

POET'S CORNER

Stop the Violence

By Florretta Neal

Stop the Violence, Keep it Still
It takes a long time before the families Heal

Someone took a life they didn't Give
Who told them to play God and decide who should Live

Please put down the Knives and Guns
Continued Violence only frightens Everyone

It's like there's nowhere safe to Go
We don't need the violence no Mo'

We need Peace in our Hearts and Minds
I wish we didn't have to see cars in Funeral Lines

To say Good-Bye to our Loved Ones
Please, Please put down the Guns

If you know something talk, you don't have to give your Name
Remember, the Gangs aren't all that they Claim

When you're up in jail who's the first ones you See
It's your Bloody Family

To those of you who don't Understand
We are trying to make this a peaceful Land

We know alot of wrong has been Done
But why keep Hatred on the Run

Somewhere it has to Cease
Increase the Peace

Just think about it, you're only hurting Yourself
Our Culture has to survive, we're all we have Left

Please listen My People
You know we didn't bring over the Guns and Drugs
So how in another could you pump the Slugs

This is just what they want, for us to get Rid of one Another
Please stop the violence My Sisters and My Brothers

Our Black Future is slowly Disappearing
From all this senseless Killing

Our Ancestors went through way too Much
For us to Die over words or a Mistakenly Touch

We come from Kings and Queen
Do you really understand the meaning of It's a Black Thing

PLEASE WAKE UP!!!

Las Vegas to Honor World AIDS Day

By Nichole Davis

Statewide groups are uniting to honor World AIDS Day Dec. 1. According to recent statistics, one in 33 black men will contract the HIV virus. In Clark County, there are 378 diagnosed black adults with AIDS and 7 diagnosed black pediatric cases of AIDS. There are 1902 total AIDS cases as of Sep. 30, the most recent statistics available.

Here in Las Vegas, a portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at the Reed Whipple Cultural

Center Gallery Dec. 1-6. The Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas Dept. of Park and Leisure exhibit is open from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 1.

There will be a 72 hour prayer vigil will be held at the Interfaith Center at UNLV. Ladies Advocating Christian Entertainment (L.A.C.E.) will conduct a one hour prayer and praise service from noon-1 p.m. Saturday. The group encourages people to come out and participate. For more information about the prayer call 594-3305.

VISUAL ARTS

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worked as an art director for the California Museum of Science and Industry, which first housed the institution, and he helped launch the First Annual Jamaican Art Seminar and Gallery Tour. It is his famous LaSalle wall mural that graces the First AME Church of Los Angeles.

When Bernard was just a child, his religious aunt nicknamed him "Spirit Sight," recognizing his magic early on. Hoyes holds to this special philosophy in his work. "I once said, 'if I'm going to be an artist, I should document the spirit.' Displaced Africans have always had a vibrant spiritual side that's helped us overcome trials and tribulations," he explains.

During his early years, Hoyes worked intensively on his "Rag Series," a dramatic portrayal of rag impressions that reflect ancestral connections to contemporary life. In the 80's, during a return to Jamaica, he began expressing his African/Caribbean roots with his "Revival Series," a resplendent visualization of the rituals and ceremonies of the Revival Cults. Passion and sparkling vitality leap from over 200 paintings in this series.

In 1990, "Hexing Rites" a piece from the "Revival Series," was commissioned by Capitol Records for Black Music Month and garnered three awards for excellence from CEBA (Communications Excellence to Black Audiences).

Another milestone for the artist occurred in 1992 when "Passion of Hexing Rites," from Hoyes' "New Works from the Spirit" collection, another dramatic presentation of spiritually inspired work, was featured in an episode of then NBC-TV top rated show, "A Different World."

A versatile explorer and innovator, Hoyes has showcased his work outside of the traditional gallery and museum arenas. A collaborative exhibit featuring Hoyes and English artist, Andy Jefferson, entitled "Casualties of Contemporary Life," was shown

in the old Antillean Ruin, located in downtown Kingston. The show, a first on the island of Jamaica, featured 18 mural sized works. "Casualties" focused on situations in Jamaica which effected the downtrodden. The presentation explored many themes, including crimes, music, the destruction of the land, and the Haitian boat people.

Hoyes took on a different aspect of Caribbean life when he celebrated a joint exhibit in Jamaica entitled, "Dancehall." A very unique aspect of one of the country's musical subcultures, dancehall describes Jamaica's inner-city/ghetto life experience.

