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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Three Candidates announce platforms and discuss crime fighting strategies in bid for sheriff's office

By Victor S. Ingram

After an extended hiatus from public life former sheriff Ralph Lamb decided it was time to return. Lamb, who held the sheriff's position from 1961 to 1978 decided it was time to reclaim the office he lost to former sheriff John McCarthy. Upon Sheriff John Moran's announcement of retirement, Lamb submitted his application with 23 other assorted candidates. None, however, have the strong name recognition that Lamb possesses. It has been so long since Lamb has held the office few can remember how he performed in the position. The familiarity, however, has distanced him from other candidates, propelling him to the front runner's position in an initial poll by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Lamb received 21% of the response vote with the nearest opponent, Metro Captain Randy Oaks, receiving 19%. Along with 2 other candidates,

Lamb was questioned about his campaign platform. African American voters' concerns were also addressed.

Lamb revisits his tough stance on crime, calling for juveniles to be immediately recognized as adults for crimes involving weapons. "This campaign has been right up front about calling for juveniles sixteen years and older, who use guns in the commission of crimes, to be prosecuted as adults," says Lamb. Lamb adds that he called for the well-publicized effort by Washington to permanently incarcerate third time offenders for violent crime offenses. "This campaign was calling for a three strikes you're out law before the term had been coined in Washington."

Issues affecting African American voters? Minority hiring, says Lamb, is a major issue. "I need some good educated Afro-American boys to go to work," says Lamb. He plans to develop a re-



cruitment program by interfacing with local community leaders in the black community to find qualified applicants. A sub-station in West Las Vegas, says Lamb, will dramatically increase police-community relations. He plans to place a full service sub-station in the area. The 1991 Charles Bush debacle in which Metro officers illegally entered the home of an African American Bush and administered a fatal choke hold? Lamb prefers not to act as an "armchair quarterback", yet says the event could have been handled better by Metro officials.

(See Black Vote, Page 11)

THREE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS PLAN A LOCAL SUMMIT TO DEVELOP SOCIAL AGENDA

By Victor S. Ingram

Three local organizations have planned a summit to discuss issues of social change for the African American community. The organizations include the local Mosque from the Nation of Islam-Masque 75, The Black Panther Party, and The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The organizations hope to develop a local agenda to effect change in the

community. "We don't seem to be making a great deal of progress divided," says Ron Current, president of the Black Panther Party. Current says the impetus for the summit came after a similar national summit occurred several weeks ago in which the Nation of Islam leader Rev. Louis Farrakhan met with leaders from the NAACP.

NAACP leader Benjamin Chavis (See Summit, Page 24)

NV DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS NAMED IN EEOC COMPLAINT

By Victor S. Ingram

The Nevada Department of Prisons has been named in a bias charge from a prison officer within the department. Officer Paul Jackson, who is an African American, has filed a complaint stemming from a promotion which was denied based upon cronyism and prejudice, Jackson asserts. The complaint dates back to August of 1993 when Jackson placed first among five candidates who competed for an Associate Warden's position. The \$40,000 annual salary position was given on an interim basis to an officer who scored lower on the exam. Jackson says the test was merely an official procedure that was mandated by state statutes. "I scored number one on this test and was the only

minority within the top five candidates, however, I was a non-member of the then director's good-old-boys club," adds Jackson.

Following the examination, Jackson says he approached the governor's office which provided him with no satisfaction. "Governor Miller wrote me back to tell me that all is well in the kingdom and the Nevada Department of Prisons is in line with both state and Department of Prisons internal policies." In December of 1993, Jackson filed an equal rights commission complaint with the state. Prison officials were unable to comment on the matter due to its pending nature. Officials did, however, confirm the complaint. Jackson says he cannot (See Prisons, Page 22)

The Former Director of Gang Abatement Program faces Security Charges from State

By Victor S. Ingram

Laurence T. Thomas always seemingly had a story to tell. Thomas would sit a bunch of youngsters down and explain to them the horrors of prison and gang involvement. Always the showman, his message was put to a musical flavor and expressed in a manner that kids actually grooved to. As the founder of StreetWise Alive, Laurence Thomas established himself as the premier local authority on counter-gang strategies. Now, however, Thomas sings a tune of a different nature. The tune expresses the contempt of a falsely accused man. A man faced with the potential of returning to a prison thought long forgotten as a result of a parole violation.



LAURENCE T.

Thomas had previously served prison time on two separate occasions for bank robbery convictions and was finishing parole on a remaining conviction at the time of an alleged securities misconduct.

Thomas has been accused of major securities and fraud charges by the state of Nevada. In a 10 page criminal complaint, he is charged with 1 count of racketeering, 3 counts of securities fraud, 3 counts of sale of an unregistered security, and 3 counts of transacting business as an unlicensed representative; all charges carry felony ratings. Thomas denies the charges and considers the matter an overt misinterpretation by the state. The securities, says Thomas, never existed in the true sense of securities which guaranteed a residual payment to the client. Investors were given the opportunity to invest in a book which featured strategies for gang abatement, says Thomas. "I wrote

(See Laurence T., Page 22)

NAACP SELECTS MAYA ANGELOU AS 1994 SPINGARN MEDALIST

The National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People (NAACP) has named Dr. Maya Angelou, world renowned poetess, writer, educator and lecturer as the 1994 recipient of the NAACP's most prestigious award - the Spingarn Medal. The announcement was made by Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the NAACP's Executive Director.

More than 10,000 persons will be on hand for the presentation of the Spingarn Medal to Dr. Angelou at the NAACP's National Freedom Fund/Spingarn Awards Dinner, Thursday, July 14th, 7:30 p.m. at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel, 301 E. North Water Street.

In his announcement Dr. Chavis said: "The Spingarn Medal was instituted in 1914 by the late Joel E. Spingarn, then NAACP Chairman. The medal is presented annually to the man or woman of African American descent and citizenship for the highest and noblest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor. Dr. Angelou was chosen by the Spingarn Award Committee from a list of nominees

submitted by the public."

Dr. Angelou's most recent endeavor was the national broadcast of her reading an original poem written for the Presidential Inaugural Address "On The Pulse of Morning" January, 1993. Her work in the literacy field is considered to be one of the great voices of contemporary literature from a remarkable Renaissance woman. As an author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, she continues to travel the world making appearances on college campuses, spreading her legendary wisdom.



MAYA ANGELOU, 1994 SPINGARN MEDALIST

Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors

stated: "The NAACP is pleased to bestow its highest honor upon a person who has made such tremendous contributions to America and the world through her literary works."

In the '60's, Angelou worked with (See Angelou, Page 22)