

CIVIL LIBERTY AWARDS

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and clergy — performing a key mediating role in suppressing disturbances and gang violence.

Hawkins is deeply concerned about recent police-involved events that reflect the broader problems, and poor education," he explains.

Barbara Buckley, an attorney with Nevada legal Services, says, "One of the basics of Civil Liberties is ensuring that all people have an opportunity to participate fully in democracy.

"Frank works very hard to see there is a level playing field for minorities and that they participate fully in contract procurement opportunities with the city.

"He encourages banks to invest in low-income neighborhoods and he motivates the business community to provide services and employment in all economically depressed areas of Las Vegas," she adds.

A \$200,000 grant to help workers who were dislocated from their jobs after last April's civil unrest was announced by Hawkins in October, and he set in motion a Public Service Commission investigation into the contracting and procurement of Nevada's utility companies.

For nearly a year, Hawkins has been meeting with Centel, Nevada Power, Southwest Gas and Centel Cellular to discuss increasing the amount of business these utilities do with minority and women-owned businesses. In January, the City Council adopted a "25+5" pro-

gram backed by Hawkins to ensure that a larger portion of city contracts go to businesses owned by women and minorities. Only about one percent of the contracts issued by the city has gone to true minority-and women-owned businesses.

"That's really criminal," Hawkins says.

At the insistence of Councilman Hawkins, the City Council chose a minority-owned development company to develop in West Las Vegas a 22-acre shopping center, which will attract major stores and also provide retail and commercial space for community businesses.

The Multi-jurisdictional Community Empowerment Commission created by Hawkins and Mayor Jan Laverty Jones, recently presented to the City Council their recommendations and implementation plan for developing the West Las Vegas community.

The areas addressed by the Commission are affordable housing, education, community relations, job training, and business development.

Hawkins, a graduate of Western High School in Las Vegas, earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"At the time I wanted to join the FBI," he explains. Instead, he spent the next seven years as a professional football player with the Oakland/L.A. Raiders. During the summers, he worked as a management analyst for

the City of Las Vegas.

He is the owner of the Frank Hawkins Sports Lounge and Restaurant on North Ranch drive.

Hawkins is profoundly concerned for young people and their future. He is committed to the task of "ensuring that systems such as education are doing all they can do for the Welfare of the children." "Kids

YOUTH LEADER

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bullets. Questions are arising in the community as to why these youths would turn on Aikens after he has worked so hard to assist them? The same young man that received numerous awards for shedding his past as a feared former gang member in South Central Los Angeles. A young man, who in the past few years, has traveled extensively throughout America to cities such as Los Angeles, Tennessee, Chicago and New York speaking on school campuses at community forums, and addressing juvenile offenders about his ardent desire to end gang violence, to bring about gang truces, and to open up employment and educational opportunities in the inner cities.

When asked about the response of the Police Department to the incident, Matthews said the first time she called there was no immediate response, but after calling a second time, the

who are behind when they start school will be behind when they finish — if they finish at all. What happens to them?

If they can't get jobs, they're likely to turn to illegal activity to survive," Hawkins explains. "Then we warehouse them in prison, and turn them out into the streets, still with no job, no opportunities, and no hope."

Hawkins points out that this

country is number one in the world of the number of people in prison — and Nevada is number one in the nation for locking up it's people. "What does that tell our young people?" he asks.

"We use our police as the first line of defense to solve all the social ills our system refuses to deal with," the councilman observes, citing the example of persons with alcohol problems.

Metropolitan Police Department finally responded.

"They asked me did I have any enemies and I said no. I had no trouble with anyone on my block."

"When Greg first drove up Lawry Street from Comstock Avenue, he told me that some gang members started bullying him. He said that he did not expect any trouble because he had earned the respect of most of the gangs which enabled him to help them maintain the peace. Then, suddenly, shots rang out. They chased him several blocks. I believe his van has some bullet holes in it from the chase."

"I'm just glad that my son and I weren't hurt," she added.

Since the incident, Aikens has been eager to tell his side of the story.

He said that two car loads of gang members chased him while he was conducting business as an Account Executive. A high speed chase followed as he proceeded through two red lights at Martin Luther King Blvd. and "H" Street and eventually ended when he finally turned into the parking lot near the A&K Market. He said at that point the pursuing vehicle turned right onto "D" Street. Aikens said that he believes strongly that his efforts are being effective and some North Las Vegas police officers set him up. Aikens went before

the North Las Vegas City Council Monday when one of the main agenda items was a proposal to bestow an accreditation on the North Las Vegas Police Department for its successes and efficient public service.

