

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

TO WASTE

polls November
think again. An
of just 2,000 votes
changed the out-
elections for the
Representatives

in 1988.
There is another critical reason to register and vote in this election and every election. We adults must show our children (See CHILD WATCH, Page 7)

CIVIL RIGHTS

ould allow employ-
men, Jews, Catho-
ities from certain
ey are qualified, if
ustomer expresses
member of one of
No job perform-
eed be included in
s dissatisfaction.
ent would adopt,
rrule, the damag-
e decision which
inatory job prac-
ld overrule the
n requiring em-
y discriminatory
business neces-

The National Association of Attorneys General wrote President Bush: "to urge that you approve the Civil Rights Act of 1990 in the version passed by the Congress...Enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1990 will signal that the federal government remains committed to principles of fairness and equality, and will preserve citizen confidence that our system of laws permits meaningful redress from invidious discrimination in all of its forms." The attorneys general believed so strongly in the passage of the congressional version of the Civil Rights Act, they issued a resolution to that affect at their summer meeting in July.

Obviously, the President trusted his political sidekicks rather than the attorneys general of our fifty states. Arthur Fletcher, appointed by Bush as chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, had also urged him to sign the bill.

George Bush has pulled the plug on civil rights for years to come. It is now up to the citizens of our nation to spur the Congress to necessary action.

Letter to Editor

ider printing the following article. It presents a new
the causes of gangs in Las Vegas.
n Wilson.
STO INCREASE GANG ACTIVITY IN LAS VEGAS
ce taxes for millionaires in the 1980's
t a trickle down monetary policy
se attempts to reduce teenage pregnancy
ase federal funds for education
ase homelessness
drugs to proliferate
se increases in the minimum wage
urage racism
se greater gun control measures
t uncontrolled growth
excessive salaries for athletes
ort the Republican Party, for they support the above
ons.

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT The Signifying Monkey

by Ray Willis

Editor's note: A portion of last week's Ray Willis Report was inadvertently omitted. So we're re-running the same column this week in its entirety.

"When the news got all around to the seaport towns, that the great Titanic was sinking down.....out stepped a Black man from the deck below called Shine hollering, 'Captain! Captain! don't you know, there's 40 feet of water on the boiler room floor!'"

So goes the introductory lines to the legendary tale of The Signifying Monkey, popularized in African-American oral tradition, and now preserved for posterity as an example of the literary history of Black folks in America. The tale of the Signifying Monkey is set on the eve of the sinking of the Titanic. Shine is a black man, perhaps a servant, who happens to be on board the sinking vessel.

The humorous story details the oceanic exploits of Shine to extricate himself from the Titanic's wreckage before it completely sank. As the mirthful tale winds down to a hilarious yet anticlimactic ending, Shine later on dies, goes to Hell and.....I think I'll just let you find out for yourself how this tale actually ends.

Anyway, the words to the Signifying Monkey are delivered in a profanity-laced poetic rhyming style, somewhat reminiscent of today's rap artist without the hip-hop music. Several versions of this legendary African-American folklore classic have endured, meeting the test of time.

One of the most memorable versions of the Signifying Monkey though is told by legendary funnyman Rudy Ray Moore, a comedic precursor to the likes of Moms Mabley, Redd Foxx and Richard Pryor.

It took all these many decades since the sinking of the Titanic for the story of the Signifying Monkey to reemerge, this time into national prominence in the context of the 2 Live Crew rap group's obscenity trial in Florida. In case you missed it, 2 Live Crew was hit with trumped-up obscenity charges for their lusty rap songs rendered over the backdrop of a sexually suggestive dance routine. In that case, fortunately, the jury exercised prudence in finding members of the rap group innocent.

A very vital and crucial bit of testimony which led to the exoneration of 2 Live Crew was that of Black Duke University English Professor and literary critic Henry Gates, Jr. Last year, Gates himself authored an anthology of Black folklore in a book entitled, "The Signifying Monkey," which won the American Book Award.

When called upon to give sworn testimony during the 2 Live Crew trial, Gates told the jurors that "signifying" dates back to the 16th Century when Africans were first being taken into slavery. He described signifying as a "form of rhythmic teasing and cajoling" often peppered with lewd or off-color remarks that can be meant as insult or compliment.

