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By Hardy Brown

Voter Education

This Nonsense Must Stop

On March 7, 2000, we are faced with eighteen propositions that we must make major decisions on. In the past, we would favor a majority of the propositions having to deal with raising money when it mentioned public safety, education, clean drinking water, etc. We still feel that these measures are good for the citizens of California. However, from the Black as well as Latino community, there is a growing concern that we reap none of the financial benefits from these propositions that we have to enact. Usually the contracts are awarded to companies that have no regard for or demonstrated subcontracting or hiring practices that include us in the business arena. Therefore, the backlash could be devastating to our state. California has

demonstrated that they do not want us to have affirmative action, or set-asides when it comes to the public financial trough. All of the statistics that we have seen whether it be with affirmative action or no affirmative action, Blacks and Latinos do not get their fair share of the tax dollars that they pay into the system. So therefore, our question is becoming more frequently; what is in it for us? Other than sitting in the classroom or taking a joyride on the bus. With the bus and the classroom still being built and maintained and controlled by those individuals who do not want us to fully partake of the economics in the great State of California.

With that in mind, we are offering some recommendations

that even though we support, we want the decision makers who will oversee these funds to know, that we must be included and that if we are not included they will start receiving a backlash of votes from not only the Black community but the Latino community on critical issues.

Other propositions that require critical scrutiny by the Black community involve those constitutional amendments and statutes related to crime, murder, and more prisons to be built. In the past we have sided wholeheartedly with our police, sheriff, and district attorney's office in supporting these measures that we thought were good for our communities. Here again we see these institutions do not hire people who look like us,

they do not contract with people who look like us, and when they hire people, they do not want to promote those people who look like us.

Every indication is that they only want us to give money without receiving any of the benefits. We can look at our own communities of Riverside and San Bernardino law enforcement agencies behavior and have first hand experience as to how we are treated. A few of us work in police departments, DA's office, no judges, yet you (the system) are seeking our dollars to help expand and already out of control criminal justice system that only wants one thing from our people, that is to incarcerate us. When you think of the number of Blacks and Hispanics that are

arrested illegally, then prosecuted illegally by the DA's office, then sentenced illegally by the judges, we can not therefore in good conscious continue to provide the revenues for this injustice justice system to house our people. Recently in Lake Elsinore, a Black man (Herman Atkins) was housed from illegal evidence and put in prison only to be released. In Los Angeles there are over forty cases that have already been dismissed from the gathering of illegal evidence by the police department. In Riverside, we have the DA's office spending more time gathering information on protesters than he had spent getting information on the shooters of the Tyisha Miller case. In San Bernardino, we find a sheriff's

department who has hired the killer of Tyisha Miller, yet has a department that would not hire Blacks or Hispanics. We have issues relating to education, yet we find educational institutions that do not want to contract with Black or Hispanic construction firms to build the schools in which our children must sit and be educated in. We spend millions on supplies but yet will not purchase supplies from Black or Latino companies. This nonsense must stop!

With that we are going to recommend and support some measures, but the nonsense must stop and the behavior of those who administer funds must know that. In the future, do not count on us to be there as a support group in this unjust discriminatory system.

PROPOSITION RECOMMENDATIONS

	YES	No		YES	No
1A Gambling on Tribal Lands. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Modifies state Constitution's prohibition against casinos and lotteries, to authorize Governor to negotiate compacts, subject to legislative ratification, for the operation of slot machines, lottery games, and banking and percentage card games by federally recognized Indian tribes on Indian lands in California, in accordance with federal law. Vote Yes on Prop 1A and ensure that Indian self-reliance is protected once and for all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22 Limit on Marriages. Initiative Statute. Adds a provision to the Family Code providing that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. (The Villaraigosa-Keeley Act) Provides for a bond issue of two billion one hundred million dollars (\$2,100,000,000) to provide funds to protect land around lakes, rivers, and streams and the coast to improve water quality and ensure clean drinking water.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23 "None of the Above" Ballot Option. Initiative Statute. Provides that in general, special, primary and recall elections for President, Vice President, United States House of Representatives and Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Controller, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, Board of Equalization, State Assembly and State Senate, voters may vote for "none of the above" rather than a named candidate.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Bond Act. This act provides for a bond issue of one billion nine hundred seventy million dollars (\$1,970,000,000) to provide funds for a safe drinking water, water quality, flood protection, and water reliability program.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25 Election Campaigns. Contributions and Spending Limits. Public Financing. Disclosures, Initiative Statute. Expands campaign contribution disclosure requirements, establishes contribution limits from single sources of \$5,000 for statewide candidates, \$3,000 for other candidates, \$25,000 for political parties, and \$50,000 total per election. Bans corporate contributions. Limits fundraising to period 12 months before primary election and ninety days after election.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14 California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000. This act provides for a bond issue of three hundred fifty million dollars (\$350,000,000) to provide funds for the construction and renovation of public library facilities in order to expand access to reading and literacy programs in California's public education system and to expand access to public library services for all residents of California.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		26 School Facilities. Local Majority Vote. Bonds, Taxes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Authorizes school, community college districts, and county education offices that evaluate safety, class size, information technology needs to issue bonds for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities if approved by majority of applicable jurisdiction's voters.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15 The Hertzberg-Polanco Crime Laboratories Construction Bond Act of 1999 Provides for a bond issue of two hundred twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) to provide funds for a program for the construction, renovation, and infrastructure costs associated with the construction of new local forensic laboratories and the remodeling of existing local forensic laboratories.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27 Elections: Term Limit Declarations for Congressional Candidates. Initiative Statute. Permits congressional candidates to voluntarily sign non-binding declaration of intention to serve no more than three terms in House of Representatives or two terms in the United States Senate.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 Veterans' Homes Bond Act of 2000. This fifty million dollar (\$50,000,000) bond issue will provide funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of designing and constructing veterans' homes in California and completing a comprehensive renovation of the Veterans' Home at Yountville.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		28 Repeal of Proposition 10 Tobacco Surtax. Initiative Statute. Repeals additional \$.50 per pack tax on cigarettes and equivalent increase in state tax on tobacco products previously enacted by Proposition 10 at November 3, 1998, election.		No Recommendation
17 Lotteries, Charitable Raffles. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. Modifies current constitutional prohibition against private lotteries to permit legislative authorization of raffles conducted by eligible private nonprofit organizations for the purpose of funding beneficial and charitable works.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29 1998 Indian Gaming Compacts. Referendum Statute. A "Yes" vote approves, a "No" vote rejects a law, previously passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18 Murder: Special Circumstances. Legislative Initiative Amendment. Amends provisions of Penal Code section 190 defining the special circumstances where first degree murder is punishable by either death or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Provides that a special circumstance exists for killings committed "by means of lying in wait" rather than "while lying in wait."		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	30 Increase liability insurance costs in California Will drive up insurance rates for every household by more than \$300 a year. It will punish good drivers by driving up their insurance rates even if no claim is filed.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19 Murder, BART and CSU Peace Officers. Legislative Initiative Amendment. Existing law provides that the punishment for the murder in the second degree of specified peace officers is life without the possibility of parole if the crime occurs while the officer is on duty and aggravating factors are present.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	31 Increase liability insurance costs in California Will drive up insurance rates for every household by more than \$300 a year. It will punish good drivers by driving up their insurance rates even if no claim is filed.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20 California State Lottery. Allocation for Instructional Materials. Legislative Initiative Amendment. Amends Government Code section 8880.4 which provides that at least 34% of the total annual state lottery revenues shall be allocated to benefit public education.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
21 Juvenile Crime. Initiative Statute. Increases punishment for gang-related felonies; death penalty for gang-related murder; indeterminate life sentences for home-invasion robbery, carjacking, witness intimidation and drive-by shootings; and creates crime of recruiting for gang activities; and authorizes wiretapping for gang activities.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

REMEMBER TO VOTE
March 7, 2000

and

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Congresswoman Maxine Waters and other African American leaders urge you to vote

YES on 1A

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Mary Ann Martin Andreas (Tribal Chairperson, Morongo Band of Mission Indians), Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and Daniel Tucker (Chairman, California Nations Indian Gaming Association)

WHY YOU SHOULD OPPOSE PROPOSITIONS 30 AND 31

California's non-partisan Legislative Analyst warns that Propositions 30 and 31, "... would likely increase liability insurance costs in California."

That means everyone will pay the price if these two bad laws are passed by voters on Election Day, March 7.

Virtually no California insurance policyholder can avoid the costly effects of Propositions 30 and 31. People from all walks of life face dramatic increases in their insurance costs. Higher costs for business and industry means higher prices for things that people must buy.

Among those especially hurt if Propositions 30 and 31 become law are:

Families: People who can least afford higher costs will be hurt most. Propositions 30 and 31 will drive up insurance rates for every household by more than \$300 a year. The added cost means less money left for food, clothing and other essentials of life.

Good Drivers: Propositions 30 and 31 punish good drivers by driving up their insurance rates even if no claim is filed. Propositions 30 and 31 reward drunk and uninsured drivers by giving them new powers to sue for non-economic and punitive damages. An independent study concluded that auto insurance premiums would increase as much as \$300 per year for all insured drivers if these laws were to go into effect.

Homeowners: Propositions 30 and 31 would increase the cost of homeowner's insurance and the threat of lawsuits against homeowners for accidents on their property, such as an injury during a party, or a neighbor bitten by a dog.

Day Care: If Propositions 30 and 31 are enacted, your local day care center, which must carry a very large liability package, could be forced to pass increased insurance costs along to the price you pay for day care. Or even worse, your day care center may be forced to shut down altogether if the cost increases become prohibitive.

Education: Under Propositions 30 and 31, schools that purchase supplemental insurance policies for sports programs, off-campus activities and school vehicles will likely be forced to use revenue intended for students to pay the increased insurance costs for these activities. This would reduce the funds available to our school children and could reduce the number of activities available to them as well.

The list goes on. Please look out for yourself and vote no on 30 and 31.

COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO ARE NO ON 30 AND 31

Congressman Mervyn Dymally, (Ret.); Assemblyman Roderick Wright; Bishop E. Lynn Brown; Bishop Dwight Amey; Bishop Clarence Carr; Pastor H.H. Richardson; Rev. Michael Huspecth; Rev. J.R. Richardson; Pastor E.E. Stafford; Rev. Lee P. Manes; Pastor Levell Jones; Rev. Tony Pierce; Rev. Wayman Baker; Rev. Michael; Pastor Joe B. Hardwick; Aubry Stone, California Black Chamber of Commerce; Ida Sydnor, President of the Sacramento Branch NAACP; Percy Pinkney, President of the Black American Political Association of California; David Smith, Organization of Black Airline Pilots; Allen Wayne Warren; Alice A. Huffman, California State Conference of NAACP; Sandra Smith, Board Member, State of California Tall Teen; Catherine Henry, Section Director NAACP.

ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST 30 AND 31

The California Black Chamber, The California State Conference of the NAACP, Black Business Association, Citizens for Democracy, California Consumers Coalition of California.

(Partial List)

Renditions2000

A celebration of the African American Arts Benefiting Bay Area Community and Art Organizations. For event information call 800/997-4151.

Playboy Celebrates its 22nd with Blend of Old and New Music

The Black Voice News
HOLLYWOOD
By Taylor Jordan

If the music is good, Ndugu Chancler is there.

"I'm a musician. I just play music. I don't draw lines. As long as it's good, I'm there," asserted Chancler, a 30-year veteran of the music industry who'll be keeping time as the drummer in the fifth edition of Cos of Good Music at Playboy Jazz Festival.

Chancler and his fellow Locke High School graduate, pianist Patrice Rushen, will also headline Playboy Jazz's return to Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza for the June 11 free community concert. Chancler's versatility, recognition as a world-class percussionist and amicable professionalism have kept him in the forefront of favorite sidemen for such diverse artists as Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, Herbie Hancock, Lionel Richie and Willie Bobo.

