

BRASS ENDS MEDIA SILENCE

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in a potential appointee who refused to campaign on political ideologies, says Brass.
"I've never been one who wanted to be in the limelight," says Brass when questioned about the media hysteria prior to his appointment.
Brass commends the City

Council for the difficult decision to appoint him based on the merits of his credentials and not succumbing to publicity stunts by some of the applicants. "I sympathized for the Council members when they were making their decisions; it was a very tough decision under a great deal of pressure."

Economics, according to Brass, is the major issue affecting Ward 3. He says his political agenda will gravitate between several key issues, keeping economics at the center of his focus. "I think Ward 3, for whatever reason, was left out of the economic picture," Brass says. He plans to stimulate an eco-

nomie climate with community block grants and private business. He cites critical financial mistakes made by previous council members including the never developed Minami Tower project and defunct Main Street Station Hotel & Casino. "We must do the right thing in items of investment," said Brass when questioned about his economic agenda.

Ward 3, which suffers from a myriad of social ills from rampant poverty to urban blight, has never received the attention it demands from previous councils according to Brass. He says the urban blight issue can be corrected by forcing the residents of the Ward to adhere to city ordinances. He plans to work with the Metropolitan Police Department in ensuring compliance from residents. The crime issue, however, Brass says can be

contained by economically empowering the law abiding citizens of the ward.
"If you provide jobs, goods, and services, crime will decrease," says Brass. Brass' communication goal is challenged by the nearly 21% Hispanic populated district. A significant portion do not speak English. Not recognizing it as a severe problem, he plans to pro-

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

MAULANA KARENGA (CREATOR OF THE KWANZAA HOLIDAY)

By Gwen Walker

Maulana Karenga created the Kwanzaa Holiday as a celebration of joy in 1966. The seven principles of familyhood are: UMOJA - unity; KUJICHAGULIA - self determination; UJIMA - collective work and responsibility; UJAMAA - cooperative economics; NIA - purpose; KUUMBA - creativity; IMANI - faith.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days. A candle is lit on each of the seven days and one of the principles is discussed. Among the items necessary for the Kwanzaa celebration are the: KINARA - candle holder; MKEKE - the cup along with various hand-made gifts.

The Kawaida (custom and tradition) philosophy of the US movement give birth to numerous student groups around the nation. During the 1960's the US movement maintained a consistent policy of teaching African-American Cultural Values. Maulana Karenga was a doctoral student at

the University of California, Los Angeles when he conceived of the organization US for the liberation of the minds of African Americans. He believed that it was impossible to discuss political or economic liberation until there has been psychological liberation. Karenga's movement included the writers Imamu Baraka and Haki Madhubati both of whom established institutions based on the Kwanzaa philosophy.

To learn more about Kwanzaa you can visit Nikas Afrocentric Gifts, Native Son Bookstore and Counterpoint Bookstore and Read the Book Bookstore and get your supplies also.

The West Las Vegas Library has several Kwanzaa books you can check out as well.



GWEN WALKER

PRINCIPLES

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emphasize the importance of strong, moral behavior.

However, morality cannot be ignored for too long, and it's quite apparent that it has been. Despite what that civil rights leadership would have us think, as a race we have made great progress, especially in recent decades in winning equality before the law.

So I ask, why are we headed in this seemingly irreversible downward moral and spiritual spiral? We have a community where 12 year olds are having babies, 15 year olds are killing each other, 17 year olds are contracting AIDS and 18 year olds are receiving diplomas when they cannot read. Why is Homicide the leading cause of death for young black males? Obviously, something has gone horribly wrong.

If we were to work backwards and try to pinpoint when we stopped taking advantage of the opportunities we've won in the courts, in Congress, and in statehouses across the country, I would point to the decline in moral issues as an indispensable part of who we are as a people.

Why then, at a time when it is better for our people than ever before, would we abandon the principles that carried us so far?

African-Americans survived slavery, Jim Crow, and white reaction to the civil rights move-

ment. We are a race of survivors. How have we survived so long in America? By respecting one another, by using the strength of the family to overcome obstacles both large and

small, and by recognizing that it is in the family where our moral foundations are developed. Only at home do we learn what's right and what's wrong, that it is right (See Principles, Page 29)

TUTORIAL PROGRAM SPONSORS TRIP TO "SESAME STREET LIVE"



On Sunday, November 7th, 35 happy youngsters boarded a Ray & Ross bus to see "Sesame Street Live" at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center. It was another field trip for the "ESP" (Educational Success Through Partnership) Tutorial Program, which is in session at Gerson Park on a daily basis. The youngsters were also given a tour of the Las Vegas Strip. For some, this was the first time they had a chance to see the "Luxor" and the "Excalibur," and the now "blown-up" Dunes Hotel they had heard so much about. Founder of the program, City Councilman Frank Hawkins, has many educational and fun field trips planned for the students of the ESP Tutorial Program. Their smiling faces make it all worthwhile our investments in their futures.

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