

## Branch

(Continued from Page 11) other positions in the gaming industry, and in assuring the desegregation of the public schools.

However, what is puzzling to us as newcomers, given what must have been the unity required to bring about changes in the 1960s in a state known as "The Mississippi of the West," is, why do so many (fortunately not

all) longtime African-American residents exhibit attitudes which make newcomers feel unwelcome?

Folks, there is no possible way the problems we face today can be solved by our remaining divided by geographic locations, levels of education, economic status and length of residency.

If the type of attitude referenced continues to be dis-

played, who knows if a group of persons living up in Summerlin could come up with a solution for the plight of our students who are at the bottom of the achievement heap in the Clark County School District? Who knows if a group out in Henderson could come up with an economic game plan to close the \$10,000 gap between black family income and that of our

white counterparts, in light of the fact that we have more average years of education? Who knows if a group in West Las Vegas could come up with a message whereby more than 15 percent of us would be moved to go to the polls and vote our interests?

My people, who knows? For our sake, it had better be someone other than "The Shadow" who knows!

## Ofari

(Continued from Page 11) leader, Medgar Evers.

Alabama authorities are trying to reconcile its deadly past by bringing to trial Thomas Blanton, Jr. for the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1956 that killed four Black girls. In other Southern states, prosecutors have gotten or are seeking convictions in 19 cases for the murder of Blacks or civil rights workers in the 1960s.

Economic Pain. The NAACP claimed that its much publicized boycott of South Carolina last year to force state officials to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol building drained \$100 million from the state's

tourist industry. But the boycott was a double-edged sword for some Blacks.

Several presidents of historically Black colleges, Black politicians, food and service company owners and entertainment promoters privately complained that the boycott badly pinched their purse, and cost jobs for Blacks. In Mississippi, a similar boycott could be even worse for Blacks.

The tourism industry bankrolls a major part of the state's budget. It reduces the yearly tax bill by about \$250 for all Mississippi residents. The gaming industry nets about \$3.1 billion and provides 10 percent of the state's

budget. A hit against it would also increase taxes, and force job lay-offs.

The state legislature and business groups have cut deals with car plants, hi-tech companies, and manufacturing companies to relocate, or build new plants, in the state. These industries would create thousands of jobs and benefits for Blacks. A boycott could jeopardize those deals.

Sideshow Issue. In 1999 Mississippi Blacks ranked at rock bottom in income in America and or at or near the top in school dropout, infant mortality, and victim of violence rates in the nation. In the past decade, dozens of

Mississippi Black farmers have had their farms foreclosed on by bankers and government agencies.

The state's historically Black colleges waged a twenty-six year titanic legal battle to force the state to equalize spending. Even if Mississippi state officials defied the popular vote and dumped the flag in a museum, it would be a pyrrhic victory. It would not save one Black farm, improve failing public schools, increase funds for Black colleges, create more jobs, or reduce poverty.

The thousands of Mississippi Blacks that backed the old Confederate flag understood that.

## Clingman

(Continued from Page 11) especially within the ranks of our youth.

Our Black entertainers could do the same thing, for instance, by standing on stage at the upcoming Cincinnati Music Festival and declaring their outrage at what is taking place in this city.

They can make a statement of support for their brothers and sisters here who are fighting for social, economic, and justice on all levels. Wouldn't that be something to behold?

Now, for all the Black conventioners, conferees, event attendees, and visitors to Cincinnati, you can also play a role in this debacle. You bring millions of dollars to our city, the vast majority of which goes to non-Black owned businesses. Make it a point to

seek out Black owned businesses in which to spend your money while you are here, please. As a matter of fact, the Blacks in Criminal Justice annual conference will be here in July. I hope and trust they will make a statement as well and maybe adopt a formal position against what is happening in Cincinnati.

You see, there is something for everyone in this tragedy. From Ken Griffey, to Barry Larkin, to Pattie LaBelle, to Frankie Beverly and Maze, (Remember "Ain't gonna play Sun City"?), to visitors and conferees. We can all hit grand slams for our people by simply standing against wrong and standing up for what is right - unapologetically and unwavering in our resolve - no matter the small sacrifice each

of us must make.

As hard as I try, I cannot begin to understand what goes through the mind of a millionaire whose family is financially secure for life and even for generations to come. I will never be in that position, and I rejoice in the success of Black people who are. Maybe I am not aware of what they have to lose if they stand up for their brothers and sisters. Maybe I am just naive about their particular situations. Or, maybe I am right in my position. Maybe, if all of us would elevate our consciousness, our love, and our trust for one another, we would be much better off collectively.