Joining him for the Playboy festival's Sunday, June 18 main stage show of Cos of Good Music V at the Hollywood Bowl will be Texas tenor saxophonist Billy Harper, bassist Dwayne Burno, Grammy Awardwinning alto saxophonist Gary Bartz, trumpeter Eddie Henderson, Latin jazz piano virtuoso Hilton Ruiz and guitarist Wah-Wah Watson.

Ruben Blades, a cultural icon and political hero in Panama and a renowned Latin jazz giant for nearly three decades, returns to the Playboy stage and music for the Sunday show after a hiatus to focus on social and political activism in his native country. He'll be among the Latino artists blazing Playboy paths to samba, salsa, Afro-Cuban, charanga, merengue and rhythmic blends of African, Latin, funk and mainstream jazz styles.

"I couldn't physically tour while doing political organizing," said Blades, a man whose cultural and spiritual integrity ignite passion whether on a concert stage or at a political rally. "I never intended to make a living out of politics. That was social service and my sociopolitical conscience. Music is my profession."

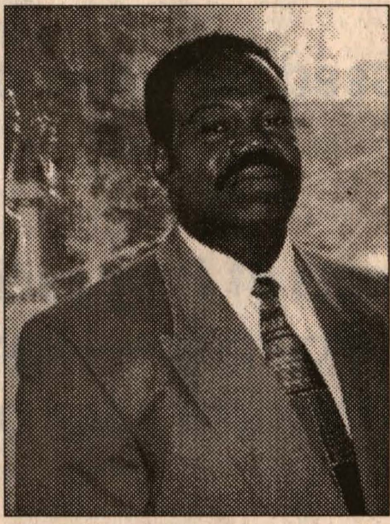
Playboy public relations director Bill Farley warned writers and broadcast officials to advise their audiences to get tickets to the June 17 and 18 festival now.

"People better get tickets fast because we're down to the \$30 level and the good seats are moving quickly," Farley warned at the Feb. 24 press conference announcing artists for the 22nd annual edition of Playboy Jazz Festival at the bowl.

Farley and festival producer George Wein, and a bevy of the men and women who'll play the festival's main stage at the bowl and the free community concerts at various Southland venues, were among those gathered for the festive, fun-filled unveiling of the lineup last week. Hugh Hefner was also present for the program at Playboy Mansion West.

The festival is presented in cooperation with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and sponsored by Lincoln. Entertainer Bill Cosby returns as the festival's favorite master of ceremonies.

Dianne Reeves, Boney James and Rick Braun, the Count Basie Orchestra directed by Grover Mitchell, Los Van Van,



Ndugu Chancler, master drummer, will perform in Cos of Good Music V for the 22nd annual Playboy Jazz Festival in June.



Ruben Blades, Latin jazz sensation, returns to Playboy Jazz Festival and for the world music stage to lead Costa Rican ensemble, Edtius.



Gerald Clayton, a sophomore and the son of master jazz bassist John Clayton, plays piano in the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts combo which entertained artists and media reps at the Playboy Jazz Festival press conference last week.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Ozomatli, Regina Carter Quintet, John Scofield Band, Richard Bona and Mingus Amungus will headline the bowl's Saturday set 2:30 to maintains success as a composer and producer and teaches clinics for the Thelonious Monk Foundation, Jazz America and Stanford University Jazz Workshop.

"I tend to play with people I like," he confessed. "With great associates and good music there comes a certain heart and depth. There are so many aspects to music. It's not just music. Music is based on history, culture, economics. It is a reflection of the person and the time. I pull from all of that when I'm doing what I do."

"As an educator, I don't draw the line at jazz education," Chancler continued. "I say music education. People have such a habit of drawing lines

and drawing lines alienates. I don't want to program people's thoughts. There's a tremendous amount of music and information available in society today. If you don't draw lines, you can access so much more music and information."

Blades also stressed stretching, exploring, evolving beyond boundaries in the music and among people. His lifetime energies, as a child born in a period of political upheaval in Panama, have been devoted to building bridges toward cultural understanding and political/economic/social empowerment.

He finished law school in Panama when his family fled the country for America. Rejoining relatives in Miami, he embarked upon a musical career with Willie Colon, a master artist who helped disseminate Latin music to the world. His recordings with Colon sold in

the millions and Blades continued his musical explorations with others, including Lou Reed and Elvis Costello, before leading his own ensembles.

His horizons turned toward the silver screen and he gained additional cultural credibility as an actor in such movies as "The Two Jakes" with Jack Nicholson and Spike Lee's "Mo' Better Blues" with Denzel Washington and tale-movie "The Josephine Baker Story" with Lynn Whitfield. Yearning for home and concerned about conditions there, he returned to Panama in the early 1990s. In 1994, he ran for Panama's presidency. Although he lost the race, he achieved the moral goal of getting the message of democracy and social justice to a larger audience.

He recently returned to the world stage after forming a new

group with Costa Rican instrumentalists.

"Edtius is an interesting group. There are 11 musicians who are very young, very talented. They have classic backgrounds, are very much into jazz, Latin and Afro-Cuban music. I think people will be surprised and pleased," Blades modestly predicted. "We will do a mix of the old and the new."

Blades, like Chancler and the other master artists featured at Playboy, believe in passing the music on to the next generations of both players and listeners.

"It's not about me," Blades asserted. "It's about the music. I try to showcase young groups

and mentor musicians because the goal is to give talent an opportunity to come forward. That's the way the music continues."

Blades wasn't sure if he'd accompany Celia Cruz for the Playboy show, but he said with a smile and clasped hands in homage to the legendary songstress, "If the queen calls, you come. She's been the utmost professional for decades. She's never cancelled a performance, to my knowledge. She's always on time, in tune, energetic and very professional. Playing for her would be the ultimate pleasure."



