

## YUCCA MOUNTAIN SAGA CONTINUES

# MEETING SHUNNED BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

"I guess our community's views and needs for information are only important to our elected officials at election time," said Eddie Watson, President of African-Americans in Favor of Yucca Mountain Studies. "It outraged me that only one of Nevada's elected officials even took the time to RSVP for our town hall meeting. Representative Vucanovich was the only person

to call and say she could not attend. After our last town hall meeting about the Yucca Mountain project, Senator Bryan and Governor Miller said they were very upset they were not invited. We gave them the opportunity this time and neither of them bothered to RSVP."

African-Americans in favor of Yucca Mountain Studies held the second in a series of town

hall meetings Saturday, April 17, 1993 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church. The purpose of the meeting was to provide members of the West Las Vegas community, as well as others, with an opportunity to get facts about the Yucca Mountain project.

Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) were invited to provide updates

on the project. Invitations to speak were also sent to Nevada's Congressional representatives and Governor Miller.

"I am very concerned with Senator Bryan's apparent lack of concern for my community. Reverend Davis, the town meeting's host, and Reverend Rogers sent invitations to our elected officials in plenty of time," said Watson. "Bryan held two

other town hall meetings in Las Vegas on Saturday. We scheduled our meeting so he could attend. He didn't even have the courtesy to let us know if he'd be there."

The purpose of African-Americans in favor of Yucca Mountain Studies is to gather as much information as possible and then make rational, informed decisions about the site study of

Yucca Mountain. The group believes Nevada should be negotiating for benefits while the study continues and a portion of those benefits should be funneled into the West Las Vegas community.

Over forty people attended the town hall meeting to listen to representatives from DOE describe their progress on the mountain and hear a representative. (See Meeting Shunned, Pg 21)

## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE RODNEY KING VERDICT

By Muhammad Abdullah

Longtime resident of Las Vegas, Anthony Hodges put it this way: "I am one of the original civil rights workers. I had a loss in this city far greater than Rodney King. My son was murdered, but I didn't come out and make a big issue out of that. They investigated it quietly.

The thing starts in America in Washington, D.C. When the government starts to tell law enforcement officials nationwide to get off of it, that's when it will get better! When the Black people start telling their sons to start having respect for each other and stop killing each other, then we can get it together!

Yes we have our own problems as a people, but the United States government is responsible for the whole problem and when we go to Washington, D.C. and straighten it out there, then we will have justice in America. But until then there will never be any freedom and justice for all."

Mr. Hodges was responding to a recent SENTINEL-VOICE poll in which local residents from cross sections of the city of Las Vegas were asked their opinion on the Rodney King verdict and the Criminal Justice System in America.

Dr. Paul Montgomery, member of the Police/Community Relations Committee considered the verdict outstanding. Montgomery said "justice has been served." Perhaps the other two should have gone free but the two acquitted were guilty in my opinion," he said. He said he hopes that better community/police relations will continue when the dust settles.

An unidentified Reverend said that the Rodney King trial is just a spark to awaken the community to a bigger problem of neglect of community residents to take responsibility for their own community.

"We have been working for justice and freedom in this community before there was mention of a Rodney King and there are some 80,000 African-Americans in Las Vegas and we need to be counted.

We need to show up at the City Council and County Commission meetings. We need to be present at the Clark County School Board meetings and be counted part of the community!

Far too long have we just sat down as a community and just pointed the finger and said somebody else is going to do it! We need to get up and start making a difference for ourselves! Until we make a difference among ourselves we can't make a difference anywhere else," he said.

Sandra Noble, a local fashion designer and civil rights activist said that African-American people need to get rid of their "inferiority complexes" and "Uncle Tom" mentalities.

"They (African-American people) can have peace with people who are non-Blacks without having themselves be subjects of inferiority complexes and second-class citizenship. We are a strong people and we don't have to commit to violence and other extremes to be counted. We don't want our lenders to be weak and submissive nor over-bearing, but advancing moral excellence and human excellence as a foundation," she said.

"We need strong brothers and sisters taking us into the 21st century and not gays, Uncle Toms and those suffering from inferiority complexes," said Noble.

Chaplain Randy Valore, Pastor, God Only Ministries, a shelter (See Public Opinion, Page 21)



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