

# RENO HAPPENINGS



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## THE BLACK MISSION

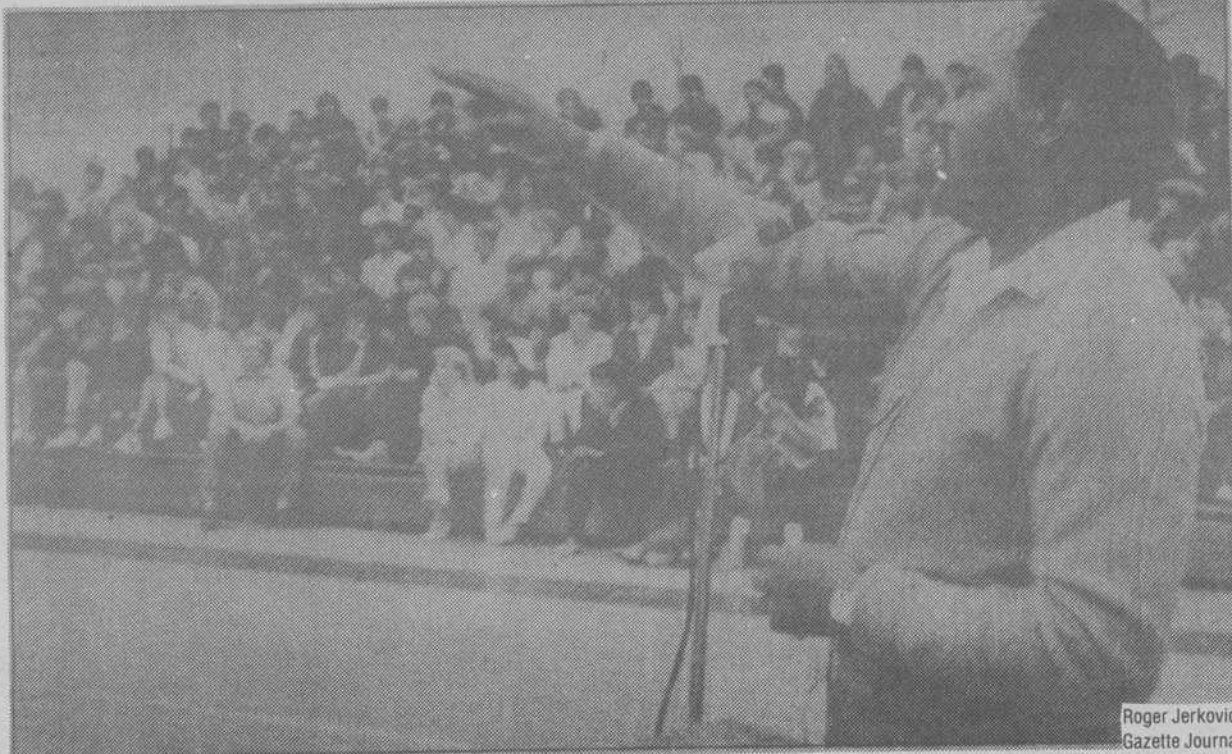
This is a great hour for the Negro. The challenge is here. To become the instruments of a great idea is a privilege that history gives only occasionally. Arnold Toynbee says in *A Study of History* that it may be the Negro who will give the new spiritual dynamic to Western civilization that it so desperately needs to survive. I hope this is possible. The spiritual power that the Negro can radiate to the world comes from love, understanding, good will, and nonviolence . . . The Negro may be God's appeal to this age — an age drifting rapidly to its doom.

## BLACK PROGRESS

We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

A piece of freedom is no longer enough for human beings nor the nation of which Negroes are part. They have been given pieces — but unlike bread, a slice of liberty does not finish hunger. Freedom is like life.

## Blue pitches anti-drug message in Reno



Roger Jerkovich  
Gazette Journal

**STUDENT VISIT:** Baseball player Vida Blue tells Hug High students last Friday about his problems with Cocaine

*"I am a recovering cocaine person . . . a recovering addict. I thought I was hip, slick and cool when I was doing it. It took a lot of guts to admit to myself that I had a drug problem."*

### Vida Blue

**San Francisco Giants pitcher**  
High and hard . . . right down the middle of the plate: It was always Vida Blue's style on the field. Now, that's the way he plays off the field.

Blue — the man who has won 199 major league baseball games — doesn't believe he's a good public speaker. But he's a good communicator. Friday afternoon, he was communicating with about 1,000 Hug High School

students in their gym.

Blue told the students he used cocaine because he thought it would make him a better person.

"It made me lie, cheat and steal. It made me a worse person. Once I used it, I became mean, tough to get along with."

Some students might have feared that Blue was going to preach to them about demon drugs . . . this man who

served 81 days in a federal institution in Texas after he was sentenced to three years imprisonment and fined \$5,000 for attempted cocaine possession.

He didn't preach. He talked and then he listened. He was surprised that nearly all their questions were about cocaine, not about baseball, his occupation for the last 18 years, including 15 big league seasons with the San

Francisco Giants, Oakland A's and Kansas City Royals.

"Somebody brought it to my attention that these kids aren't old enough to remember me with Oakland. Drugs are at epidemic proportions. That's what I read in the newspapers."

One student asked Blue how much he had spent a week on his cocaine habit.

At first, Blue was taken aback by the question, but then he reached into his right front pocket and fished out a roll of money that he held above his head.

"All I can say is I have more money in my pocket right now."

The students loudly cheered that, and other Blue responses.

The students quizzed him on who introduced him to cocaine, a question he wouldn't answer. They asked him how much he had used each day. Two grams a day, he said.

That large amount drew gasps from the audience.

Another student asked him if there are times now when he wants to use cocaine.

He said at times his body craves it.

"The key is I know if I go back on it, it would destroy my life," he answered.

One student wanted to know how Blue feels now knowing there are other players on the field who use

## Dr. M.L. King schedule of activities set for Reno

The Northern Nevada Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Advisory Committee will be having a community-wide church service to honor Dr. King on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 1810 Helena Street, Reno, Nevada. The service will begin at 3 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20, there will be a March of Peace starting at 12 noon. The march will begin at Virginia Street and Commercial Row and proceed to the University of Nevada where the main Martin Luther King Program and Reception will be held at approximately 2 p.m. Gov. Richard Bryan will be the guest speaker. The National Dr. Martin Luther King's theme is "Living the Dream." The public is invited to attend all of the program free of charge.

Anyone needing additional information may contact Bertha Mullins at 786-6023.

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See BLUE, Page 9

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