

**OUR VIEW**

**New day dawns on state politics**

Smoke-filled rooms with fat cats chomping on Stogie Cigars, making back-room deals of you scratch my back and I will scratch yours, are apparently days that can be counted in the past in Nevada. Those days were notorious for service of the few, neglect of many, and disregard of the state's Black community.

The body politic controls state budgets and appropriations from a stream of public entities. For too long now has the awarding of public-sector contracts been business as usual in Nevada and especially in Las Vegas, where the great majority of the state's rapidly growing population resides.

Hopefully the way business has been conducted in the past, especially with the state's largess, can nowadays be counted as a relic. Whatever you think about the great influx of people to Las Vegas and the unprecedented explosive growth — yea or nay — the one thing we all notice is the veritable wealth of experience that is coming with the ingress of folks from some of everywhere.

Simply stated, Our View is crystal clear on the impact we see that new folks and their practiced ways are having in the Las Vegas Valley. Where doors were once closed, there is now a centrifugal force propelled by a spiritual resolve and political savvy that is opening doors once closed.

There is a new day dawning that suggests a great reward for involvement and a peculiar estrangement for those who remain detached. The body politic, perhaps for the first time in the state's ignoble history, is open to the masses. The catalyst for this is not the old guard, if there is such a group, but it's the bold, articulate and hardworking Caucus of African American Nevadans.

The language flowing from the Caucus of African American Nevadans, which prefers the acronym CAAN, is establishing a voice well above the vitriol one is accustomed to hearing coming from frustrated individuals included among the masses of Black folks. Even when isolating the choice of words that presents its case to the public, the voice that CAAN speaks with is both parabolic and formulated for impact.

Those who hear understand parables also understand the images that show the silliness of disunity and the grand mechanism of unity arriving at a purpose. Picture stories are as old as the Bible and are insightful in their display of wisdom. For sure, the ancients are shouting, seeing this new day dawning and the candor that comes with the use of adroit language. At once, words convey power and gentleness.

All the unleashed platitudes set the framework for this. Just over the horizon are an accomplished people with a wonderful dexterity in balancing the two-party system. The art of navigating and engineering politics for the purpose of arresting rights for the Black community is being seen arrayed in a particular magnificence. Time for surrender is now.

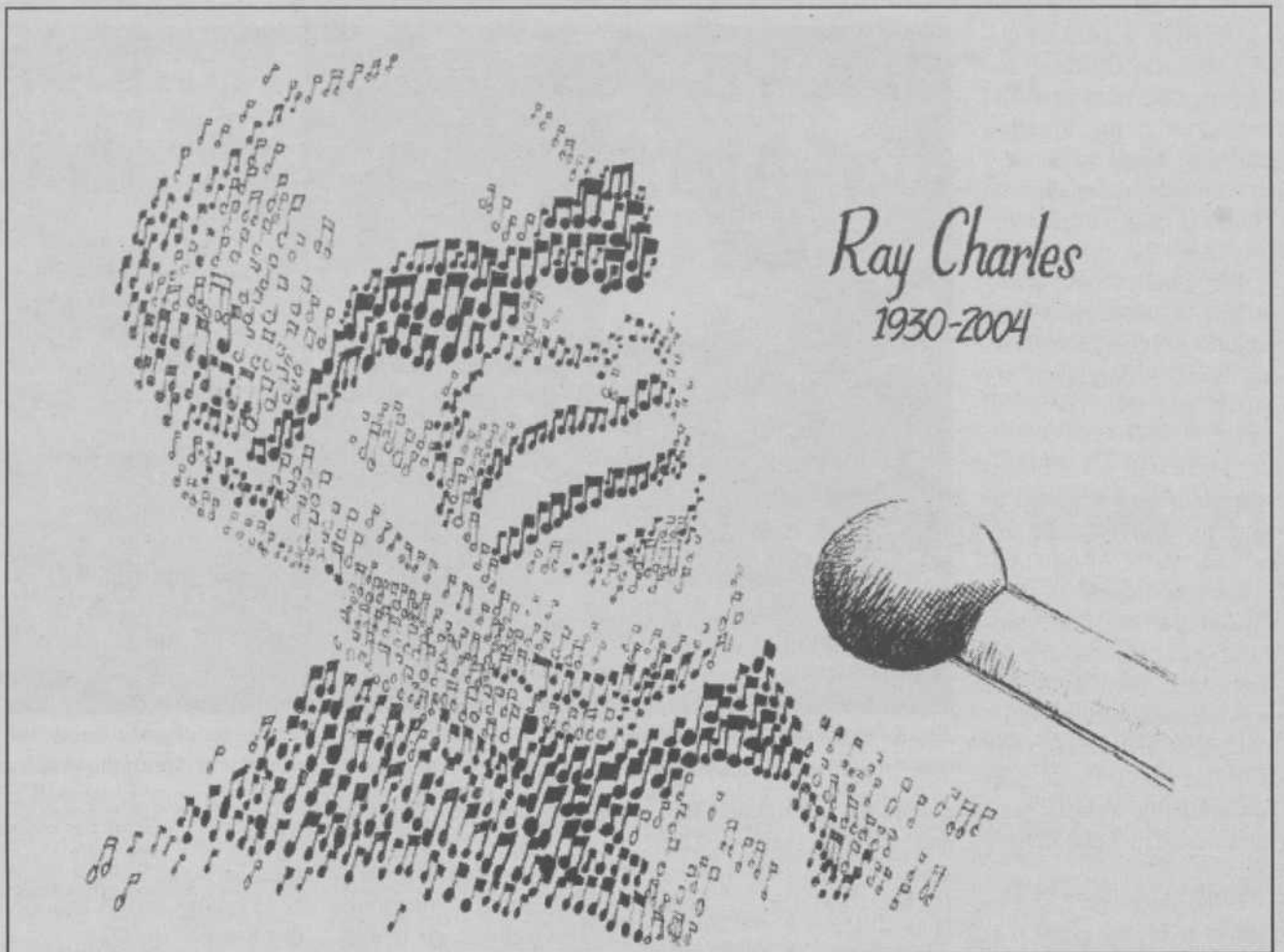
Unity as a strategy is obvious for its benefits, serving as a benefactor for a designated beneficiary. The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Fowler Sr., president of CAAN, speaks in parables in the approach of sunrise.

