

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 40

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

February 8, 1996

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Jackson Speaks at Community Rally

By Nichole Davis, Sentinel-Voice

Equal opportunity was the focus of a 30-minute speech Wednesday by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who was greeted with a standing ovation at the Second Baptist Church.

More than 200 people attended Jackson's discussion where he focused on the importance of voting, the need to reclaim black youth and nationwide strike against Saturn dealerships, that's still in the planning stages.

Jackson is expected to hold a new conference today along with the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers where he will urge GM, Saturn's parent company, to expand ownership opportunities for minority dealers.

Saturn has 350 dealerships nationwide, he said. Seven are owned by blacks, and four are owned by Hispanics. Jackson supporters are organizing a boycott of ten major

markets in an effort to bring Saturn to the table.

"We can do without Saturn, they cannot do without us," he said.

Along with boycotts, blacks must use their votes, morality and faith in the struggle to attain balanced opportunity, he said.

"We have marched too long, bled too much and died too young for the right to vote, not to use it," said Jackson, who held a voter registration drive at the rally.

Equal opportunity, not welfare, is the focus of today's civil rights movement, he said.

"We don't want welfare, we want fair share. We want to work and get paid," he said.

The solution is not tinkering with the economy or over-funding a military during peace-time, said Jackson.

He attacked a flat-tax proposal put

forth by a wealthy Republican presidential candidate saying the wealthy don't have the same needs as the poor.

"Flat-tax. What do poor people care about flat-tax? They don't pay taxes anyway," he said. "What sounds nice and cute is not equal."

In a move he called reclaiming our youth, Jackson urged participants to re-examine their roles in the education of their children. He called for 20,000 to follow a six step program to save their kids.

Parents need to: take a child to school, meet their child's teacher, exchange home phone numbers, turn off the television three hours each night, look at report cards every nine weeks, and initial the report cards, said Jackson.

Jackson closed the speech simply.

"Don't let them break your spirit," he said. "Hold on. Keep hope alive."



An emotional Reverend Jesse Jackson addressed the crowd with many political and economic concerns. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Snyder New President of North Las Vegas Chamber



North Las Vegas City Councilman Mary Kincaid administers the oath of office to Fred Snyder during the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce installation dinner. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

By Nichole Davis, Sentinel-Voice

Local television financial advisor and columnist Fred Snyder officially assumed the position of president of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Friday.

Snyder was joined by other board members, FBI Special Agent in Charge Bobby Siller, the North Las Vegas City Council, and North Las Vegas Mayor James Seastrand at the installation dinner at the Rio Hotel.

Snyder, an investment broker at A.G. Edwards and Sons, is the third black to take the helm of the 40-year-old chamber. Ralph Stratton (1980-81) and Charles Smith (1985-86) were the two previous black presidents.

During his inaugural address, Snyder outlined his program for the next year which included taking advantage of economic opportunities and developing new partnerships with

businesses.

His agenda for the year also includes "the construction of a new building that will be the home of the Chamber and the North Las Vegas Community Foundation," Snyder said.

"The goal for the foundation is to support enhancement activities that would not normally fall under the guidelines of the chamber," he said.

Snyder wants the chamber to take a more active role in the economic development of the 50-year-old city.

"We have tremendous opportunities in the area of economic development. Statistics remain very strong. The city of North Las Vegas as well as the entire valley continues to impress and lead the rest of the country with its upward trends in residential, business growth, as well

(See Snyder, Page 2)

Housing Authority Settles 13 Claims

By Nichole Davis, Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Housing Authority, which recently settled a lawsuit filed by three former tenants for \$24,000, has settled 13 additional tenant claims filed in June 1995 with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The tenants, whose names were not released, alleged that maintenance orders in West Las Vegas complexes were not handled as quickly or as competently as orders filed in East Las Vegas complexes.

"We had complaints filed by 17 residents of the Las Vegas Housing Authority that there was a disparity in maintenance," said Betsy Ryan, director of HUD's program compliance division.

"We did find that there was a problem. Just mainly involved the amount of time that involved to get maintenance problems resolved and the quality of maintenance repair. The record did show that there was a disparity, but the records were suspect. There were reasons (for the disparities)

that weren't documented," she said.

The Housing Authority is audited as part of the Public Housing Management Assessment Program and recently received three low and one average marks in maintenance related concerns in fiscal year 1995. That's down from seven low and two average marks in fiscal year 1994.

Apartment turnaround, number of unit vacancies and tenant accounts receivable (rents owed by tenants) (See Housing Authority, Page 2)

MAGIC'S PLAZA COMES ALIVE



Exhibitors Parker Philpot (left) and Diana Aird (right) prepare for the Third Annual Cultural Arts Festival to benefit The Walker African American Museum and Research Center. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice