

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

JUST DO IT!

By R. K. Brown

With just a couple days remaining before the presidential election, one thing is clear, everyone should go to the polls. As Assemblyman Williams would say, "your voice can't be heard if you don't take part in the process." No statement could be truer.

I know it often seems we, as average citizens, have few options in effecting the process of government. This is one key time that we can make a big difference, however. After watching the debates carefully, one thing became clear, all of the candidates shied away from "minority" issues. Unlike the great peri-

ods of social reform in the late 60's and 70's, today if you identify with the problems in Black America, you will certainly hurt your popularity among White middle class voters.

The so-called BLACK ISSUES, namely welfare, crime and racism, has no place in this election. None of the candidates have touched these hot topics, fearing they might alienate themselves from the White mainstream. Let's face it, all of them are courting the Reagan Democrats who voted Republican during the 80's, but have moved back to their Democratic roots, because conservatives have torn the country apart.

So, as far back as Black America is concerned, until any of the candidates show us differently, this election is about the lesser of three evils!

If we examine the issue of welfare, we find that there are 2 to 3 times as many Whites on welfare as any other group! If we examine the issue of crime, we find that White Americans commit 3 times as much crime as any other group in our population! If you go into any welfare, unemployment, or homeless shelter in Las Vegas, one thing becomes perfectly clear—Whites outnumber minorities 2 to 1!

So, why are these Black is-

ues? Why is it that when the national news reports a story on the welfare system, we instantly see a picture of a Black family? It's simple, the riots in L.A. were multi-racial, but the only rioters who will stand trial for misconduct will be the four Black youths. Sound familiar?

The conservative regime in the last 12 years has made race its trump card. From quotas, to welfare, to Willie Horton, to the L.A. riots, the 80's was a very bad decade for Blacks. So, the conservatives receive a well earned "F" on their report card from Black America.

Is there any wonder none of the candidates want to identify

with minority issues the way they have been distorted in the last 12 years? Well, another of the candidates wants to give "you people" lower scale jobs, which would otherwise go to people in Mexico. He makes references to "tar babies and gorillas", but deep down he's O.K. by me. The last supports change, but are

BLACKS included in that change?

Anyway, if you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem, as Rev. Jesse Scott once told me. So, which ever way you decide to vote, vote for someone. Make a difference; Just Do It! peace...

Dedication Versus Stigma.... Dora Harris

by J R Sawyer II

With election day just five days away, several political races are yet to be decided. One such race is in assembly district 12, where the seat became available after Assemblyman John Norton decided to seek the Senate 7 seat vacated by the late Nick Horn.

The battle brewing is between two women, Kathy Augustine, Republican and Dora Harris, Democrat. Throughout the 1980's into the 90's, the district has elected a Democrat to represent them in Carson City. Mathematically the numbers show the district is registered predominantly democrat, which would favor Dora Harris. How-

