



Verita Black

The first ever Minority Affairs Column for the Reno-Gazette-Journal is published every other Sunday in the Forum section. The columnist, Coni Anthony, is a good writer who explores issues that are facing the minority

NORTHERN NEVADA UPDATE By Verita Black

community in Reno.

The northern Nevada area will have the opportunity to hear columnist Tony Brown, of Tony Brown's Journal speak at the annual Black Student Organization Banquet and Ball on April 26 at Harrah's Resort Casino. The BSO is celebrating 20 years of commitment and excellence in attaining funds for scholarships and securing cultural events on campus.

This is a time for progress in the field of journalism in Reno. Beginning on May 6 the "Ebony Showcase" will air on KOLO-TV 8, the ABC affiliate in Reno. Residents are hoping that BET will be next on the agenda. Locals cannot access BET unless

they have a satellite dish.

Last week the Reno community was hit with a big blow. The Deputy Chief of the Reno Police Department was arrested on DUI charges while driving an unmarked police vehicle. Lonny Jackson is an African-American and he has been with the Reno Police Department for 19 years. He is fighting the charges, stating that the sobriety test was not accurate and no blood test was taken. The details are sketchy. Jackson has been a vital part of the organization for nearly 20 years and I sincerely hope that the community does not forget all of his many contributions, now, when he needs their support most.

When there weren't many Black officers applying to the police department, Jackson was there to encourage more. When Pat Baker Park needed cleaning up, Jackson was there to help with the process of getting rid of the drugs and thugs. When charges of police harassment were made, Jackson was there to act as liaison between the community and the department.

Now he needs the community to be there for him and his family. If the charges are in fact valid, we should support and encourage him to seek help. If the charges are not true, then we should stand behind him to make sure his good name is cleared. But we cannot let one incident ruin 19 years of hard work and dedication.

Abernathy Buried In Atlanta

ATLANTA - The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy was carried to his crypt Monday on a wave of praise, riding in a plain mule-drawn wooden wagon flanked by his sons and colleagues in the civil rights movement.

The procession followed a service at which civil rights leaders who criticized Abernathy for his controversial account of Martin Luther King, Jr. got a public rebuke.

The famous and the humble piled shoulder-to-shoulder inside a southwest Atlanta church for the four-hour service for the man who was King's longtime chief lieutenant in the civil rights movement.

Afterward, two mules, pulling a green wooden wagon bearing Abernathy's casket, set out from West Hunter Street Baptist Church, where Abernathy was pastor, for Lincoln Cemetery.

King's body was carried to its resting place by a mule-drawn wagon in 1968 at the suggestion of Abernathy, who considered it symbolic of humility. Relatives said Abernathy wanted the same for himself.

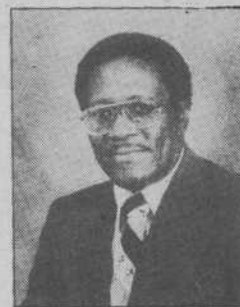
Abernathy's bier traveled in a two-hour procession of 22 limousines.

Groups of people, some with children and pets, lined the sidewalks as the wagon inched along in a sea of 150 suited marchers, including Abernathy's sons, Kwame and state Rep. Ralph David Abernathy III, and movement associates Andrew Young and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



This is an open letter and invitation to Metro Police Officer John Lybbert to come to the next NAACP meeting, which will be held Sunday, May 20, 1990, 3:00 p.m., at Zion Methodist Church, 2108 Revere Street, North Las Vegas.

This article was written in response to an editorial appearing in the Review-Journal on March 25, 1990.

The U.S. Constitution allows free speech against Metro Police Department or anyone else. America was founded in an atmosphere of protest and revolution against Great Britain because of taxation without representation.

I thank God we live in America and not Russia where elected officials like Sheriff John Moran can be held accountable for the alleged misconduct of a few of his officers.

When Sheriff Moran ran for office four (4) years ago, he was in a very tight race against an incumbent Sheriff John McCarthy. The sheriff came to West Las Vegas several times and met with the Ministers Alliance at True Love Baptist Church pastored by Rev. I.W. Wilson and he promised us that he and his officers would treat everyone fairly and that he would have an open door policy to see anyone. A similar visit and commitment was made at the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ pastored by State Bishop E.N. Webb.

