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NATIONAL NEWS

REYNOLDS DENIES SEX WITH TEEN

Congressman Mel Reynolds took the stand in his sexual misconduct trial Monday and denied ever having sex with an underage campaign worker. Reynolds is accused of having sex with Beverly Heard when she was 16. He's also accused of soliciting child pornography and obstructing justice. He testified he was "weak" for discussing sex with Heard in 1991, but denied having a sexual affair with her. Reynolds said the two occasionally talked about sex and Heard ultimately demanded \$15,000 but Reynolds said he refused.

TEENS SAY PEERS PREJUDICED

America's teenagers overwhelmingly say people their age have some form of racial prejudice even if they don't admit it. Eight-four percent of the 248,000 teenagers who responded to a write-in survey by USA Weekend magazine say their peers harbor racial prejudice. Although 64 percent of the students said their classmates spend time mainly with people of their own race, 72 percent said they had a close friend of another race. The results of the survey are not scientific.

RALLY FOR ABU-JAMAL DRAWS FEWER THAN EXPECTED

PHILADELPHIA - A rally to urge a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal, the radio journalist condemned to death for killing a police officer in 1981, drew fewer than expected on a sunny, muggy day last Saturday. Police estimated the turnout at 4,000 instead of the 7,000 rally organizers had predicted during the week in an invitation posted on the computer Internet. To chants of "Free Mumia," protesters gathered outside City Hall, where the former teenage Black Panther member's appeal is being heard. "For one thing, I oppose the death penalty," said protester Elizabeth Ruf. "Then, it's clear he did not get a fair trial." Abu-Jamal was convicted in 1982 of shooting police officer Daniel Faulkner to death during a fracas over a traffic ticket issued to Abu Jamal's brother.

Magic's Plaza Scorned By The Community

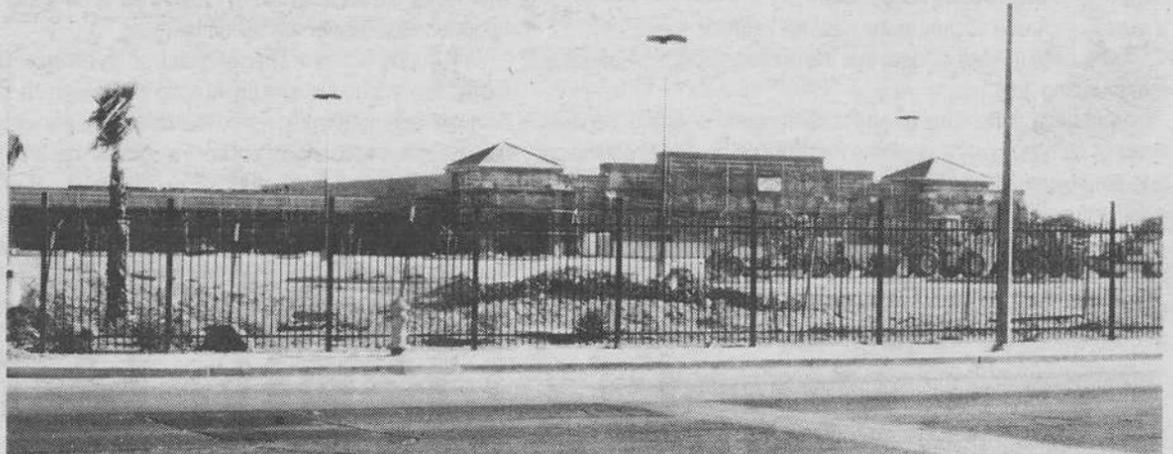
By Victor S. Ingram

The shopping plaza slated to bring a full service grocery store to the West Las Vegas area for the first time in nearly 30 years has recently been the topic of criticism. Magic's Westland Plaza, during its gala ribbon cutting ceremonies during the summer of 1993, was the business community's response to the riotous destruction of the 1992 post trial acquittal of the 3 Los Angeles police officers accused of beating motorist Rodney King. The West Las Vegas destruction tally included several convenience stores, numerous arson-related fires, and looting. The plaza was personally endorsed by former NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

Johnson, whose holdings company partnered with the developers of the project and the Vons Grocery chain, graciously loaned his famous name to the plaza located near the intersection of "H" Street and Owens. "You know that they say that we're not going take care of (the plaza) once it comes to our community," remarked Johnson during a 1993 press conference. "We're going to show them that they're wrong."

From an assortment of construction delays to complaints of anchor tenant Vons Grocery building too small of a store to provide adequate service to the community, the project has been scrutinized. In the past several weeks, however, new criticisms cite the placement of a fence around the store's perimeter. The wrought iron fence is aesthetically unappealing and provides an negative image for the community, according to detractors.

