

Wells Fargo gives \$300,000 for business center

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

In a move of unprecedented corporate philanthropy, Wells Fargo donated \$300,000 last month to become a partner in the city of Las Vegas' soon-to-be constructed Las Vegas Business Center. The facility will be located near the corners of Lake Mead and Martin Luther King Boulevards.

Tom Mangione, Wells Fargo's senior vice president, presented the check to the Las Vegas City Council during the group's monthly meeting in September. It was the single largest donation in the recent history of the Neighborhood Services Department, which is coordinating the project.

Wells Fargo wanted to donate to the project, because "one of the most difficult things to do is to get a business started," Mangione said Tuesday. "A lot of them don't make it, because they don't have enough money or need a little more technical expertise."

By putting small businesses in centers like the proposed one, which will break ground in January, "you can help them control their expenses somewhat," he said. "You really give them the opportunity to succeed, and that hasn't been done

before."

The money will be used to set up a revolving grant program, which will pay for technical assistance and any tenant improvements needed on the 17,100 square foot site located at the southwest corner of Martin Luther King and Lake Mead Boulevards.

"If you're coming in and you need certain things done to the area you're leasing, that's tenant improvement," said Terrie Stanfill, manager of the Neighborhood Services Department. Her department planned and developed the new project.

"The amenities that were used for your improvements will then continue to the next person who comes in, and they will have to continue them," Stanfill said. "The money will not have a one-time use." At least four local businesses have already called about getting space in the facility, which is tentatively set to open next summer.

Business owners do not have to be residents of West Las Vegas to apply, city officials said, and as spaces can be customized to suit your needs, early applications are welcome.

For more information, call 229-2330.

Talents

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understand this, you will understand how important it is for you to know yourself, what it is you have to offer and work assiduously to express it.

This is our solemn obligation to God, ourselves and humanity. The most successful people in this world are not misers, hoarders or alienated isolates.

They are those who have discovered and developed their gifts selflessly, sharing them with others. "Give and it shall be given unto you..." This was the great message.

This is the deeper meaning of the parable of the talents. Not to use what you have been given no matter how much or how little, brings about dire personal and cosmic consequences. Use it or lose it!

Life demands that we be living sacrifices, offering our talents and gifts, abilities to our fellow man. In so doing we are actually giving back to the Creator. Expressing our gifts is the way we give back to God. It is our gift to him/her. When giving to God from whom all blessings flow, it behooves us to give

wholeheartedly and ungrudgingly. It is a divine exchange, the ultimate win-win situation. Everyone benefits: you, me, everyone including God. You were put here for a divine purpose, to accomplish it glorifies the Creator.

What are your gifts? Are you honestly returning measure for measure what you have been given? If not, then you need to get busy discovering what it is you were put here to do and make that contribution. Anything else you are doing is immaterial and irrelevant.#

Weekly

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Robinson and comedian "Sweet" Lou Collins. In addition, a special skit will be presented by Kelcey West and 32nd Street Productions on the subject of Weekly's longtime radio talk show "Straight Talk," which airs Saturday mornings on KCEP Radio-FM 88.1.

Special keynote speaker for the event will be motivation speaker and educator Dr. Naida Parson, a local clinical psychologist at a North Las Vegas psychological clinic.

"In the past he has more or less volunteered his time unselfishly — doing countless things from public speaking to hosting fundraisers for those in need, regardless of color," says friend and family member Michael Garrett. "I thought it was something that was needed to be done."

Dora LaGrande said that, "Lawrence Weekly deserves this tribute because of his dedication and commitment to the young people that he devotes a great portion of his time to. He also exemplifies the man that Dr. King spoke of when he said 'the true measure of a man is not where

he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of conflict and controversy'."

Admission to the roast is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, with proceeds benefitting the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and the Kappa League.

For ticket information to the roast or to RSVP, please call 393-3014.



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Business

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the plight of their race, they pride themselves on what they wear, drive and drink and spend twice as much as they make. Few people are deluded by their flash, black and white people who can count know they don't have and cash. On the average, Black American families have zero assets. The average African-American family has a net worth of \$7,500 compared to \$44,000 for white families.

So what will it take for us to rise up and do better? "Affirmative Action," "Reparations" or the "Status Quo"? If we don't all do something together we will all perish separately from being poor and lack of opportunity. At this point we all should settle for nothing less than total payment for 400 years of subjugation. Passage of reparations legislation in this country would free the white community from guilt about blacks, forever. In turn, each of us should take our \$250,000 and put it to work, inside our communities.

