

## Ross' Greenwich concert aids center for teenagers

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) - Diana Ross took more than 2,000 people on a trip down memory lane during a 90-minute concert in her hometown of Greenwich that benefited a local teen center.

Ross performed nearly two dozen of her most popular songs from her 40-year career Thursday night, the Greenwich Time reported. General seating for the concert was free, but some 400 people paid \$250 to \$1,000 for premium seating near the stage.

"Thank you," the 60-year-old singer said to the crowd during one of her breaks. "I can't see you all but I know you all are there." She threw a kiss to her sons, Evan and Ross Naess, while singing "Endless Love." Her sons are active at the Arch Street teen center, which has been facing an operating deficit.

to become voters and to take part in all areas of political process.

"To a higher degree than in the (NVL's) earlier years, more young people are becoming involved (in politics)," Scott observed. He was pleased to see younger candidates on the speakers' list. Scott tended to give one young candidate a bit more time to speak because he felt it was important to encourage teenagers and young adults to take part in the process.

Founders of the NVL included civil rights leaders Dr. James McMillan and

*"It takes some political sophistication to (disagree and continue working together). We (as a community) have not yet reached that level of sophistication."*  
—Jesse Scott, President Nevada's Voters League



Clarence Ray, who helped establish the NVL more than 40 years ago as a way to empower voters, especially in the predominantly Black, historic West Las Vegas area.

The current structure of the NVL is a three-member

board. In addition to Scott, State Sen. Joe Neal and S. W. Daniels serve on the board. The NVL does not consist of members and does not actively participate in fundraising. Scott said the organization is informational

only and exists to keep an open forum for voter awareness. The NVL plans to hold additional candidate meetings later in the election season.

Scott and others expressed desire to see a larger attendance. In his 34 years as a Las Vegas resident, Scott said the smallest number of attendees is important. It's "a great success anytime you can get more than four or five people to come out and no one is raising hell or fussing," he said.

For more information on upcoming NVL events, call (702) 399-3553.

## Voters

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"And we have six votes in our house," Renee quickly added.

The NVL hopes these forums help call attention to local and national problems like many that were brought up during the event. Some of the recurring themes in candidate's comments included healthcare crisis for workers; problems in the legal system that disadvantage the poor and minority community; problems in the education system; under representation of minorities in the political arena and voter disenfranchisement.

Scott asked follow-up questions and accepted written questions from the audience directed at some of the speakers. Candidates for a judicial seat were asked about "mandatory sentencing requirements" and its impact.

Incumbent Justice Court Judge Karen Bennett commented on why she believes it's important for voters to "come downtown and see what is actually going on in the courts." She said that those "most affected are the least represented."

Bennett implored voters to find out first-hand what lawyers and judges do. Citizens can then be made aware of any inconsistencies in what they (candidates) say versus their actual practices.

"Inform your community on a regular basis—not just during elections," Bennett said.

The NVL is non-partisan and maintains a policy against endorsement of any candidate for office, according to Scott. Partisanship would be limiting for the NVL in its quest to provide equal access for the public to all candidates in all races, according to the event organizers. Scott explained the NVL's current position on the matter.

"There was a time when

(the NVL) endorsed candidates, but we no longer do that," Scott said. In his view, Scott believes that the organization can provide unbiased forums for the candidates to interact with the public by remaining non-partisan.

"I can't be effective if I can't create an atmosphere where everybody (each candidate and voter) is welcome," Scott explained. He emphasized that his intent is to "bring people together."

Endorsements of candidates can sometimes lead to "problems" and questionable practices, Scott said. One of the greatest problems, according to Scott, is the strife that often results when members within an organization are not able to disagree on an endorsement choice and then go on to work together amicably.

