

News

(Continued from Page 6)

Ed Gordon," on which former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott appeared to express contrition over racially insensitive remarks about Strom Thurmond. The Sunday morning show "Lead Story" and public affairs program "Teen Summit" were also axed.

BET reported this week that its ratings in January were the highest in the network's 23-year history.

Debra Lee, BET's president, said she doubts that an all-news channel aimed at blacks can be successful. People admire public affairs programming but don't necessarily watch it, she said. And building a news network is expensive, she added, one reason that BET is partners with fellow Viacom-owned CBS News for some programming. "I think it's interesting," Lee said. "I just don't know how they make it work."

Major Broadcasting, which once emphasized its connection to gospel music, renounces sex and violence in its programming. Its Web site calls MBC "Your Family's Urban Television Network."

BET, meanwhile, has been criticized for airing salacious music videos and comedies.

But could a faith-based philosophy lead MBC News to pull its punches in news coverage?

Gary said he would not be interested in showing pictures, for example, of a shooting in a black community. But he said, "We're not going to censor the news. With the news you have to call it the way you see it."

MBC would not say how many journalists would be brought on. The network will save money by sharing personnel with a Tallahassee, Fla.-based cable news network, said programming director Travis Mitchell.

Curry

(Continued from Page 13)

that did not stop him from acting.

Unable to persuade Congress to support him, including then-Congressman Lyndon D. Johnson of Texas, and upset with the reports of increasing violence directed against Black veterans returning from war, Truman issued two executive orders that would transform the face of the federal workforce.

On July 26, 1948, Truman issued Executive Order 9980 and 9981.

The latter has received the most attention because it required the immediate desegregation of all military service branches. Dorothy Height, who served more than 40 years as president of the National Council of Negro Women, observed, "Harry Truman's integration of the armed services represented the most significant advance for the civil rights of Black Americans since President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation."

Though it did not receive as much attention as its companion directive, Executive Order 9980 dramatically altered the composition of the federal workforce. It removed the policy

Civil rights leader decries Coble remark

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - A North Carolina congressman meant no disrespect when he made comments this week approving of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, a spokeswoman said last week.

Rep. Howard Coble "was trying to make the point that the internments were as much for the Japanese-Americans' own safety as for national security," spokeswoman Missy Branson said. Americans during the war "weren't as tolerant and understanding of other cultures as we are today," she said.

"He didn't mean it in any way discriminatory to Japa-

nese-Americans at all. I think he's made that clear."

Coble, who chairs the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, angered Arab-Americans and Japanese-Americans for comments he made during a radio call-in show.

The Republican disagreed with a caller who suggested putting all Arabs in the United States into prison camps, but said he agreed with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to put 120,000 Japanese-Americans in internment camps during World War II.

In the 1980s, the United

States apologized for the internments and gave surviving internees \$20,000 each in reparations.

Coble has said his remarks were not intended to insult any ethnic or religious groups. But neither his nor his spokeswoman's explanation satisfied Mary Frances Berry, chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, who said Coble should apologize.

"For a public official to be speaking this way could send a signal to people about how they might be treated," said Berry, a Democrat who was in Charlotte for a briefing on the effect education reforms have had on civil rights.

Arab-American groups have decried Coble's remarks, as well as comments made last week by Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C. In talking about domestic security threats, Myrick referred to Arab-Americans by saying, "Look at who runs all the convenience stores across the country."

Democrats have stepped up their criticism of Republicans on civil rights since December, when Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., appeared to praise Strom Thurmond's pro-segregation 1948 presidential campaign. Lott was forced to give up the Senate majority leader post he was about to reassume.

Lock Up

(Continued from Page 9)

brothas of Black Ty were cool. The buzz appeared to be Vice. They informed me that the erotic dance law had been violated. Though the young lady said the show

would not be shut down, to me, it didn't appear to recover.

Now my favorite took the stage by storm — that is, the popular Bodacious. Though he was strong and hard he

had a soft and gentle groove. Two women went on stage and he pretty much proved he was a sexy, strong contortionist.

