By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams SEE PAGE 2

BLACK PANTHER PARTY PROVIDES SECURITY FOR BLACK STUDENTS

> By Muhammad Abdullah SEE PAGE 5



THE RAY WILLIS REPORT: "THINK I'M FUNNY? "

By Ray E. Willis

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

## LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

### "REACH OUT" RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION FROM LOCAL ATT

By Muhammad Abdullah

Local attorney Steven M. Burris has donated in excess of \$38,000 to "Relieving Every AIDS Child's Hurt ...Our Ultimate Task (REACH OUT) Center, which is temporarily housed on the property of the First Presbyterian Church, 1608 Ellis Ave.

The REACH OUT Center, a nonprofit agency, is in need of donations, volunteers, and land in order to continue to serve the needs of HIV infected children and their families.

Diane Day, State of Nevada Public Relations Director For Pediatric AIDS talked about the significance of Burris'

"Today, we are celebrating Mr. Steve Burris' donation to REACH OUT of \$38,000, just when we needed it the most," she said. "We are a non-profit, privately funded organization, so we depend on these types of donations from the community to keep us operating and to take care of the families and provide them with food if need be. It is

(See Reach Out, Page 9)



Cynthia Small (R). Chief Executive Officer of Reach Out Center and volunteers visit with ABC's 20/20 cameraman and an infected child.

#### CHAVIS IN FIRST ADDRESS AT NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

The newly elected executive Director/CEO of the NAACP, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr, will make his initial address to a national gathering of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization when he speaks at a public mass meeting on Sunday, July 11th, the opening day of the NAACP's 1993 Annual Convention at the Indian Convention Center, Indianapolis, In. ing event, the Freedom Fund/Sprin-

This year's convention - with the theme, "Passing The Torch ... Preparing for a Better Tomorrow" - runs through Thursday, July 15th, and will include a number of plenary and legislative sessions, workshops, special forums, the finals in the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), and the conclud-

### **BLOCK PARTY A SUCCESS**



Drill Team performances highlighted Unity Block Party. Photo by Paula Irons

Las Vegas — Close to 2,000 area residents withstood the summer heat last Saturday, flooding the Doolittle Community Center for the first annual Unity Festival Block Party.

Phil Thompson, Director of Doolittle Center, along with Radio Station KCEP FM88, along with sponsorship from KVVU-TV5, McDonalds and Saturn of West Sahara, put the event together after six months of

planning.

Drill Team performances highlighted the afternoon, which included swimming pool games, step-show competitions, 3-on-3 basketball, softball tournaments, and food galore.

T-shirts and trophies were given to winners of all the competitions.

"It was important to have an event in our own back yard to provide an op-(See Unity, Page 10)

# NEIGHBORHOOD

By Muhammad Abdulah

The residents of the Herbert Gerson Park community, located in West Las Vegas on the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and W. Lake Mead, recently rejoiced over the long awaited opening of their Community Recreation Center.

For many years the community was victimized by gang warfare, drug sales, drive-by shootings and other acts of violence. However, today, due in part to the efforts of the Metropolitan Police Department, Community Peace, City of Las Vegas Housing Authority, All of Us Together, and numerous volunteer efforts from community activists, off-duty police officers and other concerned citizens in the Gerson Park community, it is now a safe and active neighborhood.

Residents now can be seen walking throughout their neighborhood, children can be seen playing outdoors, elderly residents come out now and take morning and evening strolls around the neighborhood without fear of being robbed, beaten or hit by stray bullets. Gerson Park has come a long

According to Lee Hal, Director of Herbert Gerson Park Community Center, who have lived in the neighborhood for all of his life (23 years), "the entire neighborhood is celebrating a victory over the old image of the Herbert Gerson Park community."

"Everybody used to always talk about Herbert Gerson Park being a bad neighborhood, you really can't comment unless you've lived here as (See Gerson, Page 7)

garn Awards Dinner. (See Dr. Chavis Address, Page 9) EXCLUSIVE INTER

By W.G. Ramirez

Ask former UNLV Runnin' Rebel Dexter Boney about his childhood days, where his dreams of playing in the NBA are possibly now only two weeks away, and he'll tell you that it was a Philadelphia 76ers uniform he wore in his

Now at 23, and fresh out of UNLV, one of college basketball's perennial powerhouse programs, Boney says there's no "jinxing or predicting" of the NBA's 1993 Draft on June 30.

"A lot of people have asked me where I think I might go," explains Boney, "but I don't want to say. I'm just hoping to get drafted, I don't want to jinx my-

Boney enjoyed his stay at UNLV and will miss playing for the fans, but says that 'Vegas can keep all the negativity that came with it.

"A lot of people don't like the negative press," he says. "I'll be glad to leave that. I'll miss playing ball for the community though."

If there is one thing that Boney can be proud of, its the fact that he leaves UNLV after playing for two of the best basketball coaches in NCAA history -Jerry Tarkanian and Rollie Massimino.

"Tark taught me how to be strong," praises Boney. "He showed me who I am; How to be a man.

"For the year (Coach Mass) was here, we got along. I'll always remember that 'family thing.' How to stick together."

Boney's stock may have increased following last season, playing along side arguably the nation's best scorer, J.R.

(See Dexter Boney, Page 19)



**DEXTER BONEY** Photo by Savoy LV Sentinel/Voice