

### The Politics of Race

#### The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis

At this juncture of Nevada's history if there could be a single action to solidify the overall power base thus enhancing the effectiveness of Black elected officials, it would be the election of an African-American to the Nevada senate or assembly from a non-Black voting district.

Consider this fact. There has never been a Black elected to the Nevada Legislature who does not live in West or North Las Vegas. Never!

Oh yes. There was the case of Woody Wilson, who was elected to the state legislature in the 60's on an at-large candidacy before there were any Westside districts. But Woody lived on the Westside, so many believed he was elected to represent only the Westside.

As times have changed and over the years more and more Blacks have relocated away from the Westside, I often describe the Westside as being a native homeland to all Blacks, regardless of where you actually live. And it's true. Many of us probably don't even know the name of our state assemblyman and senator if we live outside of the Westside. But we certainly know the name of the Black elected officials who represent the Westside, don't we? We vicariously support them even though we know they don't represent our actual voting district based on where we live.

Which brings me to my main point. The time is right for a Black to win a seat in the state legislature from a district that is not predominantly Black.

It won't necessarily be easy though. Several Blacks have already made unsuccessful attempts to get elected to statewide political office in white districts. However, I'm convinced it can happen soon. With broad-based support and a balanced platform, a brother or sister can get elected in a largely white district.

Here's my rationale why it should occur.

Since 1970, when most Blacks lived in West and North Las Vegas, there has been a dramatic shift in the Black population. Then, more than 90 percent of all Blacks lived in the predominantly Black Community.

Today, twenty years later, because of integrated housing patterns, less than



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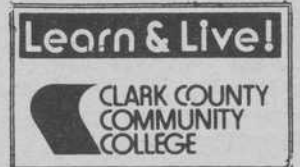
35 percent of all Blacks reside in "the community." The rest of us, clearly the majority, are propagated almost uniformly in areas throughout the Valley.

Since Blacks are now residentially integrated into the mainstream of the overall community, I feel it is high time that we reflect our numerical distribution legislatively as well.

We know that competent Black candidates are electable. Just look at what occurred nationally not long ago with the election of a Black governor and several Black mayors.

Wouldn't it be refreshing to have a Black Assemblyman or Senator in Southern Nevada who represents an integrated constituency? It would be the perfect complement to those Black elected leaders already in office.

When a person of African-American descent is ultimately elected to the legislature in a non-Black district, it will be yet another positive sign that Nevada is unworthy of its famous moniker, "Little Mississippi of the West."



## Sammy Davis, Jr. Dies of Cancer at Age 64

Sammy Davis, Jr., the consummate performer and considered by many to be the greatest performer of all times, died Wednesday morning at his home in Clifornia. He was 64 years of age.

He succumbed to cancer of the throat, after battling the illness since September 1989.

Sammy had been in show business for 60 years, having first gotten his "feet wet" at the age of 4, by performing with his parents on the vaudeville stage. He really got into show business as a young man performing with his father and uncle. The group was called the Will Maston Trio.

He really hit the big time when he became a member of the famous "Rat Pack", which as a group made the Las Vegas Strip gain the name "The Entertainment Capital of the World. Until he became ill, he remained one

of the Strip's biggest drawing cards.

His illustrious career included every facet of the entertainment business. He was both a fabulous singer and dancer, as well as actor and his performances took him on tours, in the movies, on Broadway and into the recording studios.

Among his many hit records were "Candy Man" and "Mr. Bojangles," two of the songs that his audiences here in Las Vegas requested most. He kept his fabulous voice with its beautiful phrasing, lyric tones and impeccable control until he became ill just a few months ago. A fantastic dancer in his day, he had given it up several years ago, although he would sometimes give his audiences just a little hint of what he used to do.

The Las Vegas Strip will never be the same without him, the entertainment world will never be the same

## Local Activists Named Liaisons To Governor's Conference on Women

Today, Governor Bob Miller appointed 3 longtime community activists as liaisons to the Governor's Conference on Women. This conference is being held at Caesars Palace September 14-16. The objective of this conference is to enhance the status of Nevada's women.

With the appointment of Mrs. Verlia Grice-Davis, Ms. Faye Duncan-Daniel and Mrs. Lillian Lujan-Hickey as liaisons to their perspective communities, women of ethnic minorities will have direct input and more active participation in the conference at the executive level assuting these populations that the Governonr of Nevada is truly concerned with the

issues of his constituency.

The three appointees were selected because of their long term commitment to issues directly affecting ethnic minorities in Nevada. These women, said Mrs. Jan Laverty-Jones, Director of the Governor's Conference for Women, will have direct input from their communities to the executive board. This input will enhance the board and allow women of these communities to prioritize issues directly affecting their futures.

All interested persons should call Mrs. Carla Leveritt at 454-3441 or Mrs. Jan Laverty-Jones at 739-9800.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Nevada African-American Summit, which will take place here in Las Vegas May 17-20 welcomes you and invites you to "make a difference."

Following is a list of sessions that you won't want to miss:

**May 17 - Opening Reception at Chez Pollee - 7-10 P.M.**

**Opening Session May 18 - Mabel Hoggard School - 6:30 - 10 P.M.**

**Malcolm X Memorial Luncheon - May 19 - Club Rouge**

**Seminars - May 19 - Mabel Hoggard School 9:30 - 5 P.M.**

**Youth Speak Out - May 20 -**

**1:30 to 3 P.M. - Mabel Hoggard School**

**Wrap Up Session - May 20 - 3 - 5:30 P.M. - Mabel Hoggard School**

**Titles of Workshops are: Maximizing Your Political Power; African-American Media Coverage; Our African Connection; Strengthening African-American Families; Restoring the Neighborhood; African American Women; Advice For Minority Business; Charting Your Success; Education; and Co-operative Economics.**

**Be sure to attend. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

without him. His was a talent that comes along, only once in a lifetime.

And to top it all off, he was

really a nice man. Rest in peace, Mr. Bojangles. We all love you.

### THE SENTINEL-VOICE

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## Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Epsilon Chapter  
Las Vegas, Nevada

invites you to attend their  
Second Annual Fund Raiser

May 20, 1990 at 7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Center Strip

## Working Women Striving For Success

Banquet

Guest Speaker  
Entertainment

Proceeds to benefit United Negro College Fund

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