

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL: "RUNNING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE VIA ETHNIC CLEANSING"

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

SEE PAGE 2

REMINDER:
Set your clocks back at 2 a.m.
on Sunday, October 25



A SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH REV. O.L. JEFFERSON, WLVA MEMORIAL CHAPEL
by Muhammad Abdullah

SEE PAGE 4

BROWN PUBLISHING CO., INC.
1201 SO. EASTERN AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

OVER 30,000 READERS

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Las Vegas, NV
Permit No. 1178

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 26

BROWN PUBLISHING COMPANY'S AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

October 22, 1992

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

TWO EMPLOYEES CHARGE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

By Joan Shepard

So intense is the controversy and the discontent of both employees and patrons with the West Las Vegas Library and the Clark County Library District, that a state legislator has called for the abolishment of the library district's board of directors; two library employees have filed formal civil rights complaints, and library patrons have started a demonstration against the library by checking out large numbers of books.

"In January, I will introduce a bill in the state legislature to abolish the library district's board of directors," said Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams (D-Las Vegas).

"I have gotten complaints from all over the county, and not just West Las Vegas, about the board," explained Williams. "People complain about the

vicious cycle of operation; that there is no way to voice concerns. People tell me they have had problems with the board for years. There is no accountability by the board or the library director to anyone," added Williams.

The Assemblyman explained that the library district's board of directors is appointed by the City Council and the County Commissioners. After their appointment, according to Williams, they do not have to report back to the Council or the Commissioners. The library district director appoints the personnel committee, and both the board and the personnel committee report to the district director. "They just go around in a circle," said Assemblyman Williams. "I don't see that the board or the district director is responsible to anyone or has any oversight by

any government agency or elected body."

Williams said in his opinion, the structure and operation of the library district board violated the first amendment because there was no system of redress for citizens.

However, Williams said that before the legislature in January, he will ask both the City Council and the County Commissioners to investigate the budget, distribution of funds, hiring policies, and the hiring policies of the library district's board of directors.

Two employees, Linda Porter and Deborah Jackson said they have filed formal civil rights complaints with the state's Equal Rights Commission charging racial discrimination against them by the Clark County Library District.

Community anger flared when Porter was transferred from the West Las Vegas Library to the Clark County District Library.



Linda Porter (L), talks politics with State Assemblymen Wendell Williams (C), and Morse Arberry.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Porter charges that the library district did not follow its own procedure stated in the personnel manual when she was transferred.

"I was supposed to get a warning and I was supposed to get both verbal and written notice from supervisor

(Marie Jordan). To this day, Jordan has never said a word about my transfer. The transfer looks bad on my record," said Porter.

In addition, Porter said despite two years of library employment, she is now
(See Complaints, Page 7)

LOCAL NAACP HOSTS 1992 FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

Under the theme "Honoring Our Past, Fulfilling Our Present, Preparing For Our Future," the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP will host its annual Freedom Fund Banquet this Saturday, October 24, at the Bally's Grand Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. No host cocktails will be served from 6:00 p.m. until dinner, which is scheduled for 7:00.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be Dr. Floyd W. Hayes, III, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, and African American Studies and Research, at Purdue University.

In addition to also having served as special assistant to the chairperson of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Hayes has also held faculty appointments at a number of other colleges and universities, including UCLA, Princeton, Morgan State, and San Diego State University.

Each year the NAACP presents this fundraising Banquet to raise funds



DR. FLOYD W. HAYES, III

to underwrite the cost of operating the branch. However, this year, funds from the banquet, in particular, will go towards the rebuilding the NAACP offices that were recently destroyed by fire during the racial unrest which followed the Rodney King verdict in April.

For banquet tickets or further information, you are urged to stop by the NAACP office at 1048 West Owens Ave., or call (702) 646-1662.

SCHOOL DISTRICT UNVEILS NEW BUSING PLAN

Sentinel-Voice

Reacting to pressure from Black parents, the Clark County School District disclosed Monday, details of its new busing plan that will offer some families in predominantly black West Las Vegas, a choice of schools, in and outside the West Las Vegas community, from which to send their children.

Called PRIME 6, the new plan would return grades 1-3 to sixth-grade centers, which are located in black neighborhoods. PRIME 6 would also convert Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center into a magnet school, and offer, along with the other centers, preschool classes for children living in those neighborhoods. The school district also hopes to recruit white students for the magnet school—the district's first—to ensure a racial mix amongst students.

Also, with sixth-grade being taken out of Hoggard Sixth Grade Center, and a new school opening in West Las Vegas next year (H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School; SEE RELATED STORY, Page 9), attendance boundaries for the other seven sixth-grade centers will have to be adjusted.

All-in-all, according to school district

officials, close to 3,000 Black students could be affected by the new plan.

District officials also announced Monday that they didn't know exactly how much the plan would cost.

School Superintendent Brian Cram said the district expects some costs will be offset by the savings of not having to bus large numbers of West Las Vegas students everyday, but he won't know the exact savings until parents decide whether or not to send their children to neighborhood schools.

Marzette Lewis, President of WAAK-UP (Westside Action Alliance Korp-Uplifting People), the Black parent's group that pushed for the new plan, has expressed that she and the group are pleased with the steps the district has taken to change the old desegregation plan.

"This is a very positive move on Dr. Cram's part," said Lewis.

However, she did note that there were a lot of other issues and changes that needed to be addressed.

For the past 20 years, Black students have had to carry the burden of school desegregation by having to be bused to predominantly white schools



WAAK-UP President Marzette Lewis is pleased that the school busing issue has finally been addressed, but says many other problems still exist. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice to meet federal desegregation guidelines.

Currently, Black students are bused outside their neighborhoods 11 of their 12 school years.

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD
DON'T JUST VOTE FOR EXERCISE**