

Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represent this publication.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

HOPES, ASPIRATIONS & STRUGGLES FOR 1993

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

For the vast majority of the more than thirty million African Americans who live in the United States, 1993 represents more than just a "new" year. For many in the African American community this is the "year of relief"

from twelve consecutive years of racially motivated economic exploitation, brutality, and disillusionment in the national context, of an Administration in Washington that just did not genuinely care about the socio-economic condition of the com-

munity.

This is not intended to lay blame on Presidents Reagan and Bush for all of the ills and problems resident in people of color communities in the nation. It is important, however, to candidly say that the failure of the

White House to set a clear moral tone against the steady rise in overt racist behavior in most of the major institutions of this society during the last twelve years, is an abhorrent reality that should be challenged by the incoming Clinton Administration.

Thus, we begin this year with a sense of renewed hope. It is a hope that our nation will accelerate toward becoming and welcoming the transition into a truly multiracial and multicultural society where justice, propriety, and happiness are no longer mitigated by race and skin color. But we know this hope will only become realized when the destructive forces of racism are exposed and eradicated.

One thing is absolutely clear: "We must continue to struggle for justice on all fronts simultaneously with relentless vigor and steadfastness of faith." 1993 is the year of renewed struggle for economic justice, racial justice, social justice, and environmental justice.

Our hopes and aspirations must be articulated in a manner that gives voice to those who are most oppressed in this nation and throughout the world. The immorality of human exploitation and degradation requires a stronger challenge and bolder national effort than the challenges and efforts made during the 1960's. The disparities and inequities of this society demand an urgent revitalized "Civil Rights Movement."

We have to move beyond just describing the problems. We have to even move beyond just analyzing the problems that beset our communities. 1993 has to be a year of effective action in terms of the formulation of public policies and the building of sound economic development programs at the

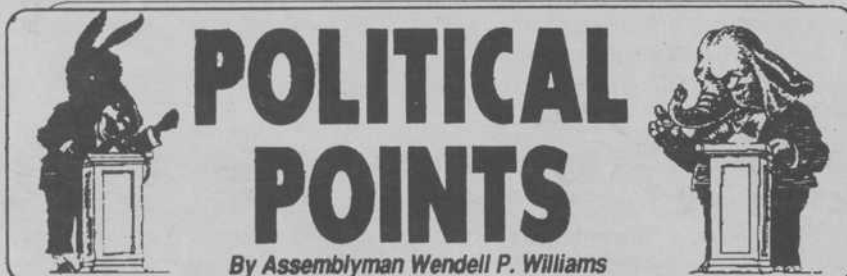


BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.
community level. A priority has to be placed on youth leadership development in all academic discipline and vocations.

The national call to invest in America must be re-translated to investing in communities in ways that help communities become self-empowered with a sustainable economic base. Job training must be toward business ownership with the ultimate goal of overall community development. Thus, public education must receive renewed support by all levels of government as well as support from the private sector.

The bottom line is that the hopes, aspirations and struggles for 1993 are similar in content to the immediate past years, but the real difference is there now appears to be a new opportunity to express our hopes and dreams with a sense that there will be more receptive ears in Washington with the Clinton Administration. Yes, expectations are high. Some will argue that expectations are too high to possibly have a chance of being fulfilled.

We say, "We will make our demands known, we will share our dreams and hopes, and we will fight with renewed determination to achieve racial and economic justice by all means necessary!"



VERY, VERY INTERESTING

It's very interesting to see the Las Vegas police union fighting the police department's use of Force Review Board from holding hearings after police officers have used questionable force on a citizen. Interesting because what they are complaining about is some of the very same things citizens have been complaining about for decades. Looks like maybe someone is getting some of their own medicine. Maybe, just maybe, they'll get a small dose of the frustration that countless citizens have felt dealing with Metro's "Internal Affairs."

Follow this closely, the main concern of the police union is that the policy for reviewing incidents of force does not grant them due process. Sounds familiar? They claim that officers cannot have council represent them. Sounds familiar? They are also complaining about how officers cannot cross examine witnesses and about whether they will testify. Sounds very familiar. It's very interesting, that what the union wants for themselves, they do not want for citizens.

Speaking of Metro, it's very interesting to see current under sheriff Eric Cooper has decided not to run for sheriff as many people expected.