(William Reed is publisher of Who's Who in Black Corporate America, 2054 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045 (202) 547-4125)

"It's the village, Mr. Dole"

By Evelyn K. Moore

The meaning of the African adage "It takes a village to raise a child" was egregiously missed by Bob Dole who, in his acceptance speech to head the Republican presidential ticket, criticized the precept as detrimental to children and families. His salvo hit a core nerve in the belief system of African Americans. In black communities nationwide the proverb is virtually recited as a mantra by everyday people and extraordinary leaders who recognize the power of the extended family and community to reinforce the values imparted by parents.

To Mr. Dole's way of thinking, the operative word village is a surrogate for government, as he reasoned by flawed syllogism that a village is a collective: collectives are controlled by "the state"; therefore, the village is state-controlled. Bob Dole's misconstrued interpretation is mind-boggling and insensitive. The village spoken of by blacks and their African kin is a body of caring people who contribute to the well-being of their children and their neighbor's children by teaching and exemplifying values to grow on. Churches, block clubs, community-based groups, and the next door neighbor are part of the village. The proverb itself is kindred to the nostalgic, richly American maxim that if a child misbehaved, not only would his parents correct him but the neighbor who witnessed the mischief would reprimand him too. The "state" is absent from that basic calculus of intervention and prevention. Unlike government, especially in the wake of the landmark repeal of welfare, the village helps weave a true safety net which protects children from harm, not a gossamer net through which values and support can easily fall.

Ironically, the village concept and the Republican proposals for government devolution share common ground. Both appeal to society's grassroots instincts and desire for strong families and communities. The village is the "mediating structure"—the bridge between families and government—about which conservatives talk so gushily. The important difference between the African proverb and government devolution is that the village operates as an interdependent

entity within society and not a body politic functioning in antipathy of federal government. Those who view themselves as part of a village are a diversity of tax-paying citizens who contribute to and benefit from opportunities to get an education, work, and raise families, as well as poor people who are striving to achieve self-sufficiency.

Under the newly minted welfare reform act, poor villages—that is, low-income communities—might soon resemble the image of obdurate neglect invoked by Bob Dole in his acceptance speech. Without guaranteed government assistance, poor families will risk perennial poverty while at least 1 million more families will be pushed into the bottomless pit of so-called reform. Mr. Dole ushered this legislation through the Senate as majority leader while afterwards asserting in his debut address as the Republican presidential candidate that the American family is the rock of the nation. If Mr. Dole really believes that stable families make America strong, his actions belie his rhetoric and expose his reproof of the village as a campaign gambit aimed at exploiting anti-government sentiment.

In the final analysis, his criticism is made illegitimate by its dependency on the faulty premise that villages are wards of the state. However, before bashing local strategies designed to nurture the development of their children, Mr. Dole should first check the pages in his party's play book that tout community and family empowerment. Next and most importantly, he should not insult a race of people. A campaign based on attacks on cultural traditions reveals much about the candidate, including a dangerous unawareness of the values that make communities work. It's the village, Mr. Dole.

Evelyn Moore is a co-founder and executive director of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. that exists to improve and protect the quality of life of African-American children and families. NBCDI was established in 1970 and has 43 affiliates across the country.

Strategy

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divisions of race, class and gender, the decline of real wages and the destruction of social services create the conditions for a nonviolent resistance movement.

One model is provided by the struggles surrounding a newspaper strike in Detroit. Weekly blockades of the newspaper's headquarters have led to over 300 arrests including public officials, feminists, antiracist and religious leaders. As the anti-apartheid struggle a decade ago illustrated, people from various classes and races can be inspired and mobilized if the cause is just, and if the target for active resistance is clear.

Third, progressives must emphasize creative and independent activism inside the electoral arena.

This includes support for independent movements like the New Party which are running candidates in local races. More

importantly, an innovative approach to electoralism is represented by ACORN's "living wage" referenda campaigns.

We must support efforts to move our electoral system toward proportional representation.

Finally, we have to do everything in our power to defeat the ultra-Right Republicans this November, most prominently Dole. I fully recognize that the Clinton administration has pursued many policies which are opposed to working people's and racial minorities' interests. But we should not advocate the reelection of Clinton per se. but the defeat of Dole and the "Contract With America."

We need to emphasize voter registration and mobilizing on election day, especially in minority neighborhoods.

But our approach must be honest and realistic: Clinton's victory will not address our basic problems. But a triumph for Dole

would give conservative Republicans total control over all branches of government — the Executive branch, Congress and the Supreme Court. We cannot afford to let this happen.

This approach to progressive politics should not be construed as a simplistic revival of sixties' protests. Civil disobedience, by itself, cannot reverse the politics of reaction.

Voting, by itself, is not sufficient to defeat the conservative Republican agenda. What is required is the integration and coordination of various tactics of democratic resistance, all of which are anchored to a strategic vision for the transformation of American society. The language of that social vision must address real contradictions that working people experience and feel every day. What we can achieve now may be the beginnings of a much broader democratic movement, that actually contends for power.