

P O I N T O F V I E W

OUR VIEW

Planned school has noble goal

The charter public school in Nevada is a viable option for parents wanting a good education for their children. Charter schools were created under state legislation passed seven years ago.

Founders of the Rainbow Dreams Academy have a strong grasp of what that legislation allows. The Rainbow Dreams Academy is a public charter school being planned by the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation. Its focus is on math and science, while interweaving African-American history. With history, elements of a rite of passage spring forth. This is good.

This curriculum planning is wise and has the potential for widening the scope of academic achievement in a category of students who may not be best suited for public education. This is not a woe song, but in Our View this effort to realize the Rainbow Dreams Academy should be supported.

Science and math as part of the core curriculum means getting students ready for a plethora of careers, including doctors, engineers, finance and the list just goes on and on. Several key ingredients are in the mix in starting a charter school by African-Americans and administered by African-Americans: love, cultural and social awareness, appreciation for the self in a child and elimination of placing African-American students in special education classes.

One of the good things about charter schools is that they receive the same level of state per-pupil funding that goes to regular public schools. This is a base or starting point if you will. There is a drawback. Charter schools don't have the advantage of asking voters to pass bond issues to fund capital improvement programs.

So where is the source of funding?

"We want to build from the ground up," Diane Pollard recently said about the Rainbow Dreams Academy. "We need to raise \$4 million to build. We are hopeful that we might receive a major grant and are working with some grant writers toward that objective. If there is anyone out there with an interest in this cause, please give us a call."

The proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" might be trite, but it is apropos here and we employ it without hesitation. Perhaps, those who helped to secure \$3.1 million for the Urban Chamber of Commerce office and multi-use business incubator can now shift their fundraising focus to include the Rainbow Academy of Dreams. The Urban Chamber of Commerce held its groundbreaking last week. The development is going up at Mount Maria at Martin Luther King Blvd. Construction is scheduled to be completed in spring 2005.

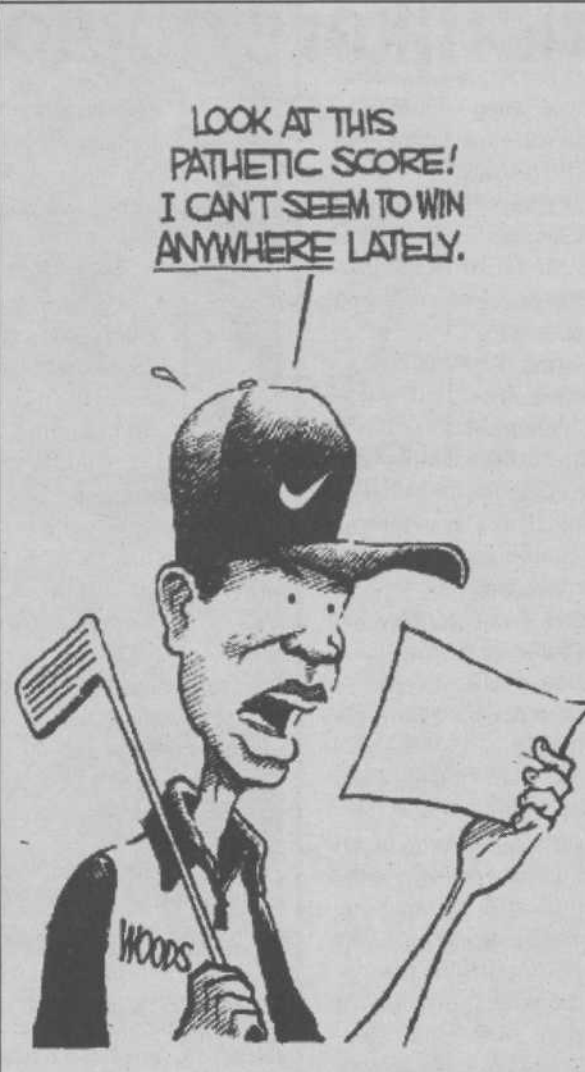
The Urban Chamber of Commerce is positioning itself to be a major player in state and local affairs. Nothing compares, however, in scope to the importance of educating our children. No purpose is as noble as coming up with a workable plan for educating our children.

