

The left is where true rascism lies

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

Both Democrats and the NAACP have cashed Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling's checks. The Democratic Party and its allied organizations have a closer affiliation with Sterling than Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy has with the Republican Party. For years Sterling has purchased indulgences from the NAACP that allowed him to escape responsibility for driving African-American tenants out of his apartments to make room for more desirable whites and used his wealth to stay on the left's good side.

And perhaps the Sterling episode reveals as much about the moral corruption of the left as it does about Sterling himself. The Los Angeles Clippers owner has a long rap list of racism, but also a history as a supporter of Democrat politicians, including former California Gov. Gray Davis and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

His exposure as a racist by the gossip website TMZ came just three weeks before he was scheduled to receive his second Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP. He received his first Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. If you give the NAACP enough money, not only will they overlook your malfeasance, they'll grant you multiple lifetimes.

This speaks volumes about the NAACP. Clearly it has devolved into just another protection racket. But don't expect to read that in the paper. It doesn't fit the narrative.

On the other hand, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., had the mainstream news media's ears when he sought to attach Bundy to the Republican Party, even though I have yet to see a prominent Republican taking up his cause.

Bundy, like most if not all Nevada ranchers, is dependent upon grazing rights leased from the federal Bureau of Land Management. Considering that the federal government owns 86 percent of Nevada, Nevadans have little choice but to beg from the feds.

But Bundy stands out as a special case. His grazing lease was revoked nearly a quarter-century ago to protect the endangered desert tortoise. He continued to graze his animals on the land that his family had long used and now claims that his grazing rights predate the establishment of the BLM and that the federal government has no authority to collect fees from him.

The facts don't support him.

He did his cause no good with an oafish interview in which he said that African-Americans were better off under slavery than they are today. What I think he intended to say was that the modern dependency that too many African-Americans have been sold on by Democrats is more corrosive for the soul than slavery.

Unfortunately for Bundy, he cannot afford what the NAACP charges for indulgences.

But in all truth, Bundy and Sterling are amateurs when it comes to doing harm to African-Americans. There exists within the Democratic Party a far more insidious racism that surpasses anything that either of these scoundrels stand accused of. And it usually goes unremarked upon.

Illinois' Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn recently promoted the idea that African-Americans who vote Republican suffer from the same moral corruption as Jews who collaborated with the Nazis during the Holocaust.

This attitude enjoys wide popularity among the left. No African-American can legitimately embrace an ideology that departs from the paternalistic collectivism advocated by Democrats. For example, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently sued a North Carolina city, seeking to overturn a referendum that modified the city's elections to make them non-partisan, as they are in much of the country. Holder argued that African-Americans could not know how to cast votes in their best interests unless the ballot identified the Democrat candidates for them.

Democrats regard dark skin color as proof of ownership every bit as definitive as the brands that Bundy burns onto his cattle's flanks.

Liberal social scientists tell us that, these days, the most common manifestations of racism come in the form of so-called "microaggressions." A white woman who clutches her purse tighter when passing a black man on the sidewalk exhibits a familiar form of microaggression. But we're also told that expecting superior mathematical skills from Asians is another form of microaggression.

So may we call it microaggression when Democrats assume that all blacks and Hispanics should surrender their decision making to liberal whites? This does represent one of the central tenets of liberal racial theory that define the Democratic Party, including its African-American elites.

Sterling's repugnant racism does far less tangible harm than standard issue Democrat microaggression.

Costello is a research technician at Washington State University. His email address is kozmocostello@hotmail.com.