

Agenda

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 between that city and other cities in America," Avery said. Although it can't be proven, "we suspect the same thing is going on in other cities."

At this point, blacks would need to gather more evidence. A suit would be filed when there is sufficient proof, he said.

Like Muhammad, Avery feels that black issues are being ignored by the major parties, so he plans to write in a candidate, perhaps columnist Lenora

Fulani, he said. "I've read a lot of her columns."

In general, the local delegation supports the agenda, said Marzette Lewis, who serving as the delegation's public relations person during the trip. Lewis is in strong support of the agenda.

"I've gone through it, but have yet to get deep into it, but I feel black people should embrace it," said Lewis, who is also president of the Westside Action Alliance Korps-Uplifting People.

"We should start taking control of our destinies and know where we're going," she said.

Committee members asked the public to observe a day of absence, a day of atonement, in honor of the one-year anniversary of the Million Man March, Oct. 16.

As in 1995, observers are asked not to work, play, attend school or shop. Unity and prayer are encouraged, flyers said.

The Million Man March Committee meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

For more information, call the Million Man March Committee at 647-0404.

Elders

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 cases involved blacks. And national statistics on the issue are not readily available.

Deanna Taha, project director of Senior Protective Services, a division of the Clark County Social Services, said about five percent of her department's cases involve blacks, but every case does not involve abuse.

"Abuse is under-reported among blacks, because there were 78 referrals involving blacks for all of Clark County. That seems like very low statistics when there's over a million people in Clark County," Taha said.

In literature from the California State Attorney General's Office, it was estimated that one out of six elderly persons has been abused, neglected, or exploited, and Senior Protective Services didn't receive nearly that many reports, she said.

There are two overriding reasons why Taha's agency may receive information on only a few of the thousands of abuse cases they believe occur in Clark County each year.

One reason is some victims, especially in a crisis situation, go directly to the police, and those figures may not be included in state data. Secondly many victims don't report the

problem. The victim may afraid to turn in their abuser, because they may want to avoid the shame may people feel when they admit the problem. This is especially true for the men, Greene said.

Or they are not sure what will happen to them, especially if they can no longer care for themselves. Short of a nursing home, there may be no where else for them to go, experts said.

Another surprising but universal reason victims don't report abuse is denial. They just don't want to believe their babies will do this to them, again, Greene said.

"When you have these elder abuse cases and (the perpetrators are) not high on crack or drunk, they are driving (their parents) around town or doing things any good kid would do," Greene said.

And, "unlike children, we don't have the right to go in the home and remove the person. As an adult they have the right to stay," unless they are declared to be incompetent, Taha said.

Police face a similar problem.

"If the victim is competent, and they usually are," Green said, "and (if) they don't want to participate (in criminal proceedings), they don't have to."

That means police must

thoroughly investigate crimes on the scene in case victims change their minds about testifying. It also means that anonymous tips from the public are vital, experts said.

When someone calls either 9-1-1 or the Senior Protective Services, all information gathered is strictly confidential, experts said.

Penalties for the crime are severe when officials are able to build a solid case.

Like child abuse, abuse of the elderly is a felony offense, said state Chief of Elder Rights Elizabeth Kolkoski.

That means perpetrators of all ages can receive up to \$25,000 in fines and up to 20 years in prison for more serious cases.

For more information about elder abuse or to report a suspected case, call Senior Protective Services at 455-4291.

Freedom

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 to sign up as an intern, or how you may obtain a Freedom School Curriculum Guide, call 202-662-3516.

Marian Wright Edelman is the president of the Children's Defense Fund, and a leader of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC), whose mission is to leave no child behind.

Money

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 amount.

To avoid the 20 percent withholding requirement, request that your employer forward your retirement money directly to your new employer's retirement plan or to a rollover IRA.

What is likely to happen to my health benefits?

At one time, many early retirement offers included company-paid health benefits. But with health costs on the rise, don't count on it. If you work for a company that has 20 or more covered employees, you're entitled to COBRA coverage which allows you to pay the cost of your health insurance at the same rate the company pays, plus a small administrative fee. COBRA coverage lasts at least 18 months. After that, you'll have to look for private coverage until you are old enough to qualify for Medicare.

