

LOCAL STUDENT TRAVELS TO AFRICA; TOURS FORMER SLAVE AUCTION SITE



Booker Burney Jr. (Right) stands in front of slave quarters with tour guide "Cede"

By Muhammad Abdullah

Booker T. Burney, Jr., a senior Pre-Medicine/Psychology major at the University of Nevada, Reno, and son of local barber and community activist Booker T. Burney Sr. - owner of Hair Unlimited - recently returned from a seven day, six night trip to Senegal, Africa.

Burney Jr. was among the top ten students who entered a nationwide essay contest sponsored by Pepsi Cola Company.

The essay contest, entitled "Pepsi-Cola Heritage and Pride Essay Contest," asked the question, "What do you think has been the most significant contribution to African-American life in the past 20 years and why?"

Burney Jr. first won the school level prize of \$250 cash and the "Eyes On the Prize" video cassette. Then he competed at the state level where the prize was \$500 and a Black History Month

MILLER ANNOUNCES \$400,000 GRANT FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Governor Bob Miller announced recently that the Nevada Department of Transportation has received a \$400,000 federal grant to begin a year-long study to improve traffic flow in the Las Vegas area.

"Something has to be done about alleviating traffic congestion in Las Vegas and this study to help traffic flow is necessary," Miller said.

Miller is the National Governors' Association lead governor on infrastructure and had been the lead governor on surface transportation for the past year and a half.

The funds will be used to develop a master plan for implementation of Intelligent Vehicle Highway System (IVHS) technologies in Las Vegas. The

leather jacket.

All 50 states then submitted one contestant to compete for the national grand prize trip to Senegal, Africa. Burney Jr. was among the final ten contestants selected for the trip.

Apprehension ran deep for Burney Jr. because he did not really know to expect.

"I was kind of nervous about going to Africa," recalled Burney Jr. "But I was excited to see how warm and hospitable the people were," he said.

Booker Jr.'s grand Prize trip included a flight for two - Booker T. Burney Sr. accompanied him on the trip - from McCarran Airport to New York City where they joined the nine other winners and their guests as well as the Pepsi-Cola Company hosts on an Air Afrique flight to Dakar, Senegal.

Also included in the travel package was a double occupancy study is intended to explore opportunities which would help alleviate traffic congestion while reducing air pollution in Las Vegas.

Among some of the areas the study will address include a system that warns motorists of upcoming hazardous conditions such as accidents or construction, better mass transit and tourist information, a mass transit and commercial vehicle tracking system and advanced traffic monitoring and management system.

The IVHS is part of the nationwide Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. NDOT and the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission will oversee the study.

pancy hotel room; two meals per day; sightseeing; sports and other activities.

Booker Jr. wrote in his essay that he felt that Alex Haley's "Roots" series was what he considered the most significant contribution to the lives and minds of African-Americans.

One excerpt of his essay read as follows: "Through the drama, many African-Americans were educated on their proud and vivid ancestry for the very first time. This gave birth to a sense of pride that Black America had not been infected with for decades beforehand. Attitudes and con-

descension stemming from ignorance on one's past evolved into a respect of African-American origins."

"Roots was created and told in the ancient African-American traditions of storytelling. Haley credits his elders who passed these family tales down to him.

Older Black Americans were reminded of it's responsibility of educating the next generations. African-Americans cannot depend on the American school system to educate black students on history that is overlooked, discredited and unwritten."

(See Local Student, Page 21)

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