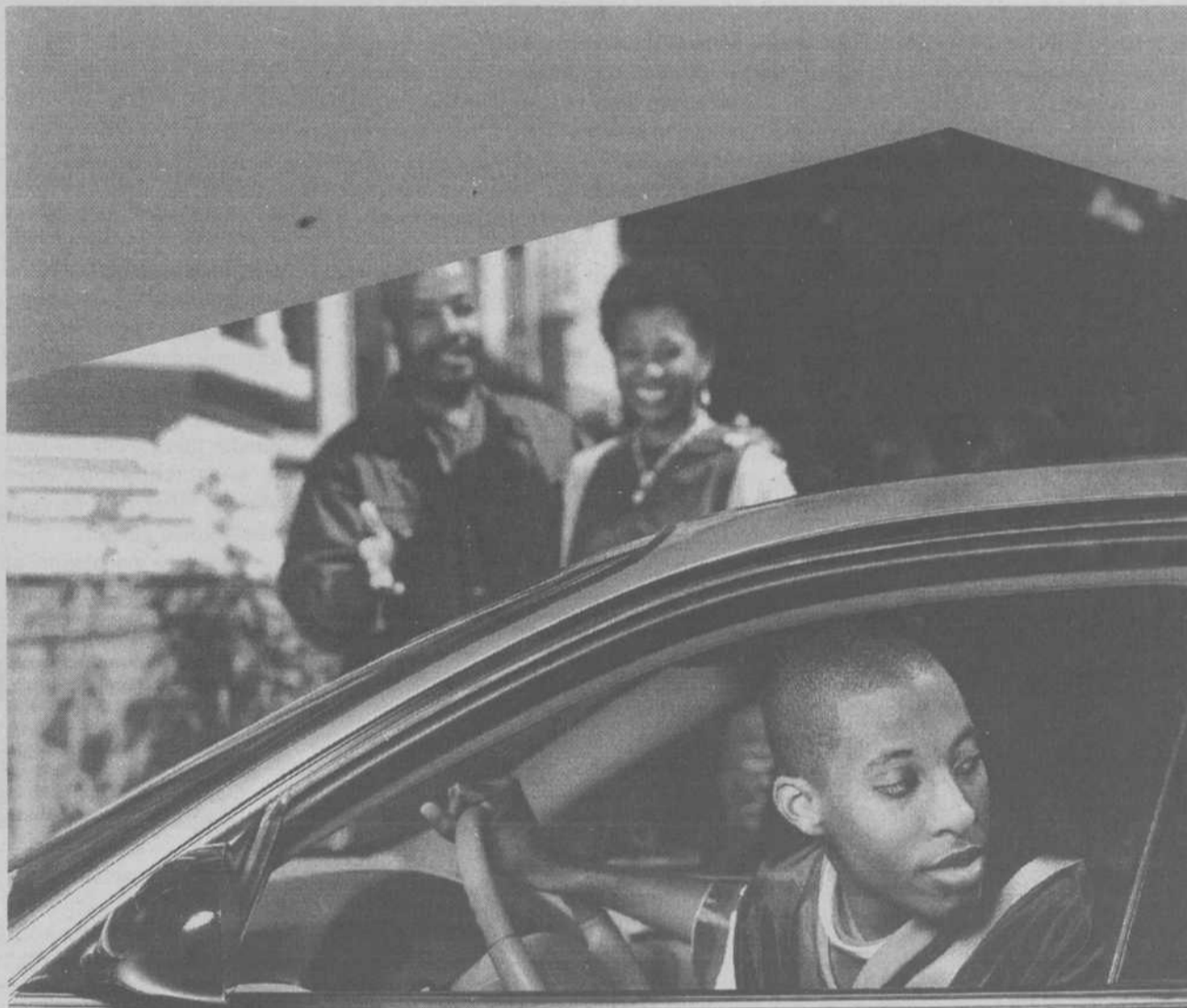
"When it comes to religion and politics, there are so many disagreements that relationships (are broken). It takes some political sophistication to (disagree and continue working together). We (as a community) have not yet reached that level of sophistication. We have not arrived at that point," Scott said.

Although he acknowledges that each person has his own preferences, including himself, Scott said that it's important to keep the focus on the relationship between the public and the elected officials, no matter who is elected.

The NVL plans to keep bringing the elected to the table with the electors, according to Scott.

"Most people who run for office will (likely someday) run for another office," he said.

The NVL also places a strong focus on youth involvement in politics. One of the NVL's accomplishments has been to encourage more teenagers and young adults



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