

Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication

TO BE EQUAL

THE BUSINESS OF AMERICA

By Hugh B. Price

President National Urban League

It's often said that the business of America is business. That's true, but our economy isn't all that defines America.

Our society also consists of the communities that comprise it and of the people who live in those communities.

I really worry that we're losing sight of what community means, much less what it means to a civil society.

Communities aren't abstractions or statistics.

They are neighborhoods in towns and cities where real people live and work. They are the building blocks of a civil society.

As the social critic Christopher Lasch observed, informal community hang-outs like coffee houses, beauty shops and bars



HUGH B. PRICE

are crucial to democracy because they're the venues for conversation, the reinforcement of values, arguments about local issues and of course, trading gossip.

I can testify to what he's talking about.

Hard-pressed as I am for time these days, I decided a couple of months ago to try one of those "barbers by appointment."

After only one sitting, I gravitated back to the neighborhood barbershop, Sheltie's in New Rochelle, NY, that I'd patronized for 17 years. Why?

Because I sorely missed the conversation among plumbers, mechanics and ministers that keeps me in close touch with my reality as an African American.

Most of us actually go there for hair cuts, but some brothers just drift in and out for a dose of riotously funny and sometimes raunchy conversation.

The black barbershop is the ultimate democratic institution. Every customer waits his turn regardless of his station in life; there

are no advance appointments and no jumping in line.

A community is much more than aggregation of individuals and households whose only contact with one another is via Internet.

Community is more than a place where the only time people venture out of doors is for the daily trek to work or for an evening stroll into cyberspace.

The more technology isolates us from one another, the hungrier we've become for human contact. Contrary to dire predictions, cinemas are thriving despite the VCR.

Earlier this summer my wife Marilyn, my assistant Betty Ford and I joined 15,000 other New Yorkers one lovely evening on a park lawn to watch "Casablanca," probably for the fifteenth time.

It Obviously wasn't the movie alone that lured us there.

Just as no man is an island, neither is a community.

When you bundle communities together and surround them with a border, they become what we call cities. Cities matter to our society, therefore, because communities matter.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

SUMMER SIGNS OF HOPE

By Bernice Powell Jackson

Amidst the terrible stories of a New York teenager being killed for a quarter, of children being killed by their mothers or baby-

sitters, of more drive-by shooting in neighborhoods across the country, there are stories of people doing something about the violence. They are signs of

hope for us all.

Glenville Hoop It Up is a basketball tournament run in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood. It was the idea of

three men who are leaders at Morning Star Baptist Church as their way of reaching out to the young men in the community who often have nothing to do

and no positive, supervised activities. "After four years, we now have 850 young people—boys and girls, from age 9 and up-involved in our program," said Ray Reid, who acts as director of the program.

It is the commitment of those three men and a few others who volunteer their time for this summer weekend program that makes it a real sign of hope. "We believe it's important for these young people to see men in the community who are positive role models and who care what happens to them," said Reid. For Reid and the two assistant directors it means giving up every weekend from June to August. "But the rewards are great," he said.

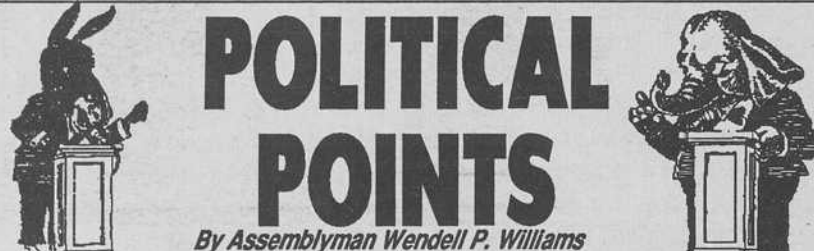
The only funds Glenville Hoop-It Up receives are \$3000 from the city and small grants



Bernice Powell Jackson

from the local church groups to pay for the awards, plaques and tee-shirts that the young people receive for participating in the program. "All the money gets put back into the kids," Reid explained. What if every community had a Hoop It Up program?

Do Something is the name of another program for young people. It is a national non-profit organization which provides young people with small grants (See Civil Rights, Page 10)



POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

VOTES TO REMEMBER

We all hear so much about registering to vote, and voting in every election, and that's good. However, the political arena locally, nationally and internationally is so crucial to our productivity and survival as a people; we have to do more than just register, vote, then sit back and watch the games be played.

Do you know how the members of our Nevada Congressional delegation voted on these following issues? Better yet, did you even know about them at all?

1) **Eliminate Minority Business Set-A-Sides** — An amendment to H.R. 1854, Legislative Branch Appropriations by Sen. Phil Gramm, Republican, from Texas would eliminate all minority business set-a-sides in federal procurement process. Gramm's

amendment goes beyond the U.S. Supreme Court's June Adarand Constructors vs. Dena decision, which upheld the constitutionality of set-a-side and affirmative action programs but ruled that they must be narrowly tailored. African American Congressman Gary Franks, Republican, introduced a similar bill in the House - Roll call vote No. 317, July 20, 1995, rejected 61-36. A vote against this bill supported African American interests.

Nevada Senator Richard Bryan voted against this bill and for African American interests.

Nevada Senator Harry Reid also voted against.

2) **Cuts In Social Programs** - A vote to cut and limit debate and clear the way to passage of H.R. 1158, a Supplemental Appropriations and Recisions bill that would cut \$16.1 billion from funds already allocated by the

103rd Congress for programs that primarily assist low-income Americans. Like the House passed version, the bill would reduce funding for low income housing, education, transportation and environmental programs. Although the Senate version restored funding for Head Start, the WIC nutrition program, the Goals 2000 education reform program, and the National Service initiative, other cuts in social programs would have been detrimental to low-income Americans. Roll-Call vote No. 127, April 6, 1995, rejected 56-44; debate was not shut off. A vote against this measure supported African American interests.

Nevada Senator Richard Bryan voted in support of African American interests, as well as Nevada Senator Harry Reid.

3) **Tax Cuts For The Wealthy**



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

- An amendment on the Senate floor to budget resolution S. Con Res. 13 for fiscal year 1996 by Sen. Gramm would provide a massive \$312 billion tax cut to individuals and corporations. It included permission for families earning up to \$200,000 a year to take \$500 per child tax credit.

Nevada Senator Richard Bryan voted in support of African American interests, as well as **Senator Harry Reid**.

4) **Maintain Welfare's Entitlement Status** - An amendment to budget resolution S. Con Res. 13 would preserve the status of Aid to Families with Dependent Children and (See Political Points, Pg 11)

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