

# Houston's mayoral candidates sling mud

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

HOUSTON — Saddled with a dearth of hot issues, the candidates for the mayoral post in Houston have resorted to mudslinging.

"It's pretty much rigor mortis," political pollster Richard Murray said of the Houston election pulse. "These candidates don't seem to stir much passion."

Of the eight mayoral candidates vying on the

Nov. 4 ballot to replace outgoing Mayor Bob Lanier, only the top two finishers - Brown with his 41 percent and Mosbacher with 29 percent — will be in a runoff Saturday.

Houston voters have endured a month of finger-pointing and name-calling.

Mosbacher ads peg Brown, the 60-year-old veteran bureaucrat, as ineffective as chief of police in Houston, Atlanta and New York -

"everywhere he's been."

Brown's ads point out that Mosbacher promised to support the right to carry concealed weapons - something that's legal in Texas.

Touting conventional election wisdom which says more conservatives vote in a runoff, Mosbacher would seem to be sitting pretty.

But the son of former Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher has failed to ignite the interest

of conservative whites. And the 46-year-old has yet to win a race, losing a U.S. Senate bid in 1984 and failing in a run for Texas lieutenant governor in 1990.

Brown is considered the front-runner, but he was aided in part by an anti-affirmative action measure on the November ballot. Many voters who defeated that measure voted for Brown, wanting to make him the city's first black mayor.

## Farrakhan requests visit to Israel

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

JERUSALEM — Often called an anti-Semitic, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan hopes to mend wounds.

Farrakhan has asked for permission to make a stop in Israel during his 52-nation world "friendship tour," the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"He has asked to be received by a few people, government officials, and he wants to travel (in Israel)," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Effi Ben-Matityahu. However, Ben-Matityahu said approval was unlikely.



FARRAKHAN

"We cannot forget his unpleasant remarks about the Jewish people," Ben-Matityahu said, adding that he

was not even certain whether Farrakhan would be admitted to Israel as a regular tourist.

Generally, U.S. citizens do not need visas to enter Israel.

Farrakhan, due to leave this week for his tour, wants to visit several countries where U.S. travel restrictions apply, including Iraq, Iran, North Korea and Cuba.

Farrakhan reportedly hopes to visit Israel and the Palestinian areas between Jan. 7-9.

Ben-Matityahu said Farrakhan also wants to deliver a sermon at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest shrine.

## Campbell weathers storm, wins second term

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

ATLANTA — Fresh from a re-election victory, Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell now faces another task: repairing a city ripped in half by one of the meanest campaigns in two decades.

"It has been a difficult and tough campaign for all of us, not just for those who have been running," Campbell said Tuesday night after defeating longtime political rival Marvin Arrington, the City Council president.

Campbell won the slugfest to snare the city's black population with 35,849 votes, or 53 percent, according to unofficial returns. Arrington received 31,658 votes, or 47 percent.

The campaign degenerated into mudslinging as Campbell and Arrington, both black, battled to prove who was more in touch

with the Atlanta's black population, who make up two-thirds of the city.

Campbell, 44, who had finished first over nine challengers in the nonpartisan, general election on Nov. 4, served three terms on the City Council before being elected mayor in 1993.

"I wish the mayor well," Arrington said who lost an election for the first time since he was elected to the council 27 years ago. "But we fought the good fight. ... Any time the public has spoken, then I'm satisfied."

Early in the campaign, the candidates bickered over boosting Atlanta's tax base, pollution, development and crime rates that are still among the nation's highest. But the mudslinging intensified amid accusations of race baiting during the week before the runoff.

## Thorne talks with controversial host

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

The controversy continues surrounding loved and hated Los Angeles radio talk show host Larry Elder, the center of an ongoing boycott. Boycotts can be tough things to beat back, especially when, as in this case, the boycott against Larry Elder and KABC radio appears to be meeting with some success.

But for someone under serious attack, when we talked to him, Larry Elder didn't come off as a man too terribly worried about his future on local radio.

"As somebody once said. 'Larry. You're like castor oil. It don't taste good going down. but it's good for you.' I think the truth hurts." One thing about Larry Elder. You don't have to sit around too long wondering where he stands. He'll tell you right quick what he's for.

"I'm pro choice. I believe same sex couples should be allowed to marry. I think gambling and prostitution should be made legal."

And what he's against.

"Busing isn't working. Bilingual education is not working. The welfare state is not working. Public housing is not working." [But] "I don't

try to push people's buttons. I just say what I feel and buttons get pushed. It's pretty easy."

And pretty controversial too. Because Elder is anti-welfare and anti-affirmative action, a small protest group is trying to drive him off the air with a boycott of KABC advertisers. We were unable to find a protest group member to come on camera last week. But, in a published report, one member of the Anti-Elder Talking Drum Community Forum put it this way: "KABC feels it has the right to denigrate black people, and it probably comes from the top."

The group labels Elder a pawn in a conspiracy by Jews against blacks led by Disney, the corporate owner of KABC radio. The boycott is showing signs of success. Already major advertisers like Enterprise Rent-a-Car and American Airlines have dropped Elder's show eliminating millions in ad revenue from the station. And two weeks ago Elder's on-air time was cut back by two hours.

But a KABC spokesman told me Elder's cutback had nothing to do with the ongoing boycott or pressure tactics. He said KABC has kept Elder on

the air ever since the boycott started 18 months ago.

Larry Elder is getting high profile support from former leftist David Horowitz, now a conservative activist. Maybe you've seen his pro-Elder ads that say: "The Talking Drum Committee has organized a boycott, issued death threats, (and) printed lies about Larry. I think they're analogous to the KKK even though they seem to be black."

"I do not know these people. They are faceless and they won't give their names and they're attacking him."

## Longtime Detroit mayor dead at 79

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

DETROIT — Colemann Young, who served an unprecedented five consecutive terms as Detroit's mayor before retiring in 1993, died Saturday. He was 79.

Young led Detroit at a time when white flight skyrocketed, numerous companies relocated, taking jobs with them and the auto industry fell into decline.

By 1990, Detroit's population had fallen nearly in half, from just under 2 million residents in 1950 to just more than 1 million.

But Young had many successes. As one of the first

black mayors of a major U.S. city, he was credited with steering Detroit clear of bankruptcy, leading business and residential rebuilding along the Detroit River and racially integrating the fire and police departments.

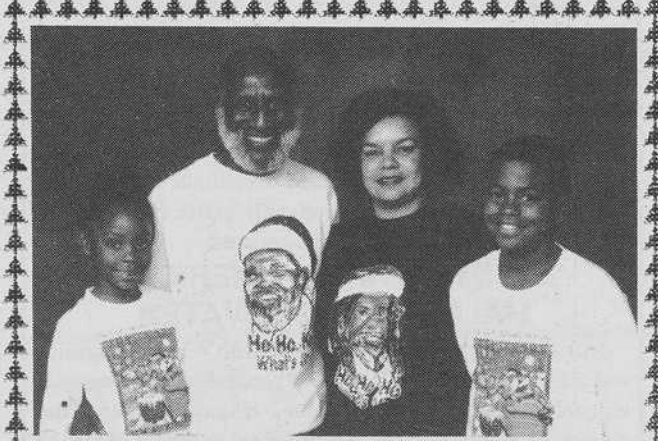
James Blanchard, governor

of Michigan from 1983-1991, said Young's no-holds-barred style had its price.

"It's no question that some of his colorful language turned off people in suburbs or elsewhere," Blanchard said, "but he was a guy who was going to do it his way, period."

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