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FEBRUARY 17, 1994

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PLANNED FOR WEST LAS VEGAS

By Victor S. Ingram

A groundbreaking ceremony was hosted by the city of Las Vegas and Clark County dignitaries to commemorate construction of a jointly sponsored multicultural arts center. The center, to be located in the West Las Vegas area, will provide creative outlets for both the performing and visual arts. Acting City of Las Vegas Urban Development Director, Richard Blue, welcomed a host of city and county officials and a sizable crowd to the future site of the \$1,000,000 facility. The city invested \$865,000 towards the project while a \$200,000 allocation was committed by the county.



Both city and county elected officials participated in groundbreaking for the West Las Vegas Multi-Cultural Arts Center located in the West Las Vegas community. From left to right are: City Councilman Frank Hawkins, Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, City Councilman Scott Higginson, Mayor Jan Jones, City Councilman Arnie Adamsen, and City Councilman Ken Brass.

The center hopes to provide cultural outlets to youths in a neighborhood plagued by urban blight and gangs. It is conveniently slated to be built within the confines of Doolittle Park which houses a gymnasium which bears the same name. The gym has long been a respite of neighborhood youths to display their best basketball talents for over twenty years. The gym and arts center will work in concert to provide alternatives

to neighborhood youths. "The arts center will be the cornerstone of what has become a truly multi-dimensional leisure and recreational complex, in combination with the Doolittle Recreation Center and the neighboring library

and theatre," said Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins when questioned about the proposed facility. The center will also have close proximity to the West Las Vegas Library which is (See Groundbreaking, Page 11)

Photo by Jessie Graham

**RTC AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NEW
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISABLED**

By Victor S. Ingram

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) offered monumental civil rights legislation for those with disabilities. The 1991 congressional legislation changed the treatment persons with disabilities would receive in American society by making it illegal to limit access based upon a disability. Language was altered as the term "handicapped" was removed from political correctness and replaced by disabled individual.

All aspects of life were effected from employment, housing, and access to public accommodations. Transportation became the most visible aspect to be recognized for its discrepancies towards individuals with disabilities. Locally, the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission was charged with implementing a paratransit plan which would provide a complimentary trans-

portation service. Those with disabilities would for the first time receive comparable access to public transportation.

The RTC's paint man, Bruce Gilbert, transportation analyst, assembled the county's paratransit plan which was subsequently approved by the Federal Transit Administration. The plan dictated service hours, routes, types of vehicles, certification of those utilizing the service, and fees for service. Costing was calculated at nearly \$9,000,000 per year for the service. Over 100 specially-equipped vehicles will eventually service the Las Vegas and outlying areas. Turner said the new paratransit system will provide a central base to service Clark County residents. "The system will offer first time convenience to disabled residents of the county," said Turner.

(See Contract, Page 5)

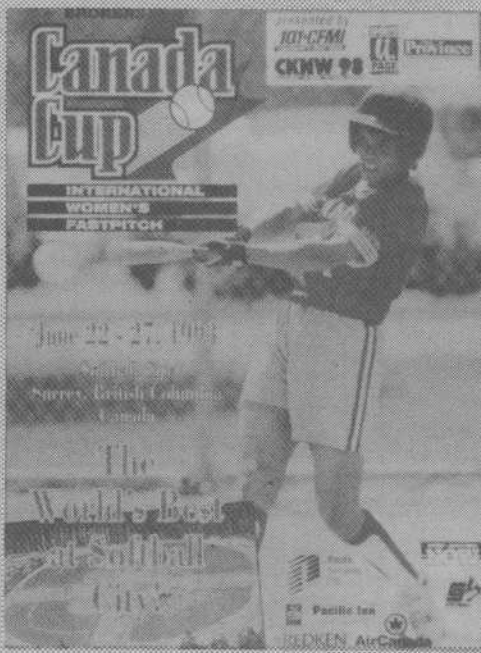
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**A FORMER ALL-AMERICAN FOR UNLV,
CHRISTINE PARRIS NOW AIMS FOR GOLD**

By W.G. Ramirez

She is a woman of the '90's. She also says that athletics is her whole life and admits that "the day she hangs up her cleats will be a pretty sad day." Her name is Christine Parris, and for two All-American years, she graced the UNLV softball team, leading them to consecutive College World Series appearances in 1990 and 1991.

Parris, now employed as an Athletic Development Representative for the university, graduated in 1992 majoring in Physical Education with a concentration in Management. She says she is still considering graduate school, but right now has her sights set on the (See Paris, Page 21)



- The Canada Cup International Women's Fastpitch Softball Tournament had her blistering a pitch on the cover of the souvenir program.
 - She was an All-American at UNLV two years in a row.
 - Now she is looking forward to competing in the World Games for an eventual shot at the 1996 Summer Olympics.
- Christine Parris - our look back in observance of Black History at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

HAWKINS SUPPORTERS DENOUNCE RJ COVERAGE

By Victor S. Ingram

Across the street from Nucleus Plaza located in the West Las Vegas area it is easy to notice the bulldozers and trucks hauling away the rubble in preparation for the West Las Vegas multi-million dollar Magic's Westland Plaza shopping center. Magic's plaza came as a direct result of the tenacity of Councilman Frank Hawkins who negotiated the urban renewal project with the former NBA legend, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and a group of developers. The plaza became known as the city's first delivery in a series of promises to redevelop the riot-torn area. On Wednesday, February 16, however, Councilman Frank Hawkins found himself in a defensive posture as members of his support group gathered during a press conference at the Heritage Lounge in the Nucleus Plaza to denounce recent media portrayals of the councilman.

Chief spokesperson for the group, JoAnna Wesley-Lee, blasted the media for unfair coverage in what she called "slam dunk" coverage of Councilman Hawkins' affairs. "We've got to start showing unity in purpose in supporting our politicians," Lee said as she announced the purpose of the press conference. She commented the press conference was not specifically for

Councilman Hawkins in as much as it was for all politicians who the community elects, yet Hawkins was the overwhelming topic she addressed. "The RJ has been a racist person since I've lived here for 47 years," said Lee. The Las Vegas Review Journal Newspaper has been providing on-going coverage

of Hawkins' business troubles and has questioned his ethics with a series of news stories. The RJ first disclosed that Hawkins had been evicted from his Sports Bar several weeks ago. Then the paper released a story on an unreported loan from Anchor Coin who (See Hawkins, Page 5)

**CCSN OBSERVES AFRICAN-AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH WITH MUSICAL**

A tribute to Dr. Maurice "Deedie" McGehee, retired educator and director of leading church choirs in Los Angeles and in African American communities in other parts of the country will highlight African American History Month at The Community College of Southern Nevada.

The program will consist of music, dance, and gospel choir music conducted by McGehee and will be staged at the college's Cheyenne campus on Saturday, February 19, as part of a four day dedication of new Phase IV facilities recently completed at the campus.

The program will be staged in the Nicholas J. Horn Auditorium, a 500 seat facility that is part of the new Performing Arts Center. Other new Phase IV additions include a new Student Lounge and a Health and Fitness center. The festivities kick off with a dedication



Dr. Maurice "Deedie" McGehee

ceremony on Thursday evening, an art exhibit and performance of the musical, "Chicago," on Friday evening, the 21st Annual African-American History Month Program, a tribute to McGehee on Saturday evening and the 5th An- (See CCSN, Page 11)

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