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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## GROUP ASKS PARENTS TO PULL STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL MONDAY

# WAAK-UP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Lee Brown

After numerous, unsuccessful attempts at negotiating with the Clark County School District and its school board in regards to the busing and welfare of West Las Vegas students, concerned citizens and various organizations, under the umbrella of WAAK-UP, a local group concerned with the welfare of area students, has ordered a boycott of the Clark County School District.

The boycott is calling for parents of West Las Vegas students to pull their children from school, which begins next Monday, August 24.

West Las Vegas students are bused 11 of the 12 required years of public schooling. Only during the sixth-grade, do these students have the opportunity to attend school in their own community.

Though the Clark County School Board has agreed to build an elementary school in the West Las Vegas area in the near future, parents do not feel that that is enough.

"We know we can't have our demands met right away, but we do want to start some type of negotiating," said Deborah Jackson, Community Action Chairperson for WAAK-UP.

"We want the school district to know that we are

willing to negotiate the matter before the beginning of the school year."

The decision to boycott was made during a meeting that was held at Grace Immanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday evening, where between 100-150 concerned citizens attended to voice their opinions.

The announcement was first made public on KCEP Radio on Wednesday morning by Kamau Khalfani, also known as the "Minister of Information". Coincidentally, Khalfani is on the Educational Opportunities Committee, which was recently formed by the Clark County School District to consider whether the district should take additional action to enhance the educational opportunities in Clark County Schools, including the possibility of modifying the current desegregation plan.

Back in April or May of this year, members of WAAK-UP went to the school district and asked for immediate help in at least allowing area first-graders to go to school within the community, and the possibility of having aids put on buses for other students.

In addition, the organization has also asked for



Marzette Lewis, President of WAAK-UP

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

sensitivity training for teachers and school administrators, as well as for the hiring of more African American Teachers.

At an August 11 school board meeting, board members stated that bringing the students back to first-grade, and having aids put on buses were not physically and fiscally possible at this time.

WAAK-UP was established last year by its current president, Marzette Lewis, in the wake of an incident where the school district found that there was insufficient evidence to support her first-grade son's charges that two other students forced him to perform oral sex on them while riding in a school bus.

Currently, the organization is waiting on a response from the school district before taking action.

WAAK-UP has stated that the four churches and one Muslim Mosque have already committed the use of their facilities to act as classrooms for students, and others have agreed to volunteer their time as teachers. Food for students has also been donated in case the boycott becomes a reality.

A news conference was scheduled for this morning in front of the West Las Vegas Library, and a meeting for concerned citizens and parents is scheduled for Saturday, August 22, at 9:00 A.M. at Grace Immanuel Baptist Church.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMITTEE HOSTS POLITICAL SPEAKOUT

Sentinel-Voice

The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee held a "Political Speakout" on Monday, August 17, at Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center, to give citizens the opportunity to speak directly to candidates running for the offices of Family Court Judge, County Commission, and State Assembly.

Moderator for the forum was Sandy Blake Toles, who heads the Mayor's Committee For A Better Community.

Each candidate was given two minutes to speak, and about fifteen minutes were allowed after each series of candidates, for the public to ask direct questions of those running for office.

Candidates on hand seeking seats as Family Court Judges included: Diane Steel, Dept. A; Fran Fine, Dept. E; Cuthbert Mack, Dept. E; Bill Henderson, Dept. F; Bill Friedman, Dept. D; Al Bruzas, Dept. A; Michael Root, Dept. F; and Bob Gaston, Dept. F.

Running for County Commission, District D, were City Fire Chief David Washington, and Tom Weir.

Both, county commission incumbent, William Pearson, and candidate Yvonne Atkinson-Gates have failed to appear at the past two "Political Speakouts" held in the West Las Vegas commu-



David Washington (L), County Commission candidate and Cuthbert Mack (R), Family Court Judge candidate, took advantage of opportunity to address community at Political Speakout.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

nity.

Also on hand was Carol Ann Hawley, who is running for County Commission, Dist. B.

In addition, State Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams, Dist. 6, and Morse Arberry, Dist. 7, both of whom are seeking re-election, and John Shipp, running for Assembly District 3, took time out to



address area residents.

One of the guidelines set for candidates was that they were instructed to refrain from attacking opponents or mentioning their opponents name.

Funds raised at the event were used towards the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Scholarship Fund.

## AMIDST UNRELATED CONTRVRSY, ATKINSON-GATES TRAILS PEARSON IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

While County Commissioner William Pearson led challenger Yvonne Atkinson-Gates with campaign contributions, Gates was defending her case against allegations that she lied about her income to qualify for a government home loan in 1981. Atkinson-Gates had qualified for a 8 1/2 percent interest home loan through the Nevada Housing Division in April 1981. Under the loan requirements, a single person household could earn up to \$18,150 to qualify. Confirmed by the county personnel department, Atkinson-Gates was earning approximately \$19,700 working as a management analyst for the county.

Atkinson-Gates has documented, though, that in 1981 she had legal custody of her infant niece, allowing her to be in a higher income bracket and still qualify for the loan.

A two-person household may earn \$20,700 and qualify. In 1981, '82 and '83, Atkinson-Gates claimed a dependency exemption for her niece, as well as calculating her taxes as the head of a household instead of a single person. Her income tax return for 1981 shows

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