

EDITORIAL
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the wake of the class action suit filed in Federal Court by the NAACP and several concerned West Las Vegans, individual plaintiffs in the suit were immediately identified in the press as "local Black leaders". That's the never failing tactic to prevent Blacks from taking a supportive stance behind anyone game enough to fight the establishment - UNLESS - it be a Black hand-picked by the establishment to lead the rest of us into the sunlight of opportunity, equality and justice for all.

Don't be confused that someone has arbitrarily set him or herself up as "leader" merely because he or she is willing to take action against discriminatory policies and injustices. Be equally alert to the danger of puppet leaders playing a game, a deadly game, against the community for personal interests and benefits.

The VOICE hails the action of the NAACP and those individuals identified along with the Civil Rights organization as plaintiffs in the suit against the County Commissioners. This publisher is certain that none of these plaintiffs consider him or herself as a Black leader with the exception of Senator Joe Neal who, as an elected official by the people he serves, has right to that claim as do members of ministry when those ministers serving their parishioners are selected by the people they serve.

It is our purpose to be on guard and to watch for divisive measures by Blacks. We urge you to join us in this vigilance. Begin to wonder why certain actions are taken and certain statements are made that seem out of context with the general thrust for equal opportunity, representation and economic development.

Start wondering -- start asking why? An example, in fact - Why did Rev. Albert Dunn take advantage of the NAACP's Federal Building Rally on Sunday last to throw a curve at the projected establishment of a J.C. Penny Distribution Center in North Las Vegas? A Center, incidentally, which would provide not only hundreds (actually a projected 2,000) jobs for Blacks, but would mean additionally, the awarding of contracts to Black business-ess in the areas of transportation, maintenance, security, etc.

It is a well known fact that the County would have J.C. Penny locate in an area far from the Black community -- So Why? Why would an allegedly firebrand opponent of the County introduce a divisive element that would benefit no one and which could only harm the Black population. Much as the County does not like it, it is a near certainty that if the J.C. Penny Distribution Center is not located in the minority community (Black minority), it will not be located in Las Vegas at all.

All the VOICE suggests, in the interests of progress for Blacks in West Las Vegas, is that we keep our ears and our eyes open and ask why when strange things occur. The answer aren't too hard to find.

Next week we'll take a look at another strange circumstance and a situation of bed fellows in the not so subtle campaign for dominance of the Black community.

BLACK POETRY

THE CRUCIBLE OF MISUNDERSTANDING— INVOLVING LANGUAGE USE

Lazy, there's the Dictionary —use it.
So, that entry makes no sense —try another.
The author used the derivation.
Unfair? but necessary to revelation.
The words known, everyone—still meaning evades.
Perhaps, unread, older experiences to you are dead.
His thought you never bred.
But used your experience instead.
Note: Context to meaning does apply
(take parataxis for example)
For Cuckoo is yet a bird— and Fly;
Or, Black Parthian—retreat?
This, a poem? I say it is
And on that score will bear no quiz.

—V.H. Cross
2/23/76

(Here the poet speaks of a serious need, to use the dictionary regularly. Without this habit, even this perhaps puzzling poetry could not have been written.)

(Blacks poets, who may wish exposure to our reading public, may send copies of their poetry in groups of 12 or more poems—for editing and with permission to use—to Media Resources, Box 157, Selkirk, N.Y. 12158. Due to staff limitations, no copies may be returned.)

Media Reviews:

(A good ready-reference for all)

A QUICK BLACK REFERENCE

A review of *Dictionary Of Black Culture* by Wade Baskin and Richard Runes, Philosophical Library, N.Y., 493 pages—\$15.00.

Often it is difficult for the average reader to find out who a particular black person was or is or what a particular black item was all about. Unless it is an item or a person of overarching historical importance, one may have to search long and perhaps fruitlessly for the desired information.

The *Dictionary Of Black Culture* will help to make many of those searches shorter. Who was Bishop Grace? What was the Birmingham Manifesto? What of who are the black bourgeoisie? Who was Hall Johnson? Or Jack Johnson? Or Willard Townsend?

This is an especially handy book for much of the quick information most readers will need and which is not to be found in the encyclopedias or history books.

This book is highly recommended for most readers. Although the list price is high, by contacting the Philosophical Library Publishing Company directly, a discount price might be secured. It would be well worth the effort. The Library is at 15 East 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Chart A Course To Safe Boating

The lyrics to a popular old song begin, "Up a lazy river by an old mill run..." conjuring up thoughts of a quiet, peaceful day on the water — perhaps in a small boat.

However, finding a "lazy river" in which to navigate today is not nearly as easy as it used to be. It's estimated that there are more than 10 million boats cruising our nation's waterways today — an increase of some 25 per cent since 1968.

With the water becoming increasingly crowded, the possibility of accidents naturally grows as well. Milton Nachbar, director of loss control for CNA Insurance, points out that nine out of 10 drownings involve occupants of small boats, and in 1976 boating accidents resulted in 1,264 fatalities.

As a precaution to potential danger, Nachbar recommends that the weekend navigator first conduct a thorough safety inspection of his or her boat. The following tips are suggested:

- While fueling, close all hatches, ports and doors to keep gas vapors out. Avoid smoking on board.
- Keep an approved fire extinguisher on hand and check it regularly.
- Make sure your boat is equipped with approved life preservers and request that passengers wear them at all times.
- Avoid accidents by enforcing a "no horse play" rule.
- Learn to "read" the weather, check forecasts and keep a portable radio handy for up-to-date weather information.
- Watch your speed in



motor boats and stay clear of swimmers. Never tow a skier with fewer than two people aboard.

The local Coast Guard Auxiliary should be contacted for safety advice before embarking on an unfamiliar major waterway. Or, for smaller lakes and rivers, local residents, who know the water, should be consulted for such information as the location of hidden sandbars or objects not clearly visible beneath the water's surface.

While automobile insurance is second nature to car owners, protection for boaters is equally important, Nachbar pointed out, for such considerations as damage to boat and trailer, and liability coverage for medical expenses arising from an accident involving your boat.

Many insurance companies offer such policies for owners of sailboats, outboards, cabin cruisers, inboard powered runabouts and inboard-outboard drive vessels used exclusively for pleasure purposes. Nachbar suggests contacting your local independent insurance agent for advice on available coverage.

EOB

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County is offering a Youth Employment and Training Program created to assist disadvantaged youths in Clark County.

The program is designed to assist those youths who have graduated from High School or have quit school prior to graduation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

CLIENT MUST BE:

- a. 16-21 years of age
- b. Out-of-School
- c. Economically disadvantaged according to the following:

NUMBER IN FAMILY

85% LOWER LIVING STANDARD

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$3160	\$5180	\$7110	\$8780	\$10,370	\$12,120

For further information contact the Youth Employment and Training Program, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or call 647-5600.

Summer school programs are scheduled June 19 through July 27 at three Clark County School District high school sites.

Pre-registration is through June 8 at either Western, Valley or Rancho High Schools. All summer school students, whether pre-registered or not, must be present during registration June 16, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., or 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. Classes will

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