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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

JIM BROWN INITIATES AMER-I-CAN PROGRAM IN LAS VEGAS

On Thursday, September 26, 1991, Mayor Jan Laverty-Jones announced her plans for community outreach through the "Mayor's Committee for a Better Community (MCBC)," a program created by the Mayor and funded with the help of the local business community.

At a press conference held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Mayor Jones introduced former NFL Hall of Famer Jim Brown, and his AMER-I-CAN program, as the first project to be funded by the committee.

"This is not only about the poor section of Las Vegas, this is about America," said Brown, the creator and driving force behind AMER-I-CAN, a 15-step course aimed at teaching youths in disadvantaged areas throughout the country, primarily gang members and drug dealers, personal responsibility and alternatives to gang violence and drug abuse. "We want to bring the total community together," he added.

Sandy Blake Toles was named Committee Outreach Specialist for the MCBC program by the mayor, and she will be working out of City Hall, as well as within the community itself.

Mr. T. Rodgers, National Spokesperson for AMER-I-CAN, and a former gang member himself, was on hand along with former gang members and disadvantaged youths that are currently in the program.

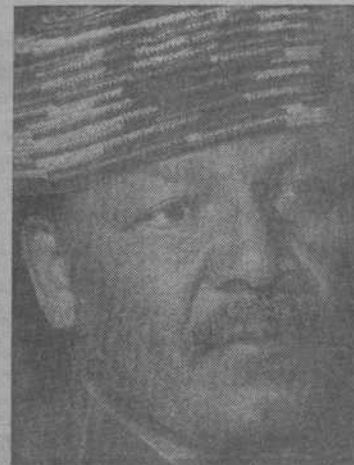
The program is based in Los Angeles, but now it can also be found in New York, Chicago, Ohio and now Las Vegas.

Although the Mayor admitted that there was no financial commitment from the city at this time, she has stated, "If we (The City of Las Vegas) can find \$500,000 to fund additional law enforcement and imprisonment,

(See Jim Brown, Page 5)



MAYOR JAN JONES



JIM BROWN

"Out of Focus - Out of Sync"

NAACP BLASTS HOLLYWOOD

According to an NAACP study released Monday, Blacks have made only slight progress in Hollywood and continue to be discriminated against in every segment of the entertainment industry.

The report, which showed that only a handful of blacks hold executive positions with film studios and television networks, also found that Blacks lack the power to hire and fire, and that no Blacks make final decisions in the motion picture process.

William Gibson, chairman of the NAACP, said that Blacks were "underrepresented in each and every aspect of the industry.

"African-Americans have traditionally



NAACP Chairman, William Gibson speaks on the "Black-Out" in Hollywood

WOMEN WIN SETTLEMENT AGAINST METRO

Two women, who claimed their civil rights were violated when they were arrested on loitering charges, won an \$85,000 settlement against the Metropolitan Police Department Monday.

Sheila Lewis, 27, and Angie Evans, 20, sued the department after they were arrested on December 13, 1989 as they stood in front of Lewis' apartment on Cobb Lane in Las Vegas.

In the suit, the women claimed they were taken into custody during a routine police practice of making arrests, without probable cause, of those suspected of being affiliated with gangs. The charges were later dropped.

Ironically, Lewis is the aunt of 20-year-old Eric Eackles who was killed last month in what North Las Vegas police have labeled as another "gang-related" incident. Eackles was killed as he stood in front of Angie Evans' residence on

Princeton St. in North Las Vegas. Also killed during the incident was Calvin Long, who was asleep in the back seat of the car which was driven by Eackles brother.

Eackles' family and friends are still very disturbed by the shootings, and are disappointed with the investigations by local authorities. Some even contend that the Metropolitan Police Department, as well as the North Las Vegas Police Department, may have been involved in the deaths. (See Letter To The Editor Page 2).

The suit filed by Lewis and Evans stated that they were forced to sit for a long period of time in a cold van after the arrest, and that Lewis developed carpal tunnel syndrome from handcuffs that were adjusted too tightly

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