"When I addressed the City Council, I took them by surprise. I spoke calmly and piognantly and I told them that the Department did not deserve such an honor."

"I said that I am not here to bestow a lot of words of gratification upon the North Las Vegas Police Department. I told them what happened to me and I said calmly that if they did not take the appropriate actions to correct the situation, I would be prepared to take other actions."

"I went to the press because I was in and out of various neighborhoods talking to the Donna Street gang, the 28th Street gangs, the Bloods and many others and they were set on making peace and maintaining a truce, and then all of a sudden someone wants to wipe me out! I talked to Councilman Robinson (N.L.V.) and he said he would get back to me. I've heard nothing. I received not one call of support from Councilman Goynes or the Sheriff, but when I was putting my life on the line to bring the gangs together I received all these words of praise and recognition; now where are

"We sentence them to rehabilitation for 30 days, knowing this will not solve their problem, then return them out to the same environment that put them there in the first place." Hawkins has offered suggestions that Metro be more proactive, and asked police officials to review training procedures and police-community relations, and to start doing community policing.

they when I'm in need?, Aikens stated.

"I have a strong feeling I know who is behind this attempt to take my life.

This is the reason why I decided to go to the media because I know I'm right," he added.

Aikens said that he went back in the neighborhoods and talked to many of the gang members to find out what provoked this incident and he said that several of the gang members said they were told by two North Las Vegas police officers that he (Aikens) was a "snitch" and that he did not deserve the respect and support of the other gang members. Aikens refused to mention the officers names or the gang members who shot at him but he strongly believes that his activities are becoming a threat to some higher criminal elements.

"How can I be a "snitch" when I don't have any friends in Las Vegas? I haven't been here that long and I have spent most of my waking hours for the past few months bringing gang members together. That's ridiculous!

I am convinced that there are some crooked officers in the North Las Vegas Police Department that want me killed. My life has been threatened and that's the evidence!"

"Two officers were seen in the area several days before the actual shooting. I'm not going to mention their names, but they had no business approaching the gang members. That's not even their area," he said.

"I believe that there is something bigger than inner city youth to a certain degree, now that they have been focusing on me. They appear not to be concerned about the inner city youth, but the individual that might be able to bring them together in unity and peace and up out of the negative and injustice, into the broader scale of economics," he said.

The North Las Vegas Police Department has not commented on the matter at this point.

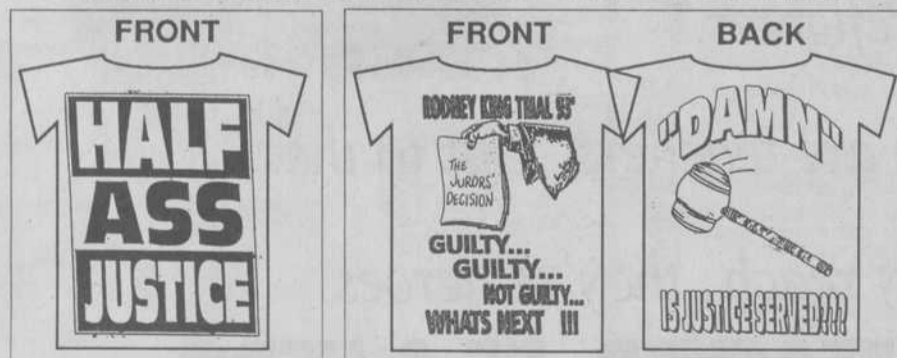
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WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

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workplace. "Life long learning will help you get ahead in your organizations," stated Carla DeBow, keynote speaker of the event.

Mrs. DeBow came well equipped with realistic views on "Breaking The Glass Ceiling." Although she described her personal experience as "Breaking The Concrete Ceiling," her strong willingness to succeed and unique sense of style seemed to have played a major role in her success.

She started her telecommunications career in 1971 in Flint, Michigan as a telephone operator. She admits she took the job because her main focus was on the money, but the men in her company grossed twice the amount of her salary, doing a job that she also was qualified for. The only comparison was that she did not climb telephone poles, and their title was installer. Though her focus was on the money, she began to realize the double standards of men and women in the workplace. She immediately applied for an installers position and was transferred two days later. She was

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