

# Editorial

By Paul C. Smith

## CLEAN UP THE AIR

It would seem from the testimony of most witnesses called by City Attorney Gripentrog that the only thing Lt. Larry Bolden is guilty of is being Black and having the nerve to take the Captain's Exam. Not one person that has come forward has said they saw Bolden cheat.

We would be naive to believe that these witnesses who also took the test would welcome Bolden being Captain, with equal or superior rank.

It also appears that the entire procedure of the test and the review was highly irregular, to say the least.

So, many of Bolden's fellow officers who took the exam have handled and checked his papers, it is a miracle that they did not fall to pieces. As witnesses of the City, several officers have testified to having Bolden's test paper in their possession. Why?

Indeed this whole matter and the way it is being handled is polluting the air.

It is very disheartening to learn to what extent people in power will go to, to save face.

How much of the tax payers money will the City Attorney, expend in this face saving hearing (term being used loosely). Many spectators are wondering why Gripentrog keeps his head down and acts so nervous, they are saying if acting nervous denotes guilt, (this seems to be his whole case against Bolden), what is he guilty of?

In passing: Those fine persons who sought to improve the image of the L.V.P.D. had no dreams that Bolden would attempt to work his way to the top. He would, they thought, "Stay in his place," "let well enough alone." Be content with being a Lieutenant.

There are many people who would like to close the hearings to the public. They have been hoping that the members of the Black Community who cause a disturbance, and provide a good excuse for keeping the public out.

We are known for not doing what people expect us to do. But we will be present at these hearings and have the powers look us in the eye. We will not turn our backs on our brother.

*The City Attorney Is  
Bound By The City's  
Charter To Carry Out  
The Will Of The People.*

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