I would like to see all Black athletes, entertainers and others make a collective statement about what is hap-

pening not only in Cincinnati but also across this country. That's the kind of Grand Slam I would love to read about.

Where have you gone, Jim Brown, Bill Russell, Muhammad Ali, Tommy Smith, John Carlos, and Curt Flood? Please come back and teach our young how to stand up and be Black.

## Sullivan

(Continued from Page 10)

Sullivan Principles, ethical guidelines for multinational companies to follow in the new global economy. The United Nations have endorsed them, and about 100 American companies have pledged to follow them.

As the news of Reverend Sullivan's death in Phoenix, Arizona, where he had lived since 1988 spread, United Nations Secretary-General Kofu Annan, said that "the bold and innovative role he played in the global campaign to dismantle the system of apartheid in South Africa ... [demonstrated] how much one individual can do to change lives and societies for the better."

For all of that his towering figure in African-American and American history accom-

plished, that's his most important legacy, for it bespeaks his awesome intellect and vision, his bravery, and his unswerving commitment.

In its editorial tribute last week, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, noting that OIC and Progress Plaza have not lived up to the promise they once displayed, said that the "marks of the [Reverend Sullivan] are not without shadow."

But it went on to conclude "Prophets do not wave a magic wand. They point the way, hard though it may be. Prophets do not live forever. They count on us to complete the journey."

Committing ourselves to completing his tasks is the best way we can pay homage to Leon H. Sullivan.

## Curry

(Continued from Page 11)

presence, slavery was indispensable to the settlement and development of the New World."

During the early colonial period, the African slave experience was not unlike that of White indentured servants. But the rise of plantation agriculture in the South was accompanied by a far harsher era of slavery.

"In the southern colonies, the consolidation of plantation agriculture in the late 17th and early 18th centuries and the achievement of political dominance by the planter class inaugurated a new and far harsher era of slavery, in which avenues to freedom were effectively curtailed," Foner explains.

The American Revolution prompted widespread public debate on the slavery issue. Britain offered freedom to slaves who joined their cause and nearly 100,000 Blacks accepted the offer. Thousands more enlisted in the Revolutionary Army. By the end of the 19th century, all Northern states had provided for the gradual emancipation of slaves. By contrast, no Southern state followed suit and "In the end, slavery not only survived the Revolution but in some ways emerged from it strengthened," Foner points out.

It wasn't until the Union's victory in the Civil War that equality was considered a birthright of all Americans regardless of race. During the Reconstruction Era that followed the Civil War, the federal government sought to defend the rights of African-Americans. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 was passed. That same year, Congress approved the 14th Amendment, establishing equal rights for all Americans (it was ratified two years later). In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, barring states from using race as a qualification for voting.

"Reconstruction lasted only a little more than a decade," Foner recalls. "By 1877, White supremacy had returned to the South and the federal government soon abandoned the responsibility for protecting the rights of Black citizens...Beginning with Mississippi in 1890, every southern state amended its laws or constitution to disenfranchise the Black population."

Foner concludes, "Since the earliest days of colonial settlement, race has been a crucial line in the division in American society. For two and a half centuries, the large majority of African-Americans were held in slavery, and even after emancipation were subjected to discrimination in every aspect of their lives. Other minority groups have suffered severe inequities as well. Today, while the nation has made great progress in eradicating the 'color line,' the legacy of slavery and segregation remains alive in numerous aspects of American society."

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Las Vegas, Nevada is recruiting for:  
**Part-time YPL/Children's Services Assistant**

Salary Range is \$13.06 to \$17.87 Hourly  
Bachelor's Degree; computer experience; library or public contact experience; experience working with children or completing classes in children's literature and child development; must possess, or have the ability to obtain, a valid Nevada Driver's license at the time of hire. For complete job announcement visit our web site at <http://www.lvccl.org> or apply in person at LVCCLD Human Resources Department, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Application deadline: Wednesday, May 9, 2001.

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### LEGALS

Regional Transportation  
Commission of  
Southern Nevada

Uniform Standard Drawings  
and Specifications for Public  
Works' Construction Offsite  
Improvements, Clark County  
Area, Nevada

Section 610 "Slope and Channel Protection" of the Uniform Standard Specifications for Public Works' Construction Offsite Improvements, Clark County Area, Nevada has been revised by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada. The revisions to the sections listed above were approved by the RTC on April 12, 2001 and will become effective on May 1, 2001. Please refer to the RTC website at [www.rtc.co.clark.nv.us](http://www.rtc.co.clark.nv.us) for the specific changes made to the specifications. If you desire a printed copy of the revisions, you may pick it up at no charge from our offices at 600 South Grand Central Parkway, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the RTC at (702) 676-1500.

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