

‘TWO-FORS’

The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis

Throughout history African-American women have been the primary source of strength and vitality for the African-American race. Black women have in fact done it all. They have borne, raised and nurtured our young into manhood and womanhood, and have provided a solid foundation on which our future generations can build.

In the process many Black women have of necessity become breadwinners for themselves and their families. These women cast aside centuries-old traditions that mandated the task of primary provider to be reserved for men only. And now, as we prepare to enter the 21st century, African-American women are making even more significant strides to be a success in the workplace.

So it should come as no surprise that, since the Civil Rights struggle made it possible for African-Americans to enter corporate America, Black female executives also are on the rise. In fact so much so that a competent Black female is increasingly preferred over a qualified Black male.

In that first big wave of Black executives to enter the predominantly white workforce back in the '60s, it was the Black male who largely occupied the few positions in any organization that existed for us. A term used to describe such an individual is H.N.I.C. (Head Negro In Charge). In the past it almost always meant a Black man. But, oh how things have changed in 25 or 30 years! Although the term H.N.I.C. isn't in vogue like it used to be, there are considerably more Black female



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executives in charge than there used to be. And, their numbers are growing daily.

A relatively new term which describes the desirability of hiring a Black female executive is "Two-For." The literal meaning of "Two-For" is two-for-the-price-of one. In other words, by hiring a Black female, an employer gets twice the mileage due to the double minority status of Black women according to today's definition and standard for being a minority. In reality it's another variation of the expanded definition of a minority and another way to dilute the recognition of Blacks as an underrepresented race in the majority workforce.

Put yourself in the place of a corporate employer trying to satisfy the numbers game of an affirmative action plan. Would you rather hire a Black female or a Black male, both with equal credentials?

The answer to this question may depend on the consequences whoudl an employer fail to meet an affirmative action quota. It has been suggested that it's all done with smoke and mirrors. That if a company chooses not to comply with a minority hiring plan, they won't be penalized anyway.

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Services Held for Revered West Las Vegan Anthony Thomas

Memorial services were held Tuesday for one of West Las Vegas' best loved citizens - Anthony David Thomas, who died Friday of a heart attack at the age of 53.

Thomas was best known for his work as a teacher, choir director and president of Nevadans Against Apartheid.

He was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana on September 23, 1936. He received his bachelor's degree in music in 1960 from Tennessee State University and his master's degree in music from the University of Southern California in 1970.

After moving to Las Vegas in 1962, he began teaching music, English and math in the Clark County School District in 1963.

Thomas served as choir director at Zion Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Beth Shalom, the

Church of Religious Science, Our Lady of Las Vegas and St. Joan of Arc, as well as for the Federated Choirs.

He was the founder and president of Nevadans Against Apartheid. He was also a founding member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity - Epsilon Psi Sigma Chapter locally. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Parents Organizing Team at St. James Apostle Church.

Thomas is survived by his sons, Brian of Las Vegas and Michael of New York; brothers Matthew of Oxnard, California, Johnny of San Francisco and Irving of Lake Charles, LA.; and sisters Urabele of Houston and Gladys, Caves, Alberta and Mildred Mills, all of Lake Charles.

Memorial services were held here in Las Vegas at Our Lady of Las Vegas Catholic Church and burial will be in Lake Charles, La.

School Busdriver Leaves Children Stranded in WLW

By Muhammad Abdullah

On Thursday morning, April 5, 1990, more than 25 children were left stranded by a Clark County School District (CCSD) busdriver. The incident took place at the Carey Arms Apartment Complex on the corner of Lake Mead and Comstock Avenue.

Parents in the area became disgruntled and immediately alerted the media of the incident after calling the CCSD Transportation Department and Marjorie Conner, Principal of Doris Reed Elementary School, which was the destination of the stranded students.

"This is not the first time this has happened!" said Michelle Bardlett, President of the Community Improvement Association (CIA). "Our children have been left stranded three times before but never this many. That busdriver has a

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Mother Ethel Pearson

From the Management and Staff of The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice

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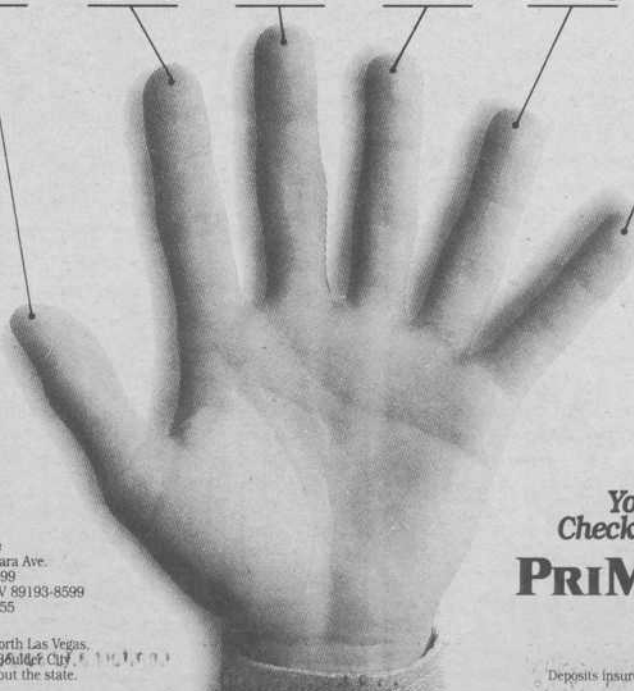
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