

### Civil Liberties Union backs Klansmen...Well?



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### Community Slight's Voice

by LAWRENCE ALBERT

The Las Vegas VOICE is in the same shape as the residents it serves. While it is struggling for survival, it is being stabbed in the back.

Instead of always knocking this paper, the community should get behind it. I feel it has been more than fair with this community, since I took control of it.

One of the reasons that we are always last in the bread line, is that we don't trust anything that belongs to a Black person.

It seems that we don't consider anything legitimate unless it is accepted and endorsed by whites. The different sororities in our community continually flood the Las Vegas Sun and the Review Journal with pictures and copy on their activities, but they never cater to the VOICE.

To me this raises the question of who are they trying to inform, the white or the Black community? I don't think they are trying to inform anyone. They are just trying to impress whites.

But these sororities are not the only ones who slight this paper. It is a common weakness of most of this community.

We must understand that we will never have the respect of the white community until we respect our own community. To do this we must continually strive to build up our own part of town.

And whether you realize it or not, we will never be liked in the white community. We will always be considered outsiders, but if we respected ourselves, we would be respected by the white community.

You don't have to be liked to be respected. If we got together over here and tried to upgrade our businesses and community as a whole, the white community would flood us with money. For someone this country loves to try to help is the underdog, that is trying to help himself.

We are viewed now as a bunch of panhandlers, who are always standing on the street corners of white communities with our hands out.

Because we are isolated, we could have one of the most affluent communities in this country. All we have to do is stop working for the acceptance of white people and start working for the respect of ourselves.

Right now we don't have any good restaurants in our community; we don't have any movie theatres; we don't have any banks or telephone and power company sub-stations.

The reason is clear: white people know we would rather go to their part of town and suffer abuse and poor service than to support such places in our own community.

As long as we make it blatantly clear that we need white people, they will continue to deny us our rightful place in this county and country. But once we start showing them that we don't need them, they will give us anything we want -- white people have an unquenchable desire to be needed and looked up to.



## Just the FACTS

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy undid all of the good he did recently when he visited Las Vegas, by appointing Albert Dunn head of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

SCLC was established by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to bring about a better life for Blacks in this country through non-violent action.

Dr. King was right when he reasoned that the only way for Blacks to gain access into the system is to win the sympathy of enough whites.

Dunn cannot do this. He is known in both the white and Black community as a man with a violent temper. Therefore it is our opinion that Dunn is not capable of leading a non-violent demonstration of any kind.

Dunn cannot even restrain his temper when someone says something he does not like. You can be sure he will not sit still for some big policeman beating him about the head and shoulders with a blackjack.

Recently Dunn threatened to beat up the publisher of this paper, Lawrence Albert, because of something written about him in it. Dunn accosted Albert outside his office, and after calling him every name he could think of, threatened to go upside his head.

A few days later, Dunn was going to jump on this columnist for the same reason as Albert. Dunn wanted to take off his coat and fight this columnist just moments before Rev. Abernathy arrived.

While he threatened, State Sen. Joe Neal stood there and laughed. Otis Harris also witnessed the incident.

The local chapter of SCLC will also be ineffective because it does not have the backing of the community. It will take a genius to get the residents of this community to back anything.

Maybe it's because we already have so many organizations struggling for survival. We have the NAACP, the Voters League, Poor People Pulling Together and several other.

Everyone of them wants to to be the spokesman for this community, thus none of them has any real power.

All of these organizations boycotted Abernathy when he was here.

This community needs one powerful organization that it can get behind; so that when its spokesman approaches the powers that be about changes for Blacks, it will be heard and

not be pushed aside like a small child. It is crystal clear, however, that the local chapter of SCLC will be just another useless organization added to an inactive list that is already too long.

Rebuttals are welcomed and will be printed.

## BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By Charles E. Belle

### Libraries and our Heritage

Dr. John Hope Franklin, world renown Black historian of the University of Chicago, journeyed to San Francisco, to address the 94th Annual Conference Program of the American Library Association recently. Homing in on America's pluralistic society, he praised and prodded librarians for their role in building a richer and better social order.

Professor Franklin strongly suggested that the library has yet to prove its intellectual independence and leadership. In tracing the U.S. library history, he held out hope it could continue to contribute to American society.

Professor Franklin, stated that in 1865 one white American authority, Dr. C.K. Marshall, had confidently predicted that the Afro-American population would disappear altogether by January 1, 1920.

However, we increased from a healthy 4,500,000 in 1970 to a thumping 9,000,000 by the time Dr. Marshall's day of judgement in 1920." Today we bang around 25,000,000 Blacks. But we have never been alone as minorities in this country.

Professor Franklin points out that there are many millions of people of diverse racial, religious, cultural and national backgrounds who contribute to the well-being of each other and of the nation. Migrants of families to this country either voluntarily or involuntarily represented an opportunity for the libraries to be of service by conserving their heritage.

The professionalization of the nation's educational and cultural leadership that was promoted by the growth of institutions of higher education provided some assurance, according to Franklin, that these institutions would not fall prey to the political opportunists who had little or no interest in the life of the mind.

(See, Libraries, pg. 14)

**LAS VEGAS VOICE**

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