

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# NO FOR 1,2,3; NOW SAY YES FOR THE A,B,C'S

By Steven Horsford

Last week, the citizens of Las Vegas were challenged to vote for local legislation that would have inevitably reacted to the growing problems of crime in the community. Fortunately, enough sensible voters said "no" to questions 1,2,3, that would have added more than 300 police officers, 7 new sub stations, and additional spaces in jail to incar-

cerate our brothers and sisters.

Although the legislation was killed and residents will not have to pay more taxes for criminals, the problem that the legislation intended to curb is still increasing at epidemic proportions. Gang violence is still exploited by the media, murder is a common news item on the front page of the daily paper, and child abuse cases plague the eleven

o'clock news. The voters on June 8 said the answer was not more police officers, sub stations, nor jails. So what is the answer?

Last month, the state public education budget was cut 18 million dollars. Much of the legislation that has been proposed to improve public instruction will be cut due to fiscal notes that will cost the public more money and cause the Finance and Ways and Means Committees to fight over balancing the budget. The answer to many of the problems in West Las Vegas, Southern Nevada, and Northern Nevada is education. The only proactive way to ensure that the future will not make the same mistakes as

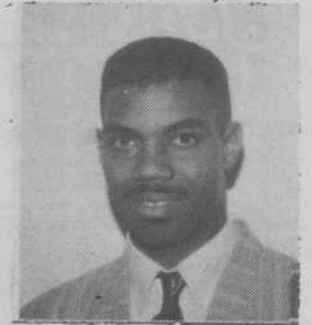
the past and present is to educate young people to be productive, responsible citizens.

I have always believed that education was the key. I knew that I wanted more from life than what society expected. I've become frustrated recently in watching some politicians sacrifice education because it does not provide immediate results. Some elected officials would rather fund over \$25,000 a year to incarcerate a criminal than spend more the \$3,000 a year to educate them to be all they can be.

The choices for the African-American student become even harder. Either sell yourself to the

armed forces to pay for college or become a commodity on the basketball court or football field. Although these are viable alternatives to joining gangs or just not going to college, it is still not the right answer. If we have to join the armed forces we should be able to go into what ever profession we want, and not a limited few. If we must be basketball or football stars we need to ensure that our needs are met on and off the field or court.

As a future teacher and educator reformer I see urgent need to fund public education. The national government has promised educational reform; however, I don't expect President Clinton to become the education president that his predecessors claimed to be. The state education leaders are working to meet the need of the immense growth that took the state by surprise. Perhaps, local governments should propose property taxes that would fund education. They could call it the A,B,C's. The A would be to affirmatively attract more ethnic minorities to join the profession. The B would fund building reno-



STEVEN HORSFORD

visions and additions to improve equity in all schools whether they be rich or poor. The C would be to fund college grants and scholarships that would directly impact a student's education instead of paying more in administrative salaries. There are other ideas such as "education license plates" with your favorite child's creative drawing or UNLV and UNR student, faculty, and alumni plates. These are the innovative ideas that our elected officials should be concentrating on. If they refuse, than the voters do what they did to proposals 1,2,3- JUST SAY NO, and say YES to the A,B,C's.

The legislature was expected to be finished on May 30. Two weeks later, committees are hearing testimony on the continuing battles over the Governor's Reorganization Policy, and SIS reform, welfare and medicare reform, and this week's (See Legislative Update, Pg 21)

## NAACP AND YOU

(Continued from Page 2)

ise to build a three hundred seat theater next to the West Las Vegas Library located at 951 West Las Vegas Boulevard. Instead of building a stage and orchestra pit similar to the one that is built at Summerlin, the West Las Vegas stage and orchestra pit looks like a doll house by comparison. The NAACP has joined WAAK-UP in saying to the library board, do the right thing; make it adequate no matter what the cost.

The second is a fist fight between Blacks and whites on the picket line in front of the Frontier Hotel. The District Attorney's office was threatening to levy felony charges against 6 blacks and one white until the NAACP asked the 64 thousand dollar question, "have you recommended felony charges in other cases where there has been fist fights between or among white men?"

