

Attempt to Split Negro Community Suspected

EVERY GOOD GUY

Phony Political Item Shocks Westside Young Adults Club



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Prometheus Group Said Non-Partisan; No Endorsement

A PREPOSTEROUS REPORT that "a new Westside organization has arisen to disturb the 'Old Guard' now in control of the political structure" in West Las Vegas has been exposed as a complete fraud. The fantastic fable was fed to the public last Sunday by the already thoroughly discredited "political expert" of a Las Vegas daily newspaper.

Otis Harris Jr., who has been president of the "new Westside organization" for the past year, told the VOICE that members of the young adult group, known as the Prometheus Circle



OTIS HARRIS, Jr.

were shocked and embarrassed by the distorted picture of the group's intentions and objectives presented by the political columnist.

Apparently reluctant, for obvious reasons, to antagonize a vicious and unprincipled "poison pen artist" by flatly contradicting him, and emphasizing that the Prometheus Circle did not want to become embroiled in contro-

versy with any segment of the local press, Harris said he still felt it was necessary to set the record straight.

"IN THE FIRST PLACE," he said, "the Prometheus Circle is not a political organization. It is merely a group of young Westside men and women who have been drawn together by a desire to serve their community on a non-profit basis. It is true that one of our aims--only one, mind you--is to arouse more interest in politics among citizens of the colored community in order to develop community political power and the intelligent use of that power at the polls.

"But we are equally concerned with promoting other phases of enlightened community self-interest and civic activity," he said, "such as emphasizing the importance of advanced academic education and technical training in this age of automation; developing a system of scholarships and loans to assist deserving and needy students; striving for improved living, shopping and working conditions; pushing for more and better recreational facilities; stimulating the desire to establish privately-owned businesses and encouraging community support for local business people; raising health and sanitation standards; crusading against poverty

(See HARRIS, page 13)

MADISON SURVEY REVEALS CONTRADICTION

Many Negroes Seem Confused About Compulsory Integration, Neighborhood School Policy

A CURIOUS CONFLICT, apparently contradictory, in the minds of some Negro residents of West Las Vegas as to whether elementary school children in the local school system should or should not be forcibly integrated was revealed in a recent survey made by sixth grade students of Madison School.

The survey, conducted in the general neighborhood of the school at Madison Ave. and 'J' St., located in the very heart of the Las Vegas colored community, ostensibly reflected the opinions of 114 persons, including 78 females and 36 males, all but 10 of them adults ranging in age from 21 to 67 with a median or average age of 40. Youngest of the 10 exceptions were four 16-year-olds.

Two of the 10 questions posed in the survey asked if those interviewed agreed or disagreed with diametrically opposed propositions. One was: "Buses should be used to integrate elementary school children." The other was: "The neighborhood policy should be followed as closely as possible rather than compulsory integration

for integration's sake."

THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION arose when 70 per cent of those questioned said they agreed with the view that buses should be used to integrate elementary school children while about 74 per cent of the same group said, in effect, that they favored elementary school children being assigned to schools in their own neighborhoods rather than being compelled to attend integrated schools, possibly outside their own neighborhoods.

These overlapping figures indicate that a considerable number of those interviewed either were confused by the wording of the two questions (the term "neighborhood policy" may have proved a major stumbling block), failed to properly interpret one or both of the propositions for some other reason, or, as the saying goes, "wanted to have their cake and eat it, too."

Slightly under 20 per cent said they were opposed to the bussing proposition and 11.7 per cent could not decide one way or the other. Less than 10 per cent thought the neighborhood policy "should be followed as closely as possible, etc." and 15.6 per cent were uncertain.

THE SURVEY INDICATED that a vast majority (86.8 per cent) of those interviewed think school children in the colored community get along with each other passably well, and about the same percentage (88.4) think Westside children are average students insofar as "learning their lessons" is concerned.

In answer to the question, "Do you think the Westside schools should have improved educational programs before student integration is attempted?", almost two-thirds (63 per cent) answered in the affirmative, almost one-fourth (23.2 per cent) thought the opposite and the remainder (about 14 per cent) were uncertain. The proposition that, "Only Negro children who are prepared to get along with others and who know their lessons should be integrated in the future," produced approximately the same ratio.

In regard to prejudice, only 4 per cent of (See SURVEY, page 15)

LAS VEGAS KAPPAS RE-INSTALL BOOKER

OFFICERS FOR 1965-66 were installed at a recent meeting of the Las Vegas Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, with Western Provincial Polemarch Robert F. Green of Los Angeles conducting the installation ceremony after delivering a dynamic and inspiring address to the local Kappas on the occasion of their first anniversary.

Kermit R. Booker Sr. was reinstated as chapter polemarch. Serving with him will be J. David Hoggard Jr., vice polemarch; William (Joe) Haynes, exchequer and keeper of the records; William H. Smith Jr., historian and reporter; Lee Rayford, asst. record keeper for alumni affairs; James Pughsley, strategus; Herschel Williams, lieut. strategus, and Herbert Freeman, Meldon Woods, Curtis Hall and George Sherman, directors.

Honor plaques were presented to the seven founding brothers present--Booker Sr., Hoggard, Haynes, Smith, Williams, Freeman and Roger Von Phul. Other charter members are Kermit Booker Jr., Marquis Haynes and Harry Robinson. Booker Sr. had been honored in August at the Western Provincial meeting in Portland, Ore., as one of the region's outstanding Kappas for 1964-65.

Following the formal ceremonies, the Silhouettes, an auxilliary composed of members' wives, served a delicious repast featuring fried chicken.

Sawyer Talks Here

PUBLIC HEALTH in Nevada from the administrative level will be discussed by Gov. Grant Sawyer at today's (Oct. 7) luncheon of the sixth annual convention of the Nevada Health Association at the Fremont Hotel.

Meetings and clinics are scheduled for today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and tomorrow (Oct. 8) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Retiring NPHA president Dr. Harry Gibson will introduce his successor, Mrs. Ethelda Thelen, R.N., state supervisor of the Public Health Nursing Services, at Friday's luncheon.

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