

SOCIAL

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despite the glittering images of success given on the Bill Cosby Show or by Diahann Carroll in Dynasty, or by Chaka Kahn, Prince, Michael Jackson or Eddie Murphy! If a disproportionate number of our people are not in jails or mental hospitals around the nation, they are on their way there! We, thus, do well to borrow a line from Shakespeare's HAMLET: "

'Tis an unweeded garden that grows too soon things rank and gross in nature that it should come to this! All around us are simply too many "unweeded gardens" and in these, you, who we honor this afternoon, must not allow yourselves to be choked or "nipped in the bud"!....What then are we to make of these sad realities within Black America?

Well, may I suggest that you and I need to do at least three things? FIRST, we must fully acquaint ourselves with the other, more glorious side of our history, as the model for our future.

SECOND, we must resist temptation designed to make us stray from our goals only to become LOSERS. THIRDLY, we must march forward together at a brisk pace, becoming bright examples of Black excellence.....Your obligation is to continue to strengthen your resistance to temptation. Even in the Lord's Prayer we have the petition: "Lead us not into temptation" and we have the dramatic gospel stories of Jesus' ability to stand "toe to toe" with the devil and resist all of his demonic temptations. The Black comedian Flip Wilson used to explain away all his bad habits by saying, "The devil made me do it!" Although some of you may not believe that the devil exists, you need to know that his evil spirit is always seeking to claim ours! He has MANY

FACES, comes in MANY MOODS and is always busy trying to entice each of us to be other-directed and not inner-directed. When you are asked to hook school and get "high", that's the devil working! When you are encouraged to be sexually reckless, that's the devil working and seeking to destroy your future! When you are told that only style, play and song matter in life, the devil is tempting you and HE WILL NOT EVER STOP

TRYING TO WIN YOU OVER!...Resist the devil and he will flee from you.(James 4:7)....

"The STRUGGLE in the pursuit of Black excellence is clear for all who would be truly bona fide winners, but what about the REWARDS? They too are clear, for they are tangible and intangible just as the rewards are direct and indirect!....We know that all investments have a degree of RISK, but today BCON wants you to know that YOU are a risk well taking, for you are indeed loved, by your people, your community, your families, your fathers and your mothers."

Preceding Dr. Felder's address were the musical renditions from the True Love Missionary Baptist Church Choir conducted by your writer Grace McGlothen and accompanied on the organ by Ruthy Whalen. Comments were that the songs were well rendered and that our conducting was superb. We offer our thanks to a very appreciative audience.

A FINAL REMINDER

Everyone is reminded to attend the Third Annual Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators Banquet and Mini Workshops, which will be held on Saturday, May 25 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Metro Rooms Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on the 26th floor. The workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme is Mandamus on the Status Quo: "Saving the African American Child."

A panel of distinguished local educators and community leaders will participate in the general session from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The banquet will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Speaker will be Dr. James E. Anderson, associate professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, College of Education, University of Houston.

The cost of the entire affair is \$22.00. For further information please call 647-3902 or 457-2393.

Arnold Pinkney, Jackson's campaign manager convicted

CLEVELAND — Arnold Pinkney, who managed the Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign, was convicted Friday of using his position as a port authority official to maintain an unlawful interest in a public contract.

"I'm innocent, and we're going to appeal it," Pinkney, 54, said after the felony conviction by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court panel, which deliberated about five hours over two days at the end of the five-day trial.

The jury said Pinkney used his position as secretary-treasurer of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority to obtain an insurance contract for his business, the Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency.

Judge Robert H. Gorman had dismissed a similar felony charge stemming from payment of a \$4,930 premium, and also dismissed two misdemeanor charges stemming from the sale of insurance to a Port Authority tenant by the agency.

Gorman set sentencing for June 21. The conviction carries a maximum penalty of 1½ years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Pinkney testified that he signed a \$10,496.44 check drawn on Port Authority-administered public funds payable to Pinkney-Perry, of which he is chairman and 26 percent owner.

His lawyers argued that Pinkney never sought the insurance deal and did not know of any potential illegality regarding the payment of the premium.

Defense lawyers called several character witnesses, including Jackson.

"I respected his integrity, whether it was with the handling of money or an idea," Jackson said Thursday. "Knowing ahead of time that this campaign was going to be scrutinized so carefully, we knew that our judgment could be questioned but our integrity could not. I trusted him."

Counseling Center Sponsors 2nd Memorial Day Picnic

Crossroads Counseling Center will sponsor its second annual Memorial Day Children's Picnic this year at Lorenzi Park (Rancho & Washington) on Monday, May 27.

The picnic will begin at 1 p.m. Many play activities will be conducted to insure involvement of all the children the entire afternoon.

The sole purpose of this event is to unite the entire community in a common cause — to do something special for the kids. Just another way to show the youth that Southern Nevadans do care and that the community wants them to embark on their "summer journey" on a positive note. This journey holds for them expectations of excitement, fantasy, unknown destinies and uncertainty. Each and every youngster must be reassured of his/her worth and that they are indeed the number one resource and priority — and future of the community.

For ticket information contact: Richard E. Monaco, MSW, Executive Director, Crossroads Counseling Center, 1916 S. Maryland Parkway.

A Kid's Opinion

By Che' Jones



I'd like to take a moment to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas Wilson.

Dr. Wilson was a well known and respected man in Las Vegas. He was a professor at UNLV and an expert in the field of education.

Dr. Wilson was a contributing writer with the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE along with me and the biggest influence in my journalism career.

I remember when I went to the late Joe Louis' funeral, I heard Rev. Jesse Jackson speak and was so inspired that I asked the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE if I could

write an article. That was the beginning of 4 years of an exciting career.

My mom and I thanked him and the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE many times. I'll never write another essay, article or term paper without thinking of Dr. Wilson. We love him and will miss him very much.

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