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What Happened in the Inland Empire? Black History Month Wrap-Up

The Black Voice News
By Hardy Brown

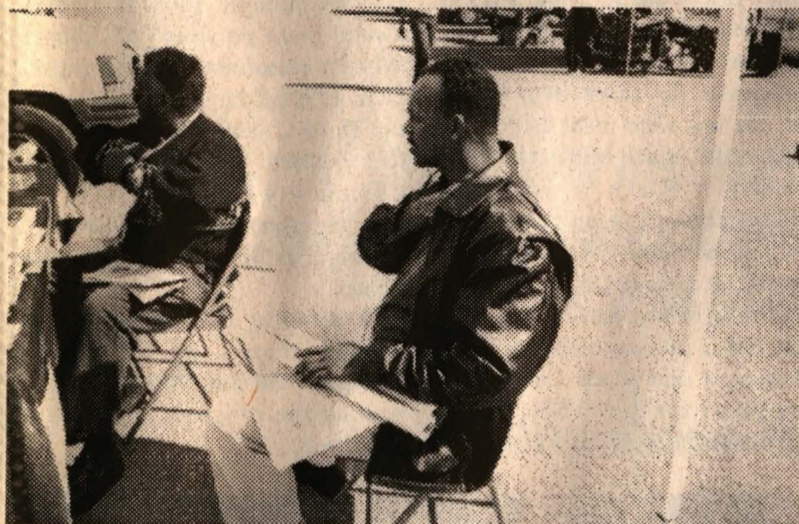
February is the shortest and one of the coldest months in the year. It is also the month of Black History and the fourth Saturday is the Fontana day to

celebrate Black History in the Inland Empire. San Bernardino holds theirs on the first Saturday and Riverside on the third Saturday of each year. Well this

past Saturday was a day made for a celebration and celebrate they did. Fred (Rerun) Berry was on hand to assist with entertainment and a message on

how to lose weight. Rerun was a Television star on the sitcom "What's Happening" during the seventies. Rerun got the Fontana citizens involved with his

dancing and they had fun. Vernal B. the coordinator had all of the movers and shakers of the Fontana community on hand to display their talents and wares.



David Ford of Southern California Edison ate several Sweet Potato Pies and enjoyed the fun and sun.



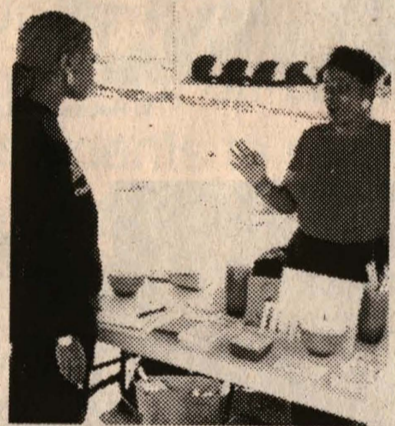
Mr. Harvey (center) Director of the Jesse Turner Community Center chats with community participants.



Rachel Wilcoxon and a co-worker of the Head Start Program was on hand to share information. Rachel has known Hardy and Cheryl Brown since nineteen-sixty-two.



Hazel Hawkins a retiree from Kaiser Hospital was on hand to serve the many attendees.



Rev. Noella Buchanan, of Bethel AME Church in Fontana shares information from their community outreach program "Teen Pregnancy and Unwed Pregnancy Prevention A Community Solution."



Ruthie Udall was in the kitchen cooking and serving. Ruthie is another retiree from Kaiser Hospital and was the first Black-nursing supervisor at the Fontana hospital. Actually Mrs. Udall was like the Hospital Administrator; she is also a Minister.



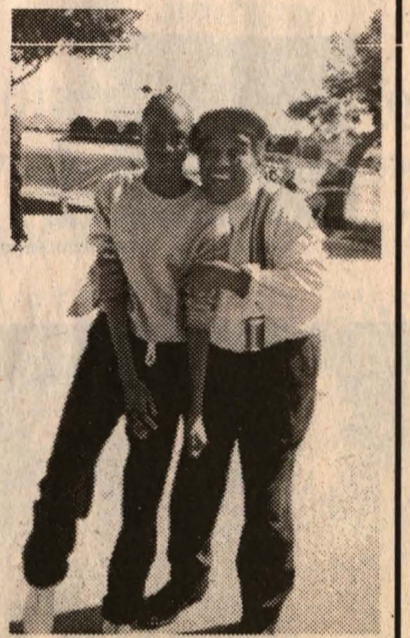
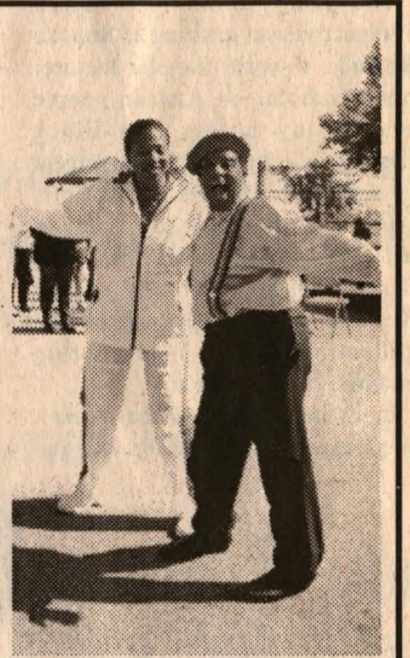
The auto club owners displayed their pride and joy of vintage cars; Wanda's Auto Upholstering (l) in San Bernardino modified Corvette.



