

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

# Civilians press for police review board

## Legislators listen to Metro criticism

### Special to the Sentinel-Voice

For more than two hours last Friday, Las Vegas citizens described the bad acts of some Metropolitan Police Department officers as members of a state legislative committee listened intently.

Most recited the recent examples of officers facing trial for murder, rape, battery and oppression under color of law. Others told stories of bad deeds that were not widely known or publicized.

The testimony was all aimed and garnering support for a new proposed law to allow Clark County to create a civilian review board that would have some type of control over the police department and its punishment of bad cops.

The general consensus among those who testified was that "the Las Vegas police are out of control."

State Sen. Joe Neal and Assemblyman Wendell Williams are each sponsoring bills that would authorize municipal governments to create review boards for police departments within their jurisdictions.

Both Sheriff Jerry Keller and Undersheriff Richard Winget attended the hearings and urged the legislative committee to disregard the civilian review board bills as they would undermine the

department's ability to discipline its own and have proved to be inefficient in other cities.

Of the police officers accused of crimes, all were vigorously investigated and then prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office, Keller said. Those crimes include the recent police-involved fatal shooting of a Hispanic gang member, the alleged rape of two prostitutes by another officer and the forced sex acts performed by another couple in front an officer near Red Rock Canyon.

There was standing room only at the Sawyer State Office Building for the joint hearing of the Senate and Assembly Government Affairs committees as black, Hispanic and other activists crowded the room.

While Neal was more adamant about now being the "time to put a watch on the guardians of justice," Williams said his proposed version of the bill would allow each local government to decide for themselves.

Either way Keller said no. He stressed that his 'zero-tolerance-for-misconduct' policy already ferrets out bad apples.

"If any police department is to succeed, it must be open to the media ... and be responsible for the concerns of the community," Keller said adding he feels Metro already does that.



From left, Assemblyman Wendell Williams and state Sen. Joe Neal listened to debate at a Las Vegas hearing Friday over more civilian control of Metro. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 1997

# Amos brings moving play to WLW

Famous actor to perform one-man "Halley's Comet" at WLW Library Theater

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

Actor John Amos stars in his remarkable one-man tour de force, "Halley's Comet," Feb. 28 and Mar. 1 at West Las Vegas Library Theater.

Written and directed by Amos, "Halley's Comet" is the hilarious and moving story of an 87 year old man who shares the memories of a lifetime with Halley's Comet which he saw 76 years earlier as an 11 year old boy.

Amos takes the audience on a spectacular journey from the turn of the century to the present day by transforming himself into a parade of characters to show how the world has changed. A charming and inspirational experience for audiences of all ages.

Amos is best known for his Emmy Award nominated portrayal of Kunte Kinte in the mini-series "Roots," and his unforgettable role as the lovable but hard-nosed father of the hit TV series "Good Times." He has also performed in numerous feature films including "Die Hard 2/Die Harder," Eddie Murphy's "Coming To America" and "Lock Up" with Sylvester Stallone.

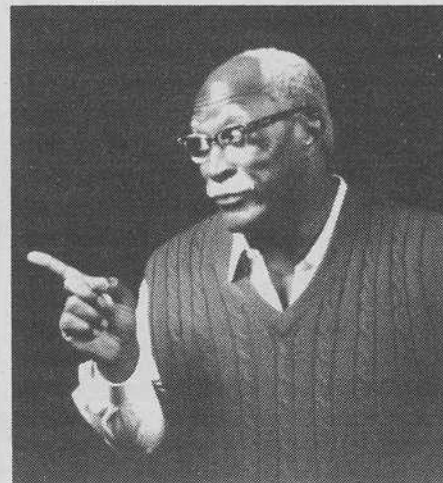
Most recently, Amos performed "Halley's Comet" to standing ovations in London,



Amos plays a myriad of characters during the play.

Bermuda and the National Black Theater Festival in North Carolina. The show was also chosen to kick-off the 1991 national celebration of "Black History Month" at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Amos has performed "Halley's Comet" in national theatrical centers across the country including New York, Albany, Cleveland, Denver and Mississippi.

"Halley's Comet" opens with Amos as an 87 year old man setting out from his home in the early hours of the morning for an isolated area in the woods. The man saw Halley's Comet once before, the last time it made its 75 year orbit. Now, all these years later, he decides



to tell the comet what has happened since it last passed this way. For starters, there are world wars, shy youngsters and home cooked meals to be discussed, not to mention nuclear threats and fast food restaurants. "Halley's Comet" is the irresistible story of a once in a lifetime experience that happens twice.

Amos said he was inspired to write "Halley's Comet," "by watching the comet make its spectacular reappearance in 1986.

"I was struck by the sight of an elderly man standing near me who kept chuckling to himself as he stared into the sky. It was as if he had found a long lost friend in the comet,

(See Amos, Page 5)

# U.S. Senate stalls on Herman hearing

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

As with new Clinton Administration nominees Rodney Slater, Madeline Albright and Richard Cohen, the Alexis Herman nomination will likely eventually pass by a commanding margin. The problem now is the Labor and Human Resources Committee has indefinitely delayed a confirmation hearing.

Inaccurate news reports linked Herman to improper political fund raising activities associated with a White House meeting that President Bill Clinton held with bank officers and Comptroller of the Currency, Eugene Ludwig.

Meanwhile, a strong support network, spearheaded by the National Political Congress of black women, and joined by the National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Coalition of 100 Black Men, the Links, Inc., the National Urban Coalition and now the black press, is calling for immediate hearings and forthright confirmation.

Letters supporting Herman's nomination have already begun streaming in to Senator James Jeffords, a Vermont Republican, who chairs the Labor Committee, to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, to Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the ranking

(See Herman, Page 5)