

Brighter Day Classes Set



Registrations are currently in order for fall sessions at The Brighter Day Studio of Counseling. Spiritual consultation, Bible Studies and Special courses available. Classes on Public Speaking and other fields. Dr. Phyllis Prudhomme urges you to call today for arrangements and further information, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. 451-1846. Mailing address: P.O. Box 7343 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

BLACK EVENTS QUIZ

(This quiz is designed to accompany History-Making Black Happenings. It can be used for classroom discussion or to help you focus your own thinking on current issues.)

- 1) Should there be national or international responsibility for preserving the world's endangered wildlife? In either case, why?
- 2) In what specific ways might international aid be given to maintaining the huge game preserves in Africa without infringing upon African sovereignty or without penalizing its economy?
- 3) There seems to be a growing conviction that civil war will result from the scheduled elections in Rhodesia. Do you feel that U.S. support should be given to or withheld from the Ian Smith forces who are sponsoring the elections? What other courses are open to the U.S.? What are the immediate prospects for peace, as you see the situation in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)?
- 4) If you were a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, how would you tend to deal with the issue that some discrimination of some kind is always necessary in human dealings?
- 5) The "Sears suit" has made perhaps the strongest case thus far in favor of "equity and restitution" for black Americans. What should blacks do to support the issues raised by this landmark case?



BLACK EMPOWERMENT

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.
Human Rights Activist

CITIES ARE PEOPLE

There is a magnificently instructive story—of crucial significance to all who are planners for or servants of the city—told by the ancient Greek historian Herodotus concerning the Athenian people during the Persian Wars. King Xerxes the Great (519-465 B.C.) and his armies had besieged the Athenian people enclosing them on three sides. The Athenian people escaped by using their boats and headed by night for a new community which they had been developing in southern Italy.

Then they sent a message to King Xerxes saying in effect that he could have the site of their city. He could have their magnificent buildings and all of their incomparable artifacts. But he could never take or destroy Athens; for we the people are Athens. We are its glory, its life.

The story makes it abundantly clear that, in the minds of at least these ancient and venerable urbanites, the city was not a geographical area or an intricate set of economic, political, social and religious or other systems, but rather their city was the Athenian people themselves.

In so much of our urban planning today we tend to seek to satisfy the needs of people. In urban education, for example, we are forever talking about the need for more money to "improve the system." How much it takes specifically to help Johnny to read, to help Mary to count and to help Bonita to translate in her mind what the teacher is saying in English into what it means to her in Spanish is never even placed on the drawing board or programmed into the computers.

Systems ideally are designed to serve people, and

more particularly to serve persons, individually, one by one. We may have all kinds of fancy calculators to enable us to figure out complicated numbers quicker almost than one might say, "Jack Rabbit." But it is the ability to see, to serve, and to care for persons, one by one, that provides for us—in the field of education—our real measure of success.

It is not how many? but whom? Who was it that learned the lesson? Who is it who needs a further helping hand? Who is it that reaches out for us to care... just a little bit more than we have been caring... if we have been caring at all?

If, in our urban planning for housing, we simply focussed upon people, we would not draw a line through or a circle around a whole block or many blocks of housing and say that this is what we shall demolish. Is the city for the architects? Or are the architects for the city?

If the architects and other planners are self-serving, like *ars artis gratia*—"art for the sake of art"—then planning simply for beauty, form and mechanical function is precisely on the right track. And what we have done seemingly to destroy and demoralize in so much of our urban renewal and redevelopment is merely an illusion.

But if not, then it is high time that the needs, the hopes and the aspirations of the people, of each person and household on every block be ascertained. Then, what is done to renew grows out of the aggregate perceptions of the people themselves—educated, but not coerced—for, after all, not one single planner is, nor are all of them together, omniscient. City "planners" must be enabler-artisans. They must be servants and not masters. They cannot continue—as they

have done doubtless unwittingly—to play the role of God.

Cities are people, persons. When we put persons and their perceived needs, hopes and dreams as foremost in our efforts to make our cities the very best that they might be, then politicians become listeners. Their platforms are no longer their own particular agenda. What they stand on and run becomes what the people—through a continuing dialogue and a straining after consensus—decide what is best for themselves.

When people, when persons, are seen as of paramount importance in each of our urban concerns, then management and manipulation or the mechanics of systems for keeping things in check all go out the window. And in their place we concentrate on new approaches to hearing, feeling, caring, serving, enabling and of helping human lives to become what they themselves and creation itself, as they might understand it, has willed for them to be.

The desired end of city government becomes not order but human growth. When last did we see a political platform that called for such an end product or even had such a reality as an indirect or implicit part of its major goals?

The major tragedy is that we have all—at least collectively—been programmed and coerced by the "experts" into believing something utterly sinister, debilitating and demeaning about who or what we ultimately are. Is a family a system? Is it the house it lives in? Is it the arbitrarily defined land area on which the family's house happens to have been built? Not so. No one could ever convince us of that absurdity.

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

It pays to advertise in the
Las Vegas
VOICE
648-2615 or 648-2616

Media Reviews:

BACK HOME
A story of ghetto youth.
A review of *The Du Sable Panthers: The Greatest, Blackest, Saddest Team from The Meanest Street In Chicago* by Ira Berkow (Atheneum, N.Y. 1978) 188 pages—Hard Cover—\$7.95

If you feel nostalgic—as a great many of us strangely do—about the old time black ghetto of our youth, then here is a book which will take you back home in a hilariously realistic way.
The Du Sable Panthers... is the story of the 1954 basketball team at Du Sable High School in Chicago. The team is all-black, with a black coach; and it reached the finals of the state basketball tournament in Illinois.
The story of the team's fortunes and misfortunes provides a continuing web for this remarkable depiction of the black ghetto life of two

decades and more ago. Early in the book, one meets "Sugar Lump" Lumpkin and "Sweet Charlie" Brown. Then there is "Crisco," so called because he was "fat in the can." "Give-a-damn" Jones was once fined \$25.00 for contempt of court, whereupon he said "I don't give a damn" again and again, to a total fine of \$400. "Give-a-damn" Jones—you guessed it!—a pimp from 'way back, pulled out a roll of bills, paid the fine and sauntered out of the courtroom.
You'll meet many more old friends and acquaintances and relive many tragic experiences — which one ought to forget but never really wants to — in reading *The Du Sable Panthers*.

SUPPORT THE BLACK COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIBE TO THE LAS VEGAS VOICE
One Year \$12.50
Name _____
City _____
P. O. Box 4686
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!

TUBING
BEARINGS
FLOATS
COOLERS
PUMPS
BELTS
PADS

REBUILT 1/3 H.P. COOLER MOTORS Reg. 40.95
\$27.95

PHIL'S SALVAGE BUILDERS EMPORIUM
1131 SO. MAIN • 382-7528