

Diversity

(Continued from Page 2) going to have to put the skill set in the hands of those who we are going to count on to be the doctors, the lawyers, the research scientists and the business managers, just like we did to those immigrants who came across from Ireland, Poland, Italy and Russia," he said. "But there's one problem. This (new) group is different — they are of color, and in our country we have a major problem with the issue of race."

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Gray's own background in education is extensive. He has been a faculty member and professor of history and

religion at St. Peter's College, Jersey City State College, Montclair State College, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Temple University.

Gray also attended Franklin and Marshall College, where he earned a B.A. in 1963. He received a masters degree in divinity in 1963 from Drew Theological Seminary and a masters degree in theology in 1970 from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has also been awarded nearly 60 honorary degrees from America's leading colleges and universities.

"When we talk about

diversity in America today — on the eve of the new millennium — we are in the very beginning of a long and complex struggle to do nothing less than undo the American past," added panelist Halberstam, whose last nine books have all been major best sellers.

"The playing field has never been equal, and we must understand that we are the only one of the developed nations in the world, that had its colonial era on native soil."

From yet another perspective, Chavez, president of the Center for Equal Opportunity in Washington, D.C., and

former White House Director of Public Liaison (1985) and director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (1983-85), questions whether or not we as a nation have a sense of self — as one people, one nation — when it comes to integrating immigrants into America as we enter the 21st Century.

"Are we a people with a common language and common culture?" she asks. "A people that welcomes others from many different places, but presume that those who come here searching for a better life for themselves and their children, will in fact become part of us? Or do we,

in our education policies, begin to encourage people not to integrate into the whole, but rather to hold onto their language, to their culture, to their ethnic and racial identity? This, I think, is a deep challenge for us, because it will, in fact, determine who we are to be as a nation in the 21st Century."

"If we are to be successful, it means that we have to open the doorway wide for those who are going to be the leaders of the next century," says Gray, the heir to a legacy of education leaders as his father, the late Dr. William H. Gray Jr., served as

president of two black colleges, Florida A&M University and Florida Memorial College, while his mother was a dean at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., and his grandfather a professor, as is his sister.

"It's not going to be easy. Justice is never easy. I'm not talking about fairness. I'm talking about justice. And justice is what's going to be needed if we are to be successful at competing in the next millennium, and embrace our differences, embrace that diversity and go on, just as we did when the millions came from Europe."

Las Vegas Arts Commission seeking artist for contest

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Artists 55 and older are invited to submit two- or three-dimensional art work for the Las Vegas Arts Commission's juried competition.

The works must relate to the theme, "Life in Nevada, Then and Now" and must be turned in by 8:30 March 18 to the Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St.

Each artist is limited to one piece ready to hang or display, with two-dimensional works no larger than 30 inches on any side and three-dimensional works no larger than a 14-inch base and 20-feet in height. All media, except video, electronic, kinetic and performance will be accepted.

Winners will be announced at a public reception in the art center's ballroom from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21. There are six prizes, ranging from a \$1,000 first prize to two \$100 awards for earning honorable mention. Winning pieces will tour public facilities for up to eight months. Up to 34 additional pieces, as selected by a juror, will be on display during the reception.

Artists must pick up their entries between 3 and 4:30 p.m. March 21 or 1 to 8:30 p.m. March 22. The schedule for touring works will be available at the reception.

A submission by an artist is an agreement that should his or her work be awarded a prize, the artist will allow the work to travel and won't hold the City of Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Arts Commission liable for damage to the work or its theft.

Those interested can call 229-4631 or 229-6844.

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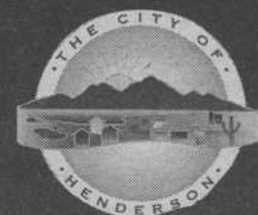
Don't
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TALKING or I'll
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Junebug celebrates the African-American artistic expression along with the art of storytelling. *Don't Start Me To Talking...* is a journey through history from the struggles of escaped slaves, that uses original and traditional stories and music to explore how African-American and Appalachian people deal with racism and a history of similar conditions.

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