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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Test presses sensitivities

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

A multiple choice test issued to a group of multi-racial eighth graders at Carroll Johnston Middle School in North Las Vegas is drawing questions from at least one mother, her daughter, and a Clark County School District substitute teacher, who is concerned about her role and subsequent treatment following the incident recently.

Destinee Hankins, a 14-year-old student, and her mother Autumn McKinney of North Las Vegas spoke in an exclusive interview with the *Sentinel-Voice* about a test they deem racially offensive in theme and word content, titled The Chitling Intelligence Test, one from 1971 attributed to Black educational researchers Adrian Dove and Lewis R. Aiken.

Kanika Vann, a CCSD substitute teacher, on assignment at Johnston in the classroom of eighth grade geography teacher Richard Rosario, distributed to five classes a set of three tests, which she said Rosario directed her do in his lesson plan for February 21, the day Vann worked in his absence. The "inappropriate" test, as it is being called by school district officials, CCSD Public Information Officer Pat Nelson, Vann, the irate parent and student complainants, school administrators and others.

The test was among the pre-printed handouts stacked in file folders, which Vann said she was to administer in Rosario's classroom for completion by students in each of class over five periods that day. There were about 24 students per class, ranging from about 13 to 14 years in age, according to Vann. Ethnically, "mostly Black and Hispanic, probably about two White students in each class," as she described in a telephone interview recently.

Hankins, a regular student in the third-period class, received the test with her classmates and described the class reaction to the Chitling Intelligence Test.

"Miss Vann had introduced herself and explained what we had to do that day. She said we had to do the Chitling Intelligence Test."

"Are we about to talk about food?" Hankins said many students asked because of the name. "But when we read it, everybody had something to say, like about the n-word and the KKK. We didn't like how it [the test questions] said those words, especially the KKK — everybody knew what that was," she said.

"Miss Vann said 'don't trip out on me' because she knows it's really racist. She said, 'All you can do is take it to your principal and to your mothers.'"

Vann said in the interview that "a few of the girls wanted to call their mothers." She also said that most of the students were outspoken about the test, and she led discussion about it.

The test, which contains many questions and choice of answers, is at the heart of McKinney's and Hankins' written complaints filed with the school district and for which Vann says she was unfairly treated while the district investigated the matter, resulting in her temporarily being "made unavailable" for any job assignments for

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Sentinel-Voice photos by Kathi Overstreet

Richard Blue Jr., second from right, addresses the audience during Q & A segment of the Ward 5 candidates forum at the West Las Vegas Library on Tuesday. Seated left to right, Stacie Truesdell, Katherine Duncan and Marion Bennett.

Sound off at Ward 5 forum

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas *Sentinel Voice* in collaboration with the West Las Vegas Library and Black Power Talk Radio sponsored a Candidates Forum on Tuesday evening at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Boulevard, from 6:30-9.

Eight of the 10 candidates for the Las Vegas City Council seat for Ward 5 are vying for an opening left when former Councilman Lawrence Weekly resigned to accept his appointment to the Clark County Commission.

Candidates attending the forum were: Shondra Summers-Armstrong, Ricki Barlow, Marion Bennett, Richard Blue Jr., Gene Collins, Katherine "Katie" Duncan, Stacie Truesdell and Marcia Washington. Absent were Earnestine Howell and Jeffrey Loveall.

The forum was moderated by Ramon Savoy, *Sentinel-*

Voice publisher and editor-in-chief and host of Black Power Talk Radio on KCEP 88.1-FM, and questions and answers segment of the forum was coordinated by Dianna Saffold-Cooks, co-



Ricki Barlow addresses the Ward 5 crowd.

host of Black Power Talk Radio.

An audience of about 50 community members attended to learn why each individual decided to run for the office and what their qualifications are.

Following introductions and establishment of the ground rules by the moderator on the format of the forum, each candidate made a three-minute presentation at the beginning of the forum as to why he or she was seeking the office.

All of the candidates commented on their various levels of experience, education and qualifications to run for office and seek the support of the residents of Ward 5.

After the presentation by the candidates, the forum shifted to a Q&A, where members of the audience had the opportunity to speak directly to the candidates and learn about their platforms and how they stood on specific issues.

Among the primary questions fielded by respondents: —What would you tackle as your first priority in office?

—What is the number one problem in Ward 5?; how would you address the

community and make it a better place for them to live?

—What can we do to reduce the crime in our community?

—How can we improve the housing conditions in our neighborhood to allow individuals the opportunity to become homeowners?

Other comments and concerns made by participants:

—The ward's representative must be accountable to the community.

—The councilperson should not be afraid to speak up before the city council on behalf of residents.

Other participants spoke of concerns that if we put more cops on the streets, it would create more crime, and

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Marcia Washington drives home her point.