

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# DUCT TAPE DISCIPLINE

BY STEVEN HORSFORD LEGISLATIVE ITEM TO  
ASSEMBLYMAN WENDELL P. WILLIAM, DISTRICT 6

I guess the Clark County School District is not the only district having problems with discipline in their schools. Here in Washoe County (Reno), an eleven year old black child was disciplined by a white teacher using the duct tape discipline method. During my education classes, I have never heard of any discipline method where teachers were allowed to duct tape a child's mouth closed if they talked too much or were a distraction in class.

Although I agree that much of the student teacher respect has been violated when students come to class with guns and knives ready to kill, it gives the teacher no right to abuse a child.

This incident which occurred at Glenn Duncan Elementary school has raised a great debate over how much freedom teachers and administrators should have in the issue of discipline. Many parents, black and white, have spoken out against this type of behavior where teachers have complete and authoritative freedom to handle their classroom as they felt necessary. School district officials were slower to react.

Washoe County Superintendent Mary Nebgen said the teacher denied the charges and a committee is pending the decision to

dismiss the teacher. Jeffrey Folkers has been accused of duct taping student Anthony Owens mouth shut after the child was told to be quite repeatedly. Several other students allegedly had their mouths duct taped too. In one case, a child may have had his hands taped.

This incident and others raise an important question in the education arena. How much power should teachers have in the classroom in regard to discipline? Folkers may not be the only teacher abusing children physically, verbally, and mentally. Although our social services for juveniles are working to improve child abuse relations, there are not enough social workers to successfully satisfy the job.

How can parents feel confident sending their child to a school, more than likely out of their community, if situations like this occur? Parents must get involved in their child's education. No parent can allow their child's teacher or administrator to raise their children for them. However, schools are a place of learning. Where children can grow, mature, and become a productive part of our society.

During the last Education Committee hearing in Las Vegas, many parents, teachers, and concerned citizens voiced their opinions on how schools must be held accountable for their actions. Who

else better to hold them accountable than you and I.

A ten year old child should not be removed from the classroom by three police officers with guns and badges because of an alleged threat. And an eleven year old child should not have his mouth duct taped because he talks. I was a child that spoke a lot in class. Not because I was a class clown, but because I was intuitive and had questions, sometimes I just wanted answers.

So let this be a lesson. Let us, the community, take a pro-active instead of reactive role in protecting our world's most precious resource, our children.

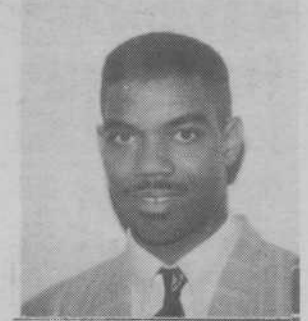
### Coming up this week in Legislation:

Wednesday-Education Committee Hearing-At Risk Children in our state.

-Ways and Means Committee-SIIS reforms

-Taxation Committee Gov. Miller's reorganization policy.

You can either watch history being made or you can make history happen, contact your state legislature. The phone number is 687-5545 or 1-800-992-0973.



STEVEN HORSFORD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

As a member of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Study Committee, I was particularly pleased when our organization received strong support from the newly-formed "African-Americans For Yucca Mountain Studies." This group of concerned Nevadans has taken the initiative in searching out information on the Yucca Mountain Studies, the safety procedures involved, and the possible benefits available to Nevada and Las Vegas during the study period.

To see this responsible civic action condemned in Mr. O'Callahan's column as "looking for bribe money" makes me very angry. The scorn with which he describes the efforts of sincere citizens should be reserved for elected officials who are willing to cut back necessary social aid and educational programs just to justify a political stand that assures their re-election. Or perhaps for editorial writers who refuse to deal with facts that might prove them wrong.

I applaud Mr. Watson and Reverend Scott for their efforts to disseminate facts about the

Yucca Mountain Project, to insure the safety of Nevadans is being safe-guarded, and to search out alternative plans for Nevada's budget deficit...I mean... shortfall. Don't let misguided newspaper editors discourage you. People who think... and care... about our nation and our state are proud of the work you're doing.

Sincerely,  
Nan Thomas

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Dear Editor,

Hello, I am a reader of your newspaper. I am enclosing a newspaper article I clipped out of the Review Journal/Sun. I thought it an excellent article and I decided to send it on to you for you to reprint or to allude to in a future issue.

Your articles on the history of McWilliams Townsite is both interesting and educational. But, I am not in agreement with the February 11th, 'Notes from the School of Afrikan Philosophy'.

