

EDITORS NOTE: The Las Vegas Voice will publish your opinion on any subject - praise - complaints - questions - or answers. We do reserve the right to edit, and your letter must be signed with a valid address and phone number for verification prior to publication. We want your letters! At your written request your name can be withheld.

Dear Editor:

I am proudly joined by members of the W.C.C. E.D.P. project staff, Workshop Participants and Business Advisors of the Business Management Workshop Series, in expressing profound gratitude for your demonstration of community spirit and public service through 'The Voice'.

Your notable role in publishing the voices of the West and North Las Vegas communities is, undoubtedly one of the most invaluable contributions to the community development process. No one can deny the power of the press.

Surely, your responsibility as publisher carries with it the enormous challenges and frustrations of the industry. To say the least, yours is an overwhelming task, which demands courage, dedication, fortitude, persistence and determination. You are to be commended for 'taking it on'.

Our hope is that the communities, which you serve, will share in this major responsibility, by supporting and subscribing to their community newspaper and, more importantly, that these 'voices' will know, understand and appreciate the value of their very own medium for expression and progress, as something they can look upon and participate in with great pride.

For, after all, when you get right down to it, the Las Vegas Voice is one of our hopes for the future, giving us the opportunity to build a better future for ourselves and our children.

With thanks again and all good wishes for the future growth and success of Las Vegas Voice, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Maudra Jones
Business Management Workshop Coordinator

Dear Editor:

I am fortunate enough to be able to leave the things that I know that I cannot deal with, and the Las Vegas Police is one of the things that the American Negro, cannot deal with in the form that they present themselves. Therefore, the idea of 'Helplessness', should not be one that encompasses the feeling that ones life is forfeit for honesty.

I was arrested by one Policeman, with the charge of Suspicion of Drunk Driving. (The Policeman was so drunk that he could not tell methat he was arresting me. There was no violation included in the charge. I stayed in Jail for twelve days. The policeman that took me to jail, was in the Canine corps. He was the one who had to relay the message that I was under arrest. So, I am now out of the country. I may never return. Being black in Las Vegas is the same as 1944. Only more so. Now the Police have to justify their jobs, and their inefficiency, so they not only make arrests, but commit crimes to blame others for. And it is a part of their repeteir.

The most important things that aman has in his life is his freedom. The American Negro does not have, and will not have in Las Vegas, Nevada his freedom and dignity. Maybe that is why Mr. Hughes left, and is talking about not coming back, and his opportunity came in his leabing the greatest black organization.

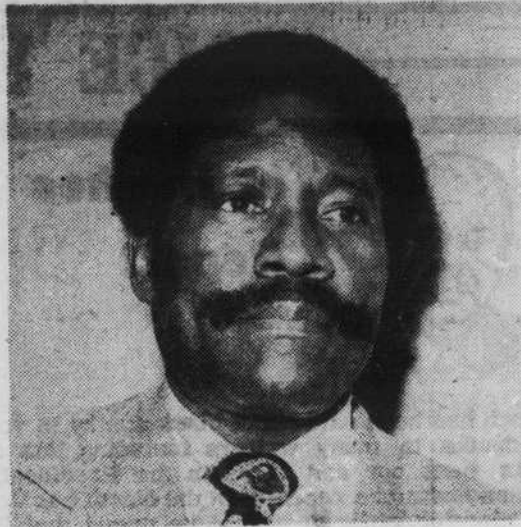
R. L. Hawkins

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Youth Program of the NAACP is in the process of organizing its youth chapter and is making plans for a number of summer activities.

We are asking any youth who have specific skills or talents to please call the local branch of the NAACP and give your name, age, phone number and address.

Any adults wishing to take part in any youth activity may also contact the NAACP office at 648-2880.



Dear Editor

Enclosed you will find my response to the editorial that recently appeared in the Wall Street Journal, as well as a copy of the editorial.

The education opportunities afforded to minorities today is even more urgent an issue than ever before.

I hope that by availing myself of the opportunity to respond to the Journal, you will in turn take this opportunity to share my statements with the Las Vegas Community at large through your newspaper.

I thank you for your consideration of this most important issue.

Sincerely,
JESSE D. SCOTT
Executive Director
Equal Rights Commission

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Friday, April 15, 1977

Mr. Califano's Recantation

If anyone in Washington is going to speak the truth about affirmative action, it now seems it will have to be the Supreme Court. We had hopes a few weeks ago that HEW Secretary Joseph Califano had let the cat out of the bag when he openly defied the preferential hiring and enrolling of minority groups in higher education as a "quota" system. But he has quickly learned his department's habits, and now he regrets the use of that "nerve-rattling word."

The seasoned HEW hands stoutly deny there is a trace of "reverse discrimination" in the affirmative action program to increase the number of blacks, women and other "disposable" minorities in higher education. This program, they insist, proceeds by "goals" and "timetables" rather than by mandatory quotas. Yet the only way to meet a goal of so many women faculty, say, by the dates set by HEW has been to hire by quotas not merit. There is no confusion on this point among the college presidents and medical school deans who were threatened with a loss of their federal funds.

