

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Million Man Spirit Continues

By Nichole Davis

The Million Man March Committee held "The Onward Path," their first follow-up panel to the March Saturday at the Doolittle Community Center.

One hundred and fifty people gathered for the three hour event, which featured a panel of 10 prominent Las Vegas. These were the topics discussed and their hosts: education (hosted by Marzette Lewis and Dr. Gourier), the spirit of atonement (hosted by Minister Duke X, Rev. Powers, and Pastor Claudine), health (hosted by Dr. Tate), voter registration (hosted by Dora Harris and Claude Wilson), economic empowerment (hosted by Ernest Fountain and Kelly Patterson) and stop the violence (hosted by Min. X and Edward "Chipp" Taylor).

In an exclusive post discussion interview with the Sentinel-Voice, Marzette Lewis, the founder of WAAK-UP, discussed the role of education at the Million Man March, the status of Las

Vegas schools and more.

"As I looked at and went through the Million Man March," said Lewis, "I saw people being educated on all different levels, in all different arenas. It was a spiritual outlook, but it was an educational outlook also. Because, all those denominations were learning. We all have feelings, we all have emotions... All around you there was an educational experience there."

On the local front, Lewis has been instrumental in the fight to equalize the quality of education on the Westside. She feels that educational opportunities have been inherently unequal since about the 1940s and 1950s when black children first started getting bused to the outlying areas for grades 1-12.

"We have been denied equity in education," said Lewis. "We've always had an inferior education, especially when you had all black schools where no one cared in at-risk neighborhoods.

Lewis believes the lack of school in

black neighborhoods and the distance the children traveled to school helped break up families.

"Integration started in 1962," began Lewis. "In 1972, after they thought they had everything straight and ready to go, (black) kids started being bused out to outlying areas. In the 6th grade, they came back to the Westside with white kids... This is when we started having gang violence and drugs. They (the black kids) didn't want to go back on those buses. We've destroyed two generations of kids this way. They destroyed our neighborhoods."

Though Lewis feels that the situation is changing now, some problems still exist. Namely, there are not enough black teachers in the classrooms controlling our children.

Said Lewis, "Whites, I've always felt, could not relate to African-American classrooms, because they don't know the culture... Our children from a young age intimidate whites in the classroom.



Dr. Tate addressed the health care concerns put forth by the audience during his presentation at the rally.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

## People of Color Conference: A Gathering of Voices

By Nichole Davis

The Ida B. Wells foundation presented its first annual People of Color Conference Friday at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building. Nine prominent locals each gave their take on a particular problem. Kevin Woods, 1st vice-chairman of the Clark County G.O.P., discussed politics and political power. Velicia Haron, director of Multicultural Student Affairs at UNLV, informed parents about educational opportunities that keep youth off the street and out of trouble. Wallace Edwards, a coordinator at AFAN, spoke out about the impact of government cuts on local black AIDS victims.

The evening could easily have deteriorated into a massive complaint session. Nine speakers discussing nine sets of issues could have been a real sleeper. Instead, the evening, in the words of spectator David Washington, turned out to be inspirational.

To Kevin Woods, black empowerment is a matter of politics. Woods urges blacks to "make politics work for us" by getting active.

"Money doesn't do anything, unless you make it flow," said Woods, "and the catalyst to make it flow is politics in this country."

An ex-military man, Woods was one of the founding members of the local chapter of the Black Republican Roundtable. He is active politically currently serving as 1st vice-chairman of the Clark County Republican party where he is instrumental in forming the

local platform.

"Newt Gingrich is not my hero," said Woods. "Newt can push what he wants nationally, but Kevin Woods is going to push Las Vegas along with the rest of the Republican party."

"One of the reasons we don't have power is that we haven't always participated in the elections process," said Woods. "If you don't participate in the process why should they care who you are or what you think. We have got to vote as a community, if we want power. We have to be part of the process if we want to make it count."

Velicia Haron discussed a different kind of empowerment, the empowerment of values and education. Haron came armed with the names and numbers of ten different community outreach programs that funnel kids into an educational environment and off of the streets.