Entertaining The Crowd



Fred "Rerun" Berry



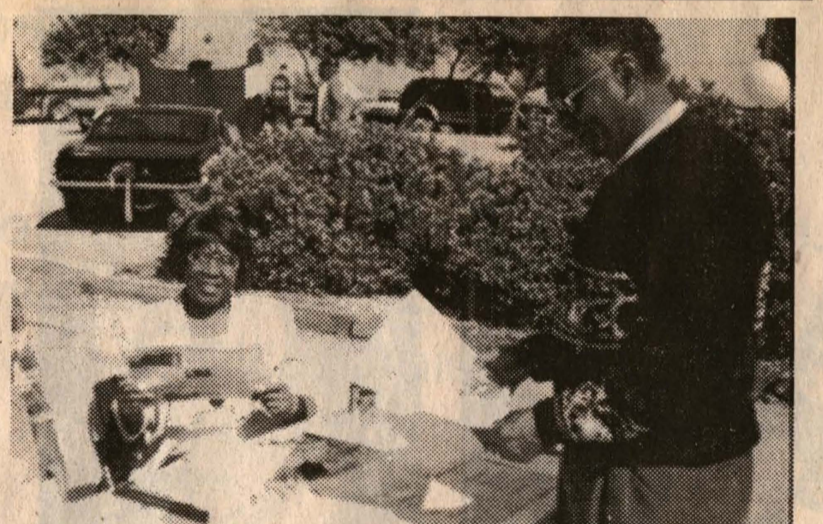
Rerun and the Fontana dance team of non-volunteers danced it up with him. They provided many laughs for the audience.



Ms. Vernell, Director of the Black History Committee of Fontana takes time out with Rerun as his press agent looks on.



Hawaiian Hula Dancers performed during festivities at Jesse Turner Center.



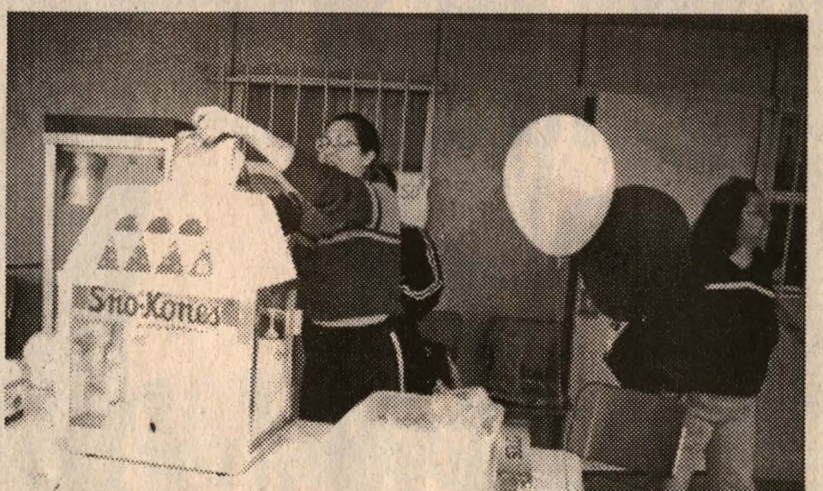
June Chandler and Marion Black took the time to exchange conversation about the pictures in color on the front of the Black Voice.



Willie Shinette, Emma Patterson, Tasha Lindsay, Leotra Metoyer, and Jamie Lindsay.



The Rev. Johnny Brown did his famous impersonation of the Late Rev. Martin Luther King, JR. "I have a Dream" speech.



The vendors had a grand day to sell their merchandise including Sno-Kones in February.

Black History Did Not Start With Slavery It Is From The Beginning of Time

The Black Voice News

COACHELLA

By Cheryl Brown

The Black Historical and Cultural Society of the Coachella Valley held their annual Black History celebration in Palm Springs at the Rivera Hotel and Resort last Saturday. There were three tables of folks from Moreno Valley.

The History In Motion A Black Perspective was exciting as Runoko Rashidi, a world traveler lecturer noted scholar on African people erased any notion that Black History is a legacy of enslavement in America. There were exhibits from a consultant of African artifacts, Missine D. Thiam of Senegal an art exhibit by Alitash Kebede and a display from the collection of Rev. Wiley Burton and Ms. Nancy Wilson.

In his introduction of the speaker, Joe Beaver, Executive Director and

co-founder of (BHCSCV) said his credentials were impeccable. His research is sound and that the audience was in for a rare treat.

Requesting the elders to allow him to speak was the first order of business for Rashidi. He said it was in the tradition of African culture. Rashidi has travelled in almost every country in the world and has been on every continent except Antarctica. His show and tell slide presentation left no doubt of the influence, the genius, and the history of Black people in the world.

"My history and yours did not begin in slavery," he said as he started with the skeletal remains of the oldest person in the world 3.4 million years old found in Ethiopia. Rashidi also dispelled all notion that Egypt and Ethiopia are located any place but Africa. This story seemed to emerge around 1798 at the height of the slave trade. How

could the people who were there and civilized before anyone else in the world be enslaved if they knew their history. "With knowledge comes responsibility," he said to an attentive audience.

The first building in the world was built by Imhotep, father of medicine, who was African. Rashidi showed the valley of the pyramids and said it is so significant it can be seen from outer space. "It wasn't built by slaves as many of these historians would have you believe it was built by engineers and mathematicians who were Black." They were built in a time frame of 80 years he said.

He showed pictures of locks and dreds, hairstyles and large features that were truly African.

As the audience traced through the dynasties that women headed, he spoke of African greatness and the effect African culture and thought played on the rest of the

world. He even showed a structure in front of a pyramid that looked exactly like the Washington Monument built thousands of years before. While somewhat astute, people knew some of the African history, it was his modern day pictures that told another story. He showed Blacks on every continent today and went back to historic times to show Blacks have always been a part of every culture. "Blacks have been in India for over 3000 years. The untouchables are Black people in India who live in horrible conditions. There was a global dispersing of Black folk that had nothing to do with enslavement," he said.

He gave incidents of genocide such as in Australia, where Blacks are 1.6% of the population but just like in America they make up 70% of the prison population and 50% are women. He showed photos of Blacks there with blond "nappy"

hair and blue eyes.

In Tasmania he has photographed the last remaining Black. The powers that be laced blankets with smallpox and wiped out all the Blacks there.

We travelled with him from the South Seas to Russia, and the father of Russian literature, a Black man named Alexander Pushkin, and to Mexico where the story is told about African statues. The story is that they fell on the ground and rolled around, because of a strong earthquake, the noses were flatten and the lips were made large. He spoke of the Black Moors and even showed a Black government official dressed in uniform from 1760 in Sweden. According to Rashidi, it is said Queen Victoria had a relative who was Black.

