

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

The International Association Of Business Communicators will hold a Luncheon at the Las Vegas Country Club featuring Lynn Garlock, president and COO of Catch a Rising Star and a guest performance by one of the comedy club's comedians at 11:30 a.m. \$23 for members and students; \$28 for guests; and walk-ins will be charged an additional fee of \$5. Please R.S.V.P. @391-5517 or via email to mcaleer@ccmail.nevada.edu by Dec. 12.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

The Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park invites you to create both your own Christmas tree decorations, and also ornaments to share with the fort. The event will take place from 10 am to 1 pm. The fort is located at 500 E. Washington Ave. An entrance fee is required. \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child (age 6-12). For more info please call 486-3511... **NAACP** will host its monthly general membership meeting at 2424 MLK Drive in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Resource Center from 12:30 pm until 1:30 pm. The public is invited to attend and become members.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Mountaintop Faith Ministries invites the community to a special Christmas service which will be held in their sanctuary at 6 p.m. entitled "Every Knee Shall Bow." For more info please call 367-1636.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

Mountaintop Faith Ministries invites the community to a special New Year's Eve Service, "Bring the New Year in at the Mountaintop" @ 9pm. It will be held at Mountaintop Faith Ministries, 2845 Lindell Road. For more info please call 367-1636.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

The West Las Vegas Arts Center will hold an African American cultural focus entitled "Employ your mother wit: optimal health of the body, mind and spirit." At 1pm, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., for more information call 229-4800.

JANUARY 14

The West Las Vegas Arts Center will hold a Community Gallery featuring Beyond the Boundaries and Craps: A Black Man's Game at 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., for more info call 229-4800.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

The West Las Vegas Arts Center will hold a Poet's Corner at 7pm. Established poets as well as open mike at 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., for more information call 229-4800.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

The West Las Vegas Arts Center will host On Stage: An Evening With Walter Mason & Friends at 8pm in the West Las Vegas Library Theatre at 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd., for more information call 229-4800.

ONGOING

Matt Kelly will be holding a food drive for the community which will run through Dec. 21. For more information please contact Ms. Deborah Harris at 799-4750... **The Reed Whipple Cultural Center** will feature The Riches of Family: An American Journey from Slavery to Prosperity, the works of Rick Hyman, through February 23, call 229-6211 for more information... **Left of Center Art Gallery and Studio** will hold an art exhibit by local artist Jorge Arcos entitled "Faces of Mexico." Over 30 oil and watercolor works depicting the rich and colorful Mexican culture. It will run from December 9 until February 15, call 647-7378 for more information...

The Southern Nevada Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America Inc. meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month inside the Sunrise Hospital doctors' conference room, 3187 S. Maryland Parkway, from 7-9 p.m. Participants will discuss a variety of subjects about lupus in an effort to educate and support lupus sufferers. Call 566-1425 for additional details... **The West Las Vegas Arts Center**, 947 West Lake Mead Blvd., invites the community members to share the history, traditions and customs during the monthly "Voices of the African Diaspora," at 6p.m. The host will be Hasani Kefing Palacio. Participants are encouraged to participate in a discussion of pertinent, contemporary issues experienced by African Americans. "Voices of the African Diaspora" is a free presentation by the Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services. This program is provided to the community every first Tuesday of each month. Call 229-4800 for additional details regarding this event... **Family Home Hospice** is offering ongoing training for volunteers. Volunteers will provide emotional support to terminally ill patients, caregiving respite, errand running, companionship and socialization for and caregivers, office help and assistance with the hospice's bereavement program. Call 671-1193 to register for an upcoming training session... **The Las Vegas Fibromyalgia Syndrome/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group** will hold meetings every second Tuesday at Desert Springs Hospital, 2075 E. Flamingo Rd., from 5-5p.m. Participants are advised that this is a smoke-free and fragrance-free meeting due to individuals that suffer from chemical sensitivity. Call 645-2153 for more information.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice accepts Community Billboard announcements for non-profit and church organizations. Send notices: 900 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 or fax to (702) 380-8102.

Ofari

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with, or apart from the FBI, to collect information on thousands of individuals suspected of being sympathizers or supporters of militant political organizations. In 1970, Seattle police blew the cover on FBI-police political hunts when it publicly balked at aiding the FBI in a planned raid on local Panther offices.

The FBI had produced no tangible proof that the group had committed any crimes.

Police officials in other cities will soon have to decide whether they will aid and abet the FBI in its hunt or follow the example of Portland police.

Justice Dept. officials say they want to interview more than 600 persons of Middle Eastern descent throughout the Midwest.

They have notified them by letter that they will be questioned.

The FBI has formally requested that a local police officer be present during the questioning.

But what if some of those targeted for questioning refuse

to cooperate?

