

Author chastizes governing leaders

By Yvette Zmaila

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Black author Ezola Foster urged listeners and fellow members of the John Birch Society to return to religious values during a recent Las Vegas speech.

Foster told the crowd that by failing to rely on God, America, and Blacks especially, are suffering. She also took time out to defend the society during the speech at the West Charleston Library.

Foster, the author of *What's Right for all Americans* published most recently in 1995, relayed convictions garnered from 30 years

of teaching in the inner-city schools of South Central Los Angeles.

She said the United States is a constitutional republic who urgently needs to return its focus to "family, God and America."

In a calm and assured voice, Foster dismissed the notion that members of The John Birch Society are racist. She emphasized that black Americans are being misled by "media-ordained black leaders" to believe that the society's members belong to some "African-based culture" group.

Conversely, she said, the society is comprised of Americans who are being "divorced" from the mainstream culture after years of fighting for

desegregation and freedom.

Foster said America is regressing, because of its lack of faith in God, to colonialism.

But instead of slavery, she said the institutions are family decay, degradation and dependency.

She pointed to Watts and South Los Angeles as examples of areas where black leadership is abundant but crime, violence, poor educational outcomes and other social problems are still the norm.

Foster attributes this lack of positive change, again, to the absence of divine reliance which breeds morals, parental rights and values education.

She said programs such as: diversity training, school-based health clinics, values and behavior modification and others that "take-over" our children's beliefs are not only wrong, but also immoral.

When the state tries to raise children, they interfere with what parents believe is "right" for their family unit, she said.

She said the American government, with its big-brother attitude, is on pace to creating a socialist slave-state where people meet the needs of government rather than government filling their role in protecting citizens' rights to life, liberty and privacy.



EZOLA FOSTER

Mother protests mock slave auction

Special to Sentinel-Voice

TORRANCE, Calif. — Angered by a proposed mock slave auction, the mother of a black teen-ager is demanding that a school drop the auction from its curriculum.

History teachers instituted the auction, they said, to show the students the horror of the institution.

Gestine Uzor said her 15-year-old daughter, Natalie Jackson, wept when she talked about taking part in the role-playing exercise on Oct. 22 at West High School in this Los Angeles suburb.

"All the kids took the auction as a joke," Jackson said. "I kept thinking, 'Am I the only person who feels angry about this?'"

One of three black students in the class, Jackson said she went through with the auction anyway because she was embarrassed to tell anyone her feelings.

Uzor is asking the local school district to drop the lesson and publicly apologize to her family.

She also has requested an investigation by the state Education Department's civil rights office.

"I'm not going to let them get away with this," Uzor said. "I don't want this curriculum in school."

The auction, in which students are randomly chosen to play slaves or slave-owners, was instituted three years ago by history teachers Jason Snyder and Drew Hettinger.

"The purpose is to help them understand the cruelty and suffering, both physical and psychological, that slaves were forced to endure," Snyder said.

Hettinger said he asked Natalie if she wanted to portray a slave-owner rather than a slave and she declined.

He also said she never expressed discomfort with the program.

Frank Berry, branch executive for the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the auction is a wrong-headed approach to teaching about slavery.

"Forcing descendants of people who went through this, this is grossly inappropriate," he said.

March

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willingness to establish businesses in safer communities and less family wealth spent on recovering from catastrophe. Remember the critics of the Million Man March who sniffed that the only way it would be successful is if it reduced crime. Well, crime has gone down.

Stretching beyond the African-American community was the achievement of the original purpose of the MMM — the derailment of the Republican Contract with (on) America.

Without the march, there would not have been the presidential resolve to force a government shutdown.

In fact, the march may have had more to do with the re-election of President Clinton and the smaller Republican House majority than all the campaign contributions and soft money. Despite that victory, two big challenges made it through, welfare reform and Proposition 209 in California.

Tackling those challenges will take a repeat of the organizing effort that made the march a reality. The march's greatest success was its ability to empower local organizing coalitions of existing grassroots organizations.

With such extensive organizing, we must continue to support the development of individual families and individual young people, one person at a time.

What we can pool is our votes, our consumer power, our entrepreneurial genius and our spiritual strength. We should atone for not keeping more of what we earn in income. The march goal that goes unmet is the creation of investment funds for Black economic development.

Graduation

(Continued from Page 1)

we'll be working with them on a variety of issues to get their projects up and running in their communities.

"They live in their neighborhoods," she added. "They know what their neighborhoods need. They need to be in constant communication with us in order to tell us what their needs are and what type of services are being overlooked. If they need a program, we can help work with them on partnering to develop it."

To make the program a success, the county created a design team, who over the next year will be looking at how different county departments deliver services.

The design team is made up of individuals from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Comprehensive Planning, Finance and Social Services Departments.

"We're really, really excited about the outcome, and the fact that 26 (out of 30 people) graduated," said Shannon West, of Clark County Social Services and a member of the design team.

"The people who came stuck in there, they came to 30

hours worth of sessions (10 weeks—three hours each one) and each person was able to actually stand up before the group and pledge what their action plan would be and what their mission would be and what they plan to do in their community."

Each graduate has been assigned a County liaison to aid them when needed. West, who helped develop the curriculum, said the liaison will be serve as a resource and sounding board.

"The citizens that we had — it was really exciting to see them involved, not only as individuals, but as a team, because when you look around, you see how diverse the group was," she added.

"I thought the classes were very informative, and there was a lot of information I wouldn't have found out about if it hadn't been for the college," said graduate Antoinette Mims.

Other graduates included class Valedictorian Michael Ray Lloyd, Louise Banks, Myra Overly, Kelly Stanley, Larry Bertsch, Jose Maria Estrada, Francisca Avila, Aurora Alcopar, Gordon Thiesen, Cassandra Williams, J.C.T. Wang, Ellen Skinner,

Al Gallego, Tomiko Barnes, Diana Madrid, Benjamin Carrera Avilla, Curtis Alexander, Joyce Sargent, Jean Peyton, Eva Landeros, Sandra Moore, John Pacheco, Dennis Ardine and Jack Hurley.

Recruitment for the next Neighborhood College class is already underway.

Any resident interested in an application packet can contact Clark County Neighborhood Services at 455-3530. The second session of the Neighborhood College is scheduled to begin in January 1998. Class size will be limited to 30 participants.



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