

Gragson 'Toast Roast' set for June 30th

An evening of nostalgia and fun will be presented by the Las Vegas Press Club at the "Mayor Oran Gragson Toast and Roast" June 30 at the Union Plaza Hotel.

The event will honor Mayor Gragson's 16 years in office as Las Vegas' top elected official, and some of the most noted comics who have appeared here during his term have prepared a tribute which is sure to provide some merriment, mixed in with the history of Gragson's tenure.

In addition, Mayor-elect Bill Briare will serve as master of ceremonies in one of his first official acts.

Harry Parker, long-time Las Vegas public relations figure, is chairman of the committee organizing the event, while Scott Griffith, President of Holiday, Models, is serving Co-Chairman.

Also on the committee are advertising executive Joy Hamann; producer Mayard Sloate; city councilman Hal Morelli, of Anneberg Advertising; John Dubois, public relations director of Southwest

Gas Co., and Hank Kovell, president of the Press Club and public relations director for the Frontier Hotel.

Ed Kelly of Kelly and Reber Advertising has designed original artwork for the program.

The proceeds will go to the Las Vegas Press Club and the Las Vegas Press Club Scholarship Fund.

Among those invited to participate in the program are: Dean Martin, Don Rickles, Toti Fields, Shecky Greene, Foster Brooks, Dave Barry, Jan Murray, Jackie Gayle, Robert Goulet, Pete Barbutti, Pat Cooper, Pepper Davis, Billy Kay, Corky Proctor, Pete Anthony and Lennie Kent.

The festive event, to be held in the Plaza's main showroom, will begin at 7 p.m. with cocktails, followed with dinner at 8 p.m. The program is scheduled to begin at 9:15 p.m. Dress is optional.

Tickets may be purchased by reservation only for \$25. Each at all three Cole Travel locations, The Las Vegas Press Club or by calling the Union Plaza at 386-2110.

BILLY ROWE

EDITOR'S NOTE..The weekly keeper of this space is doing a thing in San Francisco for the NNPA. As a result the Hon. Richard Gordon Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana is his fill'in Write Hand Man for the current week. He takes a write painful peep at the--

FUTURE OF THE CITIES

By Richard G. Hatcher

Today more than 100 Black mayors preside over cities in the United States. The projection is that many more will be elected within the next 10-years. This is impressive evidence of the increasing political power of Black Americans. This ascendancy has occurred at a moment when urban America faces an unprecedented series of crises.

Virtually, no city can provide adequate services for its citizens without extensive, ongoing federal assistance. This is particularly true of cities likely to elect Black Mayors.

These tend to be cities with limited tax bases; less affluent citizenry, who must depend on wel-

fare, low cost housing, and free or subsidized medical care. They also are plagued with decaying downtowns, deteriorating housing and a host of other problems.

Adding to those misfortunes is the fact that federal money, which once flowed freely during the earlier days of Black political power, when figures like Mayor Carl Stokes and I were novelties on the urban scene, has slowed to a trickle. One or two Black mayors are a novelty. With 100 or more now in executive "mansions," the novelty is no more.

Once the subject of numerous and extensive studies and special programs, the Black mayor's cities have had to suffer because many of those special programs were marked by a disappointment and failure. They failed only because most programs, in the last decade were funded at a level that would suggest success would be possible in the first place.

Even now, when we are being "saved" by the concept of Revenue Sharing, our freedom is restricted. To hold onto what little we now receive, we must follow federal guidelines. We are not at liberty to move funds around to better administer to the needs of our citizens.

Our cities are the core of this nation's ills. We can illustrate the intensity of this physical illness with but one example: Urban housing conditions. As long ago as 1960 the census reported that 49.1 percent of all housing units occupied by non-whites in Pittsburg were classified as deteriorating or delapidated. In New York, 33.8 percent, St. Louis the percentage was 40.3 percent and in Dallas, 41.3 percent were in that class. When and if a Black is elected in these cities, he or she will inherit the dregs. To the victor goes the spoils, and the spoils means rotten and bitter.