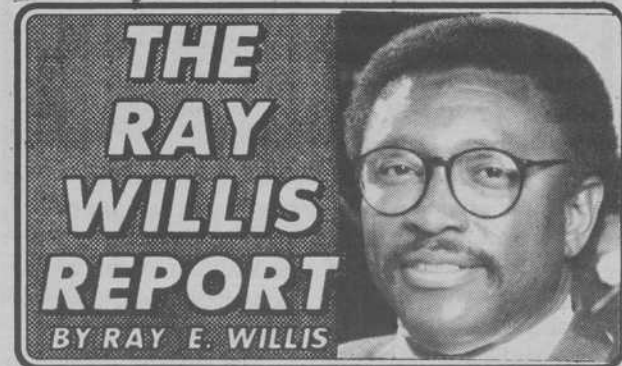
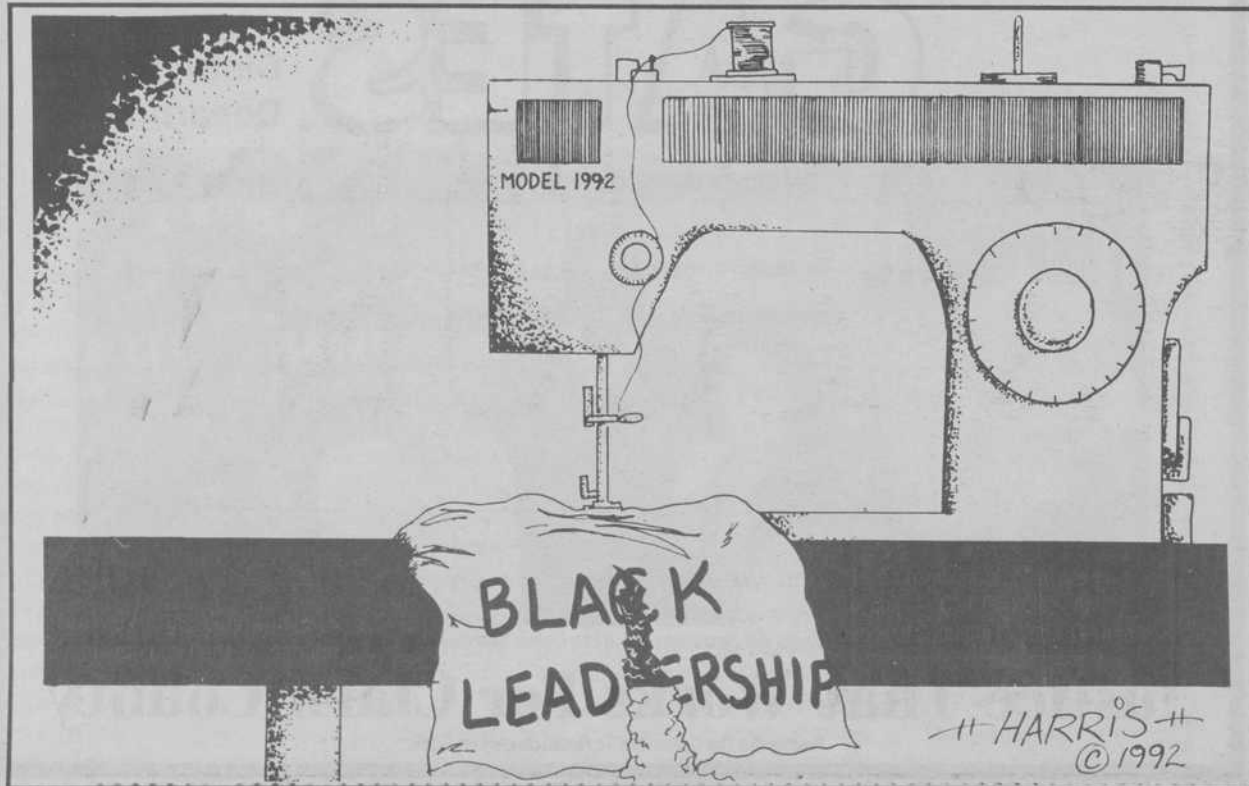
ever, Mrs. Harris is African-American running in a predominantly Caucasian district.

It has been pointed out that there are many obstacles for African-Americans seeking an elected office. One such obstacle was pointed out by Selwyn Carter, a political activist from Atlanta, GA., "if you don't have districts that are approximately 60 percent voting-age blacks, you're not going to get black elected officials." However, Mrs. Harris, feels her constituents are looking beyond her color and are going to elect her based on the qualities of her dedication to serve all the people.

Even though no African-
(See Dora Harris, Page 2)



Democratic nominee for Assembly District 12, Dora Harris (left), with Congresswomen Eleanor Holmes-Norton from the District of Columbia. Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice



WHY STUDY US?

These days it seems we are fast becoming statistical friends. Everywhere you turn someone is telling us what the unemployment rate is, how the stock market is doing or who's ahead in the presidential race. To be blunt, I don't care for these kind of statistics. Because in my view they put us down while glorifying others. I'll give you a few examples of what I mean.

- Blacks are turned down for home mortgage loans twice as often as Whites, even when their pay is equal.
- The average net worth of a Black family is \$26,130.
- The average net worth of a White family is \$111,950.
- Three percent of Black men are self-employed while 7.4 percent of White men are.
- The average SAT score for Black students from low income families is 632.
- The average SAT score of White students from low income families is 881.

Race-based statistics usually disfavor Blacks. But sometimes they get to the core of America's soft underbelly, and an unspoken fear mentally some people have. Note this statistic as reported by noted author Andrew Hacker.

-White residents will stay—and some new ones may move in—if Black arrivals do not exceed 8 percent.

These statistics of course don't uniformly apply to every person of African-American descent. Some of us make more money than Whites of comparable education and experience. But they represent an average of all of us.

I've often wondered why government social scientists constantly bombard us with mindless statistics like these. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand the negative dynamics tied to being Black in the U.S.

You would think in a country that touts itself as being a melting pot and embracing different races and ethnicities among its citizens, the government itself would surely not be the source of race-based statistics.

I also find it interesting that Blacks used to be the main focus of anti-discrimination laws. Now that other racial and gender groups are included, discrimination against Blacks is being deemphasized.

Even though the Black claim of being discriminated against has been watered down, they oddly enough continue to do those race-based studies which focus almost exclusively on us. Why? Just pick up your newspaper on any given day. It won't be hard to scan the pages and find another new slant on why we as Black people are "different." Where do you think I got the statistics from that I used in this column?

To know is to grow. Until next week.