

OUR VIEW

Put Children First

Our View is the same as that of Dr Marcia Robinson, coordinator of all the wonderful activities of youth development at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. Up front, we would like to see more of what we saw.

What did we see? Something wonderfully surprising happened Friday night when two unique forces in our culture joined at the epicenter of caring service to youth. In the annals of star-studded events, there was enough praise and adulation to go around. Absolutely, it could have been the reason for our being there, but it wasn't.

The point we make is in context. The two unique forces joined together for the night, with a mutual partnership that promises to see the exchange of \$1 million a year, were Brown's Amer-I-Can Foundation and Tony Brown's United Front for Economic Growth. Both entities are motivated, earnest and noble causes that rely on centrifugal force to move forward vision statements.

Those vision statements involve saving our young people from the ravages of the streets and gang violence. Some of those who Jim Brown works with have horror stories to share. Now, they exhort the violence must end. Jim Brown, indeed, if followed, leads socio-economic and educational redevelopment of underprivileged communities and criminally challenged individuals.

United Front for Economic Growth is a compassionate outreach of CMX Sports & Entertainment that hopes to curb the high recidivism rate of African-Americans in America's penal system. CMX is making its ascent as the dominant force in sports and entertainment management.

For years, Robinson has been trying to get community organizers of banquets, which a lot of times cost \$100 per seat, to consider the attendance of young people. At \$100 per seat, the cost is prohibitive for young people and programs designed to develop them into productive and creative citizens. Such organizations just don't have the funds. Robinson has a wealth of experience working with our young people and the big heart required for training up our children in the way they should go.

The gala for Jim Brown's Amer-I-Can achieved the objective of thinking about the children first. While adults milled about the corridor Friday evening, waiting to get into the Lagoon Ballroom at the Mandalay Bay casino, 30 elementary and middle school students were ushered in and led to choice seating near the dais.

Not just a few notables were gathered in the Mandalay Bay, where Jim Brown was being honored as a "legendary pioneer for his athletic achievement and unparalleled contributions to underprivileged communities." Indeed, there was a who's who there to represent and pay their respects to Jim Brown, who as a fullback with the Cleveland Browns set NFL records for rushing yards and yards per carry for a career. Then he went on to star in movies.

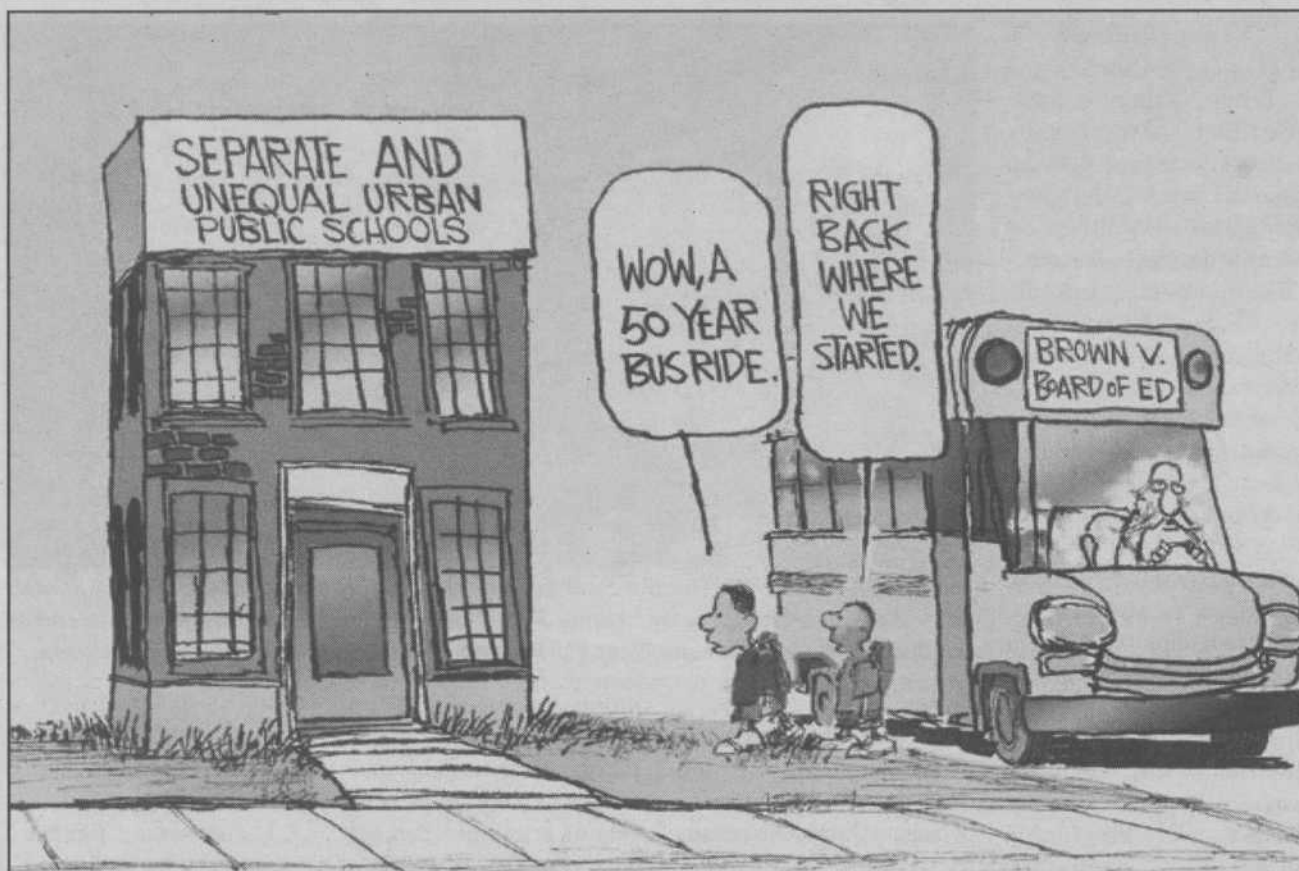
Joe Morgan, a Hall of Fame member of the Cincinnati Reds when the latter were winning World Series as the "Big Red Machine," came to honor Brown. No player owns more NBA rings than Boston Celtics center Bill Russell's 11 championships. He was there, too.

