

**POLITICAL POINTS:
"THE TAX PITCH"**

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams SEE PAGE 2

**NAARPR REPORT:
"THE ALLIANCE BANQUET"**

By James S. Tate Jr., M.D. SEE PAGE 3

**TO BE EQUAL: "SPEAKING OUT
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY"**

By John E. Jacob SEE PAGE 4

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

SUPPORTERS RALLY IN COUNCILMAN HAWKINS' DEFENSE AGAINST UNFAIR MEDIA COVERAGE

By Victor S. Ingram

It was a scene reminiscent of the early 1960's when the black church, as the nucleus of the community, provided spiritual as well as political guidance and support. The scene is nearly thirty-five years later, and the oppressor isn't the senseless Jim Crow laws of the deep south, nor the intolerable abuses by the police. The oppressor, as recognized by those in attendance, is the Las Vegas Review-Journal Newspaper. A crowd of nearly 200 came out to support Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins last Tuesday, March 21, at the Second Baptist Church. The rally was the second official show of support for the Councilman who in recent months has been the subject of numerous news articles questioning his ethics and professional conduct. Organizers said the Review Journal has displayed an unfair critique of the Councilman's conduct, and subsequently question if the coverage is politically or racially motivated. Councilman Hawkins sat stoically next to Mayor Jan Jones as he observed members of the audience speak in his



Both Mayor Jan Jones (R) and Councilman Frank Hawkins (C) feel that the Review-Journal has been unfair in its recent coverage of Hawkins.

behalf. Some of the community's most powerful ministers joined in the procession of support. Zion Methodist Church Pastor, Rev. Marion Bennett, spoke of the community's need for unyielding support for the Councilman, who had brought more businesses and redevelopment opportunities to the West Las

Vegas community in the history of local elected officials. "We have made more progress under Frank's leadership and commitment than any other black politician," said Bennett.

Hawkins has been credited with providing stewardship for the multi-million dollar business plaza sponsored by an investment group chaired by former L.A. Laker guard Earvin "Magic" (See Hawkins, Page 11)

Photo by Victor Ingram

DR. PAUL MEACHAM RESIGNS TOP POST AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

By Victor S. Ingram

Longtime president of the Community College of Southern Nevada will leave his post effective June 30, of this year. Dr. Paul Meacham announced on Friday, March 4, he will retire from his eleven year post to assume a tenure position at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Meacham will join the College of Education, teaching a class on community college management in the fall of 1995.

With over 30 years in the educational arena, Meacham began teaching as a professor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1957. He has a doctorate degree in junior college administration. In 1983, he assumed the stewardship of the then Clark County Community College, since renamed to Community College of Southern Nevada.

Under his direction, the college saw its enrollment more than double, rising from 9,700 to nearly 21,000. Degree programs were increased in fields of music, health occupation, and computer services. Several multi-purpose building projects have been completed and are in the planning



DR. PAUL E. MEACHAM

stages. When he assumed the position eleven years ago, said Meacham, he wanted to add a sense of stability to the college and make it more of a community facility. "I wanted to make it more of a viable part of the community," said Meacham. He credits the amazing growth for the current expansion of the main campus and multiple satellite campuses sponsored by the community college. Meacham said he accomplished all that he wished, yet regretted the (See Meacham, Page 11)

**"...better players, I guarantee that!!!"
LAKERS LOOK TO MAGIC FOR SEASON-END STRETCH**

W.G. Ramirez

Earvin "Magic" Johnson will return to the Los Angeles Lakers in an unfamiliar capacity on Sunday at the Great Western Forum against the Milwaukee Bucks. Johnson will take over his

former squad as head coach, replacing Randy Pfund.

"Whether we win or lose, they will be better players by the end of the season," stated Johnson, at a press conference Wednesday. "I guarantee that!"

Magic said that after discussing the issue with his wife, Cookie, he figured, "I'm here every night anyway," and will now join forces with team owner Dr. Jerry Buss in hopes of rebuilding the team he once guided to five NBA championships, (1980, 1982, 1985, 1987 and 1988). He also guided the team to the league finals in 1983, 1984, 1989 and 1991.

"I decided in the last few weeks that next year I would like a new coach," (See Magic, Page 19)



Magic to take over as Laker head coach. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

COUNTY DISPARITY STUDY OFFERS WORKSHOP TO MINORITIES AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

By Victor S. Ingram

The \$500,000 agency-wide Economic Disparity Study is scheduled to end in early June of 1994. The study, which is sponsored by several municipal governments and entities, will seek to determine if inconsistencies exist for minorities and women in purchasing and business opportunities with civic entities. Clark County government is the primary sponsor of the study, contributing \$ 197,000 towards the effort. Statistical data will be utilized to develop programs to increase the percentage of procurement contracts and services awarded to minority-owned and women-owned businesses throughout the Las Vegas Valley, according to Debbie Conway, Clark County project coordinator.

Last week the county invited small businesses to McCarran Airport to discuss the landmark study. Businesses were invited to ask questions and provide input on data. Some 20 businesses

"Minorities have for so long been left out of the playing field when major procurement contracts are distributed" County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates



and representatives showed up and asked a myriad of questions concerning the opportunities to be made available as a result of the study.

The study is a direct result of a 1989 Supreme Court decision mandating quantitative statistical data to implement affirmative procurement programs for minority-owned and women-owned businesses. Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates oversees the project for the county and calls it a remarkable opportunity for minority and women owned business. "I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for women and minority businesses to get a piece of the pie," said Atkinson-Gates. Gates said

there are several inconsistencies in procurement that this study will prove, which positive programs will correct. "Minorities have for so long been left out of the playing field when major procurement contracts are distributed," said Atkinson-Gates.

Gates said McCarran Airport provides an example of billion-dollar procurement which for countless years went untouched by minorities and women. "The airport has an aggressive DBE program which allots 10% of its contracts to women and minority vendors," said Gates. Gates credits the airport for the program which she hopes will provide a model for all municipalities.

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