Some say the fence reminds them of a prison yard and is unnecessary. (See PLAZA, Page 10)



Some say the fence surrounding Magic's Westland Plaza reminds them of a prison yard. Photo by Victor Ingram

McDonald Holds First Town Hall Meeting

By Victor S. Ingram

Las Vegas City Councilman Michael McDonald's first official town hall meeting in West Las Vegas met with a host of concerns by Ward 1 residents. Held Monday, August 14, at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, the focus of the event was broad-based. The Ward, which includes the West Las Vegas area, also includes exclusive areas such as Rancho Circle. A divergence sometimes noticeable as citizens complaints varied from rampant crime and drug proliferation to sprinkler systems which preclude a morning exercise stroll at a city recreational park. McDonald's attention, however, gravitated towards some of the impoverished, crime ridden neighborhoods of West Las Vegas.

The Councilman brought virtually every city departmental manager to answer questions from a crowd of nearly 150 persons. Representatives from Metro and the local crime-abatement program, Weed & Seed, were the

primary respondents. Northwest area command supervisor Captain Dave Sweikert fielded questions regarding drug policing policy and arrest procedures. "Why can't you just close all of the drug houses in our community?" questioned one audience participant. Sweikert commented that Metro has been vigilant in approaching drug houses in West Las Vegas. Police, in some cases, raid the same house several times before drug traffic is finally shut off, he added.

McDonald says the forum was the first of many planned to include the community in government. The Councilman's predecessor, former Councilman Frank Hawkins, was considered virtually unbeatable in West Las Vegas precincts. McDonald says his initial concern was to dispel rumors that the West Las Vegas area will become insignificant during his administration. "I want to first let people know that I'm approachable and that I care," he says.

WAAK-UP Rally's With Community Youth In Protest Of Sprint Telephone Book Cover

The Westside Action Alliance Korps Uplifting People (WAAK-UP) will rally the community youth Thursday, August 17, at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 West Lake Mead Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. in protest of Sprint's new telephone book cover.

According to WAAK-UP president Marzette Lewis, "The African American community is out-raged by the graphic depiction of the seemingly African American child on the cover of the new Sprint 1995 telephone book. Yes, we find it very offensive that the Sprint Telephone Company didn't take better measures in their marketing efforts to project our African American children in a better and more attractive physical light. 'A picture is worth a thousand words, and we must take issue of the way our African American youth are physically conveyed through advertising methods that are of a high self-esteem cost to our youth.'

"This week is not only a Las Vegas, Nevada historic fight time for heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson, but also a week of protest against Sprint

Telephone Company. On August 17, our community children will rally in protest of the telephone book cover and how it has affected them," said Lewis.

Lewis indicates that this protest will seek not only local publicity, but national exposure on August 19, 1995, when their protest will resume in front of the MGM Grand Hotel at the Mike Tyson fight.

"This protest reaches far beyond the paper on which our protest is based. It is a mirrored reflection of a racist time when African Americans were portrayed through the media as monkeys and other animal like creatures. In 1995 we WAAK-UP to negative occasions that take us 'back in time instead of forward in mind,' and there is no tolerance for marketing laziness by major corporations who don't take the time to research the negative backlash of such pictorial descriptions of an African American people who have done so much to give positive rise to this nation," Lewis added.

Once Brash Tyson Shows Quieter, Pre-fight Side

LOS ANGELES - Mike Tyson, boxing's prodigal son who makes his much heralded return to the ring August 19 in Las Vegas, last week showed reporters a much quieter side to his once brash and abrasive nature.

"I don't talk much. I don't talk like I did in the past," he said at his first major news conference since promoter Don King announced a six-fight, \$35 million deal for the former heavyweight champion.

Tyson, who served three years in prison for a March 1992 rape of beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington, insisted he has not been

humbled by his experience.

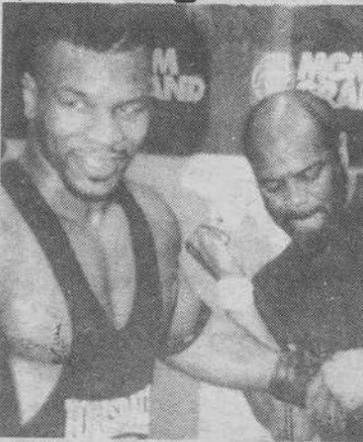
"I'm just more secure in what I do," he explained.

But the prison time has given the one-time youngest heavyweight champion in history a new perspective. "I really do enjoy my life so much more now than I did before."

Tyson, 26, was courteous in answering questions and even displayed flashes of humour.

(See TYSON, Page 10)

SEE MORE ON TYSON,
PAGE 18



We're seeing a much calmer and quieter Tyson these days. Photo by Savoy/L VS-Voice