

COMMUNITY FORUM TO ADDRESS 'WAITING TO EXHALE'

Bobbie Troutman, talk show host of KCEP Radio's "For Women Only," will moderate a community forum entitled BOOKTALK, on Thursday, June 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The community is invited to join in on an open discussion on the controversial and greatly disputed book, "Waiting To Exhale" by Terry McMillan.

In the sometimes tepid world of publishing, McMillan, 40, is red hot. Written in an acces-

sible, witty, conversational fashion, Waiting to Exhale captures what life and love is all about today, specifically for black, well-educated women who discover that a good man seems harder and harder to find.

Don't task McMillan to explain these troubles of the heart: "If I knew the answers, I would have written a non-fiction book," she has said. "I'm not a spokeswoman on black male-female relationships."

Terry McMillan was born in

Port Huron, Michigan. She received her B.A. in Journalism from the University of California at Berkeley, and attended the MFA Film Program at Columbia University. Her first novel, *Mama*, was published in January 1987 by Houghton Mifflin Company and in paperback by Washington Square Press. *Mama* received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. McMillan's second novel, *Disappearing Acts*, was published by Viking in August of

1989, and in paperback by the Washington Square Press. The novel has sold over 100,000 copies in paperback and is currently the number one bestselling novel by a black writer in America, based on a list now being compiled by the American Booksellers Association. MGM Pictures holds the film rights to the novel.

Ms. McMillan also edited a collection of contemporary black fiction, *Breaking Ice*, which was published by Viking Penguin in

September of 1990. Her new novel, *Waiting to Exhale*, was published in hardcover by Viking in May of 1992. The community is urged to come and share their views as seating will be limited. Copies of the book will be available at the library.

Though McMillan will not be on hand for this forum, there are plans in the works for her to come to Las Vegas some time in August. For further information or to make a reservation call 647-2117.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

A few weeks back I talked about the European conquest of the minds of African people. In that column I stated "Just as mother Africa has been stripped of its riches so too have our minds been stripped of our greatness."

In this era of increased awareness and heightened africanicity many Africans in America wonder what they can do to lessen or alleviate the European influences in their lives. I, as Minister of Information, am constantly reading in order that I may bring to you some worthwhile information. So naturally I advocate that you read books by and about Africans throughout the diaspora in the hope that you gain a true knowledge of self and acquire an africanic perspective.

At some point on the road of continuing growth one comes to realize that one of the most poignant steps he/she can take in reclaiming his/her African mind is to divorce him/herself from his/her European name. For some this "Eureka" comes early down the road, for others it comes late, but it does come.

This week I dedicate this column to our elder in the School of African Philosophy, a man in his 70's who finally came to the crossroads and made the decision to assume an African name. His new name, Atiba Konata Khalfani, means understanding man of high station destined to rule. His European name is of no consequence so it will not be mentioned. The point is to illustrate that it is never too late to initiate the process of reclaiming your mind.

I applaud our elder for taking this courageous step and I encourage those of you at or near the crossroads to do the same, that is take that step. This is the first building block in the process of fortifying your pride in and knowledge of self. Keep this in mind: It is not what you are called that is important but what you respond to that counts. When you take on an African name let no man refer to you as anything else. Again I applaud my elder...

Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.

FIREFIGHTERS ATTEND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

City of Las Vegas fire personnel attended an educational conference in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Dr. Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute was held May 17-21 at historical A&M University, which is the second oldest Black University in the country. Founded in 1887 as the State Normal School for Colored Students, FAMU opened its doors with two (2) instructors and 15 students.

Firefighters Eugene Campbell and David L. Washington were the first two (2) from Nevada to be accepted into the five (5) module Fire Officer Executive Development Program.

This nationally recognized course was developed by Dr. Carl Holmes of Holmes and Associates Oklahoma City, in collaboration with Dr. Oliver Jones, A&M University and International Association of Profes-

sionals Black Firefighters, President Romeo Spaulding, Washington, D.C.

Their sole purpose was to ensure that African-American Fire Service Professionals have an opportunity to attend classes on par with that of the National Fire Academy. Programs of the executive level at NFA in par-

STREETWISE'S MARTIN GRADUATES BLUEPRINT

Dorothy Martin has recently graduated as a Charter Member from the United Ways Project Blueprint Program. Project Blueprint is a local initiative that will help the United Way and non-profit agencies to recruit minority leaders/volunteers to serve on their boards and committees.

Martin, as a mother, continues to volunteer for STREETWISE ALIVE as Vice-President of Public Relations and Director of Special Events planning to provide a drug-free, gang-free environment for her family to grow up in. Through Dorothy's

involvement with Project Blueprint, she can enhance health and human care agencies' knowledge of, sensitivity of, and support the needs of minorities in our community. United Way's outreach effort to all sectors of our community will result in a better quality of life for all.

Established in 1989, STREETWISE ALIVE is dedicated to giving our youth a positive environment in which to develop. They offer programs our youth can attend without the intimidation of gangs and drugs. For more information about vol-

teering and/or involving your children call 367-3733.



DOROTHY MARTIN

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ANNUAL MEETING MARKS FIRST YEAR FOR NORTH LAS VEGAS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES

The North Las Vegas Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. will hold its first Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the North Las Vegas Library. The annual meeting is the first year-end celebration since the organization's incorporation in May 1992, and will introduce the NHS's programs and projects for the next year. Featured on the program is guest speaker, Hubert Guest, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, in Washington, D.C. The meeting theme will be "FACING CHALLENGES, IDENTIFYING SOLUTIONS, CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE...A PARTNERSHIP AT WORK." Mr. Guest will target his remarks to the theme of revitalization of the neighborhoods in North Las Vegas and to the partnership that the NHS has formed to

accomplish this goal.

The North Las Vegas Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to rehabilitating the older neighborhoods in North Las Vegas, and to develop neighborhood leadership among the residents, thus creating a self-reliant neighborhood. The Annual Meeting will kick-off the neighborhood revitalization strategies of the projects and programs slated to begin in the next fiscal year, July 1993-June 1994. Projects like low-cost home repair loans program, homebuyers counseling, in-fill housing, and rehabilitation of boarded-up homes. Other programs will focus around other requests of the residents to meet their needs to make their neighborhoods the "best they can be." The organization has been developed by the residents in part-

nership with the local government and business community to create better neighborhoods. The two targeted neighborhoods for NHS to begin their mission in are the Arrowhead Acres and Ivanhoe/Old Town Site areas; some of the oldest neighborhoods in the Las Vegas Valley.

Equally important goals of the organization, above overall rehabilitation and revitalization of the neighborhoods, are to develop neighborhood leadership and develop self-reliance and a good self-image for the residents and for the entire community of North Las Vegas.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this celebration of the first anniversary of the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. For additional information contact the office at 3100 E. Lake Mead Blvd., Ste 3, NLV, NV 89030, 649-0998.

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