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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Owens denies suicide rumor

DALLAS (AP)- Dallas Cowboys receiver Terrell Owens denied a police report Wednesday that he attempted suicide, saying he became groggy after mixing painkillers with supplements.

As if to prove he's doing fine, Owens went from the hospital to catching passes from quarterback Drew Bledsoe within two hours, then proclaimed himself "very capable of going out there and playing on Sunday" — despite whatever happened Tuesday night and a broken right hand, which he injured previously.

Owens said the confusion likely stemmed from an empty bottle of pain medication found by his publicist, who was with him at the time and called 911. He said the rest of the pills were in a drawer.

"I was non-responsive when she made that call," Owens said. "She made the call out of her judgment for my well-being."

Appearing in a news conference at team headquarters a few hours after leaving a hospital for what a police report described as "a drug overdose," Owens wore workout gear and no bandage on his right hand. The star receiver smiled and seemed more amused than peeved at the latest ruckus surrounding him.

Owens, 32, blamed a combination of hydrocodone, a generic form of Vicodin, with all-natural supplements for making him ill.

"It's very unfortunate for it to go from an allergic reaction to a suicide attempt," he said.

Rescue workers arrived at Owens' home around 8 p.m. Tuesday and took him to an emergency room. When word spread, publicist Kim Etheredge said it was an allergic reaction.

But the story shifted Wednesday morning when several media outlets received a police report — that had yet to be released by the authorities — saying Owens had attempted suicide by overdosing on the painkillers, even putting two more pills into his mouth after an unidentified friend, later identified as Etheredge, intervened.

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Airola, Gillespie debate

Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson

Jerry Airola, left, participates in a sheriff's candidates' forum Wednesday night at the Plaza hotel-casino downtown. Airola and Las Vegas police Undersheriff Doug Gillespie, far right, answered questions in a forum put on by the Caucus of African American Nevadans political action committee and IMPACTO, the Latin Chamber of Commerce's political action committee. Representatives of two political action organizations, CAAN and IMPACTO, as well as African-American and Hispanic media panelists asked questions. The general election is set for Nov. 7.

By Debbie Hall
and Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

Two candidates vying for the powerful position of sheriff of the Metropolitan Police Department debated in a public forum last night at the Plaza Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas on Main and Fremont streets.

Douglas C. Gillespie, who garnered about 38 percent of the votes in the primary, stood on the platform with Jerry M. Airola, who won close to 22 percent of the primary vote in September to force a two-way runoff in the general election on Novem-

ber 7.

The debate was hosted by two political action organizations — CAAN, the Caucus of African American Nevadans, and IMPACTO, the Latin Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee.

Spokespersons for the event said the primary reason for hosting the forum was to provide a way for the public, and especially their organization members, to hear the candidates' views in order to determine which candidate, if either, each group would be endorsing in the general election.

Tony Sanchez, chairman

of IMPACTO stated: "Last year, in speaking with our friends from the Urban Chamber and CAAN, we came to the realization that together we are what is called the majority-minority group and together we impact elections; so we wanted to team up because we have a lot of the same issues..." He said that "law enforcement impacts both of our communities."

Cordell E. Stokes, spokesperson and a founding member of CAAN, said, "This is why we are hosting the debate. What we are going to do is allow for the PAC Sub-

committee... to deliberate, take the information and submit it to the leadership and ratify the endorsement or non-endorsement."

Sanchez added, "Tonight, hearing who is going to lead our sheriff's office and letting them know what we care about is why we are here. We will be endorsing a candidate, separate from CAAN, and we will have more of these debates during the political season."

The panel of six consisted of four media representatives and one member from each host organization:

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Farrakhan's health prompts leadership shift

By George E. Curry
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Likening his predicament to that of Cuba's Fidel Castro, Minister Louis Farrakhan says he is facing some serious health challenges, causing him to turn over administration of the Nation of Islam to its executive board and cancel all appointments and personal appearances until further notice.

Farrakhan said his illness is related to the heavy dosage of radiation he received for prostate cancer treatment in the late 1990s. He underwent surgery in November 2000 at Howard University

and on a recent visit there was found to have an infection and inflammation.

"I have been suffering from the aftereffects of an extremely high dose of radiated seed implantation that indeed killed the cancer cells that had broken the prostate capsule. But over time, these seeds have done severe internal damage," he explained.

Farrakhan said his illness represents "a period of testing" for his organization.

"In this period of testing, you can prove to the world that the Nation of Islam is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality of Louis Farrakhan," he said in



"I have been suffering from the after-effects of an extremely high dose of radiated seed implantation... these seeds have done severe internal damage."

— Minister Louis Farrakhan
Nation of Islam

a letter to his supporters. "In this period of testing, you can prove that the Nation of Islam is undergirded by an idea that represents the Kingdom of God on Earth, an idea that can never be uprooted, never

be destroyed and can only increase its power, effect and influence over the hearts and minds of the people of the Earth."

During this period of recovery and testing,

Farrakhan said, "I will be available to give guidance in any major situation that may arise, but I would prefer that the Executive Board of the Nation of Islam help solve the problems of the Nation, without asking me."

The Nation of Islam leader is recovering on his large farm in Michigan.

In his letter, Farrakhan said: "Commandante Fidel Castro had a very serious operation and he relinquished power to his brother and all those who were trained to carry on in his absence. While many rejoiced — believing and thinking that if Fidel Castro and the

Cuban Revolution expired they could move Cuba and the Revolution in a new direction — his absence from the helm only proved that Cuba will not fall apart over the absence or passing of their illustrious leader. Such a challenge is before us."

Ironically, it was on a trip to Cuba in March that Farrakhan's current illness was diagnosed. Upset by the slow response to Hurricane Katrina, Minister Farrakhan led a 23-member delegation on a 9-day fact-finding mission to learn how Cuba prepared for and reacted to natural disasters.

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