He had a picture of Mary Ellen Pleasant, a rich Black Californian who gave John Brown \$30,000 for his raid on Harper's Ferry.

"We need to celebrate our history 12 months a year instead of the shortest, coldest month of the year," said Rashidi to a standing ovation.

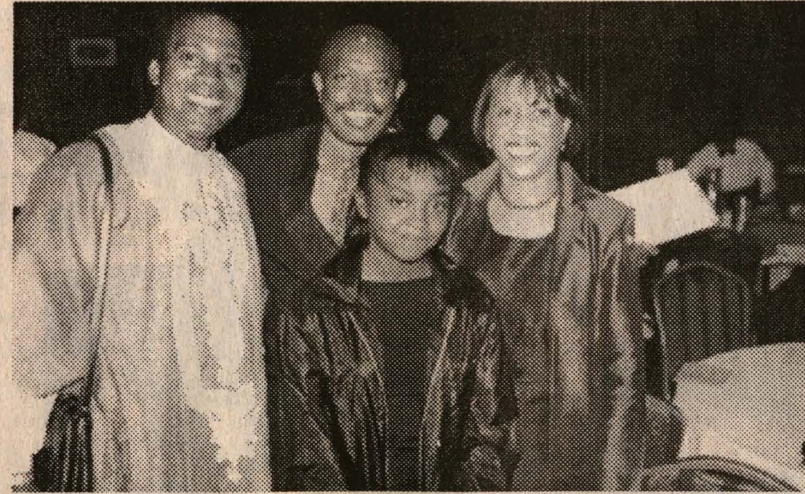
Also on program was the African American KCET Award winner for his skill and talent as a classical guitarist, Eric Benzant - Feldra. He is a graduate of USC.

Awards were represented to LaToya Hickman for her essay on Harriet Tubman and community awards were presented to Collette Woods, editor/activist, Marchlino Diaz, EOPs Community College of the Desert, James Jesse, Head of the North Palm Springs Community Center, Bob Silva, Library Arts Program, and Dr. Irving Hirshleifer, of the Stroke Center.

Ex-director Beaver expressed special thanks to Vi House, LaVonne Hill and Phil Frazer for making the program the success that it was.



Missine D. Thiam from Senegal displays art exhibit.



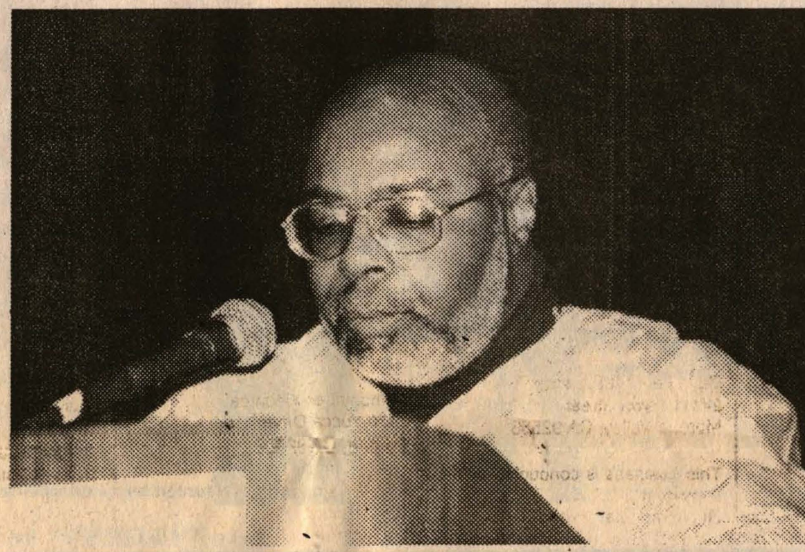
The Burks: (r-l) Bernadette, Andrea, Robert and Rev. Carl McPeters.



Nancy Wilson and Wiley Burton's derogatory display of Negro characterization.



Collette Woods, editor/activist, Marchlino Diaz (not shown), James Jesse, Head of the North Palm Springs Community Center, Bob Silva, Library Arts Program, Dr. Irving Hirshleifer (not shown)



Runoko Rashidi, a world traveler lecturer



Vi House and LaVonne Hill



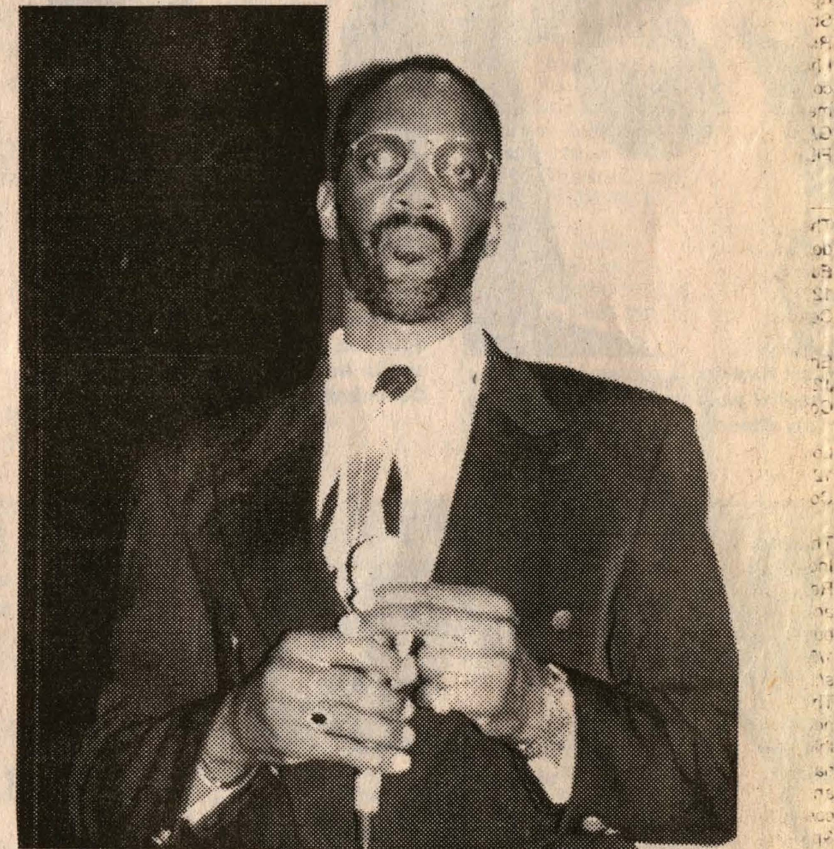
Classical guitarist, Eric Benzant - Feldra



