

## NEWSCASTERS

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reporter at a time at any given station.

Among the most memorable standout black reporters during this period were Paul Dawkins, Channel 8, Deborah Campbell, Channel 13, and Holly Echols, Channel 3. For shorter periods of time, Gail Moses and Patricia Jarman worked locally as TV newscasters, both at Channel 13. Jarman now is an international boxing judge based in Las Vegas and was recently featured as a top black bachelorette in Ebony magazine.



Paul Dawkins

Recapping the present whereabouts of some of the other former black newspeople, Bailey is president of NEDCO and New Ventures Certified Development Company, Toston is a sales executive with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, and I am the spokesman for the Clark County School District.

The new crop of black TV news figures since 1980 includes anchorwoman/reporter Rikki Cheese-Haynes who recently departed from Channel 3 under less than amicable terms according to one unnamed source, or, if you believe other sources, she left "to pursue a better opportunity." Rikki was mentored at Channel 10 by



Rikki Cheese

Lee Winston before moving on to an extremely successful career at Channel 3. Winston, Paul Dawkins of Channel 8, and Deborah Campbell of Channel 5, formerly were TV news reporters, but are now employed as community affairs directors at their respective stations.

Channel 8 sports director Art Edwards was first a newsman at Channel 8 but moved to New Orleans as a TV newsman, only to return last year to Channel 8 in a totally new role as the station's sports director.

While no local station has a exemplary track record when it comes to hiring black on-

air talent, Channel 8 has by far the largest number of black faces in front of the camera. They include Edwards and reporters Karla Alston and newcomer Juana Hart.

With the untimely departure of Rikki Cheese-Haynes from Channel 3 news, Sue Tripathi has taken over her assignment as coanchor.

Channel 13 recently hired Angela Rodriguez, a local product whose mother teaches school here, as a producer/reporter. She can frequently be seen in front of the camera. Then there's Stephen Jackson who is the back-up sports anchor at 13.

In the mid '70's, with the



Lee Winston

support and assistance of then Governor Mike O'Callaghan, Roosevelt Toston, Paul Dawkins, Bob Palm (formerly a reporter with the Las Vegas Sun), Paul Smith (formerly with the VOICE newspaper), and I organized the Black Media Association of Nevada. It began as a support group to provide an outlet for local

black newsmen To deal with common problems. We grew to become much more than that. Eventually we established a scholarship fund and help regular social functions with our families. There was togetherness in those days.

But when you look at the small number of blacks today in local TV news, you have to wonder whether we've really progressed.

In the old days when I was in television news there was a certain activism, where black reporters had a close relationship with each other and with the black community. While, station policy and news protocol create barriers. That's because it's considered unethical for reporters to get too close to the sources they report on.

But you can't accept those factors as excuses and leave it at that. For whatever reason, it is a fact that there are only three full-time black TV news reporters today in Las Vegas, 28 years after Bob Bailey made history as the first, and there are no blacks in news management making decisions on what news to cover. Consider also that the only three black reporters on the air right now are all females. Currently, the only two male on-air black staff members, Jackson at Channel 13 and Edwards at Channel 8, are sports reporters.

Come to think of it, the old days weren't so bad after all.

## HAWKINS

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stricter gun control laws and adopt an aggressive strategy to stop the flow of drugs into our country from foreign lands. Our nation should develop to total quality-of-life package for our youth, especially education, beginning at the earliest possible age. In terms of education we must spearhead the following agenda:

1. Expand Head Start to serve every eligible child. Research shows that students who have preschool education had an employment rate double to those who did not, and were 50% more likely to graduate from high school.

2. Fully fund Chapter One, a federal education program providing remedial education assistance to disadvantaged children in elementary and secondary schools. For

## Summer Is Home Decorating Time In West Las Vegas

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

By rough survey of my neighbors' and friends' homes in West Las Vegas, I see that most of the exterior walls have very good paint jobs. However, a fresh coat of good latex semi-gloss paint always improves the looks of any home, at least every four or five years. We are speaking of the exterior walls.

Many homes in West Las Vegas could get by with a fresh coat of good latex, semi-gloss paint on the fascia boards and other exterior trim members, following a good scraping process. All loose paint and scuff should be thoroughly removed before applying the new paint. The intense heat in Las Vegas causes the paint to peel, especially on the east side of buildings. The paint does not peel from walls that are of cinder block, stucco or aluminum siding. All painting (latex) should be done when the temperature is between 58 and 98 degrees.

To get the best results from your painting program,

read the directions on the paint can carefully before painting. Semi-gloss latex paint is easily applied. Simply keep paint from areas not to be painted, as once this type of paint gets on concrete, wood, clothing, or any surface or area not to be painted, it is almost impossible to remove.

With West Las Vegas now a part of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan, a study group is recommending that existing neighborhoods be preserved, and that Owens and Harrison Avenues, Jackson Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard have extensive three planting and other streetscape, as part of the West Las Vegas Redevelopment Program.

With these community improvement, and others planned for the future, we can supplement this aggressive program by cleaning, fixing up, painting up and sprucing up our little, 7,000 square piece of real estate, which we all should be proud of, because, in a majority of cases, our property is paid for, free and clear.

children who participate in the program a significant improvement in test scores has been shown over the past two decades.

3. Adopt the proven track record of "effective schools" and educational concept, which have demonstrated tangible results. Included among those results are strong leadership, high expectations for student achievement, an orderly school and safe school atmosphere, emphasis on basic and higher order skills, and frequent evaluation of student progress. Fifteen years of research reveals that the concept has dramatically improved reading scores in the schools utilizing the program.

In addition to increased educational investment, we must fashion creative job training programs. In the 1970's the federal government funded innovative youth job programs, which attempted to address the employment barriers of at-risk youth job programs, which attempted to address the employment barriers of at-risk youth (teen pregnancy, illiteracy, child abuse, etc.). These programs were wiped away in the Reagan years, despite their considerable value. I have introduced a new bill (H.R.

2235) which amends the Job Training Partnership Act, to address the problems of our neediest youth and adults.

The "mean season" will end only when we look at a long range approach to problems confronting our youth and adults. We don't need to hear any more get-tough-on-drugs rhetoric. What we now require is hard money to implement cost effective and proven programs.

## RETREAT

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luxury commercial jet plan and even has a stewardess assigned to attend to the comfort of passengers. The retreat trip was the "maiden voyage" of the land craft. According to company president Sam Armstrong, the vehicle is still being road tested and will officially go into service July 24. Armstrong, who also went on the retreat, is vice-president of the NBCC.

Don't Drink

and Drive

## If Your Man Is Dabbling In Drugs... He Could Be Dabbling With Your Life.



This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Shooting up or skin popping, if your man is sharing needles he could get the AIDS virus and bring it home to you. So if he's running with the drug crowd, even if it's only on the weekends, you need to talk to him. Try to get him into counselling. Insist that he wear a condom every time you have sex. And if he's not listening to you—do something to save your life. Leave.

For more information about AIDS, call 1-800-842-AIDS. Nevada AIDS Hotline

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