

Happy Mother's Day

FROM THE STAFF OF THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

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COMMUNITY LEADERS BLAST METRO & FIRE DEPARTMENT WEST LAS VEGAS LOOKS TO REBUILD AS DAMAGES EDGE TOWARD \$6 MILLION

Damage from the turbulence that ripped through West Las Vegas last week has neared the \$6 million mark according to city officials Monday, as the community has begun the painful process of cleaning up and attempting to return their lives to normal.

Meanwhile, West Las Vegas community leaders have charged that last Thursday's violence may have been set off, in part, by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's actions during the unrest that was sparked by the acquittal of the four officers in the beating of Rodney King.

Rev. Jesse Scott, President of the Las Vegas

NAACP, said in a meeting of community leaders earlier this week that he was informed by people in the community that the violence began when two young men were detained and roughed up by police.

Rev. Scott also claimed that firefighters were never in danger of sniper fire, as reported, and they allowed buildings to burn during the blaze that wiped out part of the Nucleus Plaza Shopping Center on West Owens Avenue.

The police department, on the other hand, was angered by the accusations that they improperly handled themselves during last week's uprising.



The foundation of the pharmacy is all that remains to tell what hell broke loose.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Five police officers and a fire department chief disclosed in detail their efforts to quiet what they described as a riot, when they found themselves in the line of gunfire.

"There was plenty of gunfire out there. We couldn't fulfill our obligations because we were under siege," stated Police Lt. Charles Davidaitus.

Police also stated they don't believe their critics understand how serious the situation was. Franks added that most of the attacks were the work of gangs, who he referred to as, "yellow bellied rats who stood with young children around them, firing at police, knowing we couldn't fire" (See West Las Vegas to rebuild, Page 7)



Charred and burned rubble is all that occupies the Nucleus Plaza Shopping Center after vandals set fire after a night of looting and destruction.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

ISIAH CHARLES, JR. SOLE FATALITY IN THE WEST LAS VEGAS UNREST

By W.G. Ramirez

The death toll from last Thursday's violence was officially set at one, 18-year-old Isiah Charles, Jr.

The Rancho High School student's body was found in the scorched remains of part of Nucleus Plaza, the West Owens Avenue shopping center destroyed by arsonists.

Residents and business owners began cleaning up and are trying to return to normal as damage from the turbulence that tore through the Westside last week has been estimated at \$6 million.

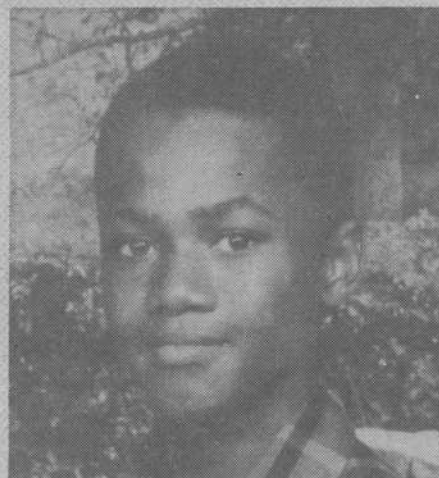
Charles, Jr., born November 11, 1973 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, has been described as a cheerful, helping and understanding person.

Isiah ("Chubby") was an employee of the Nellis/Harris Wendy's restaurant and a member of Rancho High's ROTC.

In 1987 he confessed a hope in Christ at Second Baptist Church, where a memorial service was held this past Wednesday afternoon.

The family, in gratefulness and humility, expressed sincere gratitude for each act of kindness, and each gesture of sympathetic prayer uttered in their behalf during their difficult hours of bereavement.

The family also hopes and prays that any-



ISIAH CHARLES, JR.

one with any knowledge or information or anyone that had seen or spoke with Isiah come forward with consoling words of encouragement that could settle their mourningful minds.

Isiah is survived by his parents Isiah Charles, Sr., Las Vegas, Nevada and Geraline Walker Charles, Little Rock, Arkansas; one brother- DeJuan Thomas, Pine Bluff; two sisters- Tiffany Renee Charles and Semeka Chere Charles, Little Rock; his grandmother Queenster Walker, Pine Bluff; and his grandfather Celester Charles, Las Vegas.

SEE RELATED ARTICLES PAGES 2, 3 & 5 AND RELATED PICTURES PAGES 6 & 7