

OUR VIEW

Arnold Must Go

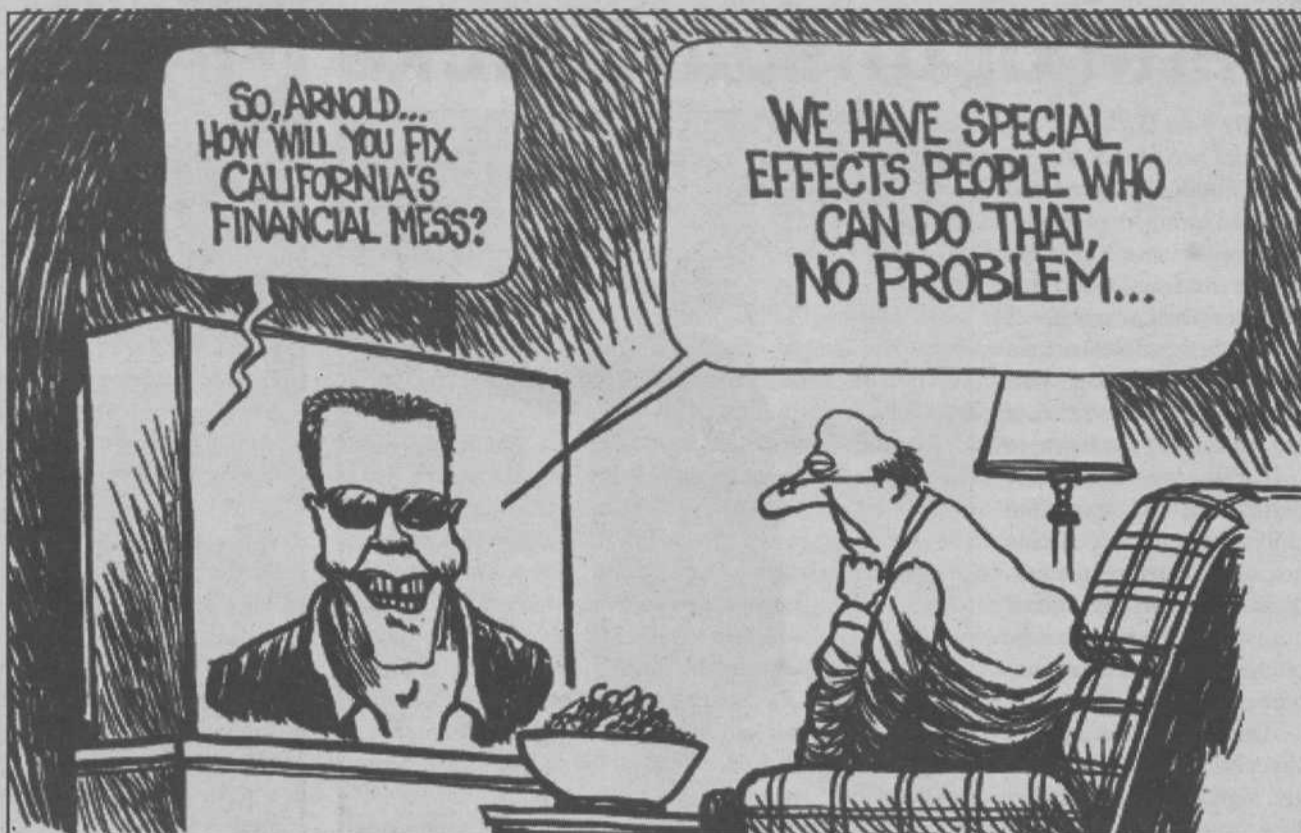
Chinks are beginning to appear in Arnold Schwarzenegger's insuperably souped-up Hollywood armor. The action star turned California gubernatorial candidate is undergoing increasing scrutiny over his political platform, which is inscrutably vague, but more so because of his past sexual peccadilloes, of which there seem to be plenty. If only allegations that he groped women on film sets and fornicated to his libido's content were the worst of it. The most damning transgression involves an event that some might construe as sexual assault. It involved a black woman in 1977 at a Gold's Gym in Venice, Calif.

The former Mr. Universe related the story in an interview with *Oui Magazine*. "Bodybuilders party a lot, and once, in Gold's—the gym in Venice, California, where all the top guys train—there was a black girl who came out naked. Everybody jumped on her and took her upstairs, where we all got together." The interviewer asked if the event was a "gang bang," which Schwarzenegger affirmed. "Yes, but not everybody, just the guys who can (expletive) in front of other guys."

In recent interviews, The Terminator has either casually dismissed the story or avoided comment altogether, giving the appearance of unconcern and raising a Pandora's Box of unresolved character issues. Notes famed Los Angeles attorney and women's rights defender Gloria Allred in an *LA Weekly* article: "There are a number of unanswered questions here that are very serious questions and shouldn't be brushed off. It sounds as though it was a sexual assault or rape because he says everyone jumped on the woman involved and took her upstairs. It doesn't sound consensual, though I don't know for a certainty it wasn't."

