

# Point of View

## If You Need A Place To Stay, Call...

By Tony Brown

Some 150 African-American organizations spend \$3 billion each summer holding annual meetings in Caucasian-owned hotels, discussing "White racism and Black poverty." The most recent example was the so-called Black Summit in New Orleans at, of course, a "White" hotel to discuss an "agenda" which will then be forwarded to President George Bush for his approval and executive action.

If the inconsistencies in both of the above do not jump out at you, you might save yourself some time by reading the comics instead of reading further. The excuse that there are "Black-owned" hotels will also be put to the test.

It won't be the acid test because we still don't own one major hotel in America. But John McDonald, an African-American man who has operated the famous McDonald's Cafeteria in Charlotte, North Carolina for years, has opened a mini-major \$3-million hotel, appropriately called the Best Western McDonald's Inn.

Now that McDonald and his wife Eunice, have succeeded, after years of saving and hard work, in opening one of the finest hotels in the state, they must now convince a "biased" African-American community that they can compete (if they were "White," many of us

would accept them on face value).

Therefore, let me review my experience at McDonald's Inn. First, I was in Charlotte speaking at Johnson C. Smith University, a bulwark of Black education in that state, and at the suggestion of my host at the school, I checked into Mc-

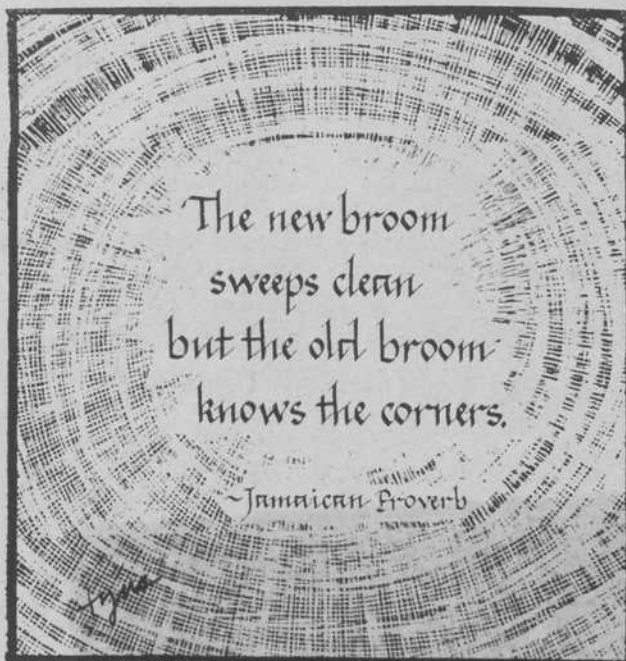


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Donald's Inn.

You can't say these African-Americans are not courteous. You can't say the quality of the rooms or the food is inferior. You can't say the prices are too high. And you can't say the parking is too expensive - it's free.

Ask how you can spend some of that \$3 billion with a Buy Freedom hotel business that your group normally spends with "non-Blacks" that will keep all of McDonald's employees employed and employ some others.



The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.

## POLITICAL POINTS

By

Assemblyman

Wendell P. Williams

### BUT THIS AIN'T BASKETBALL

It seems as if the folks at City Hall have mastered the "backdoor play." Even if you are not a basketball fan, you've probably seen this play executed many, many times.

According to Webster's Sports' dictionary, the term "backdoor" is defined as follows: *A play in which an offensive player cuts away from the defender and moves behind the defense to receive a quick pass under the basket.* Yes, someone at City Hall has used this play and perfected it as well as the Boston Celtics.

Case in point, several weeks ago the Las Vegas Housing Authority determined that they could not afford to financially maintain the operations of their youth centers located in public housing. So the agency decided to allow non-profit organizations to submit proposals to bid for one of the centers.

Several organizations drafted their program and were told that they had a clear shot "based on the democratic process." One of the groups that applied, The Martin Luther King Committee of Las Vegas, submitted a proposal for the A.D. Guy Center located on Washington and Martin Luther King Drive. Requesting no funding and with backing of the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, housing official Gus Ramos accepted the proposal and said he would get it on the agenda. It never happened.

