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NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 25

BROWN PUBLISHING COMPANY'S AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 14, 1993

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'FITZ' REALIZES LIFE-LONG DREAM

By Victor S. Ingram

It opened after nearly a quarter century of waiting. The first educational institution in West Las Vegas was graced with a dedication ceremony which had all splendor and grandeur of a Congressional reception. Before nearly 500 persons, H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School was given its ceremonial dedication last Friday, October 8. The evening began with Fitzgerald's principle, Ms. Shirley Barbara, welcoming guests.

The evening was highlighted by the fact that the school's namesake, H.P. Fitzgerald, was present to see an



H.P. Fitzgerald holds artist rendering of new school with architect, Domingo Cambeiro (C), as the school's principal, Shirley Barber (R), looks on. Photo by Paula Irons

educator's life-long dream materialize. Fitzgerald, who had given nearly 40 years of his life to educating and caring for the African American students of the district, was dressed in a tuxedo as he observed and received accolades from a distinguished list of community figures and dignitaries.

Fitz, as he is more commonly known, was a pioneer in the field of education when it was far from fashionable for Blacks to aspire for educational excel-
 (See Fitzgerald, Page 11)

LOIS M. DEBERRY TO KEYNOTE WEST COAST BLACK PUBLISHERS CONVENTION

Bernie Foster, publisher of the Skanner News Group and president of West Coast Black Publishers Association (WCBPA), recently announced that Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Tennessee House of Representatives Lois DeBerry has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at the WCBPA Awards Dinner Friday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m. during its Tenth Annual Convention. The convention will be held October 13th - 16th at the Four Seasons
 (See WCBPA, Page 11)



LOIS M. DeBERRY

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Princeton, N.J. — Toni Morrison became the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in literature last Thursday, honored for novels like "Be-loved" and "Jazz" that turn poverty into poetry and despair into lyrical tales.

"Winning as an American is very special-but winning as a Black American is a knockout," said the 62-year-old Morrison from her office at Princeton University where she has taught since 1989. Along with being the first African-American to win, Morrison is the second American woman to be so honored. She learned of the honor when a colleague woke her up by phoning with the news.

Despite her academic surroundings, her work is deeply rooted in the black experience, from slavery to segregation to today.

Morrison said she was inspired by "huge silences in literature, things that have never been articulated, printed or imagined and they were the si-



TONI MORRISON

lences about black girls, black women." The author of six novels, Morrison won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "Be-loved." Her first work of fiction, "The Bluest Eye," came out in 1970, followed by "Sula" in 1974, "Song of Solomon" in 1977, "Tar Baby" in 1981, "Be-loved" in 1987 and "Jazz" in 1992. Morrison also lectures on black
 (See NOBEL PRIZE, Page 26)

NLV REMAINS NON-FINANCIALLY COMMITTED TO DISPARITY STUDY

By Victor S. Ingram

As one of three local municipalities not participating in a countywide disparity study, the North Las Vegas City Council has come under scrutiny. The study, which explores the contracting practices towards minorities and women by local municipalities, has been well received by many as a vehicle to substantiate the need for minority set-asides and preferences by exposing abuse within the existing process. Critics have called the Council insensitive towards the concerns of minorities and women.

North Las Vegas Councilman John Rhodes has been an outspoken proponent of the Council's participation. Rhodes said the Council is not adequately addressing the concerns of minority and women contractors. Rhodes said the City has only marginally met its requirement to assist in the procurement of minority contractors. "Currently, the City of North Las Vegas implores only 5% of its contracting towards minority and women vendors," said Rhodes. Rhodes said the City has failed in its Supreme Court mandate to deliver contracting opportunities to

SIGN OF THE TIMES



One of the final stages of the rebuilding of West Las Vegas' Nucleus Shopping Center, which was partially burned during last year's civil unrest, was the dismantling of the old sign on West Owens Ave. and the assembly of the new one. The old sign (L), which was taken down earlier this month, made room for the new, modern, electronic Read-A-Board (R), which lists the various shops and services available in the plaza. The center, now named the Nucleus Business Plaza, is planning a Grand Re-Opening in the near future. Left photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice; Right photo by Paula Irons

"The City of North Las Vegas implores only 5% of its contracting towards minority and women vendors"

John Rhodes, NLV City Councilman



members of the minority population. Rhodes said the lack of participation on behalf of the Council is a negative perception to the 60% minority population of North Las Vegas.

North Las Vegas Mayor James Seastrand responded to the criticisms by stating that he felt the city's commitment to minority contracting is solid. Seastrand said past media portrayals of North Las Vegas' commitment to the study have been totally inaccurate. "They have not been fair to us," said the mayor when questioned about the media's portrayal. "The City of North Las Vegas is participating by opening its books to the consulting agency performing the study," said the Mayor. The Mayor said the city cannot participate financially to the study because of a severe budget deficit. The deficit, which

the Mayor estimates at \$1.2 million, precludes appropriating the \$30,000 necessary to perform the study. The Mayor said the city began the year with nearly a \$3 million deficit and is currently on the road to recovery.

Accordingly, the mayor said the \$30,000 budget expenditure is too much during lean economic times.

With exception to Councilman Rhodes, the three remaining council members support Seastrand's position. Each voted against funding the study. The Mayor said the city has more than fulfilled its commitment to minority vendors when compared to other civic entities. "We estimate that our commitment to minority vendors is between 7-10%," Seastrand said.

North Las Vegas, along with the
 (See Disparity Study, Page 26)