However, there are many still interested in the job. In-

cluded on the list of possibilities is Jerry Keller a deputy chief with Metro, Las Vegas Justice of the Peace, Bill Jansen, Lt. Bobby Hitt, also at Metro, Beecher Avants, a former chair of the state Democratic Party. Also possibly throwing a hat into the ring for sheriff, will be Metro Captain Randy Oaks and Las Vegas City Councilman Bob Nolen.

This is the time for citizens who want to see change in the operations of the police department to pick up the pace and challenge these wanna-be sheriffs on their views on police matters. It also means politically supporting the candidate that proves absolute concern and sensitivity to concerns of the African-American Community. Remember that politics is not a spectator sport. Put their feet to the fine, why not? Yours is!

I find it very interesting that when I called the West Las Vegas Library several days ago, the voice on the other end of the line was a familiar one. It was none other than Linda Porter. Of course you know Linda, she's the same Las Vegas-Clark County Library District employee that Charles Hunsberger, the Library director intended to fire or force to quit. Linda was transferred from the West Las Vegas Library to the Clark County Library back on October 12th, 1992. Hunsberger now claims that Linda's transfer was not a move to terminate her, but rather

to expose her to a more beneficial environment. He also says that Linda is very bright and a good employee, and the reason that she was transferred was not a negative one. In fact, at the last meeting of the library board of trustees, chairman Diana Wilson indicated that I did not tell the truth when I said that Linda Porter's transfer was not one to help her. Its very interesting however to believe both she and Hunsberger after you read the letter that was written to Linda by Charles Hunsberger himself. However, since the two of them think that I'm crazy, I'll allow you to make your own decision. The following is the letter that Linda Porter received back in October.

Effective October 12, 1992, you will be transferred from the West Las Vegas Library to the Clark County Library. You will continue to work as YPL assistant in the new location and will be supervised and trained by Maria Champlin. This transfer is the result of your inability to take direction from your present supervisor, your discourtesy to your co-worker, and your failure to take responsibility for YPL programs that you planned and publicized in the fall YPL calendar. You should consider this your last chance to demonstrate that you want to work for the Library District and are willing to learn and perform the duties of a YPL assistant. Your performance at Clark County Library will be evaluated after three months,



Assemblyman

Wendell P. Williams

and failure to attain a positive evaluation will result in termination for cause. Charles Hunsberger, Library Director.

Anyway, its good to see Linda back at the West Las Vegas Branch. Keep in mind however, that she is still working as an assistant Young Peoples Librarian, and the West Las Vegas Branch still does not have a Young Peoples Librarian. So Linda is doing the job of that position. Its interesting that Linda could not be trained by the branch Librarian, Marie Jordan instead of the Librarian at the Clark County Library, Maria Champlin. What's the message here? They both have equal positions. Also now that she has been trained at the "big house," why is she not coming back now as the Young Peoples Librarian? Come on Charlie, do the right thing for once.

Finally, the community has asked the Library Board and the district's officials for a Town Hall meeting at the West Las Vegas Branch. So far, Diana Wilson has said to me that March is the first available date.

Its very interesting that a group that takes out full-page newspaper ads to tell us that they are accountable can't make a town hall meeting until the month of March!

Very, Very Interesting.

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper.
Published every Thursday by Brown Publishing Co. Inc.
1201 South Eastern Avenue • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
Telephone (702) 383-4030

Betty Brown, President & Publisher
Lee Brown, General Manager / Editor
Ramon Savoy, Advertising & Marketing Dir.
Lourdes Cordero-Brown, Office Mgr.
William G. Ramirez, Assistant to the Editor
Willis Brown, Production
Ulysses Palrose, Distribution
Don Snook, Graphics

Contributing Writers:
Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams
Ray E. Willis (CCSD)
Rev. Jesse Scott (NAACP)
James S. Tate, Jr., M.D. (NAARPR)
R. K. Brown
Gwen Walker
Kimberly Bailey

Members:
National Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
West Coast Black Publishers Assoc.
This newspaper is audited by:
Community Papers Verification Service,
6225 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-7550

Subscriptions payable in advance
Six months \$15.00
Twelve months \$25.00
The rates apply to
Continental United States only