

**TO BE EQUAL: "THE TWO-TRACK SOLUTION TO URBAN ILLS"**

By John E. Jacob

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE STAFF OF THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE**

**NAARPR REPORT: "THE 2 BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE"**

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

**BLACK ALCOHOL/DRUG SERVICE INFORMATION CENTER (BASIC) SCHEDULES WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS DEC. 5-8**

By Victor S. Ingram

Alcohol and Substance abuse among African Americans has reached chronic proportions. Statistics showing African American levels of alcoholism and drug abuse have shown alarming patterns of escalation within the past five years. Drug abuse has been directly linked to the desolation of the family unit and the primary funding source of gang activity, which also has a direct link to alcohol and substance abuse. Police record correlations between an escalation in drug arrests and gang activity.

As the primary source of funding, drugs have provided for sophisticated weaponry, which often times leave police vulnerable for a lack of firepower. Once limited to cheap .38 caliber pistols

which were primarily noted for their propensity to explode rather than their accuracy at hitting the target, gangs have developed a sophisticated arsenal fueled by the rewards of the drug trade.

Nevada, which has one of the highest rates of incarceration for African Americans as a result of drug infractions, has provided few workable solutions that have provided tangible results towards curing the problem. In early November Congress passed a sweeping crime bill designed to place 50,000 more police officers on city streets and develop several new prisons, yet marginally addressed treatment and preventative measures. Locally, critics say the bill lacked focus on causal factors and merely contributed to funding an already billion dollar strong anti-crime infrastructure.

Dr. Lee P. Brown, National Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (Drug Czar), will be in Las Vegas during a world summit on December 5-8 at

Harrahs Hotel & Casino to discuss the affects of drugs and crime on the African American community. The summit is hosted by a nationally recognized anti-substance abuse program known as the Black Alcohol/Drug Service Information Center (BASIC). The program has been heralded for its grass-roots approach to persons of color in dealing with issues of substance abuse. Program founder and CEO, Oval L. Miller, spoke to the Sentinel-Voice during a phone interview about the upcoming summit.



DR. LEE P. BROWN

Miller said the summit is a united effort from the world wide community to (See Basic, Page 22)

**CLARK HIGH SCHOOL TAKES STATE CROWN**



The Clark Chargers defeated northern Nevada's McQueen High School 7-3 to win the 1993 AAA State Championship. Photo by Bill Lee SEE STORY PAGE 18

**COMMUNITY FOOD BANK LAUNCHES FOOD DRIVE TO FEED THE HOMELESS**

The holidays . . . a time for caring and sharing. From now until Christmas the Community Food Bank of Clark County is hosting a food drive to help feed the homeless.

The food bank has placed receptacles for non-perishable food and paper goods donations at the two area Payless Cashways building materials stores located at 3775 E. Sahara and 4330 S.

Decatur. Together the Community Food Bank and Payless Cashways hope to raise not only food for the needy, but also the level of awareness that this is an ongoing need and that every donation does make a difference.

Don't miss your chance to help the homeless. For more information, call 873-5333.

**GERSON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER STARTS NEW BEGINNING AS IT MEETS COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

By Victor S. Ingram

Gerson Park, for years it had been known as a haven for gangs and drugs. Recently, however, this perception has changed. Located off of Martin Luther King and Lake Mead, this change becomes overwhelmingly present when one observes the infamous "wall" which borders the low rental apartment complex's community center. The wall was once the assembly area for neighborhood thugs who would sit and drink their 40-ounce beers or exchange their crack cocaine for money. Many a drive-by victim has been immortalized-martyred by an assailant's bullet. The change is that the wall has become less populated due to the infusion of people into the community center. The center, which recently reopened after nearly 3 years of being closed, has become a community oasis where few bright opportunities existed.

The center reopened through the efforts of organizations like Community Peace of Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Housing Authority under the direction of Deputy Director Thomas Gholson participated in the reopening. Debbie Calhoun from the local Federal Bureau of Investigation provided enormous technical and financial support to the project. Councilman Frank Hawkins also provided assistance in the project.



Councilman Frank Hawkins (R) participates in the 1st Annual Domino Tournament at Gerson Park Community Center. Photo by Victor Ingram

Last week the community center sponsored its first open competitive domino, pool, table tennis tournament. The tournament was additionally spectacular because it was produced and coordinated by the members of the center, who purchased trophies and provided all of the judging and selection of winners.

The center strives to meet the needs of the community. From providing recreational services to teens to meeting educational needs of grade school children with a full service tutorial program, the center's two full time staff members admit they have a handful of responsibility. Center director, Lee Hal, says

he's more than prepared to meet the demands of the community. "We try to offer an alternative to negative behavior," said Hal when asked about the center's purpose. Hal adds that the community's response to the center has been phenomenal. "Parents come by and volunteer their time tutoring or just anyplace their needed," said Hal.

Lee continued to say the neighborhood was in a state of need prior to the center's reopening. "When I was growing up we had neighborhood clubs, and it really helped in my coming up," said Hal. He said a direct trace can be made to the escalation of gang activity and (See Gerson, Page 5)

**SEPIA FASHION REVIEW VISITS LAS VEGAS**

The Las Vegas Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting its 17th Annual Sepia Fashion Revue featuring the Vogue-Esquire models of Chicago, Illinois. This exciting traveling fashion show will benefit the local Delta Scholar Program which provides scholarships for aspiring college students. The 1993-94 presentation, "The Romantic Look 93," will show the mood of American and European designers. This affair will be held at the Hartland Mansion on Saturday, December 4, 1993. No host cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by dinner and the Fashion Revue. Entertainment will be provided by Ghalib-Ghallab. For ticket information, please call 647-0667.



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