

STUDENT WINS NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST AND TRIP TO AFRICA

By Lawrence Robinson

One young college student, and native of Las Vegas, who answers to the name of Booker Burney Jr., is in a suspended state of ecstasy! Why? It is simply because of three hundred and thirty nine well placed words in an essay that won him (among other prizes), an all expenses paid, one week round trip for two to Senegal, West Africa, along with the nine other national winners, in a contest sponsored by the Pepsi Cola Company.



BOOKER BURNEY JR.

African American citizens of this country.

In his words, Booker said that Alex Haley brought a long needed awareness to the African American and the rest of the nation as well. He wrote that Haley also increased the pride that African American's have for their own history and culture.

Each school's winner across the nation went on to compete at a state level, where the prize was \$500 and a Black History Month Leather jacket. Booker Jr. won on the school level \$250 and a "Eyes on the prize" video

cassette. Including the cash, Burney's winnings totaled more than \$1000.

Booker Burney Jr. was voted class President during his senior year at Las Vegas High School in 1989. Presently at UNR, he is very active on campus. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he has served as Vice President for two years. He is also an active

member of the Black Students Organization. In addition to these activities, he says that in the back of his mind always is the desire and hope to graduate in one year and apply at medical school.

"I'm kind of nervous about going to Africa," Burney said. "However, I'm excited and looking forward to the chance of exploring some aspects of my

ancestry.

"Few African-Americans get the opportunity to have a first-hand experience of what our original culture is really like."

With all the traveling expenses involved in a trip to Africa, Burney will have to keep a tight budget.

"Unfortunately, most of the money will be spent just getting ready for the trip but I'm sure I'll

find a way to bring a few souvenirs home." Burney will make his eye-opening trip to West Africa with his illustrious father Booker T. Burney, Sr., from Hair Unlimited Barbershop.

"I think the only way I'll be able to fully appreciate this trip is if I take my father along," Burney said. "It will be a chance for us to learn about our culture, ourselves and each other."

The question that Pepsi Cola wanted answered in the 50 state essays school contest was: "What do you think has been the Most Significant Contribution to African-American Life in the last twenty years, and why?"

Well, this very talented young man decided that his essay would explore the many positive results that Alex Haley (writer of "Roots") and the epic story of his family's history in his now legendary works, that would cause a major change in American society's general view of the

TOWNHALL MEETING COLORBLIND JUSTICE- CAN WE GET ALONG?

One year after the Rodney King incident, trial, and ensuing riots, including those on the Las Vegas' west side, we convene to re-examine the threats of racial discord and the hopes of harmony under our judicial system of law. Rodney King simply asked, "Can we get along?" We wonder if we can get along under a legal system where skin color predicts verdicts, sentences, or whether you are more likely to receive lower or no bail. Can we get along under a legal system where black males are four times more likely to be imprisoned than black males in South Africa? Where blacks receive 49% longer sentences than whites for equivalent drug offenses? Where half of the people on death row are minorities? Can we get along where only 3.2% of the attorneys are black and 2.7% hispanic? Where only 4% of federal judges and only 5% of state judges are black or hispanic? Where people of color are struck from juries by prosecutors and venue changes exclude minorities from juries? CAN WE GET ALONG?

The Moderator will be Dan Polsenberg, President, Clark County Bar Assoc. and panelists will include members from the Clark County Bar Assoc. and the community. This forum will take place on Tuesday, May 25, from 7-9 p.m. in

Dungan Humanities (FDH) Room 109 on the campus of UNLV.

No charge; please call 895-3394 to reserve space and arrange parking.

CULINARY UNION

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myself by signing ten thousand pledge cards early in the campaign, scuttling the plans of those employers."

Arnold added, "As always, the members and volunteers deserve credit for this victory. In keeping with the mandate of the membership we have dismissed seven members of the staff who have actively opposed the program that we have been elected

to carry out. The seventy four dedicated staff of Local 226 all realize that working for the members of the union is a privilege and these positions must be held to the highest standard of commitment.

The Culinary Workers Union has emerged from this election more united and stronger than ever. We will go on from here to win at the Frontier and to win in '94."

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