The L.A. riots moved the master to one of his most moving and unique exhibitions. Responding to the city's plea for healing, the artist installed a series of wire-mesh human figures entitled, "Apparition of Healing Spirits: Allure, Surrender, Love" a several of the firebombed sites. The wire meshes of "spirits" remained at each site for a week, accompanied with ceremonial platters and fresh flowers, creating a magical presence at the otherwise bleak and desolate locations.

Hoyes' work can be currently viewed as part of a special exhibit at the Galerie Lakaye entitled "Vodou Reflections," which is being presented in conjunction with the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History's exhibition "The Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou." The presentation will run in Los Angeles through June 16, 1996 and overviews the ritual arts within this vibrant Afro-Caribbean religion.

Spirit, though real, is an intangible thing. Yet upon viewing the works of Bernard Stanley Hoyes, it is spirit that we see, not only with our eyes, but in our hearts. A true magician, he captures what can't be seen and makes it real.

"Journey Through The Spirit: 25 Years of Magical Realism" promises to be a spiritual treat for the holiday season. For more information, please call the Watts Tower at 213-847-4646 or Caribbean Art at 213-732-4601.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

Ebenezer D. Bassett (DIPLOMAT)

By Gwen Walker



GWEN WALKER

Ebenezer D. Bassett was born in 1833 in Connecticut. Mr. Bassett was the first Black diplomat to represent the United States abroad. Immediately after his inauguration in 1869, President Grant appointed him as minister-resident to Haiti, which he held from 1869-1877. At the time of his appointment, he was principal of the Institute for Colored Youth, a Quaker School in Philadelphia. He was educated at Wesley Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and at the Connecticut State Normal School, and he studied at Yale University.

Mr. Bassett served the United States in Haiti during the period of tense relations with her neighbor Santo Domingo. At this time, the Haitian government was aware that America was considering annexing many of the islands in the area. Bassett, whose duty it was to keep the American government informed of developments on the island, was still able to ease the strong anti-American feeling in Haiti. When he completed his assignment in 1877, the Haitians expressed their confidence in his integrity by appointing Bassett as their consul general to the United States for 10 years. Upon his retirement from this post, he returned to live as a private citizen in Haiti. He published his HANDBOOK OF HAITI in French, English and Spanish; this was a valuable contribution to the geographical knowledge of the island. The American Geographical Society and the Connecticut Historical Society named him a member of their organizations in recognition of his contributions.

PERFECT UNION

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saying, "Let there be light." This light is the conscious, intelligent, discernible comprehension of what which is created. This light is the true light that enlightens every man who comes into the world. This light was and is Christ; this light was in Jesus which caused him to be filled with grace, dignity and truth. This light manifests as the scientific understanding of the inner workings of the heart of man in its different shades of darkness and light as well as the scientific lawfulness of the universe—its physical laws and underlying principles.

Then the writer of the Gospel of John tells the absolute, indisputable truth: those who accept and take responsibility for the principle Jesus the Christ lived and taught become sons of GOD. That is, they become the light—they become the conscious, intelligent, discernible comprehension of that which is created. Therefore, man is in fact the conscious, intelligent, discernible comprehension of that which is created.

So we have a creator, the creation, and a language expression of the creation. The language expression, "Let there be light," (let there be the conscious, intelligent, discernible comprehension of that which is created) is man. Man is that which can know GOD's language, thought, creation, and GOD himself. Man becomes an associate of GOD in the creation by reporting back to GOD the nature of the creation and making recommendations for improvement; then GOD gives man ways and means with which to make those improvements. Because of man, his nature and purpose, it is therefore possible for man, male and female, to be what GOD created them to be—a perfect union.

GOD promised Adam that after 5,500 years, man would be able to leave the "Land of Nod" and reenter the "Kingdom of GOD." The atonement of October 16, 1995, began that process. When peoples and nations begin to atone rather than to spy, lie, attack, and murder each other, that is revolution. It is the kind of revolution that will lead to the salvation of all people, and the liberation of all nations.

Minister Farrakhan represents us—the people—in our sinful and broken condition, but as we persevere for perfection using the method of atonement and reconciliation, we will attain perfection in love and truth. Then we will manifest righteousness and justice.

When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray, he began with "Our Father." Mankind, we are one family. This truth not lied about and persisted in delivers individuals, communities and nations from evil.

We will create a perfect union because we will always pray, as noted by Joseph Scriver in these words to a hymn he wrote that accurately describes the missing element in our suffering, strife and nonsuccess: Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh what needless pain we bear; all because we do not carry everything to GOD in prayer. We will ask GOD; he will instruct. We will obey his will. We will create a perfect union.

Desert Chrysler-Plymouth

(on Fremont between Sahara & Showboat Casino)

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