

Our Judicial System. *Introduction*

What's Right And Wrong With It.

By George A. Burns

"I have a dream that one day, even the state of Mississippi...will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Dr. Martin Luther King

"Two hundred years of injustice is enough!"

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

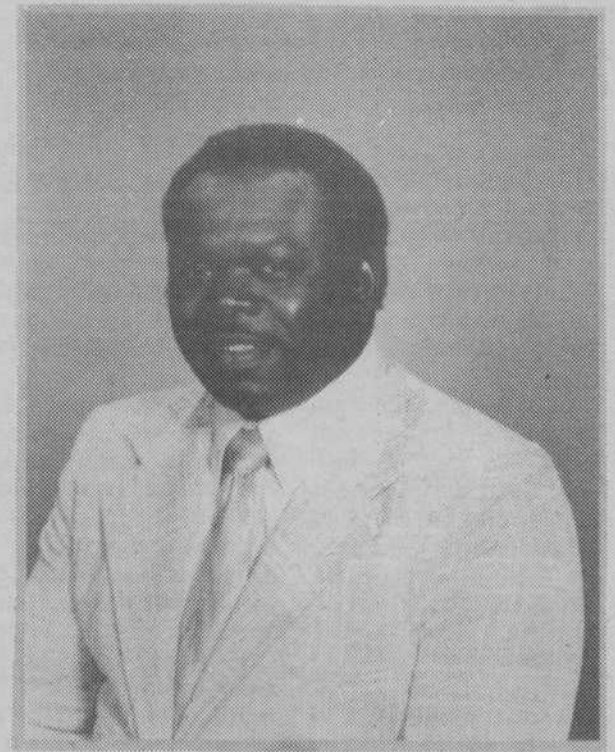
"Our criminal justice system's main problem is that we just don't have an adequate amount of prosecutors, courts nor prison resources."

Former Clark County Sheriff
John McCarthy.

In a recent study by U.S. News and World Report in its Crime In American special edition, crime in this country has increased tremendously in all categories in just 12 short months. To make this true statement all the more distressing, our society, in trying to cope with fewer courts, jails, attorneys, and prisons are finding it a lot more convenient to return the criminal element back to the street where a repetition of his crime could quite possibly, and has often recurred.

Also, to add to those depressing and awesome realities, we seem to be witnessing daily the injustices of a society where those with the greatest financial resources, have the opportunity to buy the best that money has to offer in regards to courtroom defense attorneys, and they often walk away with verdict decisions in their favor. By contrast, those who happen to be in the majority of being far less well off in both affluence and financial security, far too often find their verdict decisions to be contrary to their hopes. Former Clark County Sheriff John McCarthy said last August in an interview with the Sentinel/Voice, that "there's no doubt that those far more well off stand a better chance of being acquitted of their crimes. That's a fact of life."

It's also felt that law enforcement is far more harsh and severe in predominantly minority communities than in the more lavish and affluent communities in society. While stating that there were no distinctions in his executing of the law, regardless of where crime is being committed, the present Sheriff of Clark County Moran said recently, in regards to one area of town as opposed to another, "it's like the comparing of apples to



Terence Johnson, Chief Ranger, received an award for outstanding work, "beyond the call of duty," in promoting the Independent Order of Foresters in the Las Vegas area. Presenting the award to Chief Ranger Johnson at the Chief Rangers Conference in El Paso, Texas were Larry Allen and Jim Weddle from the Toronto, Canada Head Office. The Independent Order of Foresters (IOF) is a non-profit fraternal benefit Society, organized in 1875, with world-wide membership of 1.8 million. Johnson has been involved with IOF for six years. Married with two children, he is employed by EGG.

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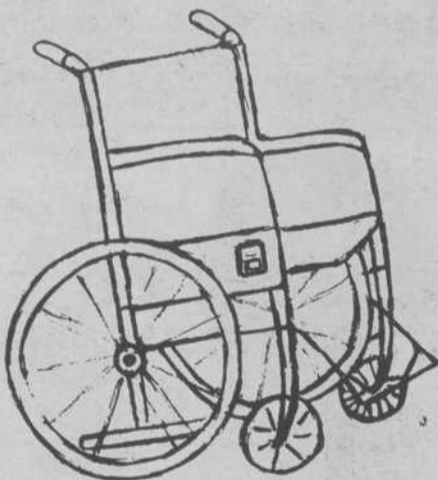
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oranges."

This series shall deal with our judicial system, to its most intricate detail, and we'll focus on the rights and wrongs of it for the next few weeks.

Next issue, we plan to uncover some of the problems as they see it, they being a young man preparing for his examination to the Nevada Bar, (David Phillips), the Deputy District Attorney for Clark County (Booker Evans) and the Clark County District Attorney (Robert Miller).

We'll get their opinions on what they feel to be the major problems of the present judicial system here in Las Vegas, and they will systematically voice their views on how those problems can most effectively be solved.

Next week, Part I of "Our Judicial System. What's Right And Wrong With It."

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"WOMEN PRAISE" EXHIBITED

The public is invited to attend the upstairs gallery exhibit of "In Praise of Woman" at the Flamingo Library.

UNLV librarian Bob Ball's fine art photography illuminates the body as a landscape reflecting curves and planes, and shadows and lights. Up until three years ago, Ball had taken no more than a few hundred snapshots in his entire life. He notes that "for reasons I myself don't understand, I began taking pictures."

Of his work, Ball said, "I'm very proud of what I'm doing."

"In Praise of Woman" will be on display in the Flamingo Library upstairs gallery through June 3.