Slender and slicing moves that netted prolific scoring marked George "The Ice Man" Gervin's play in the ABA and NBA. He came to honor Jim Brown, too. Julius Erving, better known as the fabulous "Dr. J," was among the stellar guests. Not to be left out was Willie Gault, who caught touchdown passes from Jim McMahon when the Chicago Bears shuffled to Super Bowl glory following the 1985 season.

Maurice Claret, who led Ohio State to a national football championship two seasons ago as a freshman running back, came with his mother. If the names of these athletes don't the stage for our point, consider, too, that Eddie Levert, the passionate lead voice of the O'Jays for all these years, sat at the rostrum as a friend of Jim Brown. The original John Shaft, Richard Roundtree, had guests scrambling for a photo opportunity.

CMX and Amer-I-Can have provided us with a valuable lesson when it comes to planning a gala event: think of the children first. The valuable intellectual, social and networking skills from such exposure give our young people a head start on joining the business world.

POINT OF VIEW



Prognostications on a tight election

By Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The May 14 filing deadline produced a few surprises and the usual number of "nut cases" seeking public office. 26 African-Americans filed for office; 14 Democrats, three Republicans and nine filed to run in non-partisan races. My early prediction is that 11 of the candidates for public office have no chance of advancing from the Sept. 7 primary on to the Nov. 2 general election.

Nevada Supreme Court contests are non-partisan. Recently appointed Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas should have virtually a walkover victory against Independent-American Party standard bearer Joel Hansen.

The State Senate District 4 seat attracted four Black Democrats to the race. Cedric Crear, Linda Howard, Bert Mack, and Steven Horsford are vying for the seat vacated by Joe Neal. I predict my friend Steven Horsford will emerge victorious from the primary and go on to defeat the Republican candidate in the general election.

Ricky Barlow, who resigned his seat as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas/Clark County Library District, filed for the vacant Assembly District 1 seat. My good buddy has a "puncher's chance" of emerging from a Democratic primary field of four candidates.

The Assembly race that is going to generate the most interest is the one for Assembly District 6 seat presently held by longtime Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams. A



LOUIE OVERSTREET

person who is the "invisible man," especially when it comes to supporting issues impacting the African-American community is challenging my main man, Wendell P. Dr. Cordell Clark is not facing Republican opposition and moves on to the general election.

This race has the potential of shaping politics in the Black community for years to come. The White press has been relentless in its attacks on Wendell. Thus, the race is going to boil down to whether or not the White media can pick our leaders. If the press is successful in carrying out attacks on a Black leader who has been highly effective in delivering for his constituents, then in the future look for Blacks to be elected who are only acceptable to the powers that be. You do not have to be a genius to understand the result will be a slowing of our progress on the road to first-class citizenship for persons of color in Nevada.

Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, will have no difficulty in defeating

Tracey Lewis in the September primary. "Moose" will then go on to easily defeat the Republican candidate on Nov. 2.

Kelvin Atkinson, an incumbent, has no primary opposition for the Assembly District 17 seat. Also, look for Atkinson to go on to defeat the candidate that emerges from the Republican primary race.

Assemblyman William Horne is assured of victory in that he has no Democratic opposition in the primary and Republicans failed to field a candidate for the general election.

Marcia Washington is facing no opposition for returning to the District 3 seat of the Nevada State Board of Education.

Longtime Attorney Tim Williams has a good chance of coming out of a crowded six-person field for the vacant Department 11 District Court seat. Go Tim! In the Justice Court, incumbent Karen Bennett has a better

than even chance of defeating her two primary opponents for the Department 7 seat.

While Attorney Lizzie Hatcher running for Justice of the Peace, Department 9, has decent name recognition based on being a past president of the local National Bar Association in a field of eight candidates, several of which have high name recognition, she has little chance of being elected.

While being a "decent dude," John Stephens has no possibility of coming out of the crowded primary field for Clark County Commission District B.

In the race for Commission District D seat, look for Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates to retain her seat by defeating retiring State Senator Joe Neal in what is an ill-advised bid and what will turn out to be an underfunded campaign on the part of the 32-year senator.

She will then go on to defeat (See Overstreet, Page 12)

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