

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

FRANK'S PLACE

By Ray Willis

Three custom stretch limousines arrive in front of the New Orleans Marriott Hotel at 5:45 p.m. sharp. They have been hired for the evening to take our entourage of 17 Nevadans, here for the National PTA Convention, to "Frank's Place." Frank is the younger brother of Las Vegas elementary school principal Dr. Al Gourrier. Gourrier's family lives here.

The lineage of the Gourriers' is New Orleans Creole. We're headed to Frank's Place to sample such Creole delicacies as Gumbo, Jambalaya, Egg Plant Creole, and Red Beans and Rice, to name a few of the sumptuous dishes on today's menu.

As a passenger in the lead limousine, with Dr. Gourrier riding "shotgun," we listened to him recount some of the rich local history and tradition. "Over there is the place where I used to work as boy growing up," Gourrier shouted so we all could hear.

After a drive of some 10 minutes, we arrived at an attractive subdivision of single-family all brick homes.

As we pulled up to Frank's Place, we saw Frank and his lovely wife Diedre and their two children, plus other relatives and friends, eagerly awaiting our arrival.

No sooner then we piled out of the limousine, we could smell all those wonderful Creole specialties cooking inside wafted gently through out nostrils, creating instant salivation! Ummm...Ummm!

Once inside, we ate to our hearts' content. The hospitality shown by the Frank Gourrier family was absolutely fantastic.

After everyone's appetite had been satiated, the group reluctantly bid farewell. They had to get back to the hotel for a keynote speech by Chrysler mogul Lee Iaccoca. Al Gourrier and I remained behind to chat with our hosts.

When we finally left, Dr. Gourrier insisted we drive over

to the family home where he grew up, to meet his mother and father.

When we got there, we all sat down at the kitchen table to talk. The very religious father Gourrier spun tales laced with oral tradition, Creole, fable and legend.

The Mr. and Mrs. reminisced

about their lives together and their family, capping off the evening by lovingly sharing their family photo album with me.

All this begged the question, "What is a Creole?" From a visual standpoint, I'd have to say the Gourriers' are definitely Creole. Having visited New Orleans on this occasion, I

gained a new insight.

What is a Creole? Call it what you want it to be...a mixture of black and white. Too black to white. Too white to be black.... Free Jacks, French and Spanish. A Negro, Indian, Frenchman, Caucasian, and Spanish. Huey Long once said, "You can feed all the pure white per-



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sons in New Orleans with a loaf of bread and a pound of red beans and still have food left over."

The Creole culture is certainly as rich and diverse as its cuisine!

CONTINUING ATTACKS ON BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS

By James S. Tate, M.D.
Local Chairperson
National Alliance Against
Racist & Political Repression

The recent election of Frank Hawkins to the City Council position for Ward 1 and was considered by many as a triumph

for the African American community, more properly it is a triumph for the entire City of Las Vegas having at least temporary

put aside the specter of racism and more recently in the campaign the specter of stupidity raised by the Stupak family to elect a person of some political talent to that position. Not surprisingly in this current climate of racism and sexism almost immediately after his election there was an announcement that there would be an attempted recall of Councilman Hawkins. I find this somewhat fascinating. Generally recall elections are demanded when a person has

shown malfeasance in office. I have never heard of one that has been attempted the same day that the person was elected. What it signals to Mr. Hawkins and what it should signal to this community is that as in so many cases all across the country all black elected officials are under attack. This is certainly not the first time that this has happened. Even in Las Vegas while Mr. Hawkins is the first Black City Councilman, other black elected

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EDITORIAL

In a seemingly harmless environment, speaker Joe Dini, a Democrat representing Yerington, decided to entertain the assembly floor and the audience of constituent with a tasteless racial, and religiously offensive joke.

The remark made reference to a classmate nicknamed "Buckwheat" who was tired of being ridiculed for his name and decided to become a Muslim so he could change his name to "Kareem of Wheat."

There's no room in the halls or assembly chambers for such an "Archie Bunker" mentality. We find it offensive and an embarrassment for all who laughed at such a remark, that in 1991 our Nevada Legislators are still fueling racial hatred.

When you consider the dis-

proportionate number of African-American soldiers who went to an Islamic nation (some who were of the Islamic faith themselves) during Desert Storm to fight and defend America's economic stability and lose their lives in the process, it makes you think what type of individual is Assembly Speaker, Joe Dini?

When the speaker of the floor, the one who is supposed to lead the body of representatives during the legislative session is so insensitive, it appears to tell us that he doesn't recognize us as human beings.

Taking into consideration that this has been a long and bitter session, Speaker Dini should have said a positive prayer instead of an offensive joke. He later apologized to all those he offended, so business could

return to normal.

However, when Speaker Dini addresses our only two African-American representatives, we wonder if in his mind he will be thinking of them as Amos and Andy.

FREE BUSINESS WORKSHOP OFFERED

"Expanding Your Business Opportunities with the Federal Government" is the title of a free workshop being offered on Thursday, June 27, 1991 from

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the North Las Vegas Library Community Room, 2300 Civic Center Drive. Nancy Covey, Director of Contracting for Arcata Associates, Inc., will discuss providing goods and services to the Department of Defense and subcontracting opportunities. Bonding services to federal contractors and subcontractors will be outlined by Elizabeth Roble of Am West Insurance, Inc.

A continental breakfast, hosted by the Small Business Committee of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For further information or to sign up for the workshop, please call the State Commission on Economic Development in Las Vegas at 486-7282.

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