

**POLITICAL POINTS:  
"HELP SOMEONE"**

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YEAR FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVISM"**

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"A TRUCE"**

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**BARRY BACK IN BUSINESS**

Following disgrace and humiliation, Marion Barry returned to the office he left in 1991 after a misdemeanor drug possession conviction. Barry was reelected to Washington D.C.'s mayor's office despite insurmountable political baggage and controversy. "I know we can do it cause I've done it," the new mayor encouraged a crowd during his inaugural address. Barry faces stifling crime and a \$500 million budget deficit.

**COLEMAN YOUNG HOSPITALIZED**

After complaining about breathing trouble and chest congestion, 76-year-old former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young is in fair condition. Young has been hospitalized for the troubling bronchitis. For 25 years, Young has suffered from emphysema which doctors fear could be aggravated by chest pains.



YOUNG

**JACKSON'S "DANGEROUS" BANNED IN ITALY**

Pop Star Michael Jackson began the new year amid allegations that a song off his 1991 mega hit album "Dangerous" was stolen from an Italian album called "I Cigni di Balaka". The first Civil Section court in Rome found that Jackson's song "Will You Be There" was indeed a copy and banned sales of the album, effective immediately. Jackson did not comment on the incident.

**Community Mourns The Loss Of Pioneer Educator H. P. Fitzgerald**



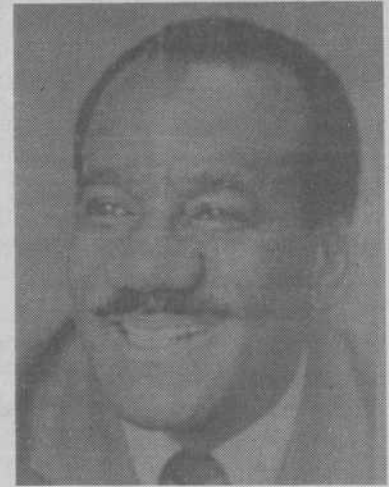
By Victor S. Ingram

Long-time educator, community activist and entrepreneur H.P. Fitzgerald was laid to rest on Tuesday, January 3 at Zion Methodist Church on North Revere Street. Services, conducted by Reverend Dr. Marion Bennett, included nearly 300 who came to pay respects to the community figure. Following a lengthy illness, Fitzgerald, 77, passed from related complications. During his lifetime, Fitzgerald was known as one who tirelessly provided encouragement to all who surrounded him.

A World War II veteran, Fitzgerald entered the Clark County School District in 1946 when hired as a teacher at the segregated Westside Elementary School. Prior to any concepts of Civil Rights and the black power movement

of the 1960's, Fitzgerald forced youngsters to believe in themselves and education. Often provided second-rate facilities and supplies, educating blacks wasn't on the priority list of Clark County School District administration. "Fitz", as he was affectionately known by many, would not let these obstacles interfere with the task at hand—developing African American minds.

He was known to be intolerant of those strayed away from this model or disobeyed when given instruction. Often times, recalls many in the audience, Fitz would spank a youth himself and (See FITZGERALD, Page 11)



H. P. FITZGERALD

**Atkinson-Gates Elected to Top Commission Post**

By Victor S. Ingram

After two short years as the Clark County Commissioner for District D, Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates was elected on Tuesday, January 2 to chair the commission. Atkinson-Gates, despite her brief tenure on the board, was selected by a unanimous vote of fellow commissioners to a two-year chairmanship. She becomes the first African American to chair the commission. "I think it will be great to be able to serve as chairman of the board of one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S.," says Gates.

Gates says her strides towards minority inclusion and contracting opportunities have been at the forefront

of her agenda. "I've tried to make sure that all received access to business opportunities with the county," adds Atkinson-Gates. She, acting in behalf of the county, was the primary sponsor of The county-wide Regional Disparity study, which last summer announced major contracting deficiencies from virtually all local municipalities in doing business with minority contractors. The study forced government agencies to develop corrective strategies in procuring minority contractors.

Several major contracts have been awarded to African American vendors including three McCarran Airport concessions and two airport (See COMMISSION, Page 21)



YVONNE ATKINSON-GATES  
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR

**Former University Regent Candidate Files Suit Against Opponent**

By Victor S. Ingram

After an unsuccessful attempt to gain a seat on the University Board of Regents during the last election season, Linda Howard redirected her efforts towards another challenge. She has traded campaign signs and literature for legal writs and support documents against her former opponent Attorney David Phillips. Phillips narrowly defeated Howard in the regent's race for Sub District E. Despite a significant lead following the primary election, Howard lost in the general by less than a percentage point. She says it was Phillips' defamation and malice which cost her the election. Phillips, says Howard, distributed negative campaign literature and knowingly provided erroneous information about her character to others. The suit asks for \$5

million in actual and punitive damages.

While unable to provide specifics into the suit because of its pending status, she has named several other individuals and an organization as defendants. Moreover Phillips was unavailable at the time of press to respond to the accusations proposed by Howard. Virtually all of Phillip's campaign caucus has been highlighted as well as the Nevada Faculty Alliance—the group of university staffers which provided Phillips with an endorsement.

The 39-year-old former junior college student says her goal of becoming a regent was squashed by dirty tactics. "I wanted to be a regent because of the

abuses I encountered by professors and administrators as a student," says Howard. Howard received an Associates of Arts in applied science at Community College of Southern Nevada. She looks towards the community colleges of Nevada for being underrepresented and maligned in facility and administrative funding. "I never felt that community colleges got the proper funding they deserve," she says.

After basing her campaign on issues of budget and education, Howard felt she had a solid platform to take to voters. She did not, however, as she recalls, anticipate that Phillips would change tactics in what had been a clean campaign. Phillips, says Howard, released literature which inaccurately (See HOWARD, Page 5)



HOWARD

**NOT A LOSS AT THE RANCH**



Photo: Ramirez/LVS-Voice

RANCHO'S STARTING FIVE — Damian Thomas, Jameel Harper, Michael Johnson, Bobby Smith and Larry Treadwell — have led the Rams to a 13-0 start. SEE PAGE 19