

# Education

- Educator
- Journalist
- Consultant
- Counselor



## The West Coast Black Publishers Association Convention



KEITH O. HILTON

Let's have the record show from the start that I am from Back East. But since living in California, I spend a lot of time telling the folks back there (through my column and otherwise) that the Left Coast is also a winner.

The growing maturity of the African American community is so pronounced now, from San Diego to Seattle, that the very negative and unprofessional messages presented through the non African media is generally neutralized. Not all the time, but often enough.

At the head of this burgeoning movement is the U.S. African press, best exemplified by the West Coast Black Publishers Association

"Cementing Relations Between the Black Press and the Community" was the theme of the WCBPA's Sixth Annual Convention. It could have also been subtitled "CEMENTING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE BLACK PRESS" because there are still some bridges that need to be built, egos made secondary and fresh ideas allowed to flourish.

The choice of Bakerfield as the site of the convention was significant for three reasons: 1) it was an acknowledgement of the value of a less complicated side of California (but equally outstanding), 2) it showed that professionals were more earnest about accomplishing the convention's theme than with the glitter of bright lights and 3) it proved that the conference host, Mr. Joe Coley, and publisher of the Observer Group Newspapers deserves to be honored with the very best of the African World Press.

Everyone came away a winner, especially the student scholarship recipients. However, I was particularly proud to be a part of the Precinct-Reporter delegation that garnered its

share of awards. Brian Townsend is one of a growing number of young publishers committed to taking the African American press to a higher plateau.

The consensus was that Bernie Foster (Portland Skanner) deserved the honor of being "Publisher of the Year". Clovis Campbell (Arizona Informant) will continue to keep WCBPA on a progressive path.

If there were three suggestions that I would make for future years, they would be something like this: 1) to ensure even greater attendance, participation and inhouse pride, each newspaper should also present an award to its outstanding staff person at the convention, 2) awards should go to two or three national writers who write for the newspapers. This would also serve as an excellent PR vehicle for the association.

A third suggestion would be to create an annual WCBPA Award for Excellence to be presented to an East Coast newspaper that comes closest to matching the journalistic spirit of the West Coast.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom discussions. Let's talk. (714) 899-0650.

### Jam Fest 1 Scheduled

The City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street, along with their Doolittle Teen Council, presents "Jam Fest I", a teen dance. Scheduled for Friday, November 3 at 8:00 pm, the program is designed for 13-18 years olds. Highlighting the evening will be a guest appearance by the group F.B.I. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Call 386-6374 for more information.

## School America: Family Reading Initiative Sponsored By Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is "Taking the Lead Helping Families to Read" by recently launching a nation-wide initiative -- School America, which is a national family reading program. Delta Sigma Theta, the single largest Black women's public service sorority with over 800 chapters, has acted in response to the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy by assuming a leadership role in developing a national family reading program as a collaborative effort between families; educators; representatives of civic, religious, fraternal and other organizations; and other interested persons.

The basic focus of School America is to have one story read to a child, between the ages of one through 10, every week throughout 1990. A major component of this nation reading program is 'reader registration' which entails registering persons as official readers. A "Registered Reader" is an individual who pledges to read one story a week to a child in his/her family.

Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, national president of Delta, stated that on September 14, 1989 the Sorority kicked-off phases one of SCHOOL

AMERICA by asking other national organizations to join Delta as a partner in implementing this program. "Those joining us will in turn be responsible for registering members of their organizations as readers." She added, "It is the goal of SCHOOL AMERICA to register over one million readers." Moreover, each of Delta's local chapter will form partnerships with ten or more organizations in their respective communities to register their members as readers.

The launching of Delta's SCHOOL AMERICA program coincided with the nation's September 14th kick-off of "Read America Day" of which the Sorority was a participant and with the ABC Television special, "Making the Grade" which focuses on the critical problems facing America's youth. One of these problems is illiteracy.

Dr. Kennedy, who is also president of Alabama's Bishop State Community College and a member of the Alabama state legislature, explained that SCHOOL AMERICA will create many favorable results. "The Sorority is forming partner-

See DELTAS, Page 11

## Service Club Accepting Education Or Training Applications For Scholarships

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

The Westside Graceful Workers Community Club is now accepting applications for its scholarship program for the 1989-1990 academic school year.

The Graceful Workers Community Club, a non-profit organization, was organized more than a quarter century ago in West Las Vegas to provide education or training scholarships for deserving and needy West Las Vegas youngsters from various West Las Vegas churches. All charter members of the group were members of various West Las Vegas churches, who saw a need for such a program for their young people, back in the early 60s.

Some of the founding or charter members of the club, and many are yet members, are Jessie Windom, Esther Hughes, Rev. and Mrs.

Jesse Wesley, H.P. and Virgie Fitzgerald, Mozelle Buckles, Pearl Robinson, and Ruth Daniels. Jessie Windom has been the organization's president from its beginning to this date. H.P. Fitzgerald is the club's scholarship chairman and education consultant.

During its lengthy history of service in the West Las Vegas community, the group has provided financial aid to many area youngsters who have become successful in the work force throughout Nevada and the country as a whole.

Interested students should call Mrs. Jessie Windom at 648-8994 for more information and application forms. The club specializes in providing financial aid for two-year trade school training or two-year Associate Degree college education.

Southern Nevada School Counselors Association

presents the

## 11th ANNUAL College Fair P\*L\*U\*S

For all juniors, seniors, and parents

NOV. 1-2, 1989  
5:00 - 9:00 PM  
CASHMAN FIELD CENTER

Free Admission and Parking

### Information on:

- \*Colleges \*Universities
- \*Vocational Schools \*Military
- \*FINANCIAL AID Presentation 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. each night
- \*SCHOLARSHIP Presentation 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. each night
- \*EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS Presentation 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. each night

**NEED HELP WITH READING, WRITING, MATH, & GED - AGE: 16+**

**CONTACT A.O.I.P. 647-2117 1-4 P.M.**