

Todays Survival in America – “Nuthin but a G’Thang”

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The term “G’ Thang” was popularized by Dr. Dre's highly successful single from the album “The Chronic”. To generically explain G’Thang is to describe what the gangster is doing, wearing, saying or down with.

So is this a column about gangs? No, G’Thang in this connotation means “Good Thing”.

There is growing concern among Americans regarding the legality, morality and swiftness of the new administrations election mandate to remove Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies from the government lexicon. This is happening as part of the federal government reorganization, and changes to the presidency which some feel could affect the structure of American democracy.

We are experiencing a rollback of civil rights legislation, ending birthright citizenship, overturning court reforms defining views on race, gender equity, and humanitarian concerns for families.

The inaugural speech promised to “fully restore America”.

But to what extent?

The new administration is proposing the closure of the departments of education and commerce. It’s slashing USAID, reclassifying workers in the Veterans Affairs and Forest Service to be non-federal employees and firing tenured public service professionals without cause or fully adhering to legal procedures. Executive orders have removed race as a consideration in all aspects of public education, including Black studies and graduation ceremonies. Additionally, funding for all government programs has been frozen.

The executive orders will discontinue certain environmental protection measures, phase out single-use plastics, and allow increased oil production in protected areas. Intolerance mandates have been enacted to end anti-Christian bias and gender-affirming care.

The administration pardoned January 6th insurrectionists, including two who were rearrested for child sex charges. The president has overlooked individuals who have been convicted of contempt during their testimony before Congress, and has halted the investigation into political corruption. There is a demand for greater emphasis on allegiance to the office of the president versus protecting the nation.

Here are the observations I have noted.

Project 2025 advocates for the utilization of executive orders as a means to circumvent the legislative authority of Congress. The 2025 Presidential Transition intends to reshape the federal government and reduce checks on executive power, favoring far-right politics.

In high school civics, we were taught that Congress is responsible for passing laws, legislation and authorizing the budget, while the President executes program expenditures and enforces regulatory laws.

When there is a conflict between the authority of Congress and the Executive Branch, it is the responsibility of the courts to resolve the constitutional issue. Think-tanks have noted that executive orders with potential constitutional issues may require years to be adjudicated through the litigation process. The intentional establishment of a constitutional dilemma aimed at delaying or altering legislative actions by Congress is referred to as legislation by fiat.

Politicians from both parties, along with the FBI and federal prosecutors, are avoiding disagreement with the President out of fear of consequences, displaying undue obedience to executive power. Progressives have yet to formulate a concrete strategy in response, while conservatives, despite their concerns, continue to support presidential actions. The President and their operatives are not liable for prosecution for actions carried out during their tenure, as judicial rulings grant legal immunity to the executive office while in office.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives have significantly aided marginalized communities in integrating into the broader American culture, utilizing legislative measures and judicial protection for support. While Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) encompass a wide array of groups, including individuals with disabilities, veterans, women, and various religious beliefs, this administration has chosen to primarily focus on race in its interpretation of DEI.

DEI aims to give hope to disenfranchised groups and encourage a conversation about America's identity, prompting organizations to consider workforce culture. DEI does not involve hiring, promoting unqualified candidates, reducing standards, or implementing quotas.

What measures can be taken to address the aggressive tactics currently utilized in Washington politics? To revisit fundamental concepts, allow me to remind you of the principles of self-defense in a society influenced by racial dynamics.

Maintain Control of Your Position. Economic independence is essential for true security. Relying excessively on others can be detrimental. Assimilating into a societal culture marked by racial domination and separation presents significant challenges. Influencing how others perceive you as a Black individual is difficult, if not impossible. No number of degrees, job titles, or perceived

influence can alter your identity. It is important to avoid allowing prejudice to dominate your thoughts and actions.

Control Your Movement. We often act before thinking. While taking risks can lead to rewards, making the wrong move can have major consequences. An investigative strategy is necessary. The late Reverend Leon H. Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and General Motors board member, said, "Integration without preparation brings frustration".

Understand the distinctions of boundaries. It is crucial to navigate life's journey by using stop signs, bridges or crosswalks to ensure safer pathways. Engaging in reckless actions is not sustainable in the long term; therefore, it is important to acknowledge the challenges of functioning within the broader society.

Seek collaboration, advice, mentoring, and prayer when needed. Solidarity strengthens you, and faith eliminates fear.

Strategize methodically. Meticulous planning is preferable to failure. While it will not be an easy endeavor and you will encounter obstacles, it is crucial to select your challenges judiciously and strive for success in each.

Form strategic alliances. It is essential to seek support to influence legislative and judicial processes. Remember, you cannot impact those with whom you are not engaging.

It is hoped you will reengage with organizations such as the National Urban League, NAACP, organized labor unions, the National Civic League, or various faith groups. These organizations have a longstanding record of advocating for and safeguarding civil rights, and they continue to be relevant in the current era.

Traditional civil rights groups are adapting, and you have the opportunity to introduce new tactics, creativity, and boldness to aid in their evolution. Your innovative ideas, strategies, and leadership are essential for success in the current political climate, and your contributions are crucial.

Supporting your Urban League or any organization established for positive purposes can be beneficial to both yourself and others in the community who require assistance in navigating current environmental challenges. We would like to invite you to become an esteemed contributor to our cause; the San Diego Urban League.

Ain't nuthin but a G'-Thang!

The National Urban League mantra, "Not alms but opportunity"

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