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# Sentinel Voice



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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## SUPPORT RALLY PLANNED ON CITY HALL FOR 70 FIRED SILVER STATE EMPLOYEES

By Victor S. Ingram



Rev. Albert Crockett, spokesman for the fired sanitation workers, hopes rally will be a stepping stone to putting struggling workers back on the job. Photo by Paula Irons

Seventy former Silver State Disposal workers have organized a series of support rallies to be held this weekend. The rallies, scheduled at the City of Las Vegas City Hall building located on Stewart and Las Vegas Blvd, and at the Nucleus Shopping Center in West Las Vegas at the corner of H Street and Vegas Drive, will be held Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 am and 3 pm respectively. The workers were terminated by Silver State Disposal for a failure to return to work when required on Jan 5, according to Silver State management. The workers, who are primarily garbage collectors, dispute management's claim of their refusal to return to work. The workers say they were locked out

as part of management's abrasive policies and procedures.

Local media, according to the workers, has failed to portray their position and has merely recognized Silver State Disposal management as the authority opinion. The workers say they are overlooked and portrayed as a renegade group of malcontents as they are described by Silver State management. Public opinion, say the workers, has also been clouded by local media because of preconceptions about garbage collectors as primarily minorities who are an uneducated, unskilled labor force. Complaints against Silver State cite numerous occurrences where workers have been maligned and coerced into performing tasks which do not fall within the existing labor contract.

During an interview with the Sentinel Voice, spokesmen for the organization told of unreasonable physical re-

(See Rally, Page 4)

## PATRICK NAMED TO CIVIL RIGHTS POST

President Clinton selected Deval Patrick, who rose from poverty to become a prestigious Boston law firm, to be the nation's chief civil rights enforcer Tuesday. Patrick won immediate praise from rights activists and from members of the Congressional Black Caucus who had been critical of Clinton's failure to fill the Justice Department post during more than a year in office.

Conservatives, however, had opened fire on Patrick as a "stealth Guinier" even before Clinton announced the nomination at the White House.

They tried to link Patrick's views to those of his one-time co-worker, Lani Guinier, Clinton's first nominee of the Justice Department post. Clinton withdrew her nomination last June after conservative criticism of her legal writings, some of which Clinton said sur-



DEVAL PATRICK

prised even him.

But in the Oval Office on Tuesday, Clinton declared that both Patrick and Guinier "have had distinguished careers in trying to enforce the civil rights of the country." And he rebuked

(See Deval Patrick, Page 24)

### BLACK NEWSPAPERS

### CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AND VITAL TO SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS

George L. Knox III, Vice President, Public Affairs, Philip Morris Companies Inc. told participants in the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Mid-Winter Conference in Charleston, S.C. that Black newspapers are "the central communications network for African Americans throughout the country."

He said: "Your voice is a vital source of advocacy, and a force of freedom, equality and opportunity. We are excited to be with you tonight and in the years to come."

Knox was among several participants prevented by a large snow storm from reaching Charleston, so a copy of his speech was read by Gina Gallovich, manager, Communications, Kraft General Foods.

"As I see it," Knox's remarks continued, "our partnership with the NNPA is a special part of our identity. It is based on the knowledge that discrimination against any community is bad for our business, and bad for our country. People and economies prosper through inclusion, not exclusion."

He said: "That's why we are especially angry when people say we shouldn't advertise our products in the Black Press. Or when people want to single out our cigarette advertising, and eliminate it's deductibility. Or when they want to endanger our



NNPA President, Robert W. Bogle

business by punishing our consumers with steep taxes." Knox reminded Black publishers that Philip Morris's recognition of the importance of African American employees, community organizations and newspapers had come long before that of other major corporations.

Robert W. Bogle, Publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune and President of the NNPA, stressed the importance of the 49-year-old trade association's potential for the future.

He said: "The decade of the nineties offers for the Black press opportunities either for unprecedented growth or collective failure, as the technology of our industry grows and changes. We can either share in the successes or sit around and watch while it all passes us by."

Bogle said: "Ours is the only voice of the African American community to consistently express it's hopes, dreams and ambitions. Our role is vital to the survival and success of Black America. Our collective strength will help to bond us into strong communities."

## CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW AGENDA IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

By Victor S. Ingram

President Clinton scored high marks in his first Capital Hill state-of-the-union address last Tuesday, January 25. The President's self evaluation was an exploration of such highly recognized legislation as NAFTA, deficit reduction legislation, The Brady Bill, and his most heralded Health Care Package. The President delivered an optimistic view of his first year in office, interrupted on several occasions by ovations from the audience.

Several issues evolved around the moral condition of the country as the President spoke of high levels of crime and the breakdown of the family values and morals. He, in an unexpected move, moved a new priority to the top of his political agenda-welfare reform.

Clinton placed welfare reform on a dual platform with his health care package. "I want to make welfare what it was meant to be," said Clinton, "a second chance not a way of life." The President said he would attempt a simultaneous approach to health care and welfare reform. He used several analogies to describe the glitch in the welfare system and the overwhelming need for change. "The people who most want to

change the system are the people who are currently receiving welfare," said Clinton. Locally, the President's welfare reform proposals were well received by those who have criticized the welfare system as promoting poverty and destroying the American work ethic.

The President said his administration will make history by reforming a 40-year-old broken welfare system. Clinton said the unemployment system

needs careful reevaluation. "I want to transform the unemployment system into a new employment system," said the President. He criticized the current system as merely sustaining a person until they could return from a temporary layoff. In today's economy, according to the President, the job no longer exists to return to.

More punitive measures were discussed. (See State of Union, Page 24)

## FIRST ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL PLANNED

The founders and organizers of the Walker African-American Museum & Research Center are hosting the 1st Annual African-American Cultural Arts Festival to kickoff the fundraising efforts to build the million dollar museum in our community.

The festival will be held February 5th and 6th, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. There are 140 booth spaces available on a first come basis; consisting of local businesses, churches, organizations, community service, city government, and individuals selling their wares or promoting their services.

The site is the 4 vacant lots located at the corners of Jackson, "H", and Van Buren streets; 24 hour security will be provided and the site will be fenced in. A host of entertainment such as gospel singers, choirs, blues, jazz, drill teams, reggae, rap, poetry, griots, plays, R&B, comedy, African dance, a fashion show, and much, much more.

For more information call 647-2242, 649-2238, 642-8748 or 593-3305. The Walker African-American Museum & Research Center is a non-profit organization designed to preserve and promote the history of people of African descent.

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