

OUR VIEW

Greetings Deltas, Thanks for coming

The language of grace we unabashedly employ as a tool of conveying good news.

This is even more so our method when guests, metaphorically speaking, are in our house. On such occasions, be it Christmas, Thanksgiving or any other family time of festive get-together, we always offer our best, as in the good china, down home hospitality and well wishes.

The language of grace alone is sufficient in this area.

More than 22,000 beautiful sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will be in Las Vegas starting this weekend. What gorgeous sights this promises to be.

In advance of the sisters convening here for their national convention, the spirit of cooperation has preceded them. Just last week, the language of grace sent out a cry for help and hundreds of volunteers responded to literally stuff thousands of gift bags in one of the vast caverns in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Prior to that, think of all the planning and hard work that goes into bringing together such a huge event.

Therefore, it is always risky business naming names in an organization of thousands for fear of leaving someone out. Leadership, however, means being the titular head and it is risk-free to praise leadership like that of Sandra Phillips Johnson, the Las Vegas alumni chapter president and all of the Deltas who reside in Las Vegas and the Far West.

Company, indeed, is in our house.

Delta leadership also comes with the name Gwendolyn E. Boyd, 22nd national president, who said to the membership, "The plans are complete, the lights are on, and the stage is set. All we need is you." That summons is bringing Deltas from all over the planet to Las Vegas for the 47th annual confab.

Since Jan. 13, 1913, the Delta hallmark has been academic excellence and public service. From the noble beginning of supporting the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., all those years ago, today, the Deltas remain one of the leading service organizations in the nation.

Without admission of bias, these are the kinds of guest we like in our house. Thursday, July 22 through Tuesday, July 27, the Deltas will be in the house. They have come with a litany of planned events, which does not forsake the language of grace in the mix of worship.

African Methodist Episcopal Church bishop, Vashti McKenzie, the Deltas' national chaplain, and the Council of Chaplains, on Sunday, morning will lead a prayer and praise service in the Grand Garden Arena of the MGM Grand Hotel. That evening, also in the Grand Garden Arena, there will be a gospel concert featuring, among others, Pastor Hezekiah Walker, with a special performance planned by Karen Clark Sheard.

Here is where we say, thank you, meaning all praises because the language of grace is found in His word. Various other events have been planned, but the ones that feature the language of grace are truly notable.

We are thankful that the Deltas have come. In Detroit, where many national organizations are holding their conventions nowadays, such events are commonplace, seeing gatherings of African-Americans with worthy missions sharing their sense of purpose. Oddly, however, this is not the case for Las Vegas, where 30 million-plus visitors come and go with regularity. They come and go here, but not with the same sense of higher calling.

We are as pleased as we are proud to have the Deltas hold their national convention here in Las Vegas. And, may the language of grace that preceded them bless their coming and going out.

POINT OF VIEW



Lying: America's new apple pie

By Louie Overstreet
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Have you noticed that lying by public figures has become as American as hotdogs, Chevrolet and apple pie?

It makes one wonder whether old Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman could have ever imagined that the phrase that would later characterize his traveling throughout the Midwestern United States planting apple orchards in the early 19th Century would come to be attached to anything signifying or deriding American values?

The three gravest offenders of the failing to tell "the whole truth and nothing but the truth" are corporate heads, elected official and appointed officials.

We have all recently seen the former heads of Enron, Tyco, and Adelphi take the "perp walk." That's the U.S. Justice Department's photo opportunity to demonstrate that no one is above the law. Thus, the Justice Department cannot resist showing — parading handcuffed elderly rich White men before the media — that no one is above the law.

Who are they trying to fool? Man, these old dudes are not a physical threat to anyone, so why the show? There is every indication,



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however, that they are a threat to the life savings of persons who worked for the companies they formerly headed.

Now, it's on to the politicians.

Unfortunately, as citizens of the most powerful nation in the world, we still remain highly susceptible to a good lie, whether it's a "little white one or a big black one." If this were not the case, why are we still buying into the lies told by politicians to start the war in Iraq and the ones told after we supposedly had won the war?

If you are still buying into these lies, it places you in the realm of a personification saying: "If you fool me once, shame on you. If you fool me twice, then shame on me."

Maybe the reason we enjoy being lied to is found in the fact that there is a whole body of research on human behavior that supports the belief that if the truth is going

to hurt, then people would rather be lied to about a condition or situation in life.

Lying to the public is not just a national phenomenon, it's statewide as well. Do you really believe state elected officials when they say, "Yucca Mountain serving as a national repository for spent nuclear fuel is a dead issue?"

Our local politicians are hanging their hats on some Appeals Court ruling that stated safely storing spent fuel for 10,000 years is not long enough. "Ain't" this a ridiculous ruling to make? Recorded human history is just over 6,000 years old. Thus, how realistic is it to expect that present inhabitants of the United States would be overly concerned themselves for what will be happening a 133

lifetimes (present life expectancy divided in 10,000 years) from now?

Now, along comes presidential candidate John Kerry telling Nevadans that he will stop Yucca Mountain if he is elected President. Telling this lie conveniently overlooks that fact that the vote passed Congress by veto-proof margins.

On the local level, the biggest lie I heard last week was uttered by the appointed Superintendent of the Clark County School District, Mr. Carlos Garcia. He was quoted in the newspapers as stating, "We do not know if throwing more money at education will solve the problem, since it has never been done."

His lie is a whopper of the (See Overstreet, Page 12)



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