Subsequently, only one black was charged with a gross misdemeanor and the others were charged with simple misdemeanors.

Thirdly, the case of the Cities In Schools, an at risk program that assists school districts in reaching out and recovering boys and girls who have dropped out of school. Due solely to insensitivity, personalities and politics, the Clark County School District Board of Trustees turned down an offer of Cities In Schools at it's last meeting. The district leads the nation in school drop outs of Hispanics and Black students. Nevada leads the nation in the imprisonment of school drop outs. The reading comprehension level of graduating seniors in Clark County is one of the lowest in the nation.

Yet, it said no to Cities In Schools. The NAACP is now what can be done legally in the face of these dire consequences.

If you want to do something about these and other problems you are facing every day, then you should not wait until something happens to you personally before you get involved. Not only should you join the NAACP and become active, but you should become a solicitor and help the NAACP meet it's goal of 5,000 memberships by December 31, 1993.

## WESTSIDE STORY

(Continued from Page 3)

concerned.

Our globe now functions on an international economy. These white American and European power brokers will fight to steal the last of the resources from the world of color. Oil, for instance. Just ask Iraq. Food is another precious commodity. Scientists have concluded that there isn't enough food and water on the planet to sustain the world's population. Hey, a nice virus could cure that problem. If given to "overpopulated" communities of color, you could kill off the unwanted masses!

The way the U.N. is set up, even though there are twice as many people of color as there are white people, the nations of color have no power or say so. This is the real plan. The world of racist white imperialism lasted for over 500 years. Although it might be sad for some conservative sections of the white world, that time has come and gone!

With the fall of Russia, whites know they are on their last leg. They need oil from the Middle East. They need technology from Asia. They need cheap labor from Latin America. They need gold, diamonds, plutonium, and uranium, from Africa. Basically, they need things that belong to the world of color. In 500 years they have become used to taking what they want, not sharing. If the world of color isn't willing to give it's resources away FREE of charge, the next best thing to do is rob, rape, and steal, to stay on top...after all, they still want all the power! peace

WHAT  
TO  
DO  
ABOUT  
THE  
HOME-  
LESS

I WILL URGE  
OUR GOVERNMENT  
TO PROVIDE  
HOUSING AND  
EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES



I WILL SUPPORT  
ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT ARE  
DEDICATED TO  
RESOLVING THIS  
PROBLEM



# HARRIS # 1993 ©

I JUST CLOSE  
MY EYES.....  
AND THEY  
DISAPPEAR!!



## NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Throughout my writings I frequently refer to the Afrocentric perspective. But perhaps all of you may not be all too familiar with what this really is. Here is the definition as furnished by the man who created the concept of Afrocentricity (or African-centeredness). Afrocentricity has been defined by Dr. Moleji Asante as:

A frame of reference wherein phenomena are viewed from the perspective of the African person... it centers on placing people of African origin in control of their lives and attitudes about the world. This means that we examine every aspect of the dislocation of African people; culture, economics, psychology, health and religion...As an intellectual theory, Afrocentricity is the study of the ideas and events from the standpoint of Africans as the key players rather than victims. This theory becomes, by virtue of an authentic relationship to the centrality of our own reality, a fundamentally empirical project...it is Africa asserting itself intellectually and psychologically, breaking the bonds of Western domination in the mind as an analogue for breaking those bonds in every other field.

This definition (understanding) clearly expresses the purpose and scope of Afrocentricity (African-centeredness). It is the understanding which motivates me and my brethren in the School of African Philosophy to act and get so heavily involved in the community. Right now we have our summer school program going on. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have and continue to support us in our endeavor. It is apparent that you too have a firm grasp on Afrocentricity.

Anyone interested in acquiring an Afrocentric perspective simply pick up a book, video or audio tape by and about Africans and get it for yourself. No one is going to give you anything. Remember that Afrocentricity is Africans asserting themselves intellectually and psychologically, breaking the bonds of Western domination in their minds. Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.