"A new day is coming," Fowler said at a recent luncheon meeting hosted by CAAN for the purpose of bringing disparate community organizations together. Fowler also declared, "Business as usual will not be the order of the day." That message was meant for the body politic being invited to the sanctuary at Victory Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, June 26, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A wide range of candidates will be given the opportunity to publicly state their positions. After the candidates make their cases and state their positions, then the community will vote endorsements. "If you can't spend one day listening to the candidates who affect your lives directly, then you can't complain when things are not going right.

"Get involved!" said Fowler.

**P O I N T O F V I E W**



**Controversy often comes with truth**

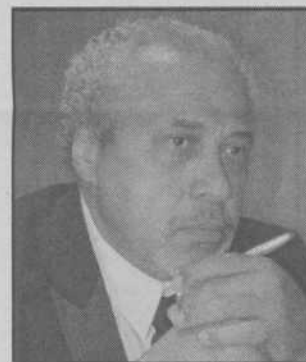
*By Louie Overstreet  
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Five days of around-the-clock coverage of memorials to President Ronald Wilson Reagan reminds me of how often truthful or honest expressions uttered by prominent persons could be the source of needless controversy.

Controversy is most often associated with persons making comments dealing with political, social, educational and/or athletic issues.

Given the amount of praise Ronald Reagan received by the media and former colleagues last week, one could have easily gained the impression that he was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, our savior. While it appears he was a person blessed with a good sense of humor, I do not believe he was a great president. I seem to recall that his administration hid from the public, for a number of years, two damaging courses of action.

He lied to the public about trading arms for hostages. This lie cost many lives in the Middle East and in Central America. Here at home, his administration kept from the public for a number of years, the national health crisis AIDS was presenting. May he rest in peace? However, if Congress wants to place his likeness on money, then expect for controversy to come into play when persons speak



**LOUIE OVERSTREET**

out on the harm his actions caused on the international and national levels.

Another public issue that can't be discussed without generating controversy is the one that Bill Cosby tried to discuss in an intellectual context. Man, many of our so-called Black leadership was all over his rear-end for suggesting Black folks need to do a better job of parenting. He did not imply this was a universal need. We must be honest enough to say, however, that we need to come up with and implement a plan for improvement in this area of Black life.

In the area of education, the subject that seems to generate the most controversy is the low scores registered by Blacks in the area of cognitive ability. This controversy could benefit from a healthy injection of the fact there are other types of learning and ability that needs to be measured, such as, artistic, athletic and literary abilities.

There used to be, I seem to

recall, tests designed to measure aptitude and not just a person's ability to perform math functions, many of which I can guarantee you a person will never use again in life. The exception would be unless you want to be a math instructor or go into a field of research. Furthermore, in our present-day society, only a small percentage of our workforce needs to be proficient in performing advanced level math functions to earn a living.

This is why I believe the parents of the 2,000 students who did not graduate from the Clark County School District early this month should file a class-action lawsuit against CCSD for not allowing the children to graduate.

The last area of controversy that plays out in today's climate for the need to exhibit politically correctness

is when White athletes talk about athletic ability in the context of race. If you doubt this assertion, just ask Paul Horning and Larry Bird.

Horning played famously at Notre Dame and later starred as a running back with the Green Bay Packers. He suggested that the university should consider developing alternative criteria for admitting athletes. He felt such an approach would allow Notre Dame to return to national athletic prominence. Man, leaders of Notre Dame, who are less than understanding in the present day, cancelled his pre-game talk show and strongly suggested that he disassociate himself from the university. I guess such an approach would suggest to them that their nickname would have to be changed from the "Fighting Irish" to  
*(See Overstreet, Page 12)*

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