CPAs emphasize that your decision to accept a buyout is one that should be made with great care. But remember, for most of us, early retirement packages are not golden parachutes.

Money Management is a weekly column on personal finance prepared and distributed by the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants.

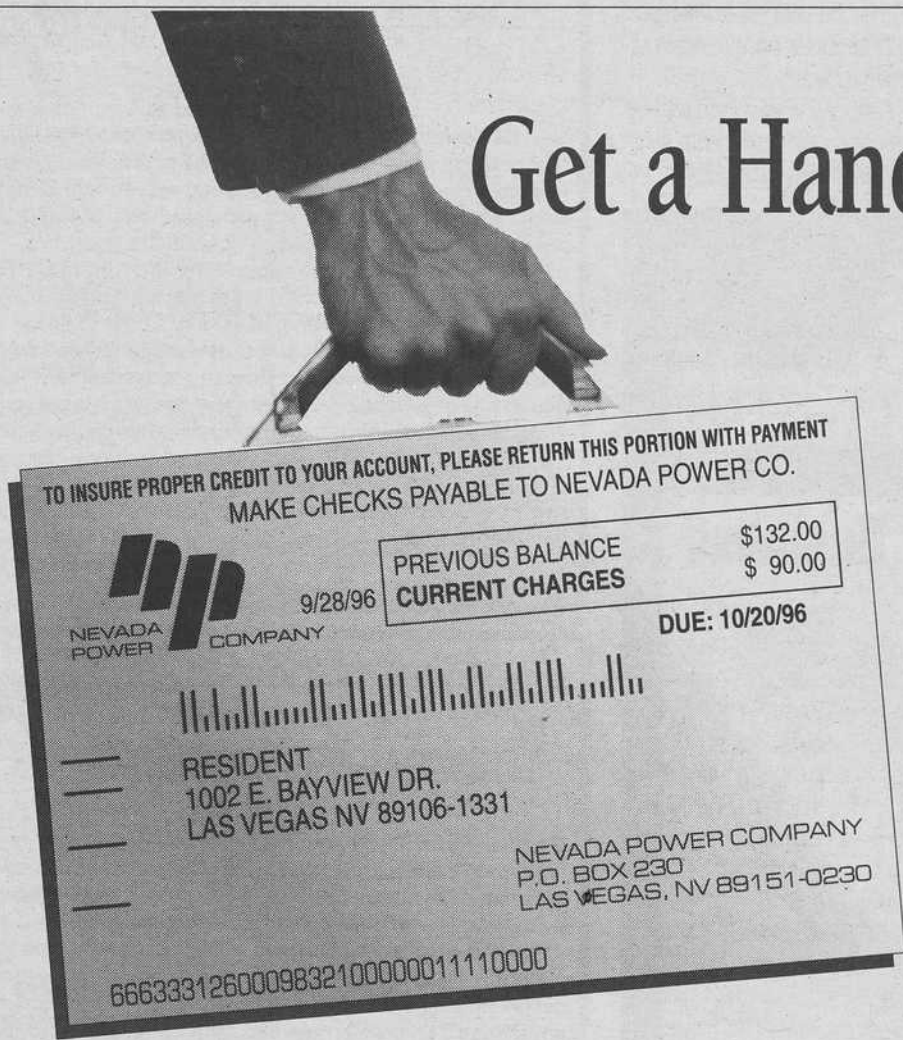
Fujisaki

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Simpson's attorneys on the issue of racial animus will be crucial. And I suspect that's just the way the mainstream media, law professors Stan Goldman (Loyola), Paul Rothstein (Georgetown), talk show hosts Geraldo Rivera, Charles Grodin, Gloria Allred and, I dare say, Fujisaki want it.

Dennis Schatzman, a former district court judge in Pittsburgh, PA., is a legal affairs journalist based in Los Angeles. He is co-author of "The Simpson Case in Black and White".

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