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March 25, 1993

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## DEBRA L. LEE TO SPEAK AT NABJ WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AWARDS DINNER

Debra L. Lee, Executive Vice President of Black Entertainment Television (BET), will be the keynote speaker at the National Association of Black Journalists' (NABJ) 1993 Western Regional Conference's Gala Awards Dinner and Dance at Bally's Casino Resort the weekend of April 23rd.

The NABJ's 1993 Conference theme "The Griot & The Drum-A Proud Past, A Noble Future" is drawn from the significance of the Griot (African tribe historian) and the Drum (the medium) as communicators.

Journalists, such as Lee, from 15 western states will meet to reflect on the role of the African-American journalist in the U.S., and to evaluate media coverage of minority issues, enhance professional skills, award journalism scholarships to local students, and acknowledge ten of Las Vegas' "Unsung Heroes."

Debra Lee serves a dual capacity for BET - as the network's executive vice president, general counsel and secretary in addition to her role as president and publisher of Paige Publica-

tions, Inc., BET's publishing subsidiary which produces a teen magazine entitled YSB (Young Sisters and Brothers). She has served as executive vice president, overseeing all of BET legal and business affairs, since November 1992 while assuming her role with YSB upon the magazine's inception in March 1991.

Lee joined BET in April 1986 as vice president and general counsel after spending four-and-one-half years as an associate with Steptoe & Johnson, a communications law firm in Washington, D.C. From August 1980-Sept. 1981, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Barrington Parker in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She also participated in the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, working as an instructor for minority pre-law students.

Lee graduated from Brown University in 1976 with an A.B. degree in political science with an emphasis in Asian politics. She earned her juris doctorate and masters in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of



DEBRA L. LEE, Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary of BET.

Government at the Harvard Law School in 1980.

Under the theme "Influence of African-American Journalists in the West" the Gala Awards Dinner will be held in Bally's Metro Ballrooms 5&6 on Saturday, April 24, beginning with no-host cocktails at 7:30 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m., and dancing at 9:30 p.m.

The Master of Ceremonies will be William H. "Bob" Bailey, and music will be provided by The Gene Redden Orchestra. (See NABJ, Page 9)

## SCOTT RETAINS NAACP PRESIDENCY

By Lee Brown

The Rev. Jesse Scott was re-elected President of the Las Vegas branch NAACP last Sunday in a challenge election ordered by the organization's national headquarters.

The original election, held Dec. 20, 1992, was challenged by two of Scott's opponents amidst charges that some NAACP members were not allowed to vote and that ballots were not counted properly.

Scott won the original election by a 2-1 margin over challengers Joanna Wesley-Lee and Byron Goynes (Scott gathered 217 votes to Wesley-Lee's 109, and Goynes' 87).

Sunday's election saw little change as Scott, now in his fourth term as president, again won by nearly a 2-1 margin as he faced only Wesley-Lee (Goynes along with a fourth candidate, Gene Collins withdrew from the race on earlier this month stating they had made other commitments while the National headquarters was making its decision on the first election). This time Scott received 299 votes to Wesley-Lee's 139.

William Penn, NAACP National Director of Branch and Field Serv-



REV. JESSE D. SCOTT

ices, was called in to oversee Sunday's election to ensure that balloting and counting was handled properly.

Other NAACP officers and an executive committee were also elected Sunday. They were: Rev. S.P. Parks, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Marcia Washington, 2nd Vice President; Mr. Tom Gholson, 3rd Vice President; Mrs. Debra Scott, Secretary; and Mrs. Esther Alexander Taylor, Treasurer.

Though the election was marred by controversy, it did manage to generate a lot of new memberships, which increased from almost 1,200 to nearly 2,000.

## "RASTI D" THE BLACK HISTORY CLOWN EDUCATES STUDENTS AS HE ENTERTAINS



"RASTI D"

By Muhammad Abdullah

Move over Mr. Rogers and Captain Kangaroo! There is a new "kid" on the block. Delighting student and faculty audiences throughout the state of Pennsylvania and becoming increasingly in demand in other areas of the United States, "Rasti D," Black History Clown Mon is on the horizon. Look out, Kermit and Miss Piggy! "Rasti D," Black History Clown Mon,

has his own puppets called the "Buppets," (Black Upwardly Progressive Puppets).

During Black History Month, on the invitation of Cassandra Summers, a third grade teacher at Myrtle Tate Elementary School, Joseph Joiner, Jr., also known as "Rasti D" "The Black History Clown Mon", appeared at several local elementary schools to enlighten, entertain, educate and motivate students.

"Rasti D's" style is reminiscent of the African storyteller, "Griot" who went from village to village telling stories to children and preserving and passing on the history of the region so that the future generations would be aware of their rich past and would have the knowledge of how to face their future.

As part of his costume, "Rasti D" paints his face in the colors of the Black Liberation Flag: red, black, and

(See RASTI D, Page 5)

## MOULIN ROUGE EXHIBIT AT STATE MUSEUM

On March 27, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, in cooperation with the Moulin Rouge Preservation Association, will open a new exhibition about the Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino during its brief but sensational run on Las Vegas's Westside as one of the city's most popular gambling and entertainment resorts. "Moulin Rouge: History in the Making" will be on view through the end of the year at the Museum at 700 Twin Lakes Drive in Lorenzi Park. The Museum is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and children under 18 are admitted free.

When it opened in May 1955, the Moulin Rouge, as the first major inter-racial resort of its type, generated news from coast to coast. The resort's floor show, which was featured on the cover of Life Magazine, was among the best in Las Vegas. Put together by New York entertainment figure Clarence Robinson, who had directed shows at

the original Moulin Rouge in Paris, it spotlighted major current stars and up and coming new performers. Among them were the young dance team of Maurice and Gregory Hines, recording artists the Platters and the veteran New York comedy and dance team of Stump and Stumpy. Music was provided by the big band of jazz great Benny Carter. In the weeks that followed, such performers as Dinah Washington, Lionel Hampton and Les Brown played to overflow audiences which usually included a "Who's Who" of New York and Hollywood celebrities.

It was its inter-racial character which made the resort truly unique. Prior to 1960, Las Vegas resorts were strictly segregated. Black patrons were denied admission to casinos, hotels and showrooms downtown and on the Strip. A few prominent Black entertainers were allowed to stay at the hotels where they were performing, but even they could not mingle or gamble with guests in the (See Moulin Rouge, Page 5)



BOOTS WADE in opening performance at the Moulin Rouge, May 1955 Photo courtesy of Nevada State Museum and Historical Society

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