

# Unsolved

(Continued from Page 1)

Her car was first spotted at the Angel Park Golf Course at 10 p.m. that night; her purse and cellular phone were later found in the car by police.

Thompson and David Turner, the oldest of Turner's three sons, organized a massive search effort for the recently-married

social worker. They put up signs, organized prayer vigils, held car washes and did a number of media interviews.

But Turner-Elliot's decomposed body was later discovered on Mt. Charleston where police believe she had been since February.

Police said they are at a stand

still on the case. They have been unable to determine Turner-Elliot's whereabouts on that February night from 5 p.m. evening until 10 p.m. when her car was first sighted at Angel Golf Course.

"During that 5-hour period we have no idea where she was. That's the key to the entire



TURNER-ELLIOT

investigation," said Sgt. Kevin Manning, a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police homicide detective.

Every lead they have had in this case has been exhausted, and no one has been ruled out as a suspect, said Manning, who is now handling about seven unsolved murders.

He and Thompson are waiting for anyone with any additional information to come forward, so this doesn't become one of 300 unsolved murder cases, which line Metro walls, some of which date back as far as 1947.

Thompson described the waiting as "a never ending story."

"The waiting is terrible, because everyday you have to wake up and realize there is someone out there who has murdered someone important in your life, and they are laughing, smiling, living," she said.

"To know there is someone

walking the streets that intentionally killed someone else...I don't even know," said the mother of three daughters.

Thompson's distress is not uncommon among the families and friends of murder victims. The number of murder cases recorded by Las Vegas police 1996 is 111. Investigators didn't have that many murders last year until October, Manning said.

The department's seven two-member homicide squads are struggling to keep up, but on average 30 percent of murder cases go unsolved, he said.

North Las Vegas police have experienced similar problems. They investigate 18 to 20 homicides a year, which they said is high for a city with a population of 85,000 people.

Two prominent cases involving blacks are among the unsolved North Las Vegas cases.

H. P. Fitzgerald Elementary first grader Tony Bagley, who was shot while trick-or-treating on Halloween, and model Tara Cleveland, who was shot after a traffic altercation, were both killed in 1994.

North Las Vegas Detective Michael Higgins is investigating these murders, which like Turner-Elliot case are at a stand still, he said.

The youngster, his sister and

his mother were shot on the 2200 block of Englestad two years ago. Police reports indicate the shooter as a 5'8" to 5'9" black male. He was seen wearing all black clothing with a hood over his head.

Police have identified no suspects in this case, because "I'm not getting any calls from the citizens," he said.

Neither a large reward nor national attention have flushed out the killer. Former Stratosphere Tower President Bob Stupak offered a \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrator, and the case has been shown on two national television shows, including Fox Television's America's Most Wanted.

But so far the only uninvestigated clues have come from "a dozen or so calls from psychics," Manning said.

Finding the killers would ease her pain, Bagley's mother Lashelle Cooper said, but she doesn't expect the case to be resolved.

"The way I figure it there were two to four people who were in the car, so that's the two to four people who know for sure," Cooper said. "I ask myself if it means anything to them, and it must not 'cause it's been almost

(See Unsolved, Page 13)

## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

# Mary McLeod Bethune's legacy

By Bernice Powell Jackson

Every now and then it is good to remind ourselves of the legacy left to us by our ancestors. It is good to remember endurance of our great grandmothers who lived in slavery and had their children snatched away from them. It is good to remember the patience of our great grandfathers who were farmers and knew how to



Bernice Powell Jackson

survive at the whim of crops and weather. It is good to remember the courage of former slaves who were hungry to learn to read and did so sometimes as senior citizens. It is good to remember those who were beaten and died for the right to vote in this nation.

One of the richest legacies left to African Americans is found in the words of Mary McLeod Bethune. If only we can recapture the words and that legacy, we may have a chance to survive as a people.

