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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Cosby places focus on redeeming youth

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

When Bill Cosby came to town Friday to deliver the keynote at the Frederick Douglass Educational Fund awards banquet, he came loaded with a message about the present day crisis of our youth and their families. Some shunned his words, some said superb.

The three-hour event was applauded as a success. It was the twelfth annual dinner and served as a fundraiser for the organization to provide scholarships. More than 275 adults attended the \$100 per person dinner held at the Venetian Resort Hotel.

In the earlier part of the evening, there were many children and teenagers in attendance who performed on the program or received awards for academic achievement. About 18 singers in the West Las Vegas Youth Musical Ensemble performed the anthem, "Lift

Every Voice and Sing." Monique Richard and Avree Joseph Walker delivered recitations of Frederick Douglass's writings. The Rancho High School Air Force JROTC made the presentation of arms for the Pledge of Allegiance. And scholarships were awarded to 14 local student recipients.

Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn was the honoree for his advocacy in education and for proposing the Millennium Scholarship Initiative which has helped more than 20,000 students to attend college.

Days after the event there is a gust of controversy on how Cosby's message was delivered. He directed his comments to the parents and adults in the audience and the Black community, in general, who he admonished in his theme, "You've left your children unprotected." He expanded on it throughout his presentation.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Bill Cosby, the actor/comedian/philanthropist, was Bill Cosby the social architect during Friday's keynote at the Frederick Douglass Educational Fund Awards Banquet.

He spoke numerous variations on the companion theme, "Your children are trying to tell you something, and you're not listening."

Cosby criticized parents for "allowing the radio stations and the entertainment industry to take over your children's minds." He particularly pointed out the use of foul language in the lyrics of many hip-hop and contemporary songs that children

hear repeatedly, uncensored on the recordings they buy.

"We turn on TV and there's profanity... it's on records. You hear a CD and people are 'blankety-blank...' And little children, sitting in the back seats, and they think, 'There's nothing wrong here.'"

Cosby cited examples of highly sexualized references he has heard young teenage girls say publicly about

themselves. He said they referred to their genitals and even sexual behaviors with the slang "p" word, which he spoke, followed by his voicing other colloquial terms like "bitches and 'ho's," considered profane by many outside of hip-hop culture.

Cosby called profanity a "language of violence" and said it is not "home language" and should not be tolerated without any boundaries from parents and responsible adults.

His use of expletives, which he prefaced by saying "this is what the children are saying," is what some listeners who were displeased point to as being "awful" and "inappropriate." Most of the youths, but not all young children, had left the event after the awards and performance portion.

Cosby said he used the words to illustrate to parents what is commonplace for their kids to hear and say to-

day and encouraged the adults in the household to say, "I don't want to hear that in my house." He then prompted the adults to be empowered in controlling their children, saying, "Whose house is it?" He said "They [children] want you to stop them."

He addressed the problems of poor education and lack of parent participation; problems with crime in neighborhoods; lack of financial support for teachers and improved school facilities, among others.

One issue highlighted is the notion that some of today's youth have narrow vision or no vision for their lives outside of crime. He used an example of a young man stating "as though it was fact" that his options for income are to either "flip burgers" for a smaller income or "sell drugs" for bigger gain.

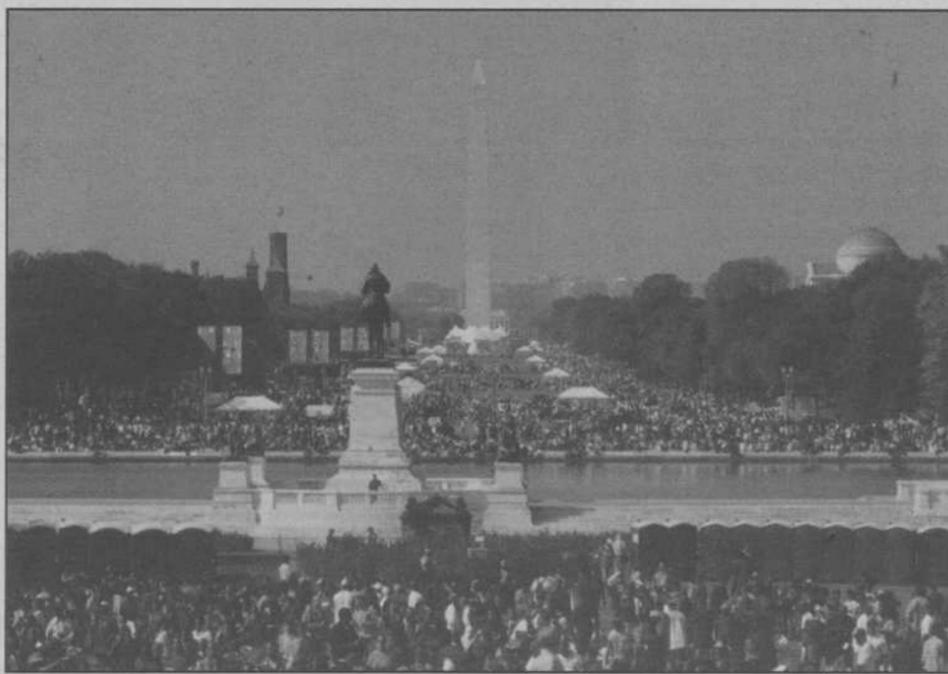
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Masses attend Millions More event

WASHINGTON — The sun rose over the Capitol Building Saturday morning where thousands of men, women and children were gathering for the Millions More Movement. And even though the crowd was not as large as the hundreds of thousands at the Million Man March a decade ago, or as the Promise Keepers who gathered five years ago, Black leaders at the event said the success of the day cannot be measured by numbers.

"The need to mobilize and the need to organize is here, like it was 10 years ago," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, as he walked to the stage with the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson.

"The determination of whether this event is significant will not be determined on how many people came, but how they left and what they did. What made the 1963 march is that we passed the 1964 civil rights bills. The success of this march will be that we take charge of our communities and



Thousands flooded Washington, D.C., over the weekend for the Millions More Movement.

make a difference in the '06 elections."

The 1963 march was the occasion of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan used the Millions More Movement on the Mall to

deliver a searing, 75-minute speech in which he charged the federal government with "criminal neglect" for its response to Hurricane Katrina and urged the Black community to self-govern.

"I think we need to look at a class-action suit on behalf of the citizens of New

Orleans who have lost everything," he said. "Since we can't sue the federal government, we can sue (the Department of) Homeland Security and [the Federal Emergency Management Agency.] The government has not acted responsibly to give

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C. DeLores Tucker led life of activist

By Zenitha Prince
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Political and social activist Cynthia DeLores Tucker, 78, died Oct. 12 of an undisclosed cause at the Suburban Woods Health and Rehabilitation Center in Norristown, Pa., leaving behind a legacy of firsts and intrepid advocacy.

The Pennsylvania native spent her lifetime in dogged pursuit of civil rights, often lending an elegant presence to many protests. But her well-turned heels, impeccable suits and matching turbans belied Tucker's ability to deliver scorching speeches in booming tones reminiscent of her father, the Rev. Whitfield Nottage of the old Ebenezer Community Tabernacle in North Philadelphia.

Tucker first lent her voice to the Civil Rights Movement at age 16 when she protested outside the old Bellevue Stratford Hotel because of their failure to admit Black athletes. By 1965, she was marching arm-in-arm with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a civil rights protest in Selma, Ala.

"The cause of civil rights was a lifelong crusade for

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C. DeLores Tucker