

# BOXING CHAMP ROGER MAYWEATHER ADDRESSES STUDENTS AT M.E. CAHLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Muhammad Abdullah

On Wednesday, March 4, 1992 about 150 students and some faculty members of M.E. Cahlan Elementary School received a rare treat as two-time "World Boxing Champion" Roger Mayweather took time out of his busy schedule to address them.

The students were excited because they had an opportunity to listen, talk to, ask questions and pose for photographs with a "living role model."

Mayweather was invited to address the students by Michael Lyons, a faculty member, who approached him at this year's

Martin Luther King Parade.

Accompanying Mayweather was his brother Jeff Mayweather (up and coming world class fighter in his own right) along with limousine driver Andrew Matthews and Muhammad Abdullah, who arranged for the limousine service and confirmed the speaking engagement.

According to Rose Epps, school Principal who attended the function, it was "history in the making." Epps said that it was rare that students would get an opportunity to meet "living role models" especially in the area in which her school is located. Cahlan Elementary is located at 2801 Fort Sumter Drive off of Evans Street just North of Donna Street in North Las Vegas where numerous drive-by shootings have occurred in the past and where at one time there was gang warfare on a daily basis.

Mayweather talked about how an older brother of his entered into boxing when he was younger and because of his brother's talent and skill he wanted to become a boxer as well.

Mayweather said that education was important because "it gives you something to fall back on if you are injured, disabled or no longer have the physical ability to continue to box."

He asked the students to respond to a question about what they wanted to be. The responses varied from doctor, to lawyer, to actresses, to football players and the like.

"The answers were very good. I can see that many of you have good heads on your shoulders. The reason why I decided to be a boxer was because it is something I always wanted to be. Whatever you chose to be will take planning and sacrifice. You must be willing to follow a plan if you are going to be successful," Mayweather said.

"To become a World Champion two-times took a lot of effort and sacrifice. I had to get to bed early, eat a healthy breakfast, I had to be up before sunrise in order to work out, I had to train daily in the gym, I could not miss my workouts."

"If you want to pass an exam you must prepare with study. If you don't study, you won't pass. Education prepares you to face life and to overcome obstacles that may confront you," he added.

Although Jeff Mayweather has not had a title fight as of yet, he is currently preparing to achieve that goal.

Jeff mentioned briefly to the students how he kind of "fell" into boxing after getting his bachelor's degree.

"I look at boxing as a business. When I go into the ring it's like punching in a time clock. Once I have taken care of business in the ring my working day stops."

"I have set other goals besides boxing and I see boxing as a way to achieve some of the

goals I have set."

"Your education is something that no one can take away from you. They can take your title, but they can never take your education."

The students had showed their gratitude for Mayweather's appearance by constructing a "mock" boxing ring and by dedicating their effort to Roger and his brother, Jeff.

There was a brief question-and-answer period where the students and some faculty members asked questions and commented on the importance

of living role models.

Finally it was time for the photo-taking-session and autographs. The students at Cahlan Elementary lined up and took photos with Mayweather around the "mock" boxing ring and swamped both brothers for autographs. It was a day that these students will remember for the rest of their lives.

Mayweather said that this is a "first" for him and that he would be willing to appear at any school at any time in the future to talk to the students if his schedule permitted.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY NELSON MANDELA

By Gwen Walker

Nelson Mandela was born in 1918; the son of a Tempu Chief. He was educated at a Methodist boarding school and a Black African College in South Africa. After moving to Johannesburg; he became a Lawyer and joined the ANC. This organization was founded to end apartheid.



GWEN WALKER

As part of a crackdown against the ANC, the South African government branded Mandela a traitor.

After being arrested in 1962, Mr. Mandela was imprisoned for the next 27 years. While in prison Mandela's words and ideas continued to reach and inspire South African Blacks. His wife, Winnie Mandela remained loyal while he was imprisoned and continued the fight to end apartheid.

The roots of South African, apartheid went deep into the Nations history. Dutch settlers had colonized South Africa in the 1600's. Although the British took over and ruled South Africa from the 1800s to 1931, descendants of the Dutch settlers, known as Afrikaners, controlled the government.

To ensure their control over the nation, the white set up the system of apartheid as the official policy of the government in 1948. Blacks were effectively denied any say in the country's political affairs. This was similar to the experienced of African-Americans in the South during the era of Jim Crow after reconstruction.

To help end Apartheid, Civil Rights groups became active urging corporations to end business dealings with South Africa. They also pushed the U.S. government to impose economic sanctions; African American dock workers in Oakland, Ca., refused to unload ships from South Africa. Then in 1987 congress did vote for such sanctions, barring the importation of foods and consumer products from South Africa.

The combination of international economic pressure and continuing protests from Black groups within South Africa finally succeeded. In 1989, the South African government resumed talks with the once banned ANC and freed Mr. Mandela.

In 1991, President Bush ended economic sanctions against South Africa, which Nelson Mandela objected to. Mr. Mandela continues to fight for equal rights for Black Africans.

If you wish to help in any way contact Ms. Charlotte Fuller with the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, and Nevadans Against Apartheid at 870-5011. Read more about Mandela and apartheid at the West LV Library.



NELSON MANDELA

## BRACKEN SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS STUDY NOTABLE AFRICAN-AMERICANS

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

Mr. Jeffrey A. Coltrin's fifth graders at the Walter Bracken Elementary School researched and completed projects on famous African-Americans during the recent African-American History Recognition Month.

Most of the students' reports centered around the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Spud Webb. Jose L. Cuellar presented the grand prize winning report.

Officials from the Westside Community Development Commission, and the Education Committee of the Westside Federal Credit Union assisted the group with their projects, by providing a variety of research materials and visual aids.

The community-based groups will assist the class with its 1992 Career Day Project, scheduled for late Spring this year at the school.



BLACK HISTORY PROJECT WINNERS - (1 TO R) Morena D. Matheu, Jessica J. Rosales, Jose L. Cuellar, Chris J. Velasque, Shakir P. Fitzgerald, Benjamin A. Abrego, and teacher Jeffrey A. Coltrin in rear.

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