I am white and I do not consider myself a 'wolf' or 'wolfette' in sheeps clothing. I am not at all a cunning person who frames friendships in order to control or

deceive anyone and I am sure that my black friends would never consider me in that way either. Of course, more articles like Afrikan Philosophy may get them to change their minds - and no matter how much I 'baa', they may begin to look suspiciously for the 'wolf' in me.

Several months ago I stood in a bank line with a handsome, young black man and questioned the 'label' he had printed on his tee shirt. "Cops Are Crud" or something to that effect. I asked him if he believed what his tee shirt read and he answered me curtly, "Yes".

"Even black cops?" I asked him. He thought for a minute and then said, "Some of them." "So all cops including one or two black Cops are Crud." I said. "That's an interesting theory. Well young man, being that Nevada is a legal gambling state, I bet you that there are at least that many white policemen who are not 'Crud' either. Will you take my bet?"

Labels such as 'wolf in sheeps clothing' and 'Cops are Crud' can be printed on and in anything but they are usually placed there by those who would rather hate than try to change, or understand or really find out if the labels they are putting on people are true.

I do forgive 'The Minister of Information' a bit because of this weeks philosophy on loving and respecting women. That was 'right on, man.'

Thank you,  
Helen Lee

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### LETTER TO

KCEP/EOB/SENTINEL VOICE  
Greetings of Peace to My Entire Family,

I would like to take this moment to report the fine work that I thought we ALL SHARED AT KCEP.

However, we're missing representation from one of our Warriors, and I hate to think we're being negligent in raising to excellence any one of our own.

I am protesting the removal of My Brother Kamau Khalfani.

Black People throughout the Globe are demanding Freedom and Justice and Equality. Some of us have lost those in our big family to such a high goal, to such an high achievement.

We are a diverse People and yet in our diversity, we are one. Afrikans ruled throughout the World without the need to silence, destroy or erase one another. We are a Grand People. Our World encompasses much. You will find we are flexible, kind, and strong. We make room for critical thinking and Genius.

So where is the Voice of My Brother of Thunder, Kamau Khalfani. He has never misrepresented us. He brought us facts that most of us could go back to research for ourselves. He re-kindled critical thinking. He dared to Be Brave.

For all that we have accomplished in History and for all our inventiveness during slavery, how is it now that we choke?

I want My Brother Kamau Khalfani back on the air. DO

NOT stunt yours or my growth.

ARE WE BIG OR NOT? Let the Brother teach! Let's stay THINKING. Let's stay HEALTHY. We are Afrikan, we will win!

Being a public radio station, isn't it its duty to represent the community which it serves?

Your response is necessary! I'm sending a letter to UNLV. Miss Edesuwu  
Board of Corrections

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### AFRIKANA AMERICANS: VICTIMS OF WAR

To say that Afrikans in America are struggling is an understatement. The appropriate phrase is "we are at war." However, if seriously assessed our situation at present is worse than war because groups engaged in war establish goals, implement agendas and execute strategies to accomplish the underlying purpose of war. We are victims of war and our actions are direct reactions from the symptoms of white world supremacy (racism). Afrikans in America are a very heterogeneous population, and this diversity hinders to our collective progress. Sociologists contend that oppression is the struggle over power by two groups, one group attempting to gain power and the other controlling power. The fact is, Afrikans in America have no power (to exercise the right to command and control ones destiny) over activities that effect our lives: education, politics, entertainment, economy, sports, law, media and social.

Students in public schools are indoctrinated with racist and completely false information which credits all contributions, the evolution of civilization and worldly progress to Europe and discloses Afrika (the "dark continent") is filled with jungles and monkeys who waited in the darkness for the white man to civilize them. Afrikans in America do indeed have voting power to elect officials but by no means do we have political power to collectively force our elected officials (and others) to persue our vested interests. In the state of Mississippi, where there are more black elected officials than any other state, blacks are no more better off than any where else. In fact, in some areas of the delta black communities are with out running water and sanitary dumping. We brag about our 200-300 billion dollars spending power a year. Sadly enough, 95% of the 200-300 billion dollars we earn is from wages paid to us by white businesses, corporations and government. So therefore we are completely dependent on the white community to provide the necessities to survive. Afrikans in America, we must transcend our differences in religion, politics, class and all other man-made jargon that disunite us and implement a pan-Afrikan ideology and methodology to educate, unite and liberate all Afrikans world wide. We must stop imitating other people's solutions to our problems. No one but Afrikans can solve our problems. (See Letters to Editor, Pg 18)

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