

National Briefs

Anti-Affirmative Action

Berkeley, Calif. (NBNS) - Encouraged by the success of Proposition 187 and a Republican-controlled Congress in Washington, conservatives in California have lunched a drive to ban all affirmative action programs in their state. Such programs normally give preferential treatment to blacks, minorities and women in hiring, school admissions and business contracts.

Affirmative action programs were originally designed to in part compensate affected groups for past discriminatory practices. But they have come under concerted attack in recent years as more and more "angry white males" have started to vote for Republicans who frequently oppose such programs.

Ironically, the college professors who wrote the measure which would ban the programs, are calling it the "California Civil Rights Initiative." Traditional civil rights advocates are especially fearful of the measure because it bypasses the courts and the state legislature by going directly to the voters in the form of a ballot initiative. Further, if it passes in California, conservative groups in other states are likely to launch similar initiatives.

California voters just recently passed Proposition 187 which banned most services to illegal aliens.

Black Caucus Attacked

Washington, D.C. (NBNS) - If the leadership of the Republican party has its way the power of the Congressional Black Caucus and 27 other congressional caucuses will be severely reduced. Party leaders last week proposed to take away the budgets, staff and the Capitol Hill offices, of all 28 caucuses. Those hardest hit would be the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Women's Caucus. The caucuses could still exist but without budgets, staff and offices their clout would be severely restricted. Kansas Republican Pat Roberts is spearheading the effort. Last week he labeled himself an "equal opportunity terminator." But Congressional Black Caucus member William Clay of Missouri said the Republican effort was primarily aimed at the Congressional Black Caucus.

Nigerian Sanctions

Atlanta, Ga. (NBNS) - Nobel Prize-winning author Wole Soyinka last week called upon world leaders to impose economic sanctions on his native country of Nigeria in a bid to force the military leaders to step down and restore democracy to the populous West African nation. General Sani Abacha seized power a year ago after refusing to recognize the results of a democratic election. The oil-rich nation has been in political chaos since. Even America's black political leader Jesse Jackson was criticized by Nigerian human rights activists when he visited in a bid to help resolve the crisis.

Activists accused him of being too close to the military leaders. Soyinka was in Atlanta to attend a meeting of former President Jimmy Carter's new Human Rights Council.

Racial Bias in Jury

Miami, Fla. (NBNS) - A new landmark study suggests that black plaintiffs receive smaller amounts in jury awards even when they suffer the same injury, lost of income or file the same type of claim.

Department of Justice to Probe Regional Bankruptcy Officials

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to take over management if the company defaulted on certain financial obligations. In July 1985, with a possible default imminent, panel members agreed to take over the management early — at Lane's request. However, the Lanes understood that the reorganization plan permitted the panel members to take over management only.

A document was submitted to Middle District Bankruptcy Court Judge James B. Wolfe Jr. stating that Lane relinquished his stock ownership to the private panel. However, there was no court document stating that Wolfe had approved such a sale to the panel.

Jay Alix, a corporate turnaround specialist and investigative accountant in Southfield,

Mich., reviewed the case and said it warrants investigation.

"Having been both a trustee and an examiner in major bankruptcy cases, I believe the receipt of millions of dollars by the examiner and other court-approved experts without bankruptcy court approval does merit scrutiny by the justice department, as well as by the bankruptcy judge himself," he said.

Mike West, a bankruptcy administrator in Greensboro, identifies misconduct and potentially fraudulent schemes. West was administrator during the Lane case and did not make a report to the chief bankruptcy judge identifying as improper any aspect of the payout to the panel members.

In 1990, after the Lanes had

exhausted their appeals, the panel members went to a chancery court judge in Little Rock, Ark., for permission to distribute \$24.5 million of the sale proceeds.

Alix says this is a highly unusual move.

"You don't go to a state or local court to get approval for a \$24 million payout in a bankruptcy case," he said. "The federal bankruptcy court still retained jurisdiction over this company and matters related to its plan or reorganization."

However, according to court documents, the judge permitted the distribution of over \$20 million from the reorganization, with panel members receiving \$7.8 million.

According to prior court pro-

ceedings, Lane did not believe that the panel members owned his stock by virtue of his signature on what he thought to be an authorization to permit the panel to manage, but not own the assets.

The purchaser of the Lane solely-owned stock is Tyson Foods Chairman Don Tyson. Tyson was a rival in chicken farming in 1990. The justice department reports that it will look at all aspects of the purchase.

Currently, the department is focusing on whether the failure to get Wolfe's approval of the transfer of ownership of the Lane privately-owned stock to court appointed panel members for personal ownership during an on-going reorganization consti-

tutes fraud on the bankruptcy court. The private panel members contend that Wolfe's approval was not required.

Don Tyson is the same businessman investigated by the justice department in reference to Hillary Rodham Clinton making approximately \$99,000 on a \$1,000 investment. The justice department is also investigating former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy for making decisions that are believed to have positively influenced poultry rules in favor of Don Tyson while Espy was receiving private perks from Tyson's company.

(This article was written by Phillip S. Banks III, based on an article from the Wall Street Journal and conversations with Larry Jones and Clift Lane.)

Barker: Firings not Racially Motivated

from page 1

an interview last week. "They don't have much space over there, but a lot of that will be gone when the new jail opens."

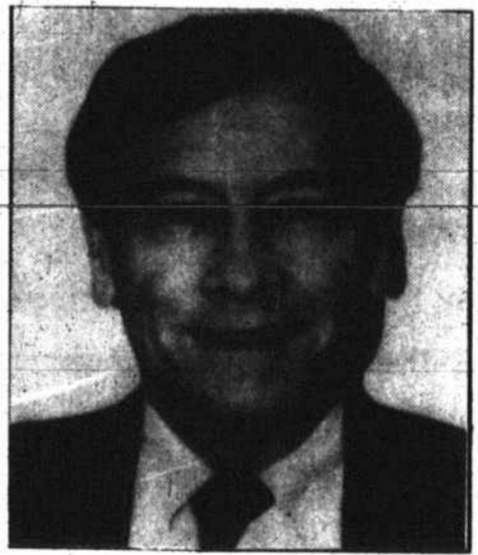
Several African-American officers had previously complained that there was a lot of tension in the jail and they were fired unfairly.

Barker said out of the nine firings, five were white and three were black. A white officer and a black officer were fired in November for allegedly stealing newspapers from a rack inside the jail, owned by the Winston-Salem Journal.

"I'm not in a position to give the reasons why they were fired, but more whites were not rehired than blacks," he said. "I believe in fairness and I have made special efforts to promote minorities in this department. I received a lot of support from the black community and I strived to put role models before the community."

Barker, a Republican incumbent, won a landslide victory over Democratic challenger Joe Pitts and dominated most black precincts.

County Commissioner Ear-



Ron Barker

line Parmon said Barker has run a fair department and that the firings were a matter of personnel not race.

"I think the sheriff was fair in his assessment," she said. "I don't think any of his actions were racial. He received a lot of support from the black community and in response he has done a lot to help the black employees."

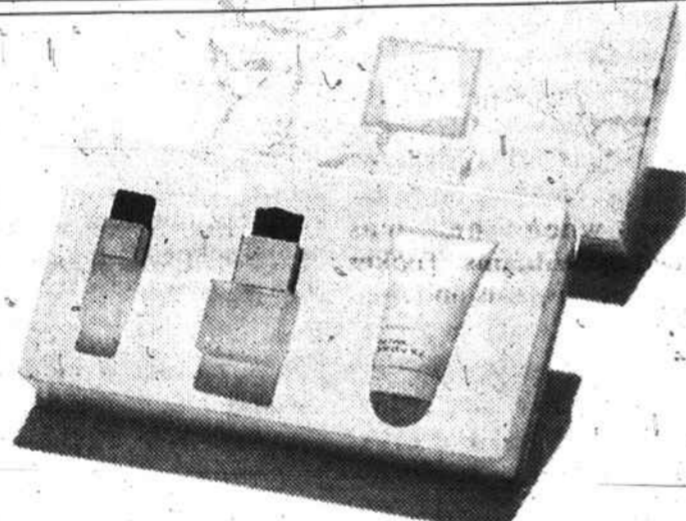
Robert Joyce, Barker's administrative assistant, said the sheriff's department has done a lot to promote blacks and will try to fill the slots where blacks

were fired with other blacks.

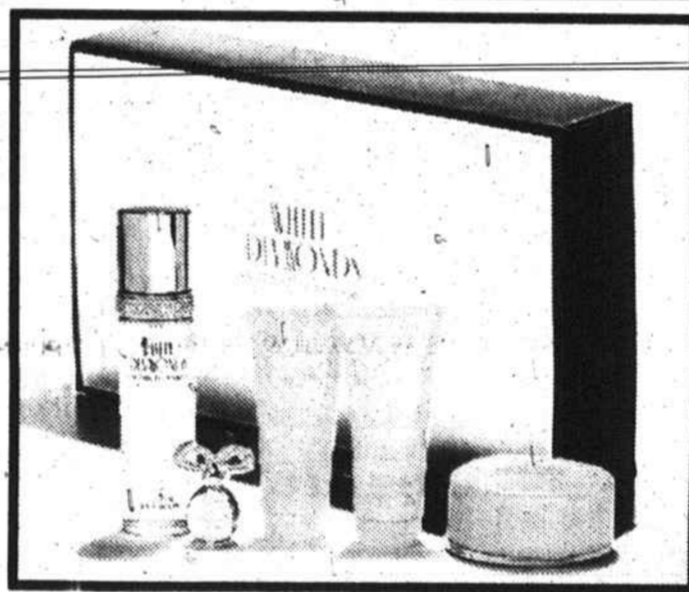
In addition to trying to upgrade the department, Barker says his deputies have dismantled major drug families that were preying on the black community.

"We have gone after the larger drug dealers. We're not going to overlook the small guys either, but our narcotics division has broken up two major drug families that were in East Winston," he said. "I have always been fair and I will continue to be fair and help the minorities and the total community."

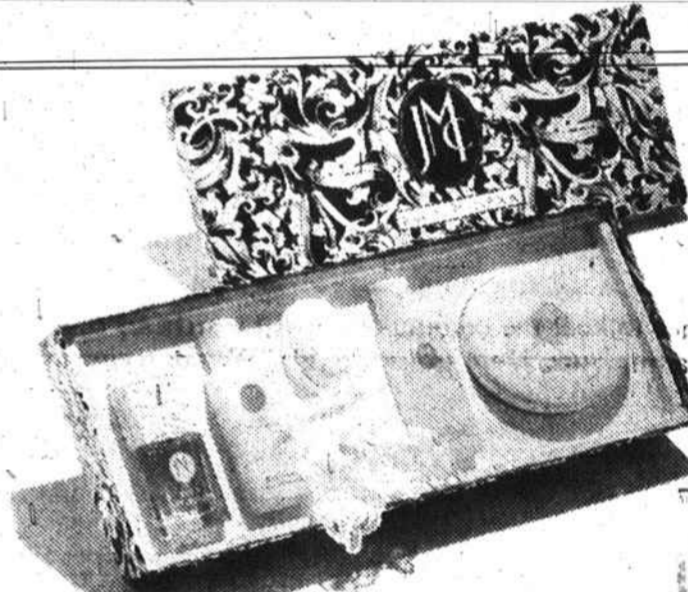
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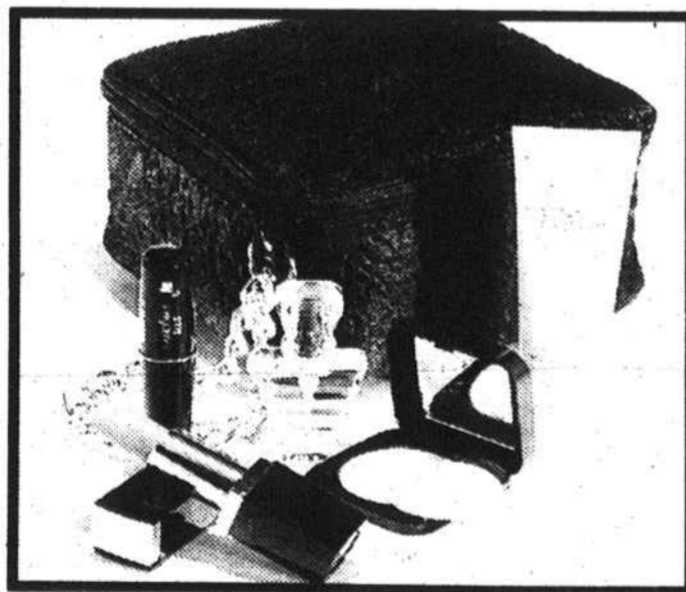
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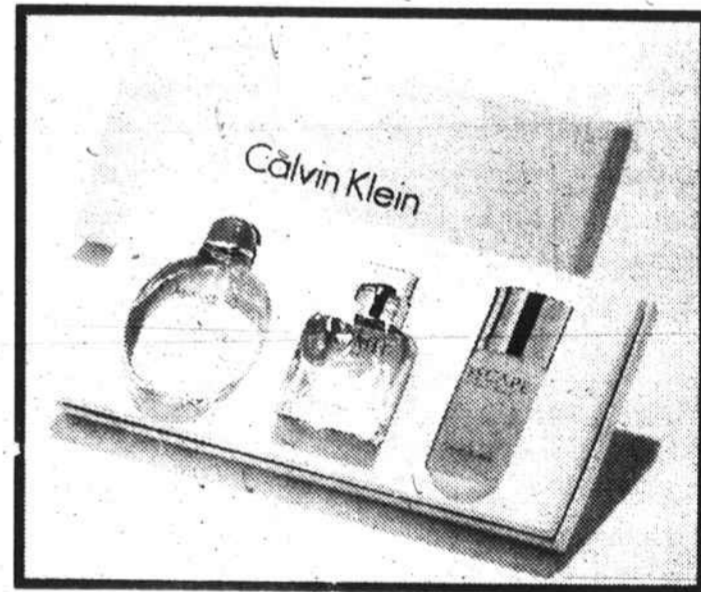
JESSICA McCLINTOCK 6-PIECE SET, \$47
An \$82 value - Eau de Parfum Spray - Body Lotion - Body Powder - Shower Gel - Soap - Lace Handkerchief



