

SBA

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gone unchecked is "no one ever asked what they were doing with blacks and Hispanics," he said.

"There is a perception that this is a black business program when, nationally, black participation in the program is at 38.47 percent and is trending downward," Alford said.

"There is even a growing number of white owned businesses in the program. Clearly, at district levels there appears to be inclusionary

problems," he said.

Local businessman Earl Douglas, owner of Douglas Business Systems, has been part of the 8(a) program for two years. In that time, he has bid on three contracts and received none.

"Personally, I have some suspicions, but I'm in no position to say there's any discrimination," he said.

Douglas will say he was concerned enough about not getting contracts that he has met

with officials "any number of times."

He is concerned, but "you can't holler discrimination every time you lose (a contract)," Douglas said.

"The strategy is to put in the most cost effective bid," he said.

Ernest Fountain, president of the Las Vegas-based New Ventures Capital Development Comp. has a lot of experience with the SBA. Fountain has

assisted about one-third of the local 8(a) program's participants at some point in their business development, he said.

He has helped many of them for the 8(a) program at New Ventures and in an old position with NEDCO, a former U.S. Minority Business Administration contractor. And as a licensed SBA lender, he has given many loans.

Over the years, Fountain

said, he has heard numerous complaints from local business owners about a disparity in the allocation of contracts, but the problem is not due to racism.

"There's always been a disparity as it relates to certain contractors being able to get contracts in the 8(a) program...It depends on who has needs and what the area is," said the president of the Black Business Council.

Favoritism is not a problem either.

"Under the 8(a) program, they ain't given nobody nothin', period," he said. "You have to meet the same requirements everybody else meets."

Instead he said changing technological needs and increased program competition could explain why the number of black program participants is (See SBA, Page 16)

Letters

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racist attacks on affirmative action and welfare. There is open instigation to racist violence by talk-radio hatemongers like Bob Grant. There are the Supreme Court rulings overturning majority Black and Latino congressional districts.

The evidence is incontestable. Their aim is to roll back all the gains of the Civil Rights movement and the New Deal and to terrorize and divide the growing unity of Black, Brown and white people. It's an attempt to blunt the resurgent AFL-CIO and the historic alliance between African American churches and the labor movement.

Look at what life was lost from other hate crimes. Remember the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building in which 168 men, women and children of all races and backgrounds died.

The federal government and law enforcement agencies have failed to vigorously investigate and apprehend the perpetrators of these vile firebombings. Instead, federal agents have often treated the victims of the crime as if they were the perpetrators, interrogating the pastors and grilling church members to the point of tears. Adding insult to injury, the FBI and Justice Department has openly questioned whether the church firebombings are a "conspiracy." We say: There are none so blind as those who will not see!

All who oppose racism should take initiative to demand government action to halt the burnings. The time is now to build all people's unity to defeat the forces of racist terrorism and violence. White supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan must be outlawed.

All who cherish democracy must act now. Everyone, every religious denomination, every labor union, every civil rights and community organization should demand that the federal government act now to protect these churches.

The answer to these hate crimes is greater unity and action to defend African American

churches everywhere. And registering millions to vote and defeat the ultra-right in November gives a most resounding answer to crimes of hate.

National Committee of the Communist Party, USA

★★★★★

Reader objects to inquest verdict

Dear Editor:

I was suprised and apalled to see where the Las Vegas policeman was found to be justifiable in the murder of the homeless man. This officer has been involved in three incidents in the last six years and has been cleared in each murder.

He cut the man's throat, then shot him. The injury to the man's throat should have sufficed in stopping the attack. I believe there should be a federal investigation into the fact the officer has been involved in so many incidents involving a life being taken.

Is this man or murderer hiding behind the badge to commit these injustices on humanity. It would appear it is more than a coincidence that he has been involved in three incidents within the last six years.

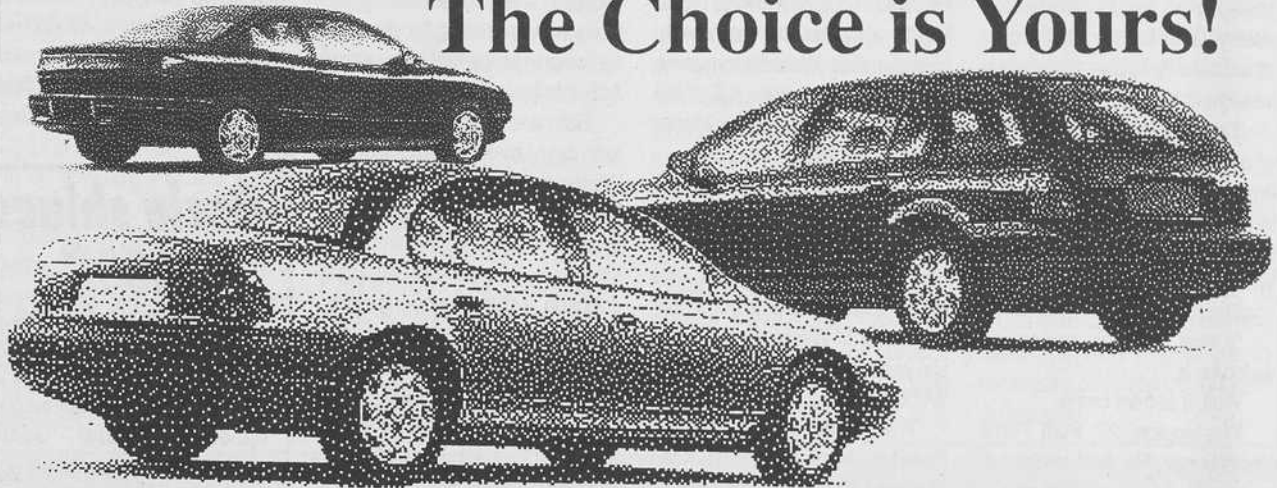
The other two victims, a homosexual and another homeless man, point to this being an outright attack on the homeless and homosexuals in the community. We may not agree with the lifestyles or living conditions of many, but does that give the police the right to systematically eliminate them through murder?

It makes me wonder that if this is a democracy how these things continue to happen and who are the people on these juries who can not see through the farce of justifiable homicide? Each time there is no living witness to rebut what this officer has said and the facts you have are only the facts he gives to the juries.

Am I the only one wondering is this man getting away with murder?

Patricia Brown, President, Unified Tenants Association, Marble Manor Resident Council

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