

Must not become "just spectators" to our own doom



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

by

LAWRENCE ALBERT

The first Miss Black Teenage World Pageant of Las Vegas was a break through for the Black community. It showed that Black people can work as a unit when they believe in something enough.

For years Whites have been having such pageants while young Black girls had to set in the background. This pageant showed these young women that their beauty is appreciated by the Black community and that it is willing to prove it.

Everyone in the community contributed and worked hard to make this pageant a success. I feel next year it should be held in the Las Vegas Convention Center and the trophies presented at one of the other Black clubs.

I don't feel what I personally did made the pageant a success, but the whole community did.

A lot of the credit for the success of the pageant should go to Al Brown, human relations coordinator for the Clark County School District; Bonnie Juniel, finance chairman of the pageant; Katherine Joseph, assistant director of the pageant, and R.J. Robinson, special activities committee member. They should be rewarded and thanked for putting the pageant together and making it come off so smoothly. They did it all. A special thanks should also go to Boochie Carter, chairman of the judges.

The pageant was a community affair. Several hundreds of our brother and sisters attended the pageant and enjoyed it because they knew that it was something they had contributed to.

I say that the pageant was a break through also because it is something the community has to look forward to and prepare for. A community needs a common interest. What better interest is there than the future and pride of our young people. They will take up the struggle where we leave off.

Although Miss Cheryl Wilson was crowned, she accepted the trophy for every young woman in the Black community. However, we would like to congratulate Miss Wilson for winning, and to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her beauty, charm and talent. We would also like to wish her luck in the world title competition in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Many relatives and friends of the other contestants might think their beautiful girl should have won, but the important thing is that it was a community affair that we all enjoyed and take pride in. And remember there is always next year.

BLACKS WHO WANT TO FIGHT CRIME BY BLACKS AGAINST BLACKS MUST NOT BE INTIMIDATED.



The other contestants should not feel that they are any less beautiful than Miss Wilson. The VOICE wants to say it wishes that all the contestants could have won, because they are all beautiful and a tribute to our community.

LIBERALS AND WORKERS

by Bayard Rustin

Liberalism has developed in recent years a new cultural attitude toward working people, particularly white working people, that marks a distinct break with past liberal beliefs.

During the 1930's, 1940's and even the 1950s working people were looked on with respect as hard working, decent individuals whose values were as worthy as those of the rest of society. Contrast this with the current liberal attitude towards teachers, policemen, and construction workers. As individuals these working people are no longer accorded respect in liberal opinion; as for the unions representing these people, liberals often lump together with corporations as comprising vast and powerful "vested interests" that operate against the public interest. The goals and the influence of a teachers' unions are thus equated with those of the oil lobby.

To maintain any semblance of public dignity, then, working people find that they must identify, not with their job or class background, but rather with their racial, ethnic, or sexual heritage. It appears that liberals have to a significant extent accepted the myth of America as the affluent society in which the role of the working class has been minimized or abolished altogether.

Thus workers are no longer valued in terms of their economic roles, but are accepted only in the light of their biological or racial ancestry. To be a Jew or a Negro or an Irish-American is to bear the dignity conferred by a unique historical

Just the FACTS

Blacks provide a major portion of the entertainment on the Las Vegas Strip.

Only a few years ago Black entertainers would pack audiences into the Strip hotels. After their performances, however, they would pack up their gear, hang their heads and come back to the Black West Las Vegas Community to eat and sleep. The hotels did not accommodate Blacks, you see. It was alright for these entertainers to draw their customers, but they were only not human enough to reside or even eat in the hotels.

They were like trained monkeys who entertained their audiences; then they were put back into their cages until the next show.

The residents of our community could not even go to see their brothers and sisters perform at these hotels. The civil rights movement of the 1960's, however, remedied this situation for both the entertainers and the residents of our community.

But these same hotels still, in a sense, discriminate against our community. Although they cater to us now to use their hotels, although Black entertainers are treated with the respect they deserve, these hotels refuse to advertise in Southern Nevada's only Black owned newspaper.

Oh, they promptly send their press releases to this paper every week for it to print them so that they can get our business. But by this paper printing their press releases without them advertising the hotels are in a sense ripping-off this community. -they take and take, but give nothing in return.

They advertise with every medium in town, except the VOICE. They ignore it, just like it does not exist.

It would not be such an important issue, except for the fact that by snubbing this newspaper they are belittling our entire community. This is a community paper dedicated to the betterment of its readers.

It will not be ignored.

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