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**Rodney King and
College Students
- (Part Two) -**



KEITH O. HILTON

As most of you know, although I am originally from the East Coast, I am currently a college administrator based in LA County. One week after LA erupted, I was invited to speak at a college forum which was designed to reflect on the situation.

The following were some of my thoughts and comments. Some time has passed, but I offer this two part column as another point of reference for an important period that college students are entering.

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Yes, the Rodney King beating, the Rodney King whipping was and is about class and ethnicity, but less about class in my view. Just ask Wesley Snipes, Blair Underwood, Lavar Burton, Don Jackson, Al Joyner, etc.

When the verdict was handed down and the city erupted, one of the easiest things that I could have done was rush to an open mike and declare myself to be the leader of African American students. Some prominent personalities did. That would have been one politically correct thing to do.

But I try not to make decisions based on election time, tenure time or show time. I am not, however, suggesting that most of the people who immediately protested were insincere. In fact, many excellent points were registered.

No, my office didn't rush to the mike or to be at the head of the protest rally. We did, however, encourage students to express their outrage of the verdict by any means that they deemed appropriate, such as marches, rallies or classroom discussions.

At the same time, we officially chose to utilize and encourage students to use another time proven strategy. "Keep your eyes on the prize".

From this point on, dedicate your studies and future careers to

addressing and reversing some of the inequities that you see around you. Now is the time to connect with those who can help you position yourselves for future issues.

Yes, the people in LA, LA County and surrounding counties will need your physical, financial and moral support immediately and long term. Be a long distance runner (educated and positioned to make far reaching changes) in addition to being immediately angry for a few weeks.

When I first moved to California, I lived and worked in Compton, which borders South Central LA. This past weekend (with the troops stationed throughout), I went back to Compton to lend my support. I also went into East LA, Koreatown, Hollywood, Beverly Hills and South Central (Watts). The damage was thorough.

School Improvement Brochure Sent Home With Students

A brochure detailing almost \$90 million in improvements to Clark County schools as part of the district's bond issue is being sent home with all students.

Brochures are being distributed to inform parents and the community about the many improvements under way at existing schools, in addition to new schools that are being built to accommodate rapid growth.

The brochure explains how

all Clark County schools benefit from the \$600 million bond issue approved by voters in 1988. An estimated \$87.9 million - almost 15 percent of the total bond issue - is being spent to improve schools. The brochure also lists the type of improvement projects and the number of schools where a particular project is being completed.

Improvement projects are far-reaching, from school additions

Several of my friends and acquaintances who still live in the African Neighborhoods of South Central, Compton and Long Beach have told me to continue with my positive columns and get that doctorate. "That is how you can be of most service to Black people long range."

Yes, through all of this, the African community remains optimistic, loving and forgiving, but today, it has also been reminded that "a war is going on." Class and ethnicity are factors, but less class, in my view. (End of Part Two).

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consisting of several classrooms to additions of new libraries at elementary schools and science and computer labs at junior and senior high schools.

Many schools are undergoing replacement of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment, while systems for fire alarms, clocks and telephones are being upgraded at other schools.

Throughout the district,

restrooms are being modernized, lighting and landscaping are being improved, and roofs are being replaced.

Information about improvement projects at a particular school is available by calling that school or the district's Facilities and Transportation Services Division at 799-8710. Additional copies of the brochure may be obtained by calling the Public Information Office at 799-5304.



United Negro College Fund President and CEO WILLIAM GRAY was the featured speaker at Xavier University of Louisiana's 65th annual commencement. Gray spoke to the largest graduating class ever at Xavier - 482.

Gray and former Louisiana congresswoman LINDY BOGGS received Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees at the ceremony. They are shown here with former Archbishop of New Orleans, the Most Reverend PHILLIP HANNAN and Xavier University president, DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS. Eighty-two of the 482 graduates received their diplomas with honors. The university awarded 94 Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, 110 Masters, and 6 Doctor of Pharmacy degrees.

Fifty Xavier graduates have already been accepted into medial and professional schools while twenty-five have been accepted into graduate schools. Xavier is second in the nation in placing black students in medical school.

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"A MIND IS A MARVELOUS
THING TO DEVELOP"

CCSN Offers 6-Wk Summer Course On Self Awareness

A new summer course at The Community College of Southern Nevada offers an opportunity to develop "creative self awareness" that according to instructor Jim Santor will "guide you toward finding a path that will help you recognize past pitfalls and develop skills necessary for the future." The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. from June 8 to July 17. Fee for the course is \$90. Santor de-

scribes the course as "an intensive workshop" that will help the student find ways of "exploring your path in life and help you chart a course for the future by maximizing your potential."

Santor and his wife, Kathleen, are practicing psychotherapists and have had wide experience in helping clients develop life focus. For further information call 643-6060, ext. 325. Registration for summer classes is now through June 9.