

Student

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that I felt that him not letting Carl do his speech was really wrong," she said.

The principal offered a special assembly for his speech to be heard, she said.

But, by then, it was too late. He said he felt violated at being disallowed to state his views to the body of 45 percent Black, 50 percent Hispanic, and 2 percent White students at the Black History Month assembly. He contacted the NNPA News Service within a week after the program, asking that NNPA help him communicate his views.

Noldon ticks off a list of authors, speakers and mentors who have influenced his thinking, including Dick Gregory, Michael Erik Dyson, Cornell West and Cheikh Anta Diop, author of "The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality."

He credits his Uncle Vincent, a videographer, for introducing him to tapes of orators like Dick Gregory.

The speech, which is 2,700 words, also quotes from "The Myth of Black Progress," a book by Alphonso Pinkney, and "Solutions for Black America" by Jawanza Kunjufu.

Based on his personal studies, Noldon, in his speech, questions the credibility of some public school textbooks.

"In the world history textbook in this school, it doesn't directly say that the Egyptians were Black people. The Egyptians were just as Black and diverse as the Black people in this country. In that world history textbook, it is quick to point out how the Greeks called their own thinkers 'lovers of wisdom' because they used observation and reason. But isn't that a characteristic of the Africans?" he quizzes.

"I realize that a lot of parents are just as concerned about their child or children learning as much as they can. But I think the parents have to examine the psychological impact that the textbooks in the school system [have on] Black students, as well as students of other nationalities and cultures."

National Urban League President Marc Morial, in NUL's 2007 State of Black America report, describes the underachievement of Black males as being among America's greatest crisis.

Noldon declines to cast all the blame on public schools for the conditions of Black students. But, the 17-year-old, who says he will major in film and metaphysics at Manhattan's City College in the fall, attributes part of the problem to ignorance about their roots and schools that offer little cultural enlightenment.

"I don't think schools should use Black History Month as the only time to talk about the historical genius of Black people," the speech stated.

Noldon's speech concludes: "History has been twisted to brainwash the genius of the Black child. These students are learning that African thought is primitive, while European thought laid the foundation for civilization... The parents have to take a stand and challenge the school system, the teachers, and those that misinterpret Black history because the misinterpretation of one's history will lead to a misinterpretation of the knowledge of who you are."



SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

Booker Elementary staff and fifth-graders from the West Las Vegas school recently visited Carson City. (Above)

The Booker contingent poses in front of a building at the University of Nevada, Reno. Principal Beverly Mathis, left, and students receive greetings from Sen. Steven Horsford (D), center, and Assemblyman Harvey Munford (D), back row. (Adjacent)



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

Tucker

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African-American in the Capitol is that of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Tucker, as the nation's first Black female Secretary of State, for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was a pioneer in her own right. But, as one who advocated for the appointments of hundreds of Black women to public positions, she was always pointing to others.

"When people talk about, 'We've got to honor the achievements of Black

women,' Dr. Tucker left us with no better representative than Sojourner Truth. We will put that statue in [place] on her birthday, October 2008," said Williams. "We're having the first national fundraiser on June 6. Mr. Tucker knows what his wife wanted to do — put 'truth' in the [Capitol Building]."

Many others will also know.

"When the history of the 20th century and the first segment of the 21st century are

written, the name of C. DeLores Tucker will be deeply etched in its fabric," said the Rev. Walter Fauntroy, a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, representing the District of Columbia.

"They will have to record that her vision and her visions have continued right through to this day."

He then topped off the evening with a moving salute to her in song: "To Dream the Impossible Dream."

Oprah

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live past 1963 to see that I did grow up to get some really good White folks — to work for me."

Now on the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans, Winfrey, worth \$1.4 billion, is also known for her philanthropy; most recently for the construction of the "Leadership Academy for Girls" in South Africa.

Still, there are Black youth right here in America that she described as being a part of America's crisis.

"They're falling and they're failing. They're dropping out at 50 percent and higher because we — our generation — didn't teach them who they are. We have a responsibility to raise them up, to lift them up, to liberate them from them-

selves," she said.

In giving back to communities, Winfrey implored the graduates to lean on Howard's motto of "Truth and Service."

She said, "The most important lesson I can offer you from my own life is that in order to remain successful and continue to wear the crown, as you walk the path of privilege, you cannot forget the less privileged that you left behind. You use your life in service, somehow, to others, and you turn around and give back what you've been given... You've come from a long line of giants whose shoulders you stand on, giants who graduated from this school and giants who never made it to school... I believe in the words of Jimmy Baldwin, Your crown has been paid for, so wear it."



It is with great pleasure that we invite you to apply for registration to Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School. Each student will bring special qualities that will make Rainbow Dreams Academy the most exciting new charter school in Las Vegas.

Applications for registration may be picked up at the following locations:

- West Las Vegas Library; 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
- Nevada Partners; 710 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
- Urban Chamber of Commerce; 1052 W. Owens Ave.
- Doolittle Community Center; 1950 J Street
- Local Churches

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Diane or Kathy at 702-255-3001.