

## Troutman

(Continued from Page 2)

because despite an effort to maintain an open mind, "I'm not a man, my slant is from a woman's point of view," she said.

Her curiosity and "need to know" impel her to travel around the country at her own expense to listen to and talk with people. From Washington D.C. to San Francisco and many places between the two coasts, Troutman gathers information.

She's interested in unusual ideas and issues. She's intrigued by new faces and new places.

"I like to blend in and pay attention to what people are saying," she said.

For instance, when the national media thrust the discussion of Ebonics into the spotlight, Troutman went to

Oakland to hear what the people were saying about it.

An avid reader, she learns about books and ideas that she might not hear about if she stayed confined to Las Vegas. She attends womens' conferences and Christian conferences and any others that she thinks will serve her personal growth.

"If I can't center myself, I can't help anyone else," she said.

During the week, she teaches English to eighth grade students who also give her ideas for her program.

"They all listen and tell me word for word what I said," Troutman said.

Listeners miss Troutman when she is away on a information gathering jaunt or a vacation. The first thing she hears when she gets back is

## Social Security

(Continued from Page 6)

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Provided by: Fred T. Snyder, Investment Broker of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

"Where have you been?"

She attributes her success to years of reading and soul searching, she said. She looks for answers in unusual places and books.

She's motivated to help people because from her childhood in Spring Hill, La. through her college years at Southern University, she's been someone who just can not sit back and complain, she said. Not only is it against her training, it's against her nature.

"For Women Only" airs at 11 a.m., Saturday mornings on KCEP FM 88.1.

## Awards

(Continued from Page 2)

community outreach and work in minority business development.

Jeanne Jones, one of five female winners, knew she had been nominated for an award.

"It's great to be honored by your peers," she said.

Jones, whose company specializes in personnel services, said she's worked to build a partnership between minority business and corporations, large and small.

"It's great anytime you can be recognized for promoting that partnership," she said.

African-Americans will take more than a quarter of the awards bundle. Hispanic-Americans and Asian Americans comprise the remaining winners. The entertainment also resonates with ethnic diversity.

Inaugurated in 1996, the awards program is the first of its kind to include all community-based programs with city and state entities that support and promote minority business.

In addition to the NMPC, the Indian Center and NLV Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Women Business Owners, Nevada Partners, the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Clark County and the NAACP's Community Resource Development Center also selected their own winners.

Equally honored and surprised by his nomination and award, Akers, Clark County's Minority Business of the Year, said he enjoys working with small business. His company consults businesses and develops software that tracks small business activity.

"I love what I do," he said.

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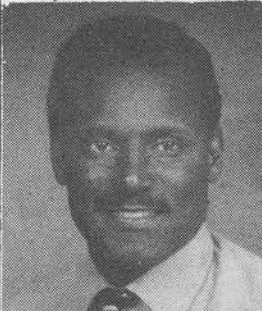
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