Joseph Beaver



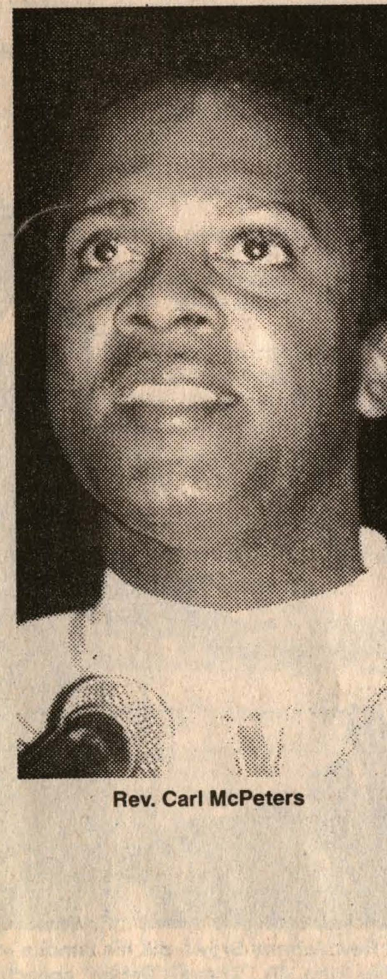
Collette Woods and LaToya Hickman.



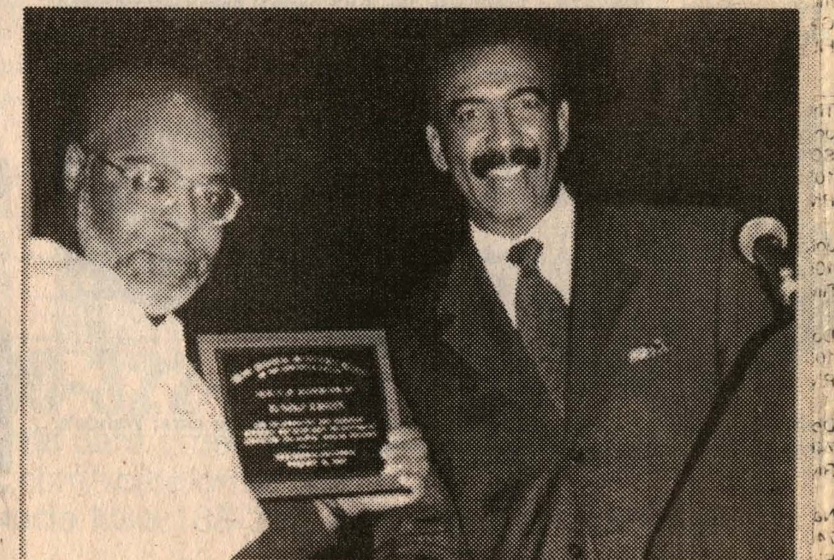
Rev. Tahlih McMichaux, sang Amazing Grace



Ron Oden, Alitash Kebede, Mildred Johnson, Missine D. Thiam, Vi House, Eric Benzant-Feldra, and Joseph Beaver



Rev. Carl McPeters



Runoko Rashidi and City Councilman Ron Oden

Scholarships Sought for Women of Achievement Luncheon

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

Each year the Black Voice Foundation, Inc., a Inland Empire-based non-profit organization, salutes women who have made noteworthy contributions to the community and whose work promotes racial harmony in the Inland Empire.

Oftentimes, many noteworthy accomplishments either go unnoticed or unheard by mainstream press. In an effort to give a voice to many unseen heroes, The Black Voice Foundation, Inc., salutes women



who have made noteworthy contributions to their communities and whose work

promotes racial harmony in the Inland Empire.

Over the past fourteen years, the Foundation has saluted many women from many fields - including the business and corporate sectors, community service organizations, education, and medicine. These women have triumphed over many of the obstacles that face them and yet remain committed to furthering the advancement of minority people and programs within their community.

The goal of the luncheon is to honor the "unsung heroines" of our community whose

achievements may go unnoticed.

In addition to honoring these remarkable women, The Black Voice Foundation, Inc., takes on the helm of promoting continued learning through the Black Voice Foundation Scholarship. The Foundation is currently seeking applicants for \$500-\$1500 scholarships to be awarded to deserving students interested in careers in (or related to) English or media studies. The scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled at accredited four-year universities. There is no GPA requirement, but the student should be in good

standing and show financial need. Students must complete the application form and submit one letter of recommendation. The application deadline is April 21, 2000.

Each year, recipients are honored for their educational accomplishments in the fields of Communication, Journalism, English Multimedia and Media Studies.

Scholarships are available for potential recipients who meet the criteria of: a person in financial need; individuals enrolled in and attaining a degree in communications, journalism,

english or multimedia media studies; and currently in good standing.

Those interested in receiving a scholarship application or requiring more information should contact The Black Voice News Office.

Luncheon sponsorships and table donors are also available. If you are interested in rates, please call The Black Voice News. Individual tickets are also available for \$25 per person. For ticket information call The Black Voice News office: (909) 682-6070.

President of Smith College To Speak at UCR March 13

The Black Voice News

RIVERSIDE

Ruth J. Simmons, president of Smith College in Massachusetts, is the great great granddaughter of slaves and the first African American woman to head a top-ranked college in the United States. She will give a free public speech about diversity in higher education at 6 p.m. Monday, March 13 in room E of the University Extension Center, part of the University of California, Riverside.