"It (signifying) was the way Blacks could fight against the oppression of their slave masters," Gates told the jurors.

Gates went on to describe the art of signifying as a boisterous form of parody. "It's a joke, and as a parody, signifying is one of the most venerated forms of art," Gates said.

And, in Gates' view, that's precisely the form of expression used by 2 Live Crew in their controversial album "Nasty as They Wanna Be."

Just imagine. You can listen

to The Signifying Monkey all night long and not get the slightest negative reaction from anyone to its race content. But when it comes to the 2 Live Crew it's a different story. Kind of makes

WEST COAST BLACK PUBLISHERS COMMUNITY TRIBUTE AWARDS

by Muhammad Abdullah

As part of its three day convention activities, the West Coast Black Publishers Association in cooperation with its corporate sponsors Miller Brewing Company, Coca-Cola Company, Toyota USA, Phillip Morris, and a host of others, received the local Las Vegas community by honoring local leaders in the media, community service and humanitarian efforts. A great deal of credit should be extended to the Editor/Publisher of our very own SENTINEL-VOICE, Mrs. Betty Brown, the Convention Chairman and hostess for the evening's event that took place on Thursday, October 25, 1990 at Alexis Park Hotel, site of the convention. She and her staff worked tirelessly to welcome the out of town guests who represented many diverse interests in publishing-advertising, marketing, news reporting, public relations and other media fields.

Mrs. Brown introduced the honored guests on the dais and Rev. Jesse Scott was called upon to deliver the invocation. After the invocation Mrs. Brown brought up the first featured speaker for the evening, Clovis Campbell, Publisher of the Arizona Informant and President of the WCBPA. Campbell welcomed the conventioners and reminded them of their duty to maintain a positive image of African Americans in the media. He said that he hoped to see more African American publishers "addressing the many social changes and financial challenges that face the African American community in the new decade."

"We have survived because we offer something special...The Black Press is a crusading medium, it is unafraid and is there, ready to reach out and help others," he said. His comments were fitting due to the theme of the convention "Headlining The 21st Century" Miller Brewing Company

representatives were on hand to re-affirm their commitment to the Black Press as well as its donative efforts to the United Negro College fund and scholarship. Sheri Colas, Supervisor

Priority Market Relations and Noel Hankin, Director Marketing Relations, assured the conventioners that they stand behind all the noble efforts of the Black Press.

Dave Washington Promoted To Fire Chief

by Ramon Savoy

Facing the odds and surpassing them is an accomplishment that was recently met with the promotion to Fire Training Chief for David L. Washington. Dave, as he is known to friends, who is a 16-year veteran with the City

of Las Vegas Fire Department, was recently promoted by Fire Chief Clell West to the position of Fire Training Chief. The promotion to this middle management position makes Chief Washington the youngest ever. As overseer for the new 1.7

POLICE AND RESPECTED CITIZENS ALL ENDORSE JUDGE EARLE

- Las Vegas Metro Police Protective Association
- Nevada Conference of Police and Sheriffs
- North Las Vegas Police Officers Association
- Henderson Police Officers Association
- Citizens for Responsible Government
- Clark County Public Employees Union
- Mobile Home Owners Association



RE-ELECT

Judge Earle WHIP

DISTRICT COURT • DEPARTMENT

A Working Judge For The

THE SENTINEL-VOICE

Nevada's only black community newspaper.
Published every Thursday by the Brown Publishing Co. Inc.,
1201 South Eastern Avenue • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
Telephone (702) 383-4030
Serving Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City,
Sparks, Hawthorne Henderson and Tonopah.

Betty Brown, President and Publisher-Editor; LeRoy Bown, General Manager; Ramon Savoy, Advertising and Marketing Director; Pamela Jeanne Wright, Secretary-Receptionist; Willis Brown, Production; Don Snook, Graphics; William Ramirez, Distribution

Members: National Newspaper Publishers Association,
West Coast Black Publishers Associations
This newspaper is audited by Community Papers Verification Service,
6225 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705 (608) 238-7550

Subscriptions payable in advance
Six months \$15.00
Twelve months \$25.00

The rates apply to Continental United States Only