Though they are not accused of committing any crimes, or having any links with the terror attackers, will FBI agents haul them in for questioning? And will police officials help them? If so, will the FBI detain them as they have hundreds of others with no charges against them and with only the shaky assurance from Ashcroft that they have access to attorneys, and are allowed visits from family and friends?

The search to ferret out those who belong to what Ashcroft calls "hidden terror cells" will escalate. Almost certainly hundreds more names will be added to the FBI's secret list of those it wants to question. And almost all of them will be Muslims.

The Portland police sent a strong message that they will not engage in the FBI's political fishing expedition that tramples on the civil rights of innocent individuals without some proof of wrongdoing. It's a message other police departments should also send.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and columnist. Visit his news and opinion Web site: www.thehutchinsonreport.com.

Overstreet

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among the ranks of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

What is the difference between some persons of the Islamic faith engaging in present day murderous acts under the banner of *jihad*, versus persons of the Jewish faith being recorded in biblical history as members of the religious group that was responsible for the death of Jesus Christ a couple thousand years ago? What about the big payback engaged in by Christians when they conducted "crusades" and massacred Jews all over Europe for 196 years (1095-1291)?

Fortunately, under normal everyday occurrences, when loss of life is the result of a condition listed in the top ten causes of death, the ability to conduct a dignified final remembrance ceremony and to grieve in private is preserved for the family and friends by the three institutions.

It is when the death needs to be used for some apostolic, political or warring purpose that our feelings are subject to

manipulation by those institutions.

In these cases, the loss of life is always described in terms of not being in vain (religious purpose- read to mean that you need to come to church more often so that bad things will not happen to you); these are our fellow citizens (political purpose- in other words, now is not the time to question politicians about how bad the economy is doing), or demonstration of heroism (warring purpose- meaning they gave the military/ industrial complex all the excuses they need to have us support killing more of "them" than the number of "us" they murdered).

You know what, if the three institutions spent more time practicing what they preach and stopped manipulating our feelings about death, religion and patriotism to advance special purpose agendas, we would be a greater nation and the world would be a better, as well as a more peaceful place in which to live, not die!

System

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We can only wonder about how many innocent people we've executed and how many hundreds, thousands of people are languishing in prison for crimes they did not commit."

If, as Warden suggests — as we must — we were to expand the effort to examine the validity of questionable convictions beyond the relative fraction of cases that have come under scrutiny thus far, what would we find?

I suspect most Americans would be shocked to see how rotted the foundations of the pillars of the criminal justice system have become.

Racism — institutional and individual — has played a significant part in the making of the problem at both the juvenile and adult levels, as study after study has documented.

But it goes beyond even that to practices and attitudes of those who administer the criminal justice system that needs to be fixed.

For we've already gotten too much evidence that for too many people — those victimized by crime and those accused of crime — what we have now is a criminal injustice system.

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed CAT ADA Paratransit Fare Increase

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is proposing a fare increase for the Citizens Area Transit (CAT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit service.

On December 5, 1994, the RTC began operating CAT ADA Paratransit, a new form of transportation specifically for people with disabilities who are prevented from using the fixed route system. Recent improvements include providing door-to-door service, rather than curb-to-curb, revamping the on-time pick-up window so clients are less likely to miss their ride, upgrading the scheduling software and implementing a new radio communication system. Because of these improvements, the service is more convenient for the customer, and the RTC is able to serve more people with the same number of vehicles and personnel.

Even with these efficiencies, however, paratransit service remains extremely costly to operate. The current fare for a one-way ride on paratransit is \$1.00, less than half the possible fare for paratransit service under Federal regulations. The RTC's cost to provide this ride, however, is approximately \$28.50 per one-way ride. Since the events of September 11 the RTC's revenues have dropped dramatically and the cost of providing Paratransit service has become even more burdensome.

The RTC is always looking for ways to better serve the community and provide equal public transportation access for persons with disabilities. We are exploring options to help make this much-needed paratransit service less financially burdensome so that we do not have to make significant cuts to fixed route or paratransit services because of a lack of funds.

A document detailing the proposed fare increase options will be made available to the public for review and comment at the RTC offices beginning on December 10, 2001.

Public Comment Period

Comments on the proposed fare increase are welcomed by the RTC during a thirty-day period beginning on Monday, December 10, 2001 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2002. Comments will be accepted in writing or by phone at 228-7433. Written comments must be received before the January 8 deadline to: Fare Increase Public Comments, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

Public Meetings

The RTC will also be scheduling public meetings to provide specific information, answer questions and discuss your concerns related to the proposed fare increase. Dates, times and locations of these public meetings will be noticed in this publication as soon as the information is available. You may also call the RTC at 676-1500 to receive this information.

Jacob Snow, General Manager
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