

**THE RAY WILLIS REPORT****"BET" ON IT**

by Ray Willis

Throughout most of this nation's history, African-Americans have had to rely on the mainstream media for news and information. As print alternatives, there was *Ebony* and *Jet* magazine or a local Black newspaper (Like the *Sentinel-Voice*) for news, information and entertainment. But no TV! Now that's a quickly becoming passé with the advent in recent years of the Black Entertainment Television (BET) network seen locally on Prime Cable Channel 27.

BET has emerged to where it is now a primary news, information and entertainment source for African-American TV viewers. The reason is because BET is not just a source for soul videos anymore.

Having finally come into its own, BET offers diverse talk programs such as "Profiles" which features prominent Black national figures in a one-on-one interview format. Then there's the over-popular "Our Voices" which explores soul-searching relevant topics with a Black slant on a nightly basis.

And then there's one of my personal favorites, "Teen Summit" which airs Saturday mornings and repeats Saturday afternoons, usually following the BET Black College basketball or football (depending on the season) game-of-the-week.

Speaking of the Game-of-the-Week, you've really been missing out if you have not seen the sterling performances during football half-time of the high-stepping Black College bands. Not to mention the rhythmical majorettes. As the product of a traditional Black College, I am especially proud of BET's positive focus on our educational institutions of higher learning.

Last Saturday, the popular Afrocentric rappers KRS-1, of Boogie Down Productions fame, appeared on "Teen Summit." He provided a most unique perspective to the young peoples' discussion on War in the Persian Gulf — a perspective not available on CNN or any of the other TV networks.

Many of the talk format programs on BET are like that. They provide "a missing link" to the news and information we auto-

matically receive elsewhere, whether we want it or not.

Just like on the other networks, outstanding Black on-air "personalities," are emerging and you can watch it unfold right before your very eyes! Most everyone who has ever watched

BET knows of and can identify Donnie Simpson, host of BET's longest-running show, "Video Soul." Even so, my personal favorite is the engaging Angela Stremling, co-hostess of "Screen Scene," whose presence, in my estimation, rivals the likes of

Felicia Rashad of the *Cosby* Show on another network, even though my brother Gary may disagree.

BET even has an excellent news department headed up by the irreplaceable Ed Gordon and backed up by a cast of excellent reporters, all of our persuasion,

mind you.

This is definitely a television network with a Afrocentric view.

If you've only got "rabbit ears" or a small antenna bringing in your TV signal at home — forget it. You won't be able to get BET. You either have cable



RAY E. WILLIS

or a satellite dish. Since BET is not a premium cable channel, you automatically receive it when you buy the basic service.

Take my word for it, having BET at your disposal is well worth the investment.

## A SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CITY COUNCILMAN STEVE MILLER

by Muhammad Abdullah

Below are excerpts of an interview with City Councilman Steve Miller and *Sentinel-Voice* reporter Muhammad Abdullah at his campaign headquarters.

**S.V.:** *Would you tell our Sentinel-Voice readers a little about your background?*

**Miller:** "I was raised in North Hollywood, California and have lived in Las Vegas for approximately thirty-two years. My parents were from England and their parents (my grandparents) were from Russia. I attended Las Vegas High School. In the '60s and part of the '70s. I worked as a disc-jockey and produced rock concerts bringing in stars such as Low Rawls, Bobbie Vinton, Tom Jones and others. I also started my own club called the "Teen beat Club" located on Paradise Road and later I produced my own television show called "The Teenbeat Show..."

"I later entered Nevada Southern University (now UNLV) but I dropped out after 1 year to promote rock concerts professionally and to become an entrepreneur..."

"In the '70s I began a career in the Aeronautical Sciences as a teacher from 1974 to 1983. I soon became a Flight Training Contractor ... I contracted with Nellis Air Force Base to train transport pilots ... I also contracted with Western Airlines and PSA Airlines. After about 5,000 hours of flying I decided I would fulfill my father's life-long dream and enter into public service ... In the '80s I worked with my father in Souvenir Advertising until his death in 1984 ... My mother and my only brother has

since passed away and I am the only one left ... I have a lovely wife and three daughters ... Two are in college and I have one in high school..."

**S.V.:** *What are some of your chief accomplishments that you are most proud of as a City Councilman?*

**Miller:** "I believe one major accomplishment I had was that I defeated a 8-year incumbent, Al Levy, who was following the footsteps of his father, Harry Levy, who had sat on the City Council for 16 years ... To me this was a major accomplishment on my first bid for office to unseat 24 years of combined experience of which many people felt was unshakeable ... It was resounding defeat. Another accomplishment is the "Downtown Revitalization Project" which will create a solid economic growth for the downtown area along with that it will boost the business opportunity finally for the long neglected West Las Vegas community ... West Las Vegas is now the "prime real estate" in Las Vegas ... It is the area of the "lowest pollution" (as far as construction and traffic pollution) and it is the "highest drainage area" when it comes to "flash floods," West

Las Vegas is the answer to the shortage of "land and water" ... It is included in a "Golden Triangle" project which involves the development of the Union Pacific Railroad land that will make "F" Street possibly a major thoroughfare ... The Golden Triangle, as it is called by some, will include Union Pacific Railroad to the South, Centennial Parkway to the North I-15 to the East and Rancho Drive to the West ... The proposed projects will be dissected by Martin Luther King Boulevard..."

"I am also pleased about finally cleaning up the Housing Authority along with the opening the doorway for the media to report City Council meetings ... There was no access for media coverage at first and now Channel 31 is covering council meetings..."

"I paved the way for television coverage to be available in the Clark County Election Department's Computer Room so that the public could have greater access to post-political activities..."

"I revealed the "Lurie-Hall-Levy et al Land Deal" and "shined the light" on City Hall so that these practices would stop..."

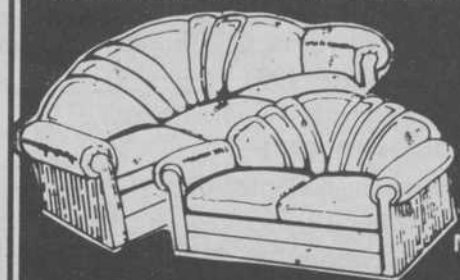
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