The next attempt came in the form of a hand-delivered copy of the proposal to Housing Board Chairman Louis Conner. Mr. Conner said "no problem" and it was NOT too late and said he would personally take it to the board. Then suddenly somebody called for the "back door" play. Because one week later, Mr. Conner informed the King Committee



Assemblyman Williams

President, Dora Harris, that the mayor became angry at him for accepting the King Committee proposal, and that he was sorry but his hands were tied. Several days later in a quick move the Las Vegas City Council approved the money appropriations for the renovation of that center for the use of the Boys and Girls Club. Now remember, these are the same people that are closing these centers for lack of money. Presently, a new air condition unit and other major changes are being made at the center. Our children have used this center for years with no air conditioner, and with the lack of other equipment. Why couldn't money be found then?

I placed a telephone call to Executive Director Carl Rowe two weeks ago to discuss this whole matter and Mr. Rowe has not found the time to return my call yet. However, I did ask former director and not assistant director Gus Ramos what process the agency used to make its selections. He said they had no guidelines for selecting groups to man the centers and they were planning on adopting a policy at their upcoming May 10th meeting.

Next I asked Mr. Ramos, "If you have no guidelines for selection, then how did you select the Boys and Girls Club?" Ramos said that they were ordered to do it by the Mayor's Office. I then went on to tell him about how the board's chairman assured that the democratic process would prevail. Ramos then said, "Well, Louis Conner don't make all the meetings, so he wouldn't know."

It's not that the Boys and Girls Club is not a good agency. It's not that the King Committee should have gotten the nod. What stinks

## To Be Equal

# THE BUDGET DANCE

By John E. Jacob

The annual Washington budget dance is under way and, as in past years, it will most likely continue right up to the end of the federal fiscal year in the fall.

The steps to this dance are pretty simple: one of the dancers sings "no new taxes" while presenting an austerity budget.

The other dancers try to follow, introducing small variations such as slightly

about this whole thing is that any organization who would like to apply, should have gotten a FAIR opportunity to present its program to the Board of Commissioners. Many of these organizations and already in the community and have worked with the area's children. It is also disappointing that the City Councilmen remained silent on this issue after finding out about how things are being handled.

This is clearly not government by the people and it damned sure is not for the people. It's backdoor politics in the worst way. The "back door" play finally caught up with the Boston Celtics last Sunday and it's going to catch up with some people at City Hall.

The "back door" play is a piece of art when executed correctly on a basketball court, but in this case it's a piece of garbage, because we're talking about children, not basketball.

**EXTRA POINT: Don't miss the keynote speech by State Senator Carolyn Walker of Arizona on Friday, May 18 at Mable Hoggard School. The admission is FREE. This is the keynote speech for the AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUMMIT.**

**POINTS IN HISTORY: 119 years ago on May 12th, the segregated street cars in Louisville, Ky, were integrated following a sit-in staged by one African-American teen.**

**102 years ago, on May 13th, slavery was abolished in Brazil.**

**POINT OF VIEW: Public office is a public trust.**

Dan S. Lamont

higher spending for some domestic programs and a bit less for others.

At the end of the dance the partners come together in a hectic finale that leaves them and experienced budget-watchers exhausted, as the band plays the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings theme.

That's the one that makes automatic budget cuts if deficit-reduction targets aren't met.

Lawmakers have been doing this dance for years, evading the "no new taxes" theme with an array of user fees and indirect taxes.



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In fact, there have been very large tax increases over the years when the fiction was upheld that taxes were cut.

Those tax hikes came in the form of sharply higher social security taxes and in state and local tax hikes.

Since the federal government cut domestic programs so heavily, the states had to step in to provide more services. Inevitably, that meant raising more revenues through state taxes.

More of the same is in the offing, as the federal government has set ambitious new goals in education and in transportation, without putting up the money to reach those goals.

Much of today's disillusionment with government derives from the budget dance that tolerates huge deficits, ignores the needs of the poor, slashes important domestic programs, and mandates higher local taxes.

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