

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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ment programs in lieu of being sent to prison. Legislators argued that merely sending convicted drug dealers to prison will not solve their problems and it is more costly to the tax paying citizens of the state. Assembly Bill 463 will be amended and rescheduled after a work session clarifies language in the bill.

After a closed door meeting with UNLV President Bob Maxson, UNR President Joe Crowley, President's of University Foundations, Chairs of the Board of Regents, and student representatives, (including myself) Chairman of Education, Assemblyman Wendell Williams, D-Las Vegas, concluded that the controversial university foundation bills introduced earlier in April may not need to be heard if the respective officials take responsibility for their own actions. After much debate, those involved in the meeting concluded that it would be in the best interest of all involved, including students and the community, if the President of UNLV would ensure that any scandals at the school will be dealt with immediately. The Board of Regents have already hired investigators to make rec-

ommendations regarding many of the scandals surrounding the UNLV basketball program and those foundations involved.

Assembly Bill 402, introduced by Assemblyman Williams would require universities to ensure that

student athletes are on track of receiving their degree. Many athletes are urged to take easy classes that do not fit into their program to receive their degree in the attempt to stay eligible for game day.

After selling out games, and making millions for the university and their respective foundations, many student athletes leave school hoping to get drafted, if they don't many won't have their degrees and become

part of the overwhelmingly high minority drop out rate that exists throughout the nation.

As you can tell, some legislation must be introduced because some communities and apathetic citizens fail to take responsibility

for their own actions. The less the people involve themselves in the legislative process, the more the legislative process is deemed to involve itself in the people's everyday lives. You can get involved, contact 687-5545.

UNITY MARCH AND RALLY

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bring out cross-sections of the entire community.

"I am thankful to you who came out today. You are the strength of this community. If it's going to get better, it's going to take the strength of the citizenry of Las Vegas; black, brown, red, yellow, all of us, all colors together!," said Rev. Rogers.

Dr. Paul Montgomery, member of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Police/Community Relations Committee said that it was a "great day" for all the citizens of Las Vegas.

Rev. Richardson said that the march would set a precedent for generations to come for everybody in the state of Nevada.

Assemblyman Wendell Williams reminded the marchers at the outset of the rally that the Rodney King verdict was not a call for celebration. He said the verdict only represented partial

justice. Williams said that we need and want peace, but we also want justice.

"Not only do we need community peace, but more importantly, we need community justice! We should all push for peace, that's the number one item, because we would not have to spend some 5 to 6 million dollars of peace campaigns if there was justice in the system," he said.

"This march today is the true test for those who want peace, not just on a bumper sticker, poster or button or some advertising campaign, but by coming out on the "front line"! When the verdict came down, a lot of folks stayed inside talking about peace," he said.

Williams brought thunderous applause when he talked about the bombing that occurred in Philadelphia to rid the neighborhood of a so-called Black cult. He said he wondered why it was

taking the Justice Department and FBI so long to deal with Dave Koresh, the self-proclaimed Messiah in Waco, Texas.

"Let's take a long look at the days ahead and at which direction this country and this state is going in. We can't keep getting by on tense situations for months where everybody is sitting and waiting for a verdict that everybody knows what it should have been. This should be a "wake up" call to re-evaluate the constitution, to re-evaluate the Criminal Justice System in this country and to make sure that

the things that are written in the constitution are actually taking place in peoples' lives, and that the Justice System treats everybody equal regardless of what color you are, regardless of how much money you make, regardless of what side of town you live on, regardless of how much education you have! The Justice System should be fair to everyone so that we can move on and take care of the business of achieving a real and lasting peace," said Williams.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Deputy Chief Officer Wingett, who walked hand-in-hand

in the first rank of marches, thanked the community for letting Metro participate in the march. He said that his son was afraid that there might be a disturbance, but he assured him that the community can work together.

The Las Vegas Sentinel Voice will inform readers of the date, time and location of the proposed city-wide "All of Us Together March" which is projected to attract one thousand or more residents from throughout Las Vegas Valley and Clark County. Unity and peace is the goal.

NABJ

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forum, "Impact, But No Input - Big Time Sports," addresses the fact that African Americans provide a major portion of the talent in sports, but have minor input on policies, management or news coverage in the field. Panelists will include moderator Stephen Jackson, sports reporter on KTNV TV-13, Charles Harris - Athletic Director at Arizona State University, Bill Madlock - former major league infielder, Seat Williams - play-by-play announcer for ABC Radio, Patricia Jarman - International Boxing Judge and executive director for the Nevada Commission on Hospital Patients, and boxing manager & promoter M. Akbar Muhammed.

Other sessions will include, "Just A Little Respect," dealing with harassment while on field assignments and in the workplace, with panel members: Annette John-Hall, sports reporter with the San Jose Mer-

cury News, Fernando Romero - executive director of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission and Diana Aird, president of Aird & Associates; "On The Road To Success," featuring recruiter Paul Mitchell - UNR School of Journalism, Emily Nielson - news director of KLAS TV-8, Laura Wingard - city editor of the Las Vegas Review Journal and Carlton Booth - training coordinator for KCEP Radio.

While on their 2 1/2-day visit to Las Vegas for the Western Regional Conference, visiting journalists will participate in several special events in an effort to meet and mingle with the local community. On Friday, April 23rd, members will host a "Community Welcome Reception" at the landmark Moulin Rouge, 900 West Bonanza Road. No-host cocktails will begin at 7:00 p.m. with dinner, entertainment and dancing following at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person. The Las Vegas

Association will honor ten local "Unsung Heroes" during the reception for their contributions to the community. In addition to keynote speaker Debra L. Lee at the conference's closing event, the "Gala Awards Dinner & Dance" on Saturday, the evenings program will include a retrospective on African-American journalist in the West produced by Juana Hart - anchor/reporter at KLAS TV-8 and Roderick Johnson with KTNV TV-13. There will be special presentations by Nevada Governor Bob Miller, Roosevelt Fitzgerald - UNLV's director of Minority Studies and Imam Mujahid Ramadan.

Tickets for the events are available at the Moulin Rouge and Larry's Sights & Sound Center. For further information about ticket sales and registration, please call Aird & Associates at 456-3838 or The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice at 383-0430.

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