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O'NEIL BROS. HAVE STAYING POWER

By Joe Cross Sentinel Writer

Though they've been in Las Vegas less than two years off and on the group has learned one thing about the community - the racism of

the past isn't dead.
"I don't really see things as being easier," said O'Neil. "There are so many places we can't play. In fact, we may be the one black act on the Strip right now. One of the papers ran an article

recently on how hard it was for black entertainers to crack this city.

"It told of how Sammy Davis had to go out on the West Side to find a place to stay and now he

stays in a suite on the Strip. Hell, his is a one man show. The ratio gets worse the larger your group is. The old adage that (if you're black) you've got to be three times better really is fact."

He said that when the O'Neil Brothers first came to town, they got some hostile receptions - not to mention stares when they walked through a hotel or casino.

"It turned out that our music kicked ass," O'Neil said. "That's the only thing that sets you apart. Now it's 'brother' this and 'brother' that."

Both musicians, though, said that while it's hard enough to make it because of the "system," then its 10 times harder if the musicians who try to make it in Vegas without experience or a break like they got.

Bosley said many groups will come to Las Vegas without some financial cushion and expect to make it with no problems.

"It's like a good high school musician going to college and finding himself playing second chair after playing first chair all his life. It comes as quite a shock to find out there are people better than you."

The same thing, he said, also happens to groups coming to Las Vegas. So, he said, experience is needed whether it be in college or with professional work - before even thinking of making it in Las Vegas.

"We've had several other groups from Fresno come to Las Vegas," O'Neil said. "But none of them have been able to stay. They just didn't have the money to stick it out which happens all the



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