Of course, the academics play the game as an university president would prefer privately, it

doesn't pay to take HEW to court on the grounds that "affirmative action" requires quotas. The lawsuits cost too much, and there's always the risk that the courts would uphold both "affirmative action" and the idea of quotas. On the other hand, the schools couldn't openly announce they used quotas, because then they'd be sued by every white male applicant who lost out to a less qualified black, female, and so forth.

The result has been pervasive dishonesty in both government and university, and an intellectually crippling distortion of language and logic to deny just quotas are in force when everyone knows that they are. The "affirmative action" program is one of the main components of a hypocritical masquerade in the academy that has made straight thinking and plain speaking distinctly unfashionable.

So it was at least refreshing to hear Mr. Califano at first label the thing for what it was: a quota; one could disagree, but one could join the argument squarely. And it was equally disappointing to hear him slip into his department's euphemistic fog. It's a sad thought that the last hope for honesty on this issue lies not with the bureaucracy or the academic community but with the Supreme Court.

Mr. Edward R. Cony
Vice President and
Executive Editor
Wall Street Journal
22 Cortlandt Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Cony:

Your editorial entitled "Mr. Califano's Recantation" appears to be an exercise in academic rhetoric. Why should Americans have a mental block with the use of the code word "quota"? Its use and application is just as American as apple pie. Mr. Califano should not feel guilty about the semantics of the words "quotas" or "affirmative actions." In your editorial of April 15, 1977, Mr. Califano appeared to be saying let us all be a little more realistic and a little less hypocritical about the issue of discrimination in education in America. Universities and professional schools in America have always had "admittance quotas" because of economic, political and social reasons. Preference of admittance is given by many of these tax supported institutions purely on the basis of who you know; i.e., relatives and friends of the alumni, those who have juice with the politicians, those with money and social status, etc. The great majority of the admittees described above who attend these select schools are White American Males.

The two classes of Americans that Mr. Califano is attempting to protect are the same ones that have been traditionally and historically denied equal education opportunities and consequentially denied equal employment; i.e., minorities and women. Would it be unreasonable to suggest that the American Board of American Universities be more objective in their admittance procedure and selection of students by using a criteria of cultural mix rather than grade points?

This writer knows of no scientific study that validates the fact that "A" students eventually become better or more successful citizens, lawyers, scientists, doctors and dentists in life than "B" students.

It must be clearly understood that equal education opportunity is an American right rather than a privilege. Affirmative action programs suggest the development of a system of status reports to measure the present conditions and future projections of the university admittance composition based upon need, availability and growth including goals and timetables, thereby enhancing the opportunity of women and minorities to come into education opportunities in a meaningful way in America.

If at some future date the review and compliance report reveal that there were some economically, politically or socially extenuating circumstances that made attainment of the goals impossible, the university would not be penalized.

Affirmative action programs afford the opportunity on a voluntary basis for those who are involved and want to stay in compliance with Executive Orders and Congressional Mandates of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Courts.

It seems to me that is the United States Supreme Court chooses to rule against the Affirmative Action issue on its spring calendar on education, it would, in my opinion, be a throwback in human relations to the 1950's and 1960's in America, a period better known as the Civil Rights Movement when the social, economic and political issues were settled, not at the conference tables or the courts, but instead in the streets.

Indeed, it is hypocritical for society to finally acknowledge that past discrimination was unconstitutional and then refuse to take adequate steps to remedy the effects of that discrimination through reasonable positive racial considerations on the grounds that this would be "reverse discrimination."

I believe that affirmative action is a better way to bring about fairness and equity in the social order in the United States of America in 1977.

Sincerely,
JESSE D. SCOTT
Executive Director
Equal Rights Commission

ROY WILKINS TO SPEAK

Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be the featured speaker Saturday at the 32nd Annual Banquet of the Reno-Sparks NAACP. The banquet is being held in conjunction with the Central Area Conference, hosted by the Reno-Sparks branch. Representatives from other states will attend. Theme of the conference is 'Step in the Right Direction'. Workshops will be conducted for both young people and adults. Statewide participation is encouraged. The conference will be held at the Pioneer Inn from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The banquet will also be held at the Pioneer Inn, No-host cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

UNLV GRADUATION

A total of 987 students will be candidates for degrees May 21, 1977 when the University of Nevada, Las Vegas conducts its 14th annual commencement exercises.

The traditional ceremonies will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Aladdin Hotel's Theatre for the Performing Arts.

This is the first year that UNLV will confer earned doctor's degrees. There are three students who have all requirements under the Doctor of Education program.

There are 618 candidates for bachelor's degrees, 275 graduate students earning master's degrees, 87 for two-year associate degrees and four recipients of six-year education specialist degrees.