

The Hughes

Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



**AFTER THE ELECTION
-----WHAT???**

Now that the election is over, it is time to look ahead. Now that the church burnings have stopped the community can breathe easier and should decide on steps to improve the total condition of the area in which we live and do business.

When I lived in Pomona, Calif., I was a member of the City Planning Commission. A consulting firm was brought in to evaluate the City Planning Departments program. They brought a new idea to city planning.

Some 40-50 residents were asked as concerned citizens to participate in a joint planning action. First we were brought in to a meeting at 9:00 a.m. and some 3 or 4 people talked to us about what a city or small community should have - a bank, a savings and loan, a hardware store, a library, a hospital, a doctor, a lawyer, a furniture store, senior citizens headquarters, senior citizens housing, museum or/and art and cultural center, recreational program and center for all ages, restaurants, grocery store, dry cleaners, barber and beauty shops, etc.

Then we saw a film depicting a town similar to our town. After that we all were given a brown bag lunch and a can of Pop and sent to various street corners (alone). We were told not to ride but to walk and observe. We had a specified route to take. It was very surprising to see the area as we had never seen it before. We had no specific instructions, but when we got to our corner we were to sit on the corner curbstone or whatever for two hours and look. Then we walked back a different route to our meeting place (an old post office building) and sat down and recorded on paper what we had seen. Then we took yard wide wrapping paper and put it on the wall over 20 feet long.

Next we took colored pens and marked our street corners and what we saw there. Soon we had a composite look at our town and the way it had just grown without a plan. On another large paper were wrote what we thought should be in our city and where we felt it should be placed. It was beautiful to see in the succeeding meetings how the community participants came up with a plan to use existing facilities, add others, tear down some, re-arrange some and finally put together a master plan that improved the entire city and met the needs in a simpler, more economic manner.

That plan is now being used in Pomona. Such a plan could greatly improve our area and could do the most important thing we need, create a master plan that would greatly help the area.

A survey of buildings, their state of repair, their possible usage would give an inventory so we would know what we have and what we don't have. Our facilities would be categorized and this could be the first step toward economic development.

But it should be done with local participation -- not by some out-side consulting agency that knows little or nothing about the community and has no personal interest in it. Perhaps it would be a good idea for community leaders, ministers and laymen to make such a master plan.

When it is put on paper glaring errors may show up. At least it would get our adrenalin flowing.

We have tremendous think-power and such a think-tank procedure could be very rewarding, and could produce some surprising achievements. We should stop waiting on Marse Charlie.

**BREAK THE HATE HABIT
UNDERSTAND
THY
NEIGHBOR
BLACK, WHITE or BROWN**

**PTA Launches Project
on TV Violence**

In response to what it feels is a mandate for action from its 6 1/2-million members and the general public, the National PTA is launching a massive project -- the first of its kind -- to determine the effects of television violence on children and youth.

Kicking off on November 30 in Pittsburgh with public hearings on the subject, (the first in a series of eight such hearings in major cities throughout the country), the project will directly involve PTA members at the grass-roots level. Participation will include monitoring and evaluating TV programs, conducting local or national boycotts of products or programs, and a national campaign of letter writing and personal visits to local stations, networks, sponsors and legislators.

If these actions don't bring results, stations may have their licenses challenged; formal complaints may be lodged with the Federal Communications Commission; and legal action may be taken against stations, charging that violent programs contribute to the delinquency of minors and are harmful to children's emotional health.

"The public is fed up with violent TV programs," says Carol Kimmel, National PTA president. "If you listen to what the surveys are telling us -- a recent poll by the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton revealed that 71 per cent of the public thinks TV programs are too violent -- you want to know why this situation is permitted to continue. And if you're a parent, and familiar with the negative effects of violent TV on our children, it's even more disturbing. The National PTA, with its history of concern about the influence of the mass media on children, feels compelled to focus public attention on this problem, and to take action which will change this situation."

After all input has been tabulated from local program monitoring efforts, a final report will be created, offering recommendations for future action. Some form of continued programming surveillance by local units will probably be recommended. The PTA may also develop an identification code for programs, based on findings of the monitoring groups, and distribute it to PTA members and the news media.

Historically concerned with the effects of the mass media on children, the National PTA passed a resolution at its 1975 convention which demanded that the networks and local stations reduce the amount of violence shown on TV programs and commercials. If such self-regulation by the broadcasting industry doesn't result in less violence, the the FCC will be urged to establish and enforce regulations limiting the number and percentage of violent programs.

Since that time, Mrs. Kimmel has contacted the major networks and the National Association of Broadcaster's Code Authority Office concerning TV violence and the unacceptability of the "family viewing time" as a solution to the problem.

Says Mrs. Kimmel, "Their responses showed us clearly that though the networks regret our unhappiness with their programs, they believe they are obeying the rules in TV programming -- and that nothing is going to change. Yet something must change. And the National PTA is determined that something will, because the power of television to educate should be used for the benefit of children, not the detriment."

**CLASS REGISTRATION
ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL**

The community is invited to do some early Christmas shopping while browsing at the plaza, 400 E. Stewart Ave. at the All Day Arts and Crafts Festival on Wednesday, November 17 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

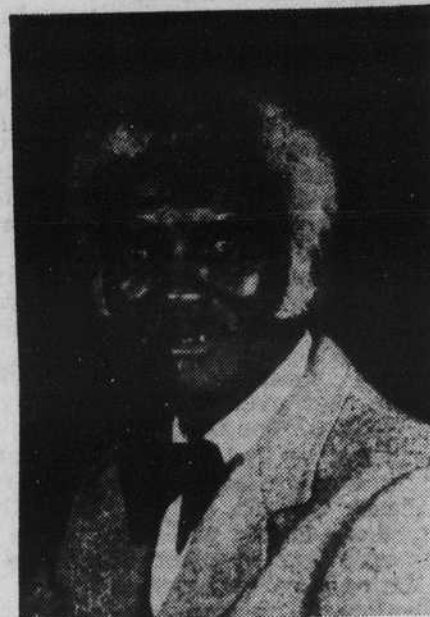
Artists and craftsmen will exhibit and sell their works and shoppers may watch demonstrations by artists par-

ticipating in the event.

The festival will be the final event sponsored by the Las Vegas Cultural Services Department in the street cultural series.

Artists and craftsmen may enter the event by registration at the Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas Art Museum or call for further information at 386-6386 or 386-6296.

**EMPLOYEE
OF THE WEEK**



"BUD OR SCOTCH AND WATER?" that's Arthur Fowler, assistant bar manager at the El Cortez Hotel & Casino - downtown Las Vegas. Arthur, 59, father of four - a son, Chris, girls Kalini and Kim and a 2 year old named Kimnia. The Fowlers live in North Las Vegas, and Arthur has been in the bar business for 25 years - started out as a bar boy, then bartender and now assistant bar manager. When I asked him if he had ever felt the had been discriminated against because of being black he replied, "It never crossed my mind to think that way. I have always had a job to do - and I did it to the best of my ability - or I would not be here today. I don't even know I'm black until someone says so - I didn't know you were white until you told me. A lot of blacks use that discrimination talk as a crutch. And as far as working here at the El Cortez, I guess I'm here forever." --CREED

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