She began with a few words about the Million Man March.

"I thank God for the Million Man March," said Haron. "What guides us today isn't politics, it's value systems. It (the Million Man March) showed us that our value systems have failed us."

What we have here is a fundamental lack of values, said Haron.

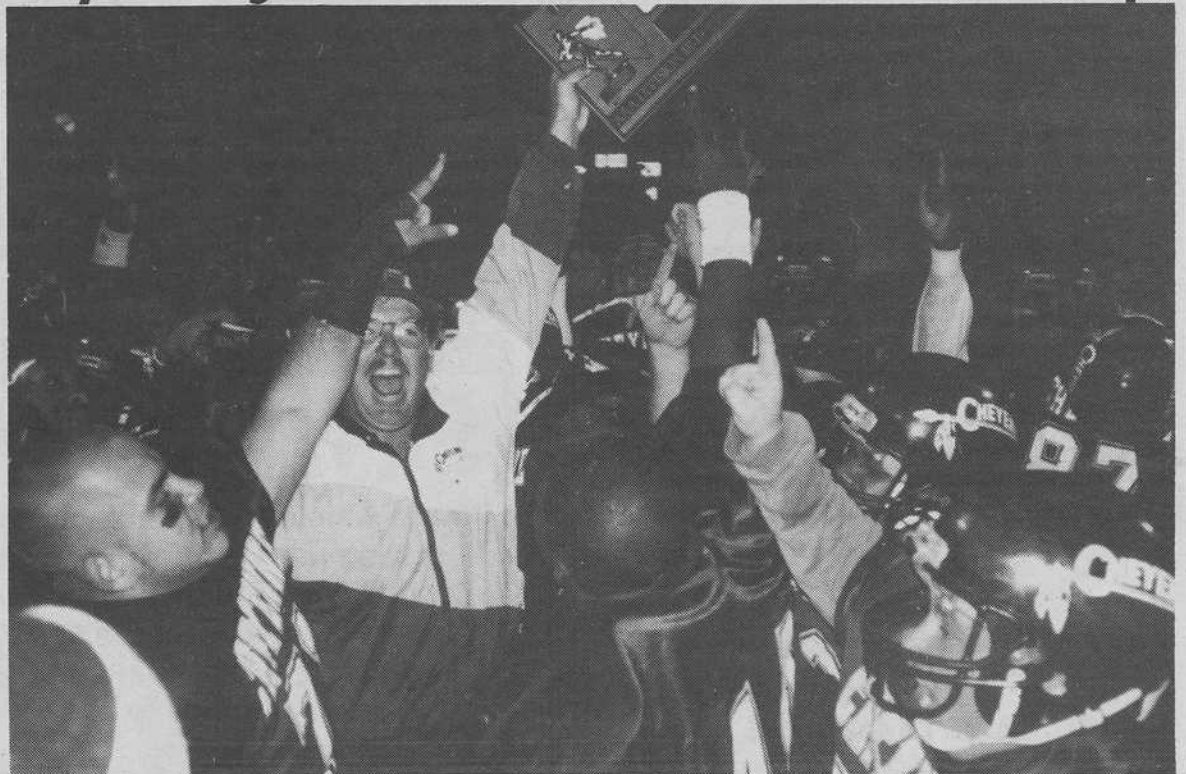
"The Republicans don't care. The Democrats don't care," she continued. "So, don't take it personally."

Instead of getting angry, Velicia Haron urges parents to take a stand by getting more involved in the lives and education of their children. Haron works

at UNLV where one of her primary functions is to oversee the Ethnic Student Council. She has been instrumental in helping minority clubs on campus get involved with each other. Before assuming her current position, Haron worked in the Department for Academic Advancement at UNLV where

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## Cheyenne High School — Southern Nevada Football Champs



The Desert Shields of Cheyenne High School celebrate after capturing the 1995 Southern Zone title with a 47-28 victory over Green Valley. Cheyenne will now take on Northern Nevada Champs Wooster this Friday at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

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