Drugs - The 80/20 **Proposition**

The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis

Today it seems that for anyone to accept information as being factual they have to first see it in the newspaper. No matter how obvious the point, somehow seeing it in writing gives information credibility. We can go on having strong feelings that something is true, but our beliefs often are not validated until it appears in print.

I hit home with me just how influential the media can be in validating what we already know to be true when recently I read a front page article about drugs in The Angeles Times newspaper.

At first glance I was extremely surprised. It struck me as odd indeed that a leading U.S. newspaper would finally come out with a probing, insightful article like this on the drug issue. More surprising was the content of the article. For, instead of the usual "beat-Blacks-over-the-head'' approach, this time there was a fair assessment of the entire drug dilemma.

The headline of the article read, "Blacks Feel Brunt of Drug War." Quoting directly from the story, "law officers and judges say, although it is clear that whites sell most of the nation's cocaine and account for 80 percent of its consumers, it is blacks and other minorities who continue to fill up America's courtrooms and jails.

Education and treatment, not law enforcement, are the keys to reducing drug abuse, it has been acknowledged by the experts. But law enforcement is the primary focus of most present efforts.

commonplace It's nowadays to see Black men and women on the ne being busted for drugs. see it over and over aga And then we see it so more. In fact, we see it u we're blue in the face. I then, we turn on the news a later time, and there it again. Another drug bu Another group of Black arrested, booked into jail, carcerated, in court, sent ced and sent to prison.

With such a const barrage of drug-associa' African-America what do you suppose wh think about Blacks? A having been thusly bom ded on such a freq basis, is it inconceivable may be thinking:



Ray E. Willis

Blacks are completely uncivilized. They'll do anything for money. I guess it's just basic nature to be wrongdoers. We should have kept them in slavery.'

I believe there are a combination of factors which contribute to an inaccurate portrayal of who is into drugs

of all, African-First Americans have traditionally been the dumping ground for negative issues which impact society. Secondly, it is easy to use us because of our total dependence on the system and our lack of adequate resources to fight back the American way.

By "the American way," I'm talking about media ownership and having the bucks necessary to launch positive public relations campaigns to counter what is being said about us that is so negative.

When you stop and look around, whites do it all the time because they have the resources to launch a fullscale media/PR campaign when faced with a negative crisis. For obvious reasons, we can't do that. Especially when many of us are still dealing with basic human survival

That's why I was so surprised to see a positive ar-

The Pros and Cons of Nevada's Abortion Laws -A Hot Political Issue

By Gloria G. Brooks

1990 is a year of hot political issues for the country, and Nevada is no exception. As we enter into yet

ticle in the L.A. Times that was not prompted by financial or power interests.

Speaking of PR, ever notice how the white drug dependent person depicted in TV commercials for drug abuse clinics is always neatly dressed in coat and tie? The image portrayed is that of a wholesome, American sort of guy.

When you look beyond the surface, the proliferation of such drug dependency treatment clinics is a good example of how white America has responded to the problem from the vantage point of how it is affecting them. A natural conse-

quence of the approach to the drug problem involves laying blame for it all on someone. Now let's see, who can we hold responsible for the drug epidemic? I know! Let's blame it on Black folks. So the focus of attention is away from them and on us.

There's no denying that there are Blacks who are involved in the drug trade. But let's keep that in perspec-The experts say that only 20 percent of the drug problem can be attributed to Blacks and minorities That means 80 percent of the drug trade involved the largely white community.

Just because there has now been one major newspaper article exposing the truth about drugs, don't expect America's approach to the problem to change. Because, as we all know, it probably won't. A wise man once said information and knowledge is power. Use it.

another election season, the question of abortion rights rides high on the list of issues. Ever since the recent landmark decision from the state of Missouri-Webster-v-Reproduction Health Services - given by the Supreme Court, the states now have the right to regulate abortion as the legislatures see fit.

In Las Vegas a petition has been in circulation to have a referendum on the November ballot. Enough signatures have been gathered for the referendum to appear on the ballot. Before discussing the referendum, a brief history of Nevada's abortion laws is in

1973 marked the passing of Nevada's first abortion law. This law allowed and regulated legal abortion in the state. From 1981 through 1984 several events occured. 1981 saw the passing of a law which required parental and spousal consent and a twenty-four hour waiting period. This was not a popular ruling, and Planned Parenthood, ACLU and Gene Glick, M.D., along with other Nevada physicians, banned together to file suit against the state of Nevada. The law was never put into practice, because of the injunction based on unconstitutional restrictions or access. The third abortion law required parental notification with the option of a judicial hearing. Again, this law was left in limbo due to a suit filed against the state. The U.S. District Court placed a preliminary injunction on July 1985. The state of Nevada appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court. The basis of the suit was again unconstitutional restrictions on ac-

If the proposed referen-

Profiles of Westside S Alumni Association Ma-

by H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

of profiles of members of the Westside School Alumni Association

The Old Westside School, one of the only two elementary schools in the City of Las Vegas in 1922, provided the primary and elementary education for all children residing west of the U.P. railroad tracks. Those children were predominantly Afro-Americans at that time. There were a few Whites and some Mexican Americans and one Japanese family in the Old Westside at that time. The school closed in 1967

Yet, a total of twelve members of the association, which includes former administrators. teachers. students and PTA members, have been honored by having schools named after them in the Clark County and Las Vegas areas. They include Clyde C. Cox, H.P. Fitzgerald, Doris French, Ruth R. Fife, R. Guild Gray, Fay Herron, Walter Long, John Mendoza, Claude H. and Stella Parson, Howard Wasden elementary schools, Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center and Kenny Guinn

This is another in a series Junior High School. Few other elementary schools the size of the Old Westside School in the country can boast such a record.

Other members of the Westside School Alumni Association have been



"Fitz" Fitzgerald

honored by having City of Las Vegas parks named after them. James A. Gay III, Ethel Pearson, Lubertha Johnson and H.P. Fitzgerald have parks named after them.

Some of West Las Vegas reported 50% unemployed youth could benefit by using some of the Westside School

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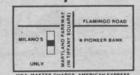
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