

# NATIVE SON

(Continued from Page 16)  
obtaining knowledge. People hate it when I bring forth statistics, but 75% of blacks in college are female-you can't dispute the system. Of course we can examine why, but I'll leave that to the sociologists. I can only call it as I see it.

LINDA: Opening this bookstore was a start to the healing process. What else are you doing to get people to open up a book?

SAM: I am always encouraging sisters and brothers to read. pass out positive words of en-

couragement each day like the one on the wall, "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." I give classes on the Fire Dept. exam and GED. I also tutor students in reading and math.

LINDA: Let's say you're a young African-American male/female who's just getting started in black literature. What book would you recommend starting off with?

SAM: First, I'd have to consider my age and maturity level.

LINDA: 20's and somewhat

mature for their age.

SAM: I'd recommend Superman to Man. Here you have a brother that is a doctor who is having a conversation with a white senator.

The senator gives the brother all the arguments on why Black folks are inferior and the brother shoots down every argument with European sources. Great book.

LINDA: Besides running this bookstore, you're also the Deputy/Fire Marshal for the Clark County Fire Department. How do you do it all?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 4)

remained calm and just observed how unprofessionally Metro dealt with him. After he could take no more, he asked "Is this the way you treat a visiting police officer?" and produced his I.D. They were terribly shocked to discover that this man was a police officer. The officers hurriedly apologized and left.

Those were just two examples of police harassment. Metro needs to hire more black officers and insist that the current officers have extensive sensitivity training in dealing with ethnic groups. Also, they should let more black officers patrol West Las Vegas.

I know that police brutality exists from my

own daily experiences as a police officer. I have seen how white police officer deal negatively with blacks. I was unable to say anything because I was a rookie. I know that black officers can better relate to their own people from my own personal experience. It is extremely ironic that the black police officer can deal with Whites just as well because in this society, we have always had to deal with whites properly. These are some of the reasons why Metro is so resented in this community. The only way that this relationship will ever get better between Metro and the black community is for Metro to treat blacks with dignity instead of like "Gorillas in the Mist."

Kelly Richards, Las Vegas

## TRAVEL

(Continued from Page 16)

delight in the view of the white buildings, blue sea and distant islands.

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1- Weather: Greece enjoys mild Mediterranean climate with

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2- Passport/Visa: Both valid passport and visa are required in Greece.

3- Clothes: Spring/Summer-casual light clothing recommended, bring sweater or jacket

for evening. Winter temperatures drop to the 40's, winter clothing required.

4-Water: Bottled water is recommended for drinking.

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## BLACK DANCE

(Continued from Page 7)

Liberian Suite and Dedication in our time both 1952. Her movement was marked by unusual grace and polish and what has been called a "Slow Incandescent Fire."

After their marriage, De Lavallade and Holder pursued their careers together and separately. Carmen succeeded her cousin Janet Collins as prima ballerina of the Metropolitan Opera where she remained for two years. She retired to have a son and Holder joined the opera. Both Carmen and Geoffrey danced in John Butler's Company. Holder later appeared in Hollywood Films and Carmen began dancing with Alvin Ailey's troupe. They both danced in many more revues with Holder, later becoming the "Uncola man in the 7-UP commercials. Holder also choreographed two all black Broadway musicals *The Wiz* in 1975 and *Timbuktu* in 1978. In *The Wiz* he directed and designed the costumes and won Tony Awards in both categories.

Read more about Blacks in dance at the West Las Vegas library or the Native Son Bookstore and Research Center.



GEOFFREY HOLDER & CARMEN DeLAVALLADE



Books and artifacts fill the tables and wall book shelves of Nevada's largest Afrocentric store.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

SAM: Well, it's another full-time job running a part-time bookstore. It's hard work. I do all the ordering and try to satisfy all my customers needs, it's hard, but I enjoy my work. It's been a very rewarding year and a half and the future looks bright.

LINDA: Are there plans for opening up another bookstore?

SAM: I would love to open up

another store.

LINDA: Will the new store be in a different area of Las Vegas, say Green Valley or the Lakes?

SAM: No, I'll always stay on this side of town, the Westside. If we move to far we have a tendency to forget where we came from.

LINDA: Any last words to the Las Vegas community?

SAM: I want to encourage folks to read. Even if they don't buy books from my store, just read! I'm a firm believer in education. Some people think it's against the law to pick up a book, well its not. start reading and investing in your brain.

LINDA: Thanks Sam, and Good Luck

SAM: Thank You

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