

The Publisher Speaks



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.

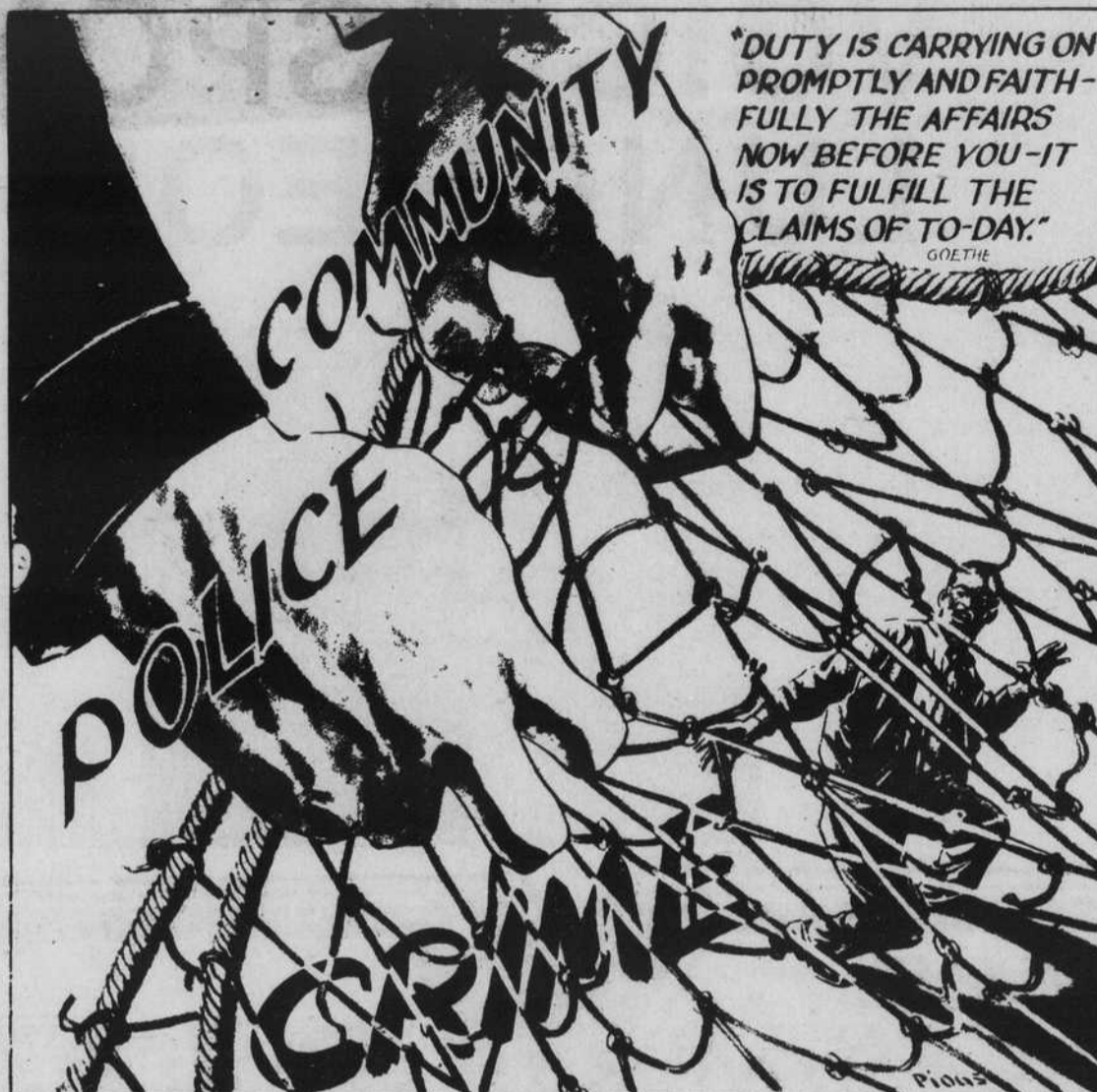
We are viewed now as a bunch of panhandlers, who are always standing on the street corners of white communities with our hands out.

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.



"DUTY IS CARRYING ON PROMPTLY AND FAITHFULLY THE AFFAIRS NOW BEFORE YOU--IT IS TO FULFILL THE CLAIMS OF TO-DAY."

GOETHE

Just the FACTS

Our dead ancestors have become fertilizer for the growth and strength of our future. Although the national Memorial Day has passed, every day should be a tribute to the Black men and women who gave their lives so that we may live.

I'm not talking about observing their deaths with hoopla and parades, but with holding the ground on which their blood has been spilled.

Because of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we have the right and authority to enter any establishment in this country and expect equitable treatment. He plowed the ground that had lain fallow before. He opened doors that had not even been knocked on before. He spoke of things openly that had been only whispered before. He was and is to us what Moses was to the Jews.

He lead us through the desert, filled with hazards, and man-eating predators. But more than that he was our spirit and inspiration.

Malcolm X was our John the Baptist crying in the Wilderness, calling us to come forth and claim our heritage. He showed us that there is no shame in being Black--the shame existed in trying to deny the fact. He taught us to be Black and proud of it.

Although I'm singling these two great Black leaders out for tribute, I have not forgotten the rest of our ancestors who sweat and worked just as hard as Dr. King and Malcolm X. These two men are remembered here because they impressed their presence into everyone who remembers them.

Let us have a Memorial service for these men every day by the caliber of our lives. Although they reached a peak of power and success, they did not forget that they could be cast down at any moment. Thus, we should realize and not forget that though we have made vast progress on the road to freedom, we have a long way to go. And, most of all, we must not forget that we can lose what we have gained unless we struggle to hold it.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Otis Harris, Director of the West Side Comprehensive Economic Development Plan has come up with another idea to help find jobs for the people of the Las Vegas valley.

Mr. Harris is initiating an economic development survey to determine the number of skills and occupations the local residents have. This newspaper will have the combination survey form and job application form in the classified column. It only has to be filled in and mailed to Mr. Harris office at 2226 E. Cheyenne Ave., North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030.

This survey will serve two purposes; the first use is to show potential new employers to the Clark County area that the people with the needed skills for their firms are available in the local community. Employers considering a new location for their operations have to know if there are the available needed workers in the community they plan to move into.

The second purpose is to be a job application form so that you can be referred to these new jobs.

Each person that mails in this application will have a card on file for each skill, occupation, or hobby they list. So it's possible a worker can have as many as ten cards on file at one time for selection to ten different jobs.

Even if you are presently employed, but would like a new job, you should send in the application there may be a new career in your future.

The VOICE strongly urges the citizens of the West Las Vegas community to participate in this survey. Only through your cooperation will this community ever grow and develop into an area that is self sustaining. The upcoming results of the survey will be published in this paper when it is concluded.

LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY
"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTEREST and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for BLACK CITIZENS of the STATE OF NEVADA

Lawrence Albert.....Publisher
Sandra McIlveen.....Treasurer

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
616 North "H" Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
Telephone 648-2615

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST
Price per copy - 15¢ One year \$12.50
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada).