

TO BE EQUAL: "AFFIRMATIVE ACTION = INCLUSION"

By Hugh B. Price

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

NATIONAL NEWS

CLINTON BACKS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

WASHINGTON - President Clinton says Democrats must stand up for affirmative action programs that work, but should be willing to reconsider those that don't. Speaking to the California Democratic Party convention in Sacramento, the president called advances by women and minorities under affirmative action "a very good thing." But he also expressed sympathy for "angry white males" who feel they have become victims of preferential treatment accorded others. But Clinton said politicians should not be allowed to divide the nation.

MORE WHITE AMERICANS THAN NON-WHITES SAY SIMPSON GUILTY

NEW YORK - White Americans are five times more likely than nonwhites to believe O.J. Simpson is guilty of murder, and most nonwhites say race played a key role in the decision to prosecute the football legend, reports the latest Newsweek Poll. In the poll that appears in Newsweek's April 17 issue, on newsstands Monday, 49 percent of whites surveyed said if they were a juror they would vote for Simpson's guilt in the murder of his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ron Goldman. Eleven percent of nonwhites said they would vote guilty, and 56 percent said not guilty. Twenty percent of the white respondents voted not guilty, according to the poll of 724 adults. Two-thirds, or 68 percent, of nonwhites polled said race strongly influenced the decision to prosecute Simpson, compared to 24 percent by whites. The poll of 599 whites has a five-percentage-point margin of error, and the poll of 119 nonwhites has a 14 percentage point margin of error.

SOME SKEPTICAL OF PROGRAM

Weed & Seed Initiative Discussed At Forum

By Victor S. Ingram

The United States Justice Department's program designed to rid local communities of criminals and thereby infuse a series of social and economic aid programs held its first community forum on Monday, April 6, 1995. The forum was held at 6:00 PM at the West Las Vegas Library located at 951 Lake Mead Blvd. The Weed and Seed Initiative, to be administered through the city of Las Vegas via a federal grant, is a fully comprehensive crime fighting package targeted at drug traffickers and neighborhood gangs, according to program director Franklin Simpson.

More than \$600,000 is allotted for local Metropolitan police department community enforcement and policing strategies. Moneys are also to be used for drug treatment, community clean-ups, and resident-assisted contracting, which would allow neighborhood

citizens to act as private contractors in implementing aid programs.

A pilot Weed and Seed Initiative drew praise in 1991 when implemented in the area known as the "Naked City" or Meadows Village. The area, which sits adjacent to the now defunct Vegas World Hotel and Casino, was plagued by drugs, prostitution, gangs, and urban blight. Police, working hand-in-hand with members of the community, were credited with up-lifting the area by removing the drug element from the community and restoring a sense of neighborhood pride.

By the response from several members of the audience during the public forum, however, few were impressed by the success in the Meadows Village area. Some questioned whether police would abuse their authority during the proposed neighborhood sweeps for drug dealers and gang members. "Do we have a



Weed & Seed program director Franklin Simpson held a forum recently to aid the community in understanding the crime fighting/community building program.

Photo By Victor Ingram

KCEP Delivers Community Impact Festival '95

By Victor S. Ingram

KCEP FM 88.1 radio station will feature a variety show on Saturday, April 15. The event, Community Impact Festival '95, will feature a host of entertainers, exhibits, food, and free giveaways. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Sammie Davis Jr. Festival Plaza at 720 Twin Lakes Drive, located adjacent to Lorenzi Park. Event organizers say the focus will be on preserving the community by way of showcasing local talent and community spirit.

Live gospel, rhythm & blues, jazz, martial arts exhibitions, and an assortment of surprise acts and events have been confirmed. The non-profit radio station periodically sponsors events aimed at community unification. Owned and operated by the Economic Opportunity Board, station general manager, Sherman Rutledge says the event will deliver on the station's on-going commitment to the Las Vegas community to provide cultural outreach and

diversity. For more information, event organizers can be reached at 648-0104.

policy to prevent police harassment?" asked audience member Gene Collins. Collins continued to recall numerous civil rights abuses by over-zealous police officers looking to apprehend African American youths. "We want to implement a policy that if an officer oversteps his boundaries something can be done." Debra Jackson, community activist, echoed Collins' concerns. "We don't want these police officers out on a witch hunt arresting our

black males."

A Metro police representative responded to Collins' accusations and said federal civil rights legislation adequately protects citizens from an officer who oversteps his authority.

Others questioned the huge federal dollars expended for the initiative. Complaints surfaced about Metro receiving an exorbitant sum of dollars without any significant portion going to

(See Weed & Seed, Page 10)

Judge Throws Out Confession Of Malcolm X's Daughter

ST. PAUL, Minn. - A judge ruled Tuesday that prosecutors may not use a confession taken from Malcolm X's daughter but refused to dismiss charges that she tried to hire an assassin to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

The ruling by U.S. Magistrate Franklin Noel clears the way for the government to put Qubilah Shabazz on trial early next month. Noel ruled that tapes made by a government informant she allegedly tried to hire to kill her father's rival may be used by the government in its case.

But he said a confession the FBI extracted from her, in which she allegedly admitted the scheme, may not be used in court because of the way

in which it was obtained.

Shabazz, 34, was charged in a federal indictment handed up Jan. 12 with trying to hire Michael Fitzpatrick, the informant, to kill Farrakhan.

The Muslim leader has been blamed by Shabazz's family for Malcolm's assassination 30 years ago. He has repeatedly denied any role in the assassination.

Fitzpatrick, who has known Shabazz since high school, is in the government witness protection program. Lawyers for Shabazz have depicted him as a drug-using opportunist who lured and entrapped her.

Tuesday's ruling was only a partial victory for Shabazz's lawyers who had

wanted the magistrate to throw out the indictment. But by ruling the confession inadmissible, Noel may have made the prosecution's task harder.

Fitzpatrick, also 34, is believed to have taped more than 40 conversations with Shabazz, second eldest daughter of the firebrand black activist. As a toddler she was present in the Harlem ballroom when her father was gunned down.

Defense lawyers had argued that Shabazz was guilty of nothing more than "thought crime" — that she was only thinking about having Farrakhan killed and was increasingly reluctant to go ahead with the plot while Fitzpatrick

(See Shabazz, Page 10)

Clyde Signs With Baylor



With proud parents looking on, Las Vegas high school standout Kenyatta Clyde signs a letter-of-intent to play basketball at Baylor. Clyde was the only high school senior to sign a Division 1 letter.

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