Whether a crime was committed or not, Schwarzenegger's callous behavior recalls a time when black female slaves were sexual toys for white male slaveowners, to be played with, fiddled with, then discarded. White men "practiced" on black women, so they could be assured of pleasing their white wives—the thinking being that black women were hypersexed beasts with motorized libidos. It's a racial notion that's withstood Jim Crow's demise, persevered past the advance of civil rights and remained through public sector integration and one that Schwarzenegger and his muscle-bound buddies apparently had no problem trying to exploit. His recount has the effect of sexualizing an entire race of females into "She's Gotta Have It So It's OK to Forcibly Give It To Her" clones. It's racist sexism.

Even more disconcerting than Schwarzenegger's sudden amnesia about the interview is the clarion call by folks spanning the political spectrum—but belonging to the same color spectrum, white—to cut Schwarzenegger some slack, among them former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura (who once visited a Nevada brothel) and Fox News Channel loudmouth Bill O'Reilly. Let sexual bygones be sexual bygones, they argue, his past has no bearing on his political efficacy, not realizing that such a position makes them seem like unfeeling, misogynistic, caveman-esq prudes who see women only for their tangible—and touchable—assets. Perhaps that's what they are. And perhaps that since it was a black woman who was the life of this "party," no real crime was committed. Perhaps that's why Schwarzenegger has never apologized for his behavior. Perhaps he, too, has a bit of racist in him. Perhaps he isn't fit to run the world's sixth largest economy. Perhaps Californians will recognize that he's not fit for governor and do what none of his on-screen enemies have—ensure he doesn't come back.



Civic unity key to helping schools

By Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The lead story that ran above the fold in last week's *Sentinel-Voice*, as well as the editorial position taken by the paper's publisher, may come to represent a tangible demonstration that the heretofore needed, yet largely theoretical concept of our proverbial ship of "community unity," may be finally coming in.

Our history in this country clearly documents and demonstrates all steady and sturdy progress we have experienced as a people is built on a foundation of unity. All others are merely sinking sand. The very cornerstone of any progress, built on a foundation of unity, is that of education.

Courage demonstrated by leaders mentioned below is a testimony to the fact education must serve as the key building block in our advancement in a society that has gone and continues to go to great lengths to impose second-class citizenship on those of us of African descent.

Let me "name names." They are in alphabetical order.

Shirley Barber is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District. The Rev. Spencer Barrett is president of the Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP. Hannah Brown is president of the Urban Chamber of Commerce. Ramon Savoy is publisher of the *Sentinel-Voice*. Wendell P. Williams is speaker pro-tem of the Nevada State Assembly.



LOUIE OVERSTREET

During the half-dozen years that I have resided in Las Vegas, I do not recall a single occasion where two elected African-American officials, heads of the leading civil rights and business organizations, as well as the publisher of the African-American newspaper, were singularly unified.

All were on the same page (pun intended) on a community issue of such great importance.

Concerning the Clark County School District, it is about time the "chickens have come home to roost." While much of the damage done to administrators, teachers and students was done under the dozen-year reign of the former superintendent, the current superintendent has done nothing to stem the tide of oppression that is drowning the aspirations of our people. Before those who seek to make this a Black and brown split thing, let me share with you why this is not the case.

"By pulling your coat and giving you the 4-1-1 on what is the real deal," you will begin to see Superintendent Carlos Garcia plainly. I believe Garcia is an OK dude.

His hands, however, have been tied from "jump street." He is bracketed from above and below by less than benign people and in a number of instances who are out and out racists.

One problem the superintendent is experiencing is not his making. The other problem he is now predictably experiencing is the direct result of his failure to exercise a key prerogative of his office.

The religious-based voting block on the board of trustees, under the guise of a policy of governance, is very cleverly blocking all attempts by Shirley Barber to address the issues to be listed later in this column. Again, this problem is not of Mr. Garcia's making. The problem of his making is that he did not seek the resignation of all direct report holdovers from the insensitive regime of the prior superintendent.

Since he didn't take action when he first hit town, some three years later he is now powerless to make needed changes. He has caretaker status. This is reflected

by a decrease in a number of positive indicators of education and an increase in negative indicators that defines the type of education our students are not receiving.

It is my prediction "the stuff is about to hit the air-circulating machine." You know this is not the saying I wanted to use here. This is, however, a family paper, so your boy couldn't use the more descriptive colloquialism here.

Given the conditions that remain a constant for our people in the school district, understanding what Frederick Douglas observed many years, "without a struggle, there is no progress." Now you understand our four community leaders, with the support of the Black oracle for our community, are now about to engage in some heavy lifting that is going to require the support of a unified community to bring about needed change. Nothing less can be considered a successful outcome.

As reported, the Urban (See Overstreet, Page 12)

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