action. I warned you before you ran it that our people didn't want to hear the truth. What we want to hear is things that make us feel warm and fuzzy inside, and portray us as not responsible for our own plight. But that's why we're in the shape we're in today.

The fact is, Bush spent \$60 Billion in Iraq since the beginning of the war, and he just asked for another \$87 Billion for this fiscal year. That's \$147 Billion over and above what was being spent when he was cutting programs for black people. So we might as well quit begging and start thinking about what we can do for ourselves, because the white man is not going to give us a dime—and the longer we continue whine and cry about what the white man is doing to us, the farther behind we're going to become.

Let's be realistic. It's not the schools that's keeping black kids from learning, it's a culture that places more value on bling bling, on hustling, on basketball, on hip hop, on finger pointing, on drugs, and on trying to look like we've already got it together, than it does knowledge. We've got to face that, because if we never admit that we have a problem, we're never going to fix it.

Instead of wasting so much time complaining about what the white man is doing to us, our leaders should be in the community telling young people that knowledge is power, and more importantly, it's free. There's just as much knowledge in the corner library as there is at Harvard University. All we have to do is embrace it, love it, and give our young people as many props for obtaining it as we do for shootin' free throws.

As black men, we're always talking about "our manhood." But you'll never hear a real man say, "I can't make it because that man over there won't *help* me," or "That man over there won't *let* me feed my family." A real man says, "Nobody's gonna stop me from doing whatever I have to do to feed my family." Now, that's a *man*, but I hear very little of that coming from the black community—and the reason for that is it's much easier to sit on our asses and say what we could have been if our great grandfather's grandfather hadn't been a slave. That's also the reason we get so mad when we hear the truth—because it takes us out of our comfort zone, and forces us to confront the fact that many of us are pitiful excuses for men. And we're not only pitiful, we're stupid. We're men enough to kill each other, but not men enough to feed our families.

Think about that the next time you hear Jesse telling us it's the white man's fault we can't make it. Then ask yourself this: Then why is it that Jesse, who is just as black as I am, could not only send his kids to Law School, but has one child that's a Congressman? It kinda makes you think, uh?

Eric

wattree.com

Eric L. Wattree, Sr.

wattree.com

Isn't it curious how those who claim to love America most also seem to be most hostile toward American ideals? Think about it.
