

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali draws more than 500

BY GEORGETTE COPEL
STAFF NEWS WRITER

Thursday evening's tribute to Muhammad Ali brought together more than 500 students, faculty, and Las Vegas residents in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom to honor the three-time heavyweight boxing champion.

Multicultural Student Affairs, the Black Student Association, and the Islamic Student Association sponsored the event in conjunction with Black History Month.

UNLV education major Maryum Ali, the daughter of Muhammad Ali, helped her husband, Brian Galwey, graduate sports management stu-

dent and president of the Ethnic Student Council, organize the event. Galwey served as master of ceremonies.

Ali, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, has limited physical, but not mental, capabilities. Maryum Ali said her father is still sharp and at peace with himself. "He takes everything in stride," she said.

Sophomore Sarah Feliz said she was touched by the experience. "He didn't even have to say a word," Feliz said of Ali. "He almost made me cry."

"It was an honor for me to meet such a great legend of boxing," said freshman hotel administration major Henry Johnson.

The event began with a film

presentation that included a historical account of Ali's athletic career and his contributions as a goodwill ambassador.

Guest speakers from the Las Vegas community, including boxer Mike Tyson, UNLV President Carol Harter, and Myrum Ali discussed Ali's contributions to humanitarian causes.

"He does us great honor with his presence," Harter said. "He is a graceful human being."

Tyson said Ali exemplified what a true American stands for. "He had a desire to win," Tyson said. "He gave us confidence."

Fred Preston, professor of sociology, told the audience of

his adopted African-American son who viewed Ali as a role model he could identify with. "He is a great hero of mine," Preston said.

Velicia Haron, director of Multicultural Student Affairs, said the tribute to Ali was an important and symbolic event for all African-Americans to view the type of character it takes to have a dream and make it materialize.

Haron added that contributions made by African-Americans in the United States and world history need to be integrated and acknowledged.

North Las Vegas City Councilman John Rhodes expressed his admiration for Ali. "He stood for his beliefs and prin-

ciples and called the world to a greater understanding."

An awards presentation concluded the program, and UNLV senior Judy Frazier, an elementary education major and a 4-year track and cross country runner, was presented an award honoring her leadership and community service. The award exemplified the true spirit of Ali and giving back to the community. Ali was also presented with an award.

"The most important thing he (Ali) taught me was don't get involved with the material world," said Maryum Ali at the conclusion of the event. "He shaped my mentality, behavior, and outlook on life."

Hopes

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ance, recorded the license plate number of the abandoned Accord at 10 p.m. Feb. 19 into his book of vehicles to be towed. Because of city regulations, it had not been removed from the premises by Thursday.

Police found Turner-Elliott's purse and cellular phone inside the vehicle. According to Metro Det. David Mesinar, there was no sign of a struggle.

"We're still trying to locate

Ms. Turner-Elliott, although we don't know if she's missing voluntarily or if there's foul play," Mesinar said Monday.

"There's really no case as of now," Mesinar continued. "Until we can identify a crime we can't point the finger at anyone."

A social worker at University Medical Center and mother of two, Turner-Elliott has been a Las Vegas resident for 19 years. "My mom is a wonderful person," Turner said Monday. "She got along with everyone so I can't single anyone out who would want to hurt her."

According to Turner, police suspect foul play. When asked to speculate about his mother's well-being, Turner responded, "You always have to hope for the best."

"This is very difficult for my brother (Jeffrey Turner, of Seattle) and me," Turner added. "We would like to have our mother back, but we can put two and two together and realize it doesn't look good," Turner said.

Turner-Elliott's co-workers at UMC have organized a candlelight vigil to be held tonight at the 2040 building at UMC. The vigil will begin at 7


p.m. and will be held on the sixth floor of the South Auditorium.

Tracey Nabors, a charge nurse at UMC, said the purpose of the vigil is to offer prayers and support to all who are grieving over Turner-Elliott's disappearance. "We (UMC staff) just felt we needed to do

something because everyone is very upset about this." Nabors has worked closely with Turner-Elliott for one year.

If anyone has any information concerning the disappearance of Barbara Turner-Elliott, they are asked to call Mesinar at 229-3521 or Metro at 497-9371.

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