

WEST LAS VEGAS' OWN WINS NEA AWARD

By Steven Horsford

During the 131st meeting of the National Education Association, one of West Las Vegas' own Wendell P. Williams (D-District 6) was a recipient of the Human and Civil Rights Award. Williams was awarded for his work in the classroom as well as his work as a four term legislator fighting for the causes of Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, 100 Committed Men Helping Boys, and his work on maintaining peace during the "revolt" follow-

ing the acquittal of four police officers who beat Rodney King.

The National Education Association, with over two million members nationwide, is the largest lobbying and teacher's union in the U.S. Each state sent hundreds of delegates to represent their members in the largest self governing body on the face of the earth. With over nine thousand delegates present, new business items and resolutions affecting education were voted on daily.

Others awarded during the Human and Civil Rights Banquet were First Lady Hillary Redham Clinton (not in attendance), for her work in child care and health care reform; Dr. Vincent Ficker, president of the Gadsden (Alabama) State Community College who has worked to integrate rather than segregate his students; Actor-director-producer Edward James Olmos, who has worked with young people in East Los Angeles and is currently working to promote positive aspects of the Hispanic culture in film and the media; Claudia de Albuquerque of Fresno, California, for her work in developing a peace and nuclear curriculum adopted by the Fresno County School District; William Wassmuth founder of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, which uses nonviolent methods to combat white supremacist groups; Dayton High School teacher Evelyn Peters who has designed the school's Black studies curriculum; Dr. Carl Downing for his work in ensuring American Indian students receive instruction in their native languages; Elsie Burrell, an 89 year old retired teacher who established Blount County's first library and special education programs; and The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, for sponsoring cultural activities, recorded oral histories, and collected photos and archives to preserve and build awareness about the history of the Japanese Americans. Assemblyman Wendell Williams was nominated for this special award by the Human and

Civil Rights Committee of the Nevada State Education Association. Williams' remarks during the banquet were well received by the over two thousand guests in attendance. Williams spoke on how proud he is to be a black man and how honored he is to be considered a teacher.

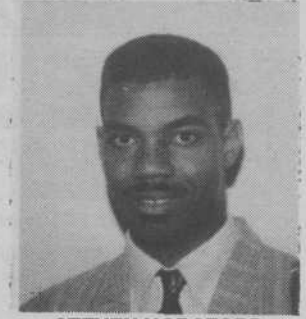
Other highlights of the National Education Association Convention was marked by the guest lecture of Alice Walker on her seminar called "Education: Unlocking the Potential." Walker addressed a crowd of four thousand participants and expressed her feelings about different issues in education. Walker is helping to help lift oppressed countries in Africa that are starving children and not allowing them to "unlock their cultural potential." Walker was also adamant about the bombing in Somalia and Cuba that taxpaying Americans should care more about. Walker was quoted as saying, "how can we in America, allow our government to bomb and starve other children, and expect them to educate our children."

The Black Caucus of the NEA sponsored a Kwanzaa in July. The celebration symbolized the importance for cultural and ethnic studies to be incorporated in the daily curriculum of all children.

The final extravaganza of the NEA convention was marked by the visit of the President of the United States. Bill Clinton addressed the nine thousand member crowd and spoke about how important education must be during his term as president. Clinton echoed promises made

during his campaign in 1992 that promised to bring forth legislation that would guarantee class sized reduction in grades K-3, guarantee loans for post-secondary education, site based decision making, and increased parental/teacher involvement. The crowd received much of Clinton's address positively but the gay rights protesters and Asian Americans had a different response for President Clinton outside the convention hall.

The next meeting of the NEA will be in New Orleans, Louisiana and the delegate representation is expected to grow to ten thousand as more and more teachers, support staff, students, and retired teachers get more involved in sculpting the agenda for education into the 21 century.



STEVEN HORSFORD

COLOR LINE

(Continued from Page 2)

mentalism" on college campuses and throughout every black community must begin with a clear vision of empowerment and collective pride, without falling into the dangerous traps of alienation and chauvinism against others. As black feminist bell hooks tells us, "we can bear witness for our own cause, for what we believe in, without denigrating others." To believe that literally all whites are our enemies is just as dangerous and erroneous as the argument that all blacks have the best interests of the African-American community at heart. Clarence Thomas may be racially "black", for example, but politically and culturally he's one of the "whites" men in America. If we are clear about who we are as a people and what is in our own interests, we should be able to work with anyone for our empowerment.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is featured in over 250 publications and is broadcast by more than 60 radio stations internationally.