This call is not just limited to coaxing the Urban Chamber of Commerce to help. This call extends to the many able agencies in this community with the wherewithal to raise funds. Here is a splendid opportunity to expand mission statements and lend expertise to the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation.

Further more, Anthony L. Pollard Foundation is not a start-up organization. Its charitable work is widely known and reported. The Rainbow Dreams Academy currently sponsors after-school and Saturday educational programs at Kit Carson Elementary School.

With charter schools comes some oversight. Monitored by the Nevada Department of Education and local school district officials, charter schools operate as independent programs. This independent approach is perfect for tailoring a curriculum and cultural environment that will give students the best change at academic achievement.

For too long, our children have been taught by educators who think different is deficient. That is not true and those who don't know otherwise should not be educating African-American children.



Democracy stagnant in Middle East

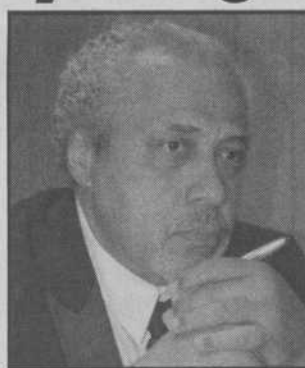
By Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

My fellow Americans, who support imperialism, I hate to disappoint you. The fact is, no matter how many thousands of young American lives and hundreds of billions of dollars we throw away in the Middle East, there is little chance that a majority of these countries will ever adopt any democratic form of government.

This region of the world is arguably the birthplace of the first civilizations on Earth. The present-day Middle East is comprised of 18 countries with a combined population of more than 350 million people, which compares to our country's 294 million people.

In the Middle East, only Turkey and Israel have democratic forms of government. The remaining countries have some form of one-party republics, long-standing and well-established monarchies or military regimes. Outside of Israel's religious base of Judaism and Cyrus' religious base of Greek Orthodoxy, the remaining 16 nations have Islam as the dominant religious order. This includes Saudi Arabia's Islamic law monarchy form of government.

In attempting to export our form of democracy to this



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region of the world, it is as if our national leaders have no appreciation for the history of conflict that has existed for years in the Middle East. Our invading one or two countries, being friends with a couple others to include stationing military bases in the area, has no chance of accomplishing our stated goal of democratic reform in this region of the world. What we are really doing is trying to protect our business interests in countries who have come to "hate our guts" and whose people are willing to die to prove how much they detest us.

We will continue to pay an extraordinarily high cost in terms of international prestige, lives of young Americans and Yankee dollars in attempting to impose our economic will on countries whose citizens have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to die for the cause of

nationalism vs. our cause of imperialism.

Unless our national leaders are willing to reason beyond the simplistic "might makes right," when it comes to our foreign policy initiatives, our current intractable situations in Iraq and Saudi Arabia will continue to result in Americans losing their lives on a daily basis.

Things are so bad we can't even get the countries we liberated during WWII, who one would think owe us debts of gratitude, to go along with our adventures in imperialism in the Middle East.

Further, the United States' love-hate relationship with the United Nations only serves to illustrate that we have no shame in our game. When the UN takes a stand in

opposition to a course of action our country wants to pursue, we call them all kinds of names and talk about how non-relevant it has become. We continue to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in payments we are behind to this international body for peace.

However, now that we have bitten off more than we can chew, we have been reduced to going "shamed-faced" to the UN, asking them to get member countries to help us with Iraq by either sending aid, troops or forgiving debts owed to them by Saddam's Iraq.

Also, our UN relationship is in such bad shape that we are quietly working behind the scene to gather at least
(See Overstreet, Page 11)

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