In September of 1989, we began to receive a rash of citizen complaints alleging brutality of a few metro officers. It was then decided that we would extend an invitation to Sheriff Moran to come back to West Las Vegas and meet the people who had helped to put him in office. For the first two (2) invitations the Sheriff said he could not come but instead sent some of his officers both to the November and December 1989 meetings. Finally the sheriff said that the NAACP could come to see him in his office.

Contrary to what officer John Lybbert said in his letter to the editor printed March 25, 1990 in the Review-Journal, our invitations to the

sheriff were extended to him long before the incident that gave rise to the black community's present discontentment about the Keith Harrison case.

We in the black community have fewer incidents of crime than there are in most other sections of Clark County. However, we realize police presence is needed and we want them to do what they were hired to do - to protect and serve.

Every black man in West Las Vegas or anywhere else is not a pimp, thug or gang member. While we don't condone the existence of gangs, they are still human beings and should be treated as such. The American system assumes the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

In West Las Vegas young blacks are 50% unemployed. Black people represent 12% of the population and 60% of those in prison, 14% in Clark County Schools and 50% attending Opportunity Schools. The real solutions to these and other problems are not as simple as Officer Lybbert makes them to be.

The black community is in the planning stages of determining with whom they will invest and deposit their monies as well as for whom it will vote on election day.

Black people have difficulty getting a job with high school diplomas and college degrees even in the gaming industry. So you see, in addition to color, the problem is both economic and political.

Officer Lybbert believes that there are only a few alleged leaders in the black community that are bothering the Sheriff with complaints. We are extending a special invitation to him to be our special guest at the next NAACP meeting which will be held at Zion United Methodist Church, 2108 Revere Street, on Sunday, May 20, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. to state his case.

Sincerely,
Jesse D. Scott
Branch President NAACP

**Keep Hope
Alive!**
STOP THE VIOLENCE!

"Say No" To Racial Terrorists! All Of Us Are Under Siege

Within the past several months, the NAACP has been the target of vicious and cowardly attacks by racial terrorists. The rope of the lyncher has been replaced with deadly bombs sent through the mails. Unless, as a united people, we say no to these racial terrorists, none of us is safe.

Already, they have committed these terrible acts.

- **July 19, 1989** — Shortly after midnight, three to four shots are fired into several lighted offices at NAACP Headquarters in Baltimore.
- **August 21, 1989** — When a package is opened at the NAACP's Regional Office in Atlanta, a tear gas bomb explodes. Several aged persons and small children are treated for severe respiratory reactions.
- **December 16, 1989** — Judge Robert Vance of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals is killed when he opens a package containing a pipe bomb. The court has handled a number of civil rights cases.
- **December 18, 1989** — Robert Robinson, a Savannah attorney, who has handled a number of NAACP cases, is killed — literally blown apart — when he opens a package sent to his home.
- **December 19, 1989** — A similar bomb is sent to the home of the president of the Jacksonville, Florida NAACP. Suspicious, she calls police, thereby avoiding what would have been certain death had she opened the package.
- **December 28, 1989** — A terrorist organization claims responsibility for the bombings and threatens further violence against the federal judiciary and the NAACP.
- **January 1, 1990** — Eight demonstrators from white supremacist groups appear at NAACP headquarters shouting approval of the murders of Mr. Robinson and Federal Judge Robert Vance.
- Ongoing threats are being made against the NAACP and its officials. The headquarters is now under 24-hour police protection.

While these attacks have been directed against the NAACP, they are in fact aimed at the very heart of America. If the nation's oldest, largest and most effective civil rights organization can be frightened and intimidated by violence — which it will not — the terrorists will strike out at other institutions, other people. None of us, Black, White, Jew or Gentile, can take our safety for granted.

You can say no to terrorism by joining the NAACP today. You can send a powerful message that African Americans will stand firm against the merchants of hate and purveyors of violence, and the struggle for full freedom, equality and justice will go on.

Send in your membership or contribution now and
"SAY NO" TO RACIAL TERRORISTS.

Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Regular Membership	
Regular	\$10.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Includes membership and Crisis Magazine	
Life Membership	\$500.00
(Payable in annual installments of \$50 or more.)	
MAIL TO: "Say No To Racial Terrorists"	
NAACP	
4805 Mt. Hope Drive	
Baltimore, Maryland 21215	