Black mayors must take positive, bold steps in serving the needs of their people. When I first took office in Gary in '68, 47 percent of all housing was classified substandard. In the past 8 years substandard housing has decreased by 39 percent substandard rental units by 43.8 percent and substandard housing units occupied by Blacks by 16.6 percent.

Since the beginning of my administration, over 575 units of public housing has been constructed. Over 500 units have been constructed specifically for senior citizens, and Gary has captured over \$21 million in federal funds.

In the area of social services, some \$12 million in federal funds have been received by the Model Cities Program. Gary is the only, and the first, city in Indiana to establish an office of Consumer Affairs. The Model Cities education program has served over 2,700 youngsters. The number of children served by Day Care facilities have increased from 145 to over 2,500 in more than 170 Day Care centers, play schools, nursery schools and licensed homes. A nationally recognized bilingual program for the Spanish speaking has been established; and has served more than 3,000 victims of fire, family abandonment, and lack of food through the emergency referral services.

Under my administration, over \$35,773,000 in federal funds for employment, educational and vocational training have been brought into Gary. These funds have provided training and employment for over 38, 650 and under employed as well as high school drop-outs, school and after school employees.

The job is far from easy, but it can be done. Prejudices cannot be erased overnight, but can thru understanding. Unfortunately many Whites don't wait around to acquire same. Many Whites abandoned the city because they were trapped by the madness of prejudice. They left behind memories, but they cannot escape the deep rooted prejudices that has kept America from becoming the great melting pot envisioned by these who found it. It's ironic here that those Whites who left the city, return everyday to work within its borders.

The White flight can be attributed, not only to more Blacks moving into White neighborhoods, but also to the high profit Whites make selling their delapidated structures to Blacks who become homeowners for the first time, which is another angle to the White flight madness.

It may only be a dream, or a wish, but I feel that many young White people will one day return, because many will learn through high schools and colleges that prejudices are truly unfounded and should not be the American way and has been so written that All Men (Persons) are created equal. STAY LOOSE.

Pat Geuder headed for Afro-American Convention

Dr. Patricia A. Geuder, associate professor of English at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, is one of 25 professors selected to participate in a conference on Afro-American Culture at the University of Iowa, June 15-27.

The topic for study is "From Reconstruction to Renaissance: Currents in Afro-American Culture from 1875-1920." The conference

is designed to enable professors to examine the complexities of the era through lectures and seminars offered by distinguished scholars in the field.

Dr. Geuder teaches ethnic literature at UNLV. She has published articles and presented papers at national and international conferences concerning black language and literature.



NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY

MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

- Larry's Sight and Sound
- Woody's
- Hideaway Lounge
- Swift's Barber Shop
- Smith's Food King
- E. O. B.
- G. W. Pharmacy
- N.A.A.C.P. Office
- Roxy Cleaners
- Kelly's Liquors
- Friendly Liquors
- El Rio Club
- Bruce's Liquors
- All Places of Business on Jackson Street
- All Places of Business on "D" Street
- Vegas Village
- Thriftmart
- Skagg's
- Sugar Hill
- Poor People Pulling Together
- Mc Neal Quick Check
- Carey Arm Apartments (at Office)
- Villa Capri (at Office)
- Dr. West's Office
- Baby Bug's Coffee Shop
- Clark County Court House
- Windsor Park - All residences
- Berkley Square - All residences

- Regal Estates - All residences
- Vegas Heights - All residences
- Sunset Manor - All residences
- Rancho Circle Theatre
- Blue Bird Auto Parts
- Love's Cocktail Lounge
- Golden Egg
- Town Tavern
- Hughes' Liquors
- Mom's Kitchen
- Beauty Shops on Jackson Street
- Wesley's Barber Shop
- Community Store
- Fashionette Beauty Shop
- Mom Brunow's
- Library
- Cheyenne Square Barber Shop
- Forward Move Barber and Beauty Supply
- Modernistic Shoe Shop
- Dot's Cleaners
- Moulin Rouge Beauty Shop
- Moulin Rouge Barber Shop
- Ruby's Draperies
- Legal Aid Office
- Wild Goose Bar
- 7 - 11 Store
- Big "8" Market
- Continental Beauty Salon (West Owens)