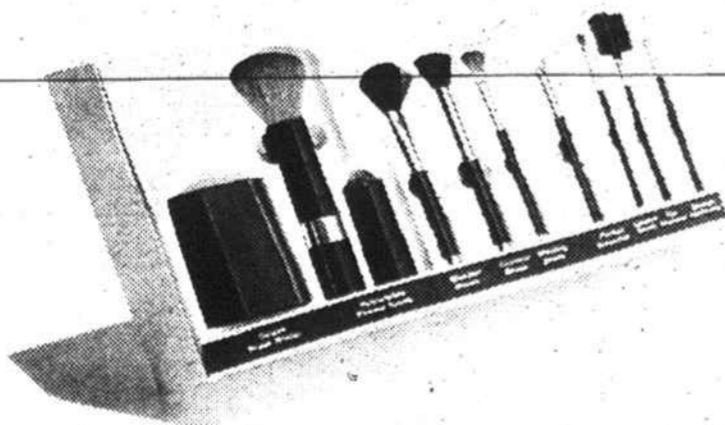
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With any Lancome purchase - Tresor Spray - Rouge Absolu Lipstick - Tresor Body Lotion - Dual Finish Compact - Intencils Mascara - Black Evening Bag

GREAT COSMETIC VALUES

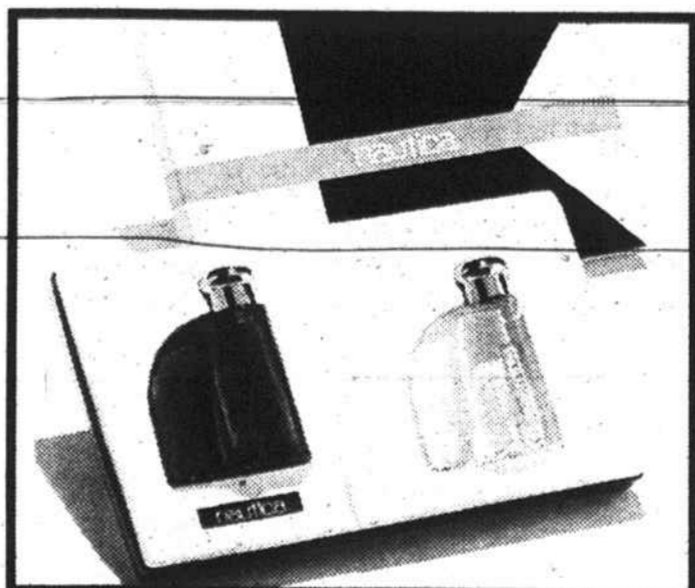
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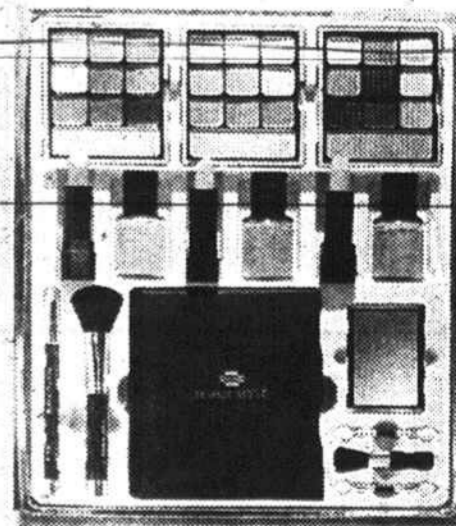
CALVIN KLEIN FOR MEN, \$25
Contains cologne collectibles of Obsession, Eternity and Escape.



BRUSH COLLECTION, \$10
Collection contains: 8 Makeup Brushes - Brush Holder



NAUTICA, 2-PIECE SET, \$45
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