**I leave you love. Love can stop the violence in our homes, in our communities, in our world. Self-love and the lack of it is at the heart of the problem for many African Americans.**

**I leave you hope.** Cornel West says that too many young people have no love, no hope and no meaning in their lives. A hopeless person is a dangerous person and too many of our young people have no hope—no hope of a job, no hope of chance to survive, no hope even of life.

**I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another.** There are still African Americans who will not use black physicians, lawyers or contractors because they believe they will get inferior service. As African Americans are better educated and trained, we must have confidence in each other's abilities, each other's

skills, each other's gifts.

**I leave you a thirst for education.** Too many of our young people taunt those who want to learn and say they are trying to be white. They're trying to be black—to follow in the footsteps of our Egyptian ancestors who were some of the most learned people in history and in the footsteps of those slaves who

endured beatings and death so that they might read. Without education, we are doomed as a people.

**I leave you respect for the use of power.** African Americans have been elected to Congress and mayoralties in unprecedented numbers. We are wealthier than we have ever been in this nation. With this new-found political and economic power comes increased responsibility in how we use it.

**I leave you faith.** It was faith in God which enabled our foremothers and forefathers to endure the Middle Passage, slavery, lynchings and Jim Crow laws. Without that kind of faith, we cannot find real hope and real love. We must recapture that kind of faith if we are to survive.

**I leave you racial dignity.** Racial dignity is not just racial pride, but also the carrying high of one's head. Racial dignity comes with having faith, hope and love. It comes with loving education and having confidence in others of your race. It comes with using power with respect. It means standing tall because all is right with your relationship with God, with community, with family, with self.

It is good to re-visit those words of Mary McLeod Bethune and to center our lives as a people around them once more. Thank you Mrs. Bethune. You left a rich legacy to us all.

## Churches

(Continued from Page 2)

the diagnosed AIDS cases, according to state research data.

By openly offering training, specialists can create a congregation-appropriate curriculum and teach it in

whatever way they deem appropriate, said State of Nevada Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Chief of Clinical Programs Ron Johnston.

State authorities have long seen the need for outreach in

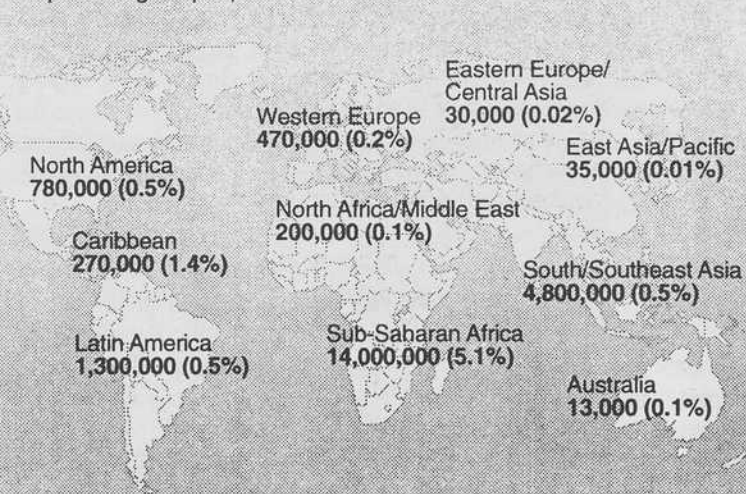
the black community, but there was no similar program in place, Johnston said.

"I think it's absolutely critical that the state and local communities find more ways to specifically target the African-American community," for HIV/AIDS prevention information, he said. And "past history tells us, if you don't work with churches which have such a significant impact on the African-American community," he said, "it will never work."

For more information about Churches United Together, call 648-0177.

## Global cases of HIV infection or AIDS

For each region, the number of cases is followed by the percentage of people who are infected.



SOURCE: Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS

## Making The Best Better...

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Wendell P. Williams



Assembly District 6

I would like to thank my constituents and friends of District 6 who supported and voted for me in the primary election.

P.S. Don't forget to cast your vote on November 5th general election.