

**POLITICAL POINTS:
"LIBRARY CARDS"**

by Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams SEE PAGE 2

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**NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY:
"WESTSIDE 2000"**

by R. K. Brown

SEE PAGE 3

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Sentinel Voice



VOLUME 13, ISSUE 25

BROWN PUBLISHING COMPANY'S AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

October 15, 1992

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Six Months Has Passed Since Civil Unrest

WEST LAS VEGAS CONTINUES REBUILDING PROCESS

By Joan Shepard

Six months following the civil unrest in West Las Vegas and the now infamous Rodney King verdict, a more promising future is in sight for the area because of the city's redevelopment commitment, community policing, and bank loans available to area merchants.

Immediately following the civil disturbance in April, Mayor Jan Jones put together the Mayor's Multi-jurisdictional Community Empowerment Commission. "The goal of the commission," said the Mayor, is to help rebuild this area.

Although the commission is busy working on the problems, area residents have yet to see anything tangible, but the Mayor said redevelopment will happen. "We are negotiating to buy the 22-acres across the street from Nucleus Plaza," explained Mayor Jones. "We have a letter of intent from Von's to build a supermarket there. There will be space for 60 stores."

In addition, the Mayor said that a

City Hall Annex and a U.S. Post Office will be built either in Nucleus Plaza or the proposed Von's Center across the street from Nucleus.

However, since the uprising, the area's merchants, whose property and stores were damaged, have struggled to get back on their feet. "The only money I have seen is from my insurance company," said John Edmond, the owner of Nucleus Plaza. Other merchants repeated Edmond's experience.

However, help for merchants has arrived, albeit, six months after the disturbance. Bank of America Nevada (formerly Valley Bank) has established a \$2 million loan pool for West Las Vegas merchants. The loans are guaranteed by the federal government and therefore all applications must be reviewed by the Small Business Administration.

"The \$2 million loan pool is to assist merchants in West and North Las Vegas," explained Al Alvarez, director

of retail lending at Bank of America Nevada. "Loans up to \$150,000 will be made and can be used for any normal business need including operation, purchase of inventory, lease hold improvement, and the purchase of fixtures," said Alvarez.

Although Bank of America, according to Alvarez, has two executives out in the community talking to merchants, he advises would be borrowers to contact the bank by calling Jay Blood, manager of the bank's SBA Lending Center, at 654-6871, in order to get information and to start the lending process. Alvarez said that those seeking a loan should have both personal and business tax returns and financial statements when they come to the bank.

Although all loan applications will be reviewed by the Small Business Administration (SBA), requirements and repayment terms are more liberal than the usual SBA terms.

"The interest rate for these loans will be under 8.75%," said Patrick Allison, SBA director. Normal SBA repayment schedules are five years, explained Allison, but these loans will have up to a 15-year repayment schedule.

"There will be no automatic loans," said Allison. "But we know that many applicants will be people who would not normally qualify and don't have normal



PICKING UP THE PIECES- African American sheet-metal laborers install air ducts to the refurbished offices of the Nucleus Shopping Plaza.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

resources. But the requirements will be softer; although we must conform to legal parameters.

Allison also explained that the loans will be classi-

(See Rebuilding, Page 7)

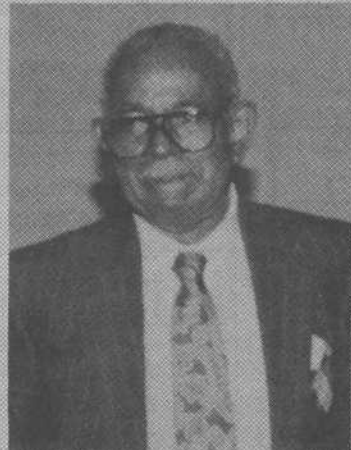
Scarred remains of the Nucleus Shopping Plaza exhibit the damage done by arsonists during the West Las Vegas uprising following the Rodney King verdict.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

WCBPA TO HONOR DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT AT CONVENTION

Oakland, CA - "Dedicated to the cause of the people - That no good cause shall lack champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed," are the eloquent words of Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, West Coast Black Publishers Association's (WCBPA), Publisher of the Year. Dr. Goodlett is recognized by many as a pioneer publisher and leader in the cause of social justice and world peace. WCBPA will pay tribute to Dr. Goodlett at their Ninth Annual Convention, October 14 - 17, 1992 at the Claremont Resort & Spa in Oakland, CA. The confab will bring together Black Publishers from the states of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and California to confront the critical issues facing the minority community which threaten to diminish the Black voice.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett entered the newspaper business in 1948 as Publisher and Editor of the Sun Reporter. In 1972 he established the Reporter Publishing Company, syndicating the



DR. CARTON B. GOODLETT

seven metro Reporters and in 1976, the California Voice. In addition to covering important domestic issues, the Sun Reporter was the first weekly newspaper in America to write about and oppose the Vietnam war.

Goodlett served four terms as President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Black Press (See WCBPA, Page 5)

WLVMEMORIAL CHAPEL MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENT

By Muhammad Abdullah

The Sentinel-Voice met with Reverend O.L. Jefferson, Executive Director of West Las Vegas Memorial Chapel and Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and his legal counselor, Attorney Geraldine Kirk-Hughes on Thursday, October 8, 1992 and received a public statement centered around the recent controversy alleging that some 18 or more bodies were not properly embalmed and/or refrigerated at the facility. Allegations also led the public to believe that many of the bodies had begun to decompose which led the Clark County Coroner's Office to begin an investigation.

According to Rev. Jefferson, the controversy was centered around the

mortuary's handling of exactly 18 bodies which were a part of the Coroner's Rotation Month during which each mortuary receives bodies on a rotation basis, which includes no pre-arranged burial arrangements, next-of-kin unknown, indigent or homeless persons, and others. Only two of the bodies were decomposing which were within the Coroner's guidelines.

Individuals who become deceased in these special cases are then transported to the Clark County Coroner's office for an autopsy and then shipped to the respective funeral home pending burial arrangements. The funeral home selected for the Rotation Month then embalms or refrigerates the bodies depending on what arrangements are

made, such as cremation, burial arrangements in the county cemetery, planned funeral arrangements or shipment out of state.

Rev. Jefferson said that some members of the media overreacted and in an attempt to get a "hot story" have led the public to believe that 18 or more bodies were decomposing, which was not the case.

It is also alleged that one body in particular smelled so badly that a complaint was lodged against the mortuary. Present allegations also might lead the public to believe that the West Las Vegas Memorial Chapel was not properly equipped to handle it's clientele and perhaps should be put out business (See Chapel, Page 20)

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