



The Urban Chamber's John Phillips, left, and President Harvey Phelps, far right, greet Joshua Smith at Friday's luncheon. Photo by Savoy LVS/Voice

Smith captures Urban Chamber crowd

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

If you're not the developer, the entrepreneur or the investor, then you're not in control and the work you're doing is just a job, said Joshua Smith, guest speaker March 28th at the first luncheon of the Urban Chamber of Commerce.

"You can't come to a football game dressed for soccer, if you do, you're going to get hurt. At this point, the black community is not equipped for economic gain because it is lacking the 'proper equipment, the proper dress,'" he said.

The black community will get no benefit from development until it is in a position to participate by ownership and investment, Smith said.

Smith is chairman and CEO

of the MAXIMA Corporation, a 19 year-old computer systems and management information products and services firm which employs 700 people.

Based in Maryland, MAXIMA serves the private sector as well as federal, state and local clients in over 30 states.

Smith said community's efforts are often wasted and that energy could be used to better serve blacks by building, investing and supporting black businesses.

An example he used is the reaction to the "n" word, a word blacks also use.

A few weeks ago, he recalled, the NAACP was protesting the use of word. However, while watching a late night comedy show on television, he repeatedly heard the n-word used by black

comedians.

"On one hand, we are marching against the use of this word, on the other hand, these comedians were using the word and laughing while sending it into American homes where 95% of the

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Surviving tax season with these stay-healthy strategies

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The weeks before April 15 are a taxing time; stress runs high as you search for receipts, figure out forms and, if you owe Uncle Sam, scrape together cash.

Getting caught up in the tax time frenzy can also mean ignoring the basics to good health like proper eating, exercise and rest. Try these stay-healthy tips to glide through this tax season with many happy returns.

Audit Your Eating Habits

Stress can take its toll, but a healthy diet helps keep your body at its best.

- Eat a wide variety of foods each day - consume plenty of breads, cereals, rice, pasta, fruits and vegetables. Enjoy moderate amounts of low-fat milk, yogurt and cheese and lean meat, poultry and fish. Go light on fats such as butter, margarine, salad dressing and oil, and on sweets such as sugar, candy, jelly and soft drinks.

- Keep energy at its peak by eating meals and snacks on a regular schedule.

- If you are like most Americans and aren't eating a proper, well balanced diet every day, consider taking a complete and balanced multivitamin/mineral supplement.

Make Time To Exercise

When you are busy and stressed, exercise may be one of the first things to get dropped from your schedule.

- Try to incorporate exercise into your regular routine. For

likely going to be run over and left in the dust."

Price saw capitalism at full throttle on an 8-and-a-half-day, 3-continent world tour. He visited Moscow, Russia's capital city, and witnessed its Western-style makeover. In Bangalore, India, he saw more computer software programmers than in California's Silicon Valley. Despite a communist government, Price found a robust entrepreneurial spirit among Hanoi's people. And a visit to Hong Kong only reinforced the city's image as a vibrant center of capitalism.

African Americans must develop a similar zest for economic independence, Price said.

Harnessing their entrepreneurial energy will allow African Americans to create more businesses, thus creating more opportunity,

Price said. African Americans need also be movers and shakers in corporate America, Price said.

By utilizing and investing their resources, African Americans can take active roles in building their communities, Price said.

Price urged parents, educators and elected officials to stimulate achievement in African American youth.

"If we, in the black community, allow our youngsters to become drags on the economy and drains on society, then we, as people, will as well," Price said.

Price said African Americans to not be deterred from climbing to the frontier of mainstream inclusion.

"The vastness of that space shouldn't deter us," he said. "It should energize us."

"We've got a lot of ground to cover. Let's get started."

BUSINESS

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Urban League promotes aggressive black capitalism

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Declaring that African Americans are on the verge of full inclusion into the American mainstream, the president of the National Urban League urged black America to intensify its efforts to gain economic strength.

"African Americans are still on the frontier," NUL President Hugh Price said. "And our journey to a place of security and safety is just as challenging today as it was in the early and middle decades of this century."

Price said African Americans need to think globally, harness their entrepreneurial energy, utilize and invest their resources and assure African-American youth a world-class education. He urged black America to get started doing just that.

"The world is on the march economically," Price said. "And those who do not march in step with it are more than

Real Estate Perspective

By Loretta Arrington Hall



April is Fair Housing Month

April has been proclaimed as Fair Housing Month in the State of Nevada, joining the Nationwide recognition of the passage of this eminent legislation of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, popularly known as the Fair Housing Act.

As African-Americans, we, especially should acknowledge and become fully aware of the connotations this piece of legislation has had on housing discrimination. Can you imagine not being able to live where you choose to live? I know that housing discrimination still exists, however, now there's a law prohibiting it, whereas, before 1968 there was no law and African-Americans civil rights were routinely violated. The Fair Housing Act is extremely significant to our lives. We should do what ever we can to help ensure that deliberate discriminatory practices are eliminated and enforced, not only for us, but for all people.

Brief history on the creation of the Fair Housing Act; In 1968, Congress voted that discrimination in housing based upon race, color, religion or national origin is against the law. In 1974, Congress prohibited discrimination based on sex. Recognizing that the enforcement of Title VIII had not been adequate, Congress amended it in 1988 to prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons and families with children and to authorize the federal government to bring cases against people accused of discriminatory housing practices. The amended law also provides the same statutory protection to victims of AIDS.

The majority of Realtors and builders are committed to complying with the Fair Housing law. They understand that there's no room in our industry for housing discrimination. Fair Housing isn't just a matter of good business. It's a matter of basic human rights. People have a right to live where they can afford to live, and Realtors have an obligation and commitment to protect that right. I feel it's more than a business commitment, it's a moral commitment. Just do what's right!

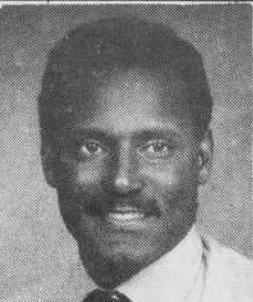
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Loretta Arrington Hall, Owner/Broker, Arrington & Associates Real Estate Company.

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