The UCR Center for Ideas and Society is sponsoring Simmons' as part of an annual public lecture geared to be of interest to a general audience, as well as an academic one. Center director Emory Elliott said Simmons' speech, called "Merit

Redefined: Access, Equity, and Excellence in Higher Education," will be the only one she gives in Southern California.

Simmons is the youngest of 12 children. She was an extremely talkative child and an independent thinker whose

"achieve something spectacular."

In 1967 Simmons graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. She received a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from Harvard University and has been a faculty member at the University of New Orleans, California State University Northridge, Spelman College and Princeton University. She was an administrator at Princeton University and Spelman College, before she

was chosen as president of Smith College in 1995.

Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, on the Advisory Council for the Gates Millennium Scholars and a member of the board of major companies such as Texas Instruments and the Carnegie Corp.

Simmons is also the recipient of a number of prizes and fellowships, including the German DAAD and a Fulbright Fellowship to France. She was

named a CBS Woman of the Year, January 1996; and NBC Nightly News Most Inspiring Woman, August 1996; a Glamour Magazine Woman of the Year, November 1996.

She was the keynote speaker at the 1999 National Urban League Conference in Houston, TX and a panelist in the Oxford University Press/Annenberg Debate on Affirmative Action in the New York Public Library, among many other public speeches and presentations across the country.

"This is an opportunity for the Inland Empire to hear one of the best public speakers available, someone who understands the importance of supportive teachers and the difference education can make in a young life," Elliott said.

"This is an opportunity for the Inland Empire to hear one of the best public speakers available, someone who understands the importance of supportive teachers and the difference education can make in a young life," Elliott said.

intelligence attracted the attention of Ida Mae Henderson, a kindergarten teacher who encouraged her to think big. Well before entering high school, Simmons describes how she not only wanted to make a difference, but she wanted to

Boy's Death Leads to New Concert Safety Legislation

The Black Voice News

LOMA LINDA

Nearly a year ago, 14-year-old Christopher-King died from head injuries after he fell headfirst to the ground while crowdsurfing at a concert. There were no emergency medical personnel onsite; security guards had to revive Christopher and then wait for an ambulance to arrive. He died the next day at an area hospital. "His mother thought he had gone on a weekend camping trip," said Peter Mcentee, Legislative Assistant for Nell Soto.

There are currently no laws regulating medical care at concerts. In an attempt to ensure the delivery of timely medical care to persons injured at concerts, Assemblymember Nell Soto, D-Ontario, has introduced Assembly Bill 1714

into the California Legislature. The bill was introduced to the public at a press conference on Tuesday.

Among other things, AB 1714 requires all concert facilities accommodating 500 or more persons to have an emergency medical technician on site; have an adequately staffed first aid center that can accommodate varying numbers of people depending on the venue; and keep records of the number of first aid patients that receive assistance at concerts, each patient's disorder or injury, and the treatment given. The records will be reported annually to the local Emergency Medical Services agencies.

Soto was joined at the press conference by Jeff Grange, MD, emergency department physician, LLUMC; Michael

Osor, Emergency Medical Services Administrator's Association of California; Jeff English, firefighter for the city of San Bernardino; and Kelly King, mother of Christopher King.

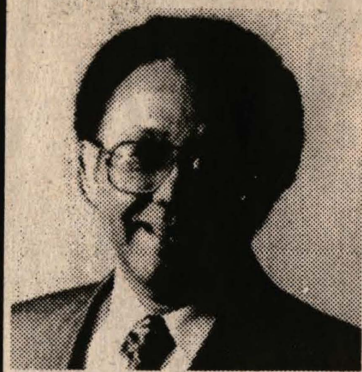
Tobacco-Free Project Announces Funding for Mini-Grant Activities

Tri-County South Regional Tobacco-Free Project announces the availability of mini-grant funds to conduct tobacco-free activities in Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

For more information, call Donna Newton at (909) 637-3040.

Tri-County South is funded by Prop. 99, The Tobacco Tax of 1988.

Our Bodies



Ernest C. Levister, Jr., M.D.
F.A.C.P., F.A.C.P.M.

Dear Dr. Levister: Next month I will celebrate my 103 birthday. Many people ask me, what's the secret to long life. While nothing is guaranteed in life, please allow me to share at least six lessons I've learned about aging.

J.L.

Attitude: Be aware of your attitude. It is important not to consider age as a limitation. Centenarians are the world's fastest growing age group. Take advantage of new opportunities and possibilities for seniors. Remember, how you feel about aging is key to your ability to thrive. Begin and end each day with a positive attitude.

Genes: Most people have genes that would allow them to live to be at least 85 with proper care. High-fat diets, smoking, excessive drinking and a lack of sleep and exercise not only reduce people's chances of achieving old age, they markedly increase the likelihood of poor health.

Exercise: An active lifestyle contributes to overall health and is the way to use our genes to their fullest potential. Resistance training such as light weight training, walking up hills or stairs burns fat efficiently, strengthens muscle and bone and dramatically reduces the

How to Live Longer

risk of falls. Staying active increases independence and well being.

Investigate: Look for new challenges. Keep your mind active. Mental workouts such as reading, writing, travel, and musical instruction is the key to mental vigor.

Nutrition: Emphasize fruits and vegetables in your diet, and minimize meat, saturated and hydrogenated fats and sweets. Eat in moderation. Supplement your diet with a multiple vitamin designed for seniors.

Get Rid Of Stress: Shedding your psychological baggage is a key to long life. Remember we

can't control the actions of our families, or friends, however we can control our responses. Humor, prayer/meditation, yoga, humility and optimism are great stressbusters.

Dr. Levister welcomes reader mail concerning their body but regrets that he cannot answer individual letters. Your letters will be incorporated into the column as space permits. You may direct your letters to Dr. Levister in care of Voice News, P.O. Box 1581, Riverside, CA 92502.

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Goes Where You Go

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