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**NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY** 

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By Joan Shepard

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a \$2 million auditorium adjacent to the West Las Vegas Library will be held this Saturday. Library and elected officials will turn the earth to begin work on the 11,700 square foot, 300 seat multi-use auditorium designed to be used by the community for many events ranging from meetings to weddings.

The auditorium has been designed by local architect, Michael Jack Vlaovich and will be built by the Richardson Construction Company, a Las Vegas African-American firm.

"I got the job because I submitted the low bid, "explained, Lou Richardson, president of the construction company. "I feel the auditorium will enhance the community."

The auditorium can be used for movies, live music concerts, dance performances, plays, as well as meetings and lectures. "The front seats can be moved, "explained Vlaovich, "to create an orchestra pit. I think this is one of the best small auditoriums in Las Vegas. The technology is equal to the Ham Theater at UNLV," said the architect

The auditorium includes a 2000 square-foot lobby and a catering kitchen. "I can see weddings being held here, "said Marie Jordan, library admin-

istrator. "The lobby is big enough for receptions."

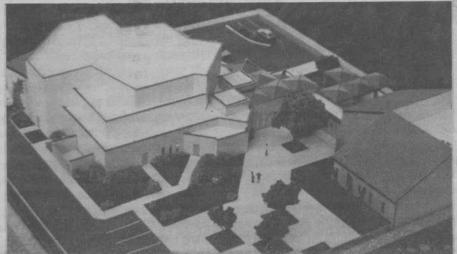
Jordan said the auditorium will be available to community groups free of charge for free events. There will be a sliding fee rental scale for admission-charge events. In addition, Jordan said she hopes to present cultural events at the library. "For programs and speakers," explained Jordan, "which won't cost anything, I can approve those event. For programs which will cost money, I must submit a proposal to the Library District Program Administrator." Jordan said she hoped to present cultural programs including dance groups and speak-

Because the auditorium is a publicly-financed project, church services can not be held; however, the auditorium is open to all political parties, according to Jordan.

The new auditorium, however, will not generate any new jobs, explained Jordan.

"We hope to complete the auditorium by February, 93," said Vlaovich, "to be open for Black History Month." The architect said that plans are in the works for interior artwork. "The goal is to showcase local African-American artists."

But behind Saturday's congenial ceremony and reception is simmering discontent. Both the library and the auditorium are the result of intense



Model of West Las Vegas Library's proposed Auditorium.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

community activism. In the 1980s, when the county proposed building new libraries, the Westside was omitted. In order to get a new library in the predominantly black area, community groups, along with the NAACP, had to wage a long hard battle, all too frequently necessary for the Westside, charge local community activists.

"I won't be there on Saturday," said Marzette

Lewis, president of WAAK-UP. I have bad vibes. The perception is that Black People don't read and are not really interested in libraries. The community is working to overcome that perception. I am tired. We are taking a beating.

The library is extremely important to the (See West Las Vegas Library, Page 5)

## OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUES

## 73:43:

Sentinel-Voice

At a Clark County School Board meeting on Tuesday, August 25, a 14 member citizen's advisory committee, along with concerned parents and citizens, urged the school board to come up with alternatives to the district's current 20-yearold desegregation plan which buses students who live in West Las Vegas, out of the community 11 of their 12 school years.

The panel also urged the board to allocate more funds to schools in economically disadvantaged areas, as opposed to its current system of funding based on enrollment.

The 14 members of the Educational Opportunities Committee were appointed in June to serve solely in an advisory capacity, by School Superintendent Brian Cram in response to the community's feelings concerning the district's court ordered desegregation policy.

The committee has come up with some good ideas, but the reality of the time frame (in regards to the implementation of the committee's ideas) may be what is making people ill-at-ease," said



Students at the New Jerusalem Alternative School were already being tested by an African-American male instructor on just the third day of the busing boycott. Photos by Savoy/ LVS-Voice committee member Kevin Lawrence, known to some as Kamau Khalfani.

However, School Board Trustee, John Rhodes went on to say, "(The committee) has identified one of the major areas, as far as the school district

is concerned, education is concerned and as far as our children are concerned, and that's equity in education.'

"My district will be glad to hear that the school (See Boycott, Page 5)

## REMOVAL OF BLACK JUDGE OUESTIONED

, Los Angeles-Three men charged in a trucker's riot-related beating were arraigned in Los Angeles this past Tuesday.

In a bold move, the prosecution removed a Black judge from the trial. The District Attorney's office said race was not a factor, claiming the prosecution used its right to challenge Superior Court Judge Roosevelt Dom because he could not devote himself solely to the trial.

Each side is allowed to remove one judge without explanation. The defense followed the prosecution move by challenging a second judge, who is white.

"They didn't want a Black judge," said James Gillen, attorney for Antione Miller, Tuesday. "They say it wasn't a racial issue. We say it probably was." Miller, Damian Williams and Henry Watson, who are Black, are charged with attempted murder, torture, aggravated mayhem and related charges in the televised beating of trucker Reginald Denny just as the riots began April 29.

A third Supreme Court Judge John Reed, also white, was left with the job.