I want this piece to make it through editing. So, use your imagination.

Things appeared to be going well, with a break that stretched a little past the comfort zone; but, remember, it was still a gentlemen's club, and they were definitely trying to sell drinks.

The DJ began to attempt to soothe the restless crowd. We were even told, "no touching from the G-string to the 'ring-a-ling'" ...or whatever

you call it.

Ladies, let me put it to you like this. Those brothas were built; cut from stone, looked good; but did not come to the entertainment capital of the world to go to jail.

I left when I realized Vice was not letting up. I heard through the grapevine that some locals came on, but you'll have to catch them another time.

Black Ty Promotions has brought in the best. If you have an appreciation for the male physique, then you will have an appreciation for any upcoming Ladies Lock Up. Somebody, turn up that air!

Walters

(Continued from Page 13)

Rights Project has confirmed a recent U. S. Civil Rights Commission report that denounced the percentage plans, saying they were reshaping higher education by re-segregating Black and Hispanic students into less selective institutions. Enrollment figures show students losing places at the University of California-Berkeley and UCLA, and slightly fewer loses at Rice University in Texas. Before affirmative action was eliminated in these states, Black students were 6.7 percent of the freshman class at Berkeley, now 3.9 percent; and Rice saw a 46 percent drop in Black student enrollment.

This Plessy-style Supreme Court, with Clarence Thomas in the lead, is poised to do a job on the Michigan case and we can expect a 5-4 decision to restrict affirmative action in higher education.

Now comes Stephen Cole, a professor at State University of New York-Stonybrook, who argues in a soon-to-be-released book, *Increasing Faculty Diversity*, that there are so few Black professors, not because they experience racism in getting into graduate school, but because affirmative action has steered them to institutions where they fail to do well. How then, does he explain the more than 80 percent graduation rate by Blacks from such institutions?

Finally, Bush has just released his budget proposals and we find that he would raise the defense budget by more than 19 percent and cut poverty programs, reducing community services funding for dispossessed neighborhoods by 25 percent. This new brand of compassionate conservatism looks like the old Reagan conservatism to me.

We are experiencing déjà vu all over again. But where will the challenge that Du Bois launched in *The Souls of Black Folk* and in his activism come from today?

Ron Walters is a Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Overstreet

(Continued from Page 12)

of minority and female workers. The State of Nevada Department of Labor should be the public agency charged with gathering data. A Community Employment Accountability Coalition (CEAC) should be formed to review the data gathered, analyzed and published by the Nevada Department of Labor, and make recommendations for any needed plans for improvement.

2. The federal and state departments of labor should actively pursue remedies for effectively desegregating Nevada's apprenticeship programs.

3. A formal request should be made to Nevada's Congressional Delegation to have the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights perform an in-depth study of the failure of federal EEO efforts in Nevada as administered by the Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

Social Services

1. The issue of the plight of the homeless should be looked at in a comprehensive manner by a task force comprised of all the stakeholders who are impacted by this growing societal matter.

2. Ways to make childcare learning environments affordable for the working poor must be identified.

3. A "watchdog" group should be established to sniff out media bias in the reporting of hard news.

Criminal Justice System

1. A comprehensive study needs to be undertaken to determine the following:

- overcharging persons of color for alleged criminal offenses;
- any disparity in the setting of bonds for similar offenses based on race;
- any disparity in the sentencing and time served by persons of different races for the same criminal offense; and,
- any disparity in the granting of parole as a function of race.

2. More efforts should be made to recruit bilingual police academy recruits.

3. Effective intervention programs need to be developed to stem the tide of long-term imprisonment of youthful offenders.

Folks, there you have it! The Urban Chamber "sho" could use your help in working to improve race relations by pursuing the goal of equitable treatment of all citizens living in greater Las Vegas. Please, put on an old Temptations 45, because I "ain't" too proud to beg on this one. It's too important. Do not let your boy down. Call the Urban Chamber (648-6222), and let it know you have got its back on this one!