

LAS VEGAS

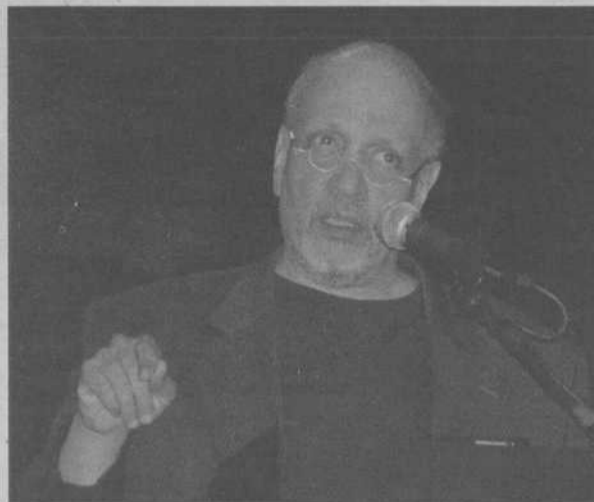
Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

Critically acclaimed writer Walter Mosley speaks at the Vegas Valley Book Festival, the state's largest annual literary event. The festival took place last weekend.

Noted writer Mosley highlights festival

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Braving cooler than normal autumn evening weather, more than 125 patrons of the arts filed into the Sam's Town Live auditorium on Friday, to participate in the second day of the Vegas Valley Book Festival, southern Nevada's largest annual celebration of books and reading.

This year marks the third for the annual three-day event and featured 40 writers from across the country highlighting mystery and crime writers, African-American literature, lectures, workshops, screenplays, and book signings by various authors at locations throughout the city. Renowned author Walter Mosley was one of three African-American writers promoting the festival. Also on the ticket as headliners were Charles Johnson and Keith Knight.

Mosley was the keynote speaker at the event held at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino. Mosley is the author of 19 critically acclaimed books including popular mysteries "Devil in a Blue Dress", "A Red Death", "White Butterfly", "Black Betty", and "A Little Yellow Dog" that featured character Easy Rawlins. "Black Betty" and "A Little Yellow Dog" ranked on the New York Times Bestsellers list and "Devil in a Blue Dress" was made into a movie.

Mosley has written crime novels, science fiction, short stories and essays on contemporary social and political issues. He created an innovative lecture series entitled "Black Genius" in conjunction with the Africana Studies Institute at New York University with visiting artists, politicians and scholars who participate in a classroom setting discussing practical solutions to urban and contemporary issues.

In his address to the audience Mosley said, "Over the years literature has been a final word in the advancement and decline, the potential and innate ugliness of the human race. Words in the past have elated us, devastated us, and created who we are and what we can be. Freud wasn't telling us anything that we didn't know when he said that our most important intellectual and emotional work is in our dreams. We imagine a place and then we go to it. That's the only way we can get there. The written word and the spoken word have always been essential in our ability to realize our dreams, whether we are navigating the Mississippi River, or wandering through the

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Leaders rally to get out the vote

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Community leaders numbering more than a dozen gathered at the Doolittle Recreation Center on Monday, to urge African-Americans to "Get Out the Vote" in this most critical election year.

The recreation center was designated as the early voting site for West Las Vegas for Tuesday, Oct. 26, and Wednesday, Oct. 27. Community leaders were concerned that only one site was made available for two days in the community. Community leaders felt more sites should have been established.

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Fowler Sr., pastor of Victory Missionary Baptist Church and president of CAAN, the Caucus for African-Americans Nevada, led the rally saying, "In the African-American community we have become familiar with the fact that we typically have to fight twice. We have to fight once in order to obtain our civil rights, and then we have to fight again in order to maintain our civil rights. We want to urge the community to make good use of the Doolittle Center as an early



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

The Rev. Robert Fowler, president of the Caucus of African American Nevadans, addresses the crowd Monday during a get-out-the-vote rally at Doolittle Community Center.

voting site. We're concerned that the days that are allotted for Doolittle as an early voting site are so nominal, and it would be our hope and desire that the community would register its voice and vote by utilizing the Doolittle Center in mass numbers."

He continued, "It would likewise be our hope and desire that those who are part of

the election board that makes the decision, as it relates to where the early voting sites as well as Election Day sites are to be located, would recognize that the African-American community does deserve more exposure and more opportunities for early voting and more opportunities for Election Day voting sites within our own neigh-

borhood. To a larger degree we have people that are unable to drive to the voting sites. To a larger degree we have people that are disabled and unable to make it to the voting sites, and we would hope there would be some sense of sensitivity on the part of those that make the decision as to where they place early voting sites and Election Day sites. I trust that the community will hear our cry and hear our plea and understand that within our community we are burdened with the task of having to fight twice, and we should embrace that burden for the sake of those who have given us the right to vote; we should embrace that burden for the peers that are part of our community today; and we certainly should embrace that burden for our children so that they can participate in the political process of tomorrow."

Nevada is one of several states considered to be a battleground place that may decide the next president of the United States. Emphasis on getting a large number of African-American voters to

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Bush fails to tab many top-level Blacks

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Despite the high visibility of Secretary of State Colin Powell, only 3.3 percent of the State Department's senior executives—three Black males and three Black females—are among the 170 senior-level executives at the U. S. State Department, according to records obtained by the NNPA News Service from the U. S. Office of Personnel Management.

"It's extremely unfortunate and unacceptable that even though the highest ranking person at the State Department is African-American, that there are not more African-Americans in senior level positions," says Hilary Shelton, director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP.

"The top of the government is still layered with White males. Affirmative action is not going on there."

—Eleanor Holmes Norton
District of Columbia
Delegate to Congress



"Indeed, there are extremely well-qualified African-Americans; yet, they have not been sought and they have not been brought up through the ranks. It is this that creates the lack of credibility of this State Department around the world."

District of Columbia Delegate to Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, chair of the Equal Opportunity Employ-

ment Commission (EEOC) under Jimmy Carter, says the problem is not limited to the State Department.

"The top of the government is still layered with White males," she says. "Affirmative action is not going on there. To get around barriers that have kept Blacks out of the top echelons of American industry or the federal government, you have to do

affirmative action. By that I mean to look to where the talent is, to give it the requisite opportunity and training to move up. That has not been happening essentially in the federal government."

Norton was reacting to statistics from the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Government Accountability Organization (GAO) and a Newsday report, all showing an underrepresentation of African-Americans in the federal government.

The Newsday analysis of federal personnel records shows that Blacks hold only 7 percent of the 2,800 administration jobs under Bush, less than half of the 16 percent held under President Clinton. The Newsday analysis also

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