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**SPECIAL FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH:
"AFFIRMATIVE ACTION — WITH A TWIST"**

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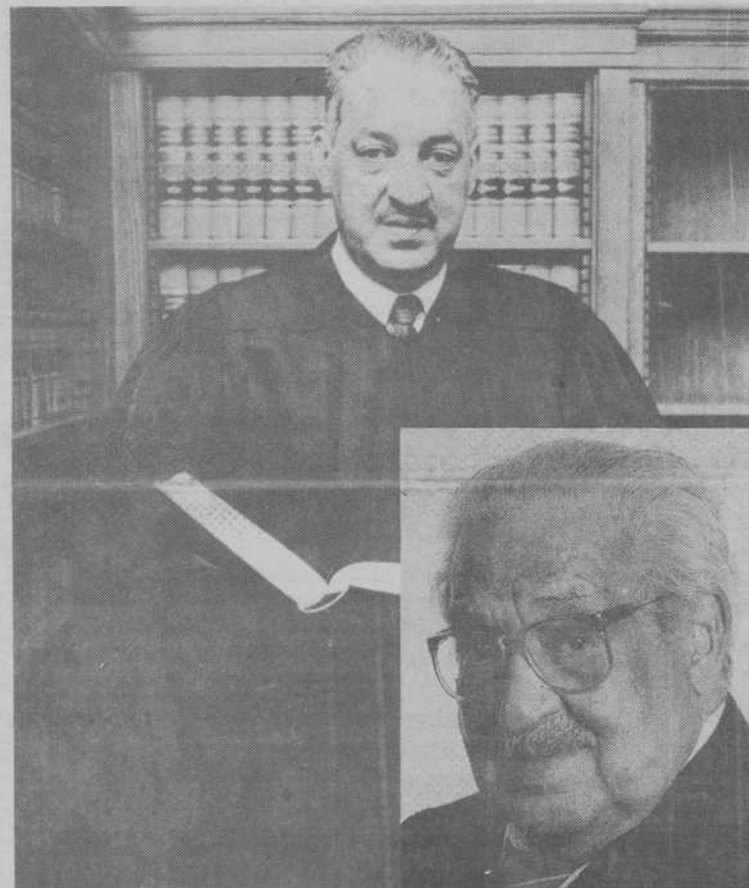
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January 28, 1993

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

**RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DIES OF HEART FAILURE
THE LEGACY OF THURGOOD MARSHALL**



Just a week before the nation prepared for its celebration of Black History Month, it lost a giant in the fight for civil rights and equal opportunity.

Thurgood Marshall, the great-grandson of a slave and the first Black justice to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, died last Sunday of heart failure.

Marshall had been in ill health since his retirement from the court in 1991.

Originally studying in the field of

dentistry, he graduated from Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania, but later switched to law, and with his mother's help, made it through Howard University Law School where he graduated top of his class in 1933.

It was at Howard, where he heard lectures from such notables as former Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, and Clarence Darrow, that Marshall's interest in civil rights grew.

In 1937, he went to Houston as assistant council for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which led him mainly through the South fighting numerous legal battles. In his 23 years there, Marshall argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court, winning 29 of them.

President Kennedy later made him a federal appeals judge, and President (See LEGACY, Page 7)

LOCAL PRINCIPAL SELECTED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY NATIONAL SPORTS FOUNDATION

By Muhammad Abdullah

Dr. Alfred G. "Al" Gourrier, former President of the African American Summit, community activist and Principal of Lois Craig Elementary School for several years, recently was selected "Man of the Year" by the National Sports Foundation. Those who know him lovingly refer to him as "Al." Dr. Gourrier believes in administrators taking an active role in a child's education and those who have had an opportunity to visit the campus in North Las Vegas,



DR. AL GOURRIER

students, faculty and parents alike will attest to the fact that the students of Lois Craig Elementary are being not only academically motivated, but culturally and athletically enriched as well.

The following is a brief sketch of Dr. Gourrier's background:

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 10, 1943, Dr. Alfred G. "Al" Gourrier, was the the second of nine children of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred James

Gourrier. He attended Corpus Christi Elementary School and graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1961. In his sophomore year at St. Augustine, he won first place in the state rally in the LIALO, in speech, for the second consecutive year. As a result of his winning this honor, he was invited by Peter "Champ" Clark to be a guest on the "Sports Parade and Stars of Tomorrow" (See PRINCIPAL, Page 7)

COMMUNITY CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO ARREST OF 10-YEAR-OLD STANLEY JOHNSON

Sentinel-Voice

Turning out in full force, parents, concerned citizens, and community activists, were on hand at last Tuesday's school board meeting to insist that an independent investigation be initiated into the classroom arrest of 10-year-old Stanley Johnson at Lunt Elementary School.

Stanley was arrested by three Metro police officers on January 4, for allegedly making an off-campus death threat to another student.

Since the incident, community leaders have sought the termination of Lunt Principal Elizabeth Ventura for allowing the officers to arrest Johnson in the classroom, which is a violation of school district policy. Last week, School Superintendent Brian

Cram cited that it was the Metropolitan Police Department, not Ventura, that decided the fifth-grader should be arrested in the classroom. Metro cleared the three officers of any wrongdoing. It was Rev. Jesse Scott, president of the local NAACP, that questioned Cram's investigation and called for the independent inquiry.

However, on Tuesday, NAACP representatives met with Metropolitan Police Department officials and received a statement on Metro's findings.

"Based on the evidence given to us by the Metropolitan Police Department, it is our opinion that the officers showed poor judgement, and the classroom arrest of Stanley Johnson was unwarranted," stated Chester Richardson, a

spokesman for the NAACP.

In addition, the NAACP recommended to Metro that Clark County School District Police take the lead in future school related incidences because they are better suited to handle such cases—following the formal policy set between Metro and University Police. The NAACP and concerned parents plan to continue to put pressure on the school board to have Ventura ousted.

In an unrelated incident, a 13-year-old female student was arrested on campus by Metro Wednesday, after refusing to sign an order to appear in court on a similar charge of allegedly threatening the life of another student; this time over the telephone. The accused teen denies the charges.

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