VEGAS LANDSCAPING

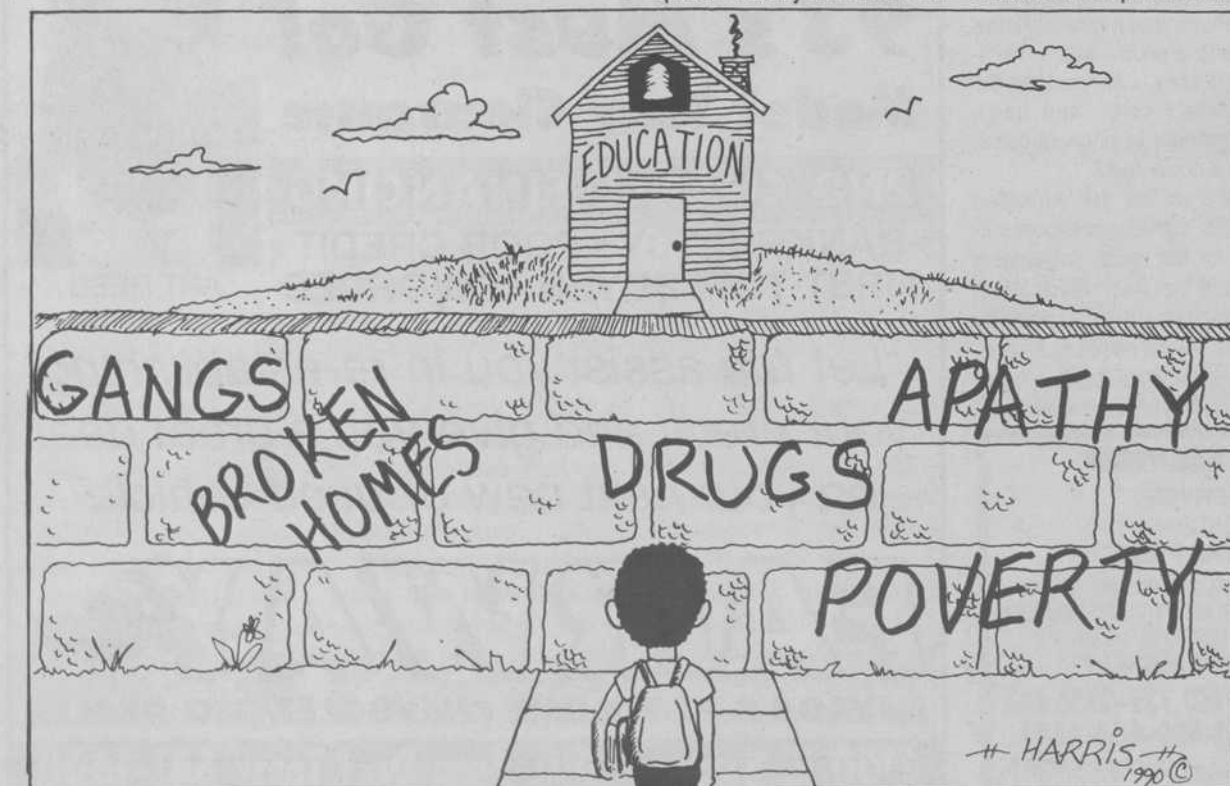
SPRINKLERS TREES
SHRUBS CLEAN-UP

TOTAL LAWN CARE

644-2022

BEEPER 894-2955 **BILLY MCKENZIE**

Licensed and Bonded #57634



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 2)

violations and other misdemeanors into deadly force cases. The last four shooting deaths by the Nevada Highway Patrol have involved traffic stops, one of the suspects was shot while he was handcuffed, (Ryan Dubin, July 27, 91). The coroner's inquests have become a complete dog and pony show run by the District Attorney's Office which uses the predictable conclusion of "justifiable homicide" to avoid prosecuting police officers. They are an insult to the intelligence of Clark County citizens and should be eliminated at once.

One might ask why it takes a State law to enforce police officers to comply with the U.S. Constitution. It's elementary my dear Watson, we still live in the wild west.

Larry Kepler

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Most Africans believe in a white superiority/black inferiority philosophy and that is why most do nothing to improve their condition. But I beg to differ with these who cling to this idea for it has been, and will continue to be our humanity, our greatness, that is the envy of others the world over.

Many of you probably grimace at the first sentence in the previous paragraph and quite frankly that is the type of response I hope to illicit. The truth hurts but we must deal with it if we are to grow as a people.

As you probably know by now the School of African Philosophy is engaged in it's annual summer school program and since we opened the doors we've been "begging" the community for help: monetary donations, school supplies or time (voluntary). To date only a handful of people have made any significant contributions.

With a community of misjudged, miseducated children, I am appalled at the lack of concern for and dedication to our African babies. We should be volunteering by the carloads to ensure that 1). our children are properly educated and 2). they see strong, positive African role models.

Could it be that because the program is 100% staffed by Africans that you won't lend a hand in educating your own children? Could it be because we don't have, and certainly don't need, the stamp of approval from Dr. Cram, that you don't believe in the program? Or is it quite possible that you just don't give a damn? Perhaps if you took the time to explore the results of the European education system you'd see why it is essential that we educate our own and why we need your help so desperately.

I, for one do not ascribe to the white superiority black inferiority theory and that may help to explain why I am so driven to elevate the consciousness of African people. Maybe I come across as an angry person sometimes but often times it is anger that sparks revolution (change).

If you are not angered and appalled at your own status, then perhaps you should be when it comes to that of your children. Then maybe, just maybe, the spark will be ignited necessary for revolution. Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.