



PROMOTING INNER-CITY ENTREPRENEURS—Bobby Anderson, left, Production Manager for the minority-owned No-Tox Products Inc., explains how "Roachbusters Traps" and "Roachbusters Powders" are produced in the company's plant in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. His avid listeners -- successful Muslim entrepreneurs from around the country -- recently joined the growing ranks of No-Tox wholesalers who have also used the products to provide employment in inner city areas. The listeners are from left, A. Jihad, of Bilal Wholesalers, Atlanta, Ga.; Iman Yahya Abdullah, Amtex Enterprises, Dallas, TX.; Mushiha Rashid, Bilal Wholesalers, Atlanta, Ga.; Abdullah Bashir, KMBS Associates, Chicago, Ill.; Elbert Shamsideen, Your Daily Products, New York, N.Y.; Ali Bilal, an Accounts Specialist with No-Tox Products and Wali Shaheed, Bitac Inc., Memphis, Tn. Bob Cottrell photo.

Entries Accepted at West Las Vegas Library for Annual Black History Month Art Exhibit

"All mediums will be accepted, including oils, pastels, charcoals, and pencils as well as acrylics and sculptures" states Debbie Richards, program coordinator at West Las Vegas Library, 1402 N. "D" St. In preparation for the 4th Annual Art Exhibit in Honor of Black History Month in February, the library will accept entries January 2 through 20.

According to Richards, there is no entry fee, but "each work must reflect the history of African and American cultures." Open to artists of all ages, submitted works must be framed and ready for hanging. An added feature of this year's event will be a special section for

school-age artists. These entries need not be framed.

Also to be displayed concurrently with the art show will be authentic African ceremonial and secret society masks on loan from the Beni Casselle Collection, courtesy of Dr. Corene Casselle.

The gallery opening and reception is set for (Saturday) February 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library. The exhibit will be on display through February.

For additional information about Black History Month activities, call 647-2118.

THE SENTINEL-VOICE

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'Black Men Must Save Themselves' says D.C. Forum

Tired of constant criticism of their failures as fathers and leaders, all males school board members and staff in the nation's capitol organized a Black Men's Forum, Inc., to focus on "saving black men as an endangered species" who are being destroyed.

District school board members Eugene Kinlow and R. Calving Lockridge convened the weekend session of male parents and teachers to meet with key city officials and national organizational representatives to discuss black men assuming leadership roles in the community.

The District of Columbia school officials are seeking to establish similar forums in 20 major cities to develop a national program to focus on the "Black Male's Role in the Black Family," Lockridge started. Other school boards have been contacted in Georgia, Alabama, Florida and neighboring states, he said.

Workshops were held in Washington on such topics as Improving the Status of Black Males, Economics and the Impact of Drugs, Passage to Manhood, and the Role of Athletics, Politics and Educational Support. Over 500 participants attended and agreed to meet again in early January and begin implementation of resolutions.

City officials, Rev. Louis Anthony, challenged participants to really try to save families by action, not words. "We have

conferences running out of our ears in D.C. Anytime I hear about a plan being referred to a committee, I know that's the end of it..." Anthony declared.

"Real men don't sell drugs to their children, rape their mothers and sisters and rip off homes in their neighborhood... We've lost our sense of history and what we need to do to survive (by trying to jump into the mainstream when the water is polluted," he added. The forum was held at Dunbar High School which once had the best record in the nation for sending black graduates to college.

"Since we could be viewed as successful black men, we were the ones to address the problem," said Lockridge, and active board member. "We really think we are an endangered

species... when you consider that more black males have a higher chance of being killed than other groups. He pointed to the high infant-mortality rate in D.C. which leads the nation, and said that more black males are unemployed than any other group except the American Indian.

"This society is guilty of what we view as a systematic destruction of the black male, but the forums will attempt to teach young black men that they are responsible for improving and maintaining the quality of their lives and families," Lockridge emphasized.

Dr. Floretta McKenzie, D.C. School Superintendent, addressed the sessions and R. David Hall, was later re-elected as school board president.

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