

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Education touted

Panelists tie education to economic clout

By Sandra-Dee Fleming
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Two young boys, one eight, the other 14, were having a discussion about who it was that freed the slaves," Bev Smith of Black Entertainment Television's Our Voices told panelists during last weekend's Western Region Economic Summit.

"The discussion escalated into a fight," she said. "The eight-year-old said the emancipator of the slaves was Ronald Reagan, the 14-year-old tabbed John F. Kennedy."

As they entered the restaurant, the young woman behind the counter heard the story, and



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Black Entertainment Television host Bev Smith looks on as the Hon. Edna Bell, president of the National Association of Black County Officials, takes charge of the debate between elected officials during Sunday's town hall forum held at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel and Casino.

replied, "Isn't it funny what African-Americans don't know — everyone knows it was George Washington."

Smith, moderator of the National Black Elected Officials panel, used the story — which

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Ellington, Price top Hall of Fame inductees list

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — Pioneer composer Duke Ellington and soprano Leontyne Price top the first class of inductees into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame.

The list, announced Monday at the Juilliard School in New York, also includes Isaac Stern, George Gershwin and John Philip Sousa.

Among the other 25 inductees plus the Marine Band are composer Elliott Carter, composer-conductor Gunther Schuller and conductor Robert Shaw.

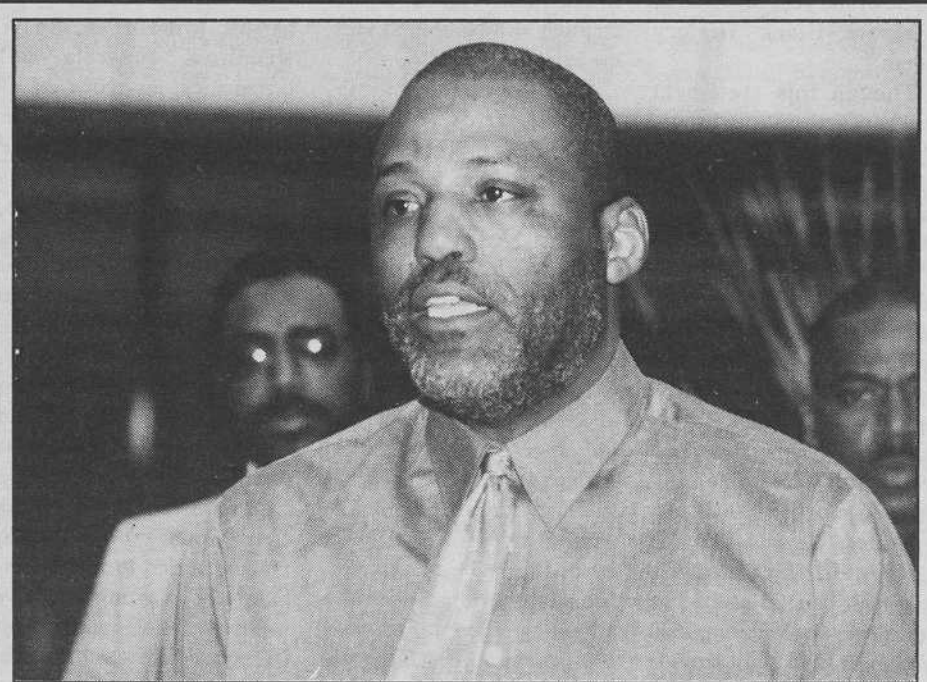
Others to be inducted are Scott Joplin, Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland,

Howard Hanson, composer-conductor Charles Ives, John Knowles Paine, Arnold Schoenberg, Roger Sessions and Igor Stravinsky.

Conductors to be honored are Serge Koussevitzky, Fritz Reiner, Leopold Stokowski, Arturo Toscanini and Theodore Thomas. Contralto Marian Anderson and musicologist Nicolas Slonimsky also are being inducted.

The hall "wants to celebrate people who have contributed to American music and music in America," said Samuel Adler, co-chairman of the Hall of Fame's artistic directorate.

Ceremonies will be at Cincinnati's Music Hall on May 24.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Assemblyman Wendell Williams joined representatives from six community activist organizations Tuesday in front of City Hall to call for the resignation of officer Dan Holley. The vice president of the Police Protective Association made a racial slur in front of cadets.

Citizens ask for officer to resign

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

A day before the Police Protective Association will pass judgement on the fate of a member blasted for making a racial slur, a coalition of citizens gathered in front of City Hall to ask for the officer's resignation.

"We are astounded, disappointed, and very disturbed about the event that transpired recently by officer Dan Holley," Assemblyman Wendell Williams told the crowd. "We are more disturbed by how the administration has handled this situation."

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department verbally reprimanded Holley and demanded the vice president of the association, which represents Metro's rank and file officers, attend sensitivity training for referring to Martin Luther King Day as "Martin Luther Coon Day" during a Jan. 15 speech about holidays off to 36 corrections academy cadets at the Clark County Detention

Center. Four black cadets heard the remark. Twenty-one cadets complained to their supervisors.

Holley, elected vice president of the association three years ago, apologized for the gaffe, calling it "a slip of the tongue." He has refused to resign despite a recall petition circulating among members of the association. The PPA board is expected to make a decision today. Williams said the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center of Non-Violence and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference have pledged to step in and resolve the situation should it escalate.

Holley's remark was met with harsh criticism.

The Rev. James Rogers, president of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP, said the slur might have revealed a closet racist. "What the heart has conceived, the mouth

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Farrakhan visit unwelcome, rankles some Russians

Special to Sentinel-Voice

MOSCOW — Denouncing the presence of "foreign preachers," authorities of a volatile southern Russia province said Louis Farrakhan's trip to Dagestan was unwelcome.

Authorities in the southern province, which borders the rebel republic of Chechnya, said the Nation of Islam leader arrived without proper papers and made anti-Russian remarks.

They warned him that his visit Sunday was not welcome, said Magomed Tolbojev, security chief of Dagestan, which, like Chechnya, is predominantly Muslim.

"Americans may know (Farrakhan), but we don't and have no such desire," the Associated

Press quoted Tolbojev as saying in a telephone interview from Makhachkala, Dagestan's capital. "We don't need any foreign preachers here."

Farrakhan, who is on a world tour with 27 Muslim leaders from various countries, spent one day in Dagestan and left for Iran late Sunday, when his Russian visa was about to expire.

He said he wanted to meet Chechen leaders, but was unable to, Tolbojev said, because police stopped Farrakhan from traveling to Dagestan's border with Chechnya for a meeting with Movladi Udugov, Chechnya's first deputy premier.

Tolbojev said Farrakhan made unspecified "anti-Russian" statements while in Dagestan. Authorities in Dagestan fear the turmoil in

Chechnya could destabilize their region.

The Russian government, which failed to suppress the Chechens' independence bid during a 1994-1996 war, insists that Chechnya remains part of Russia and warns foreign nations against contacts with the breakaway region.

Officials at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow declined comment on Farrakhan's visit.

Farrakhan's tour began in December with a trip to Iraq, angering U.S. officials who had advised him not to go.

He also has visited Libya and plans to visit North Korea and Cuba — all countries that Americans are warned not to enter.



LOUIS FARRAKHAN