THE NAACP AND YOU!

Rev. Jesse D. Scott

President

Las Vegas, NAACP

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

## BLACK DANCE IN AMERICA

By Gwen Walker

Geoffrey Holder and Boscoe Holder were born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Pearl Primus' birthplace, on August 20, 1930. His parents were upper class, and both Geoffrey and his older brother, Boscoe, attended schools where properly accented English was stressed. Like his brother, Geoffrey took up dance and Boscoe started a dance troupe. Geoffrey began to choreograph for his brother and staged three revues for the

troupe- Ballet Congo, <u>Bal Creole</u>, <u>and Bal Negre</u>. Boscoe left Trinidad to go to London and left Geoffrey to run the company. Geoffrey not only choreographed the dances, but he also designed and stitched the costumes.

In 1952, the troupe was invited to represent Trinidad at the



Carribbean festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In Spring 1953, Geoffrey moved to New York and by the fall of 1954 was performing on Broadway in a musical called <u>House Of Flowers</u>, written by Traman Capote (lyrics) and Harold Arlen (music). There he met a beautiful ballerina named Carmen De Lavallade. He proposed four days later, but she made him wait until 1955 when their show ended.

GWEN WALKER

Carmen was born in 1931 in New Orleans, Louisitoe left
ana and was raised in Los Angeles, California. She studied ballet
mpany.
and joined the Ballet Company of Lester Horton, with which she performed from 1950 to 1954. During those four years she created roles
in Salome 1950, Another touch of Klee and Medea both 1951, and

(See Black Dance, Page 17)

## YES YOU CAN

It seems as if the whole world has begun to doubt itself. The young as well as the old appear to be down in the dumps.

All to often we hear people saying that everything and everybody seems to be out of control. Losing confidence in oneself causes some people to also loose confidence in others, finally relegating themselves to a state of doubt and depression. The late Congressman Adam Clayton Powell of New York use to say, "keep the faith baby."

Jesse Jackson many times approaches his audiances before he begins his speeches by asking them to repeat after him, and I quote "I am somebody! I may be poor but I am somebody."

Someone once wrote, "If at first you don't succeed, try and try again." Give out but never give up.

Jesse concludes his speeches by saying, "Keep Hope Alive"! Today we have a high rate of teenage suicides. Young people who have not had a chance to live life to its fullness suddenly decide that they want to end it all because they do not have anything to live for.

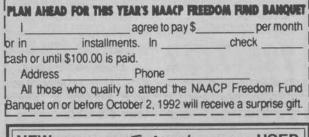
Apparently, these youngsters have concluded in their minds that they would rather be dead than to live unfullfilled lives. Many youngsters operate under pressures of a lack of love and support at home, a lack of expectations in the classroom, unemployment, and the criminal justice system treating them unfairly.

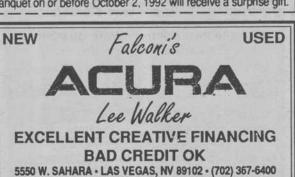
In spite of all these things, and more, our Black youth must always say "Yes I Can," now and always.

Too many Black youth have given up and are not willing to resist the peer-pressures of premaritial sex, and, dropping out of school, as well as the fear of unemployment and AIDS.

We must throw our arms around them and love them at home, in church and in the community, and we must give them the kind of support they need so they can always say "Yes I Can."

Your NAACP membership to the NAACP today would send a message loud and clear to one and all that we belive in them and we want them to say "Yes I can do anything I want to do as long as I put God first". The bible says in Mathews 6:33; Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. One of these youngsters has the ability and the potential to become Governor of Nevada, or President of the United States. Therefore, we should teach them to belive and say, "Yes I Can".

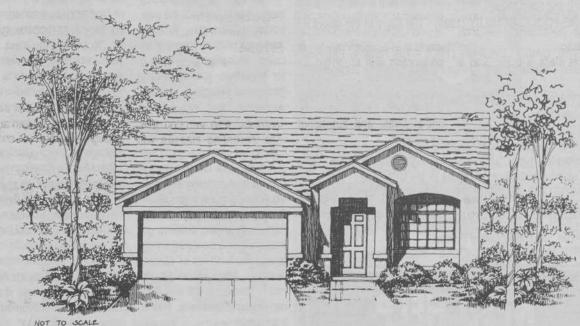




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