

NEWS CLIPS

MR. WEEKLY GOES TO WASHINGTON

Lawrence Weekly, a city of Las Vegas community liaison officer, is participating today in a White House drug summit in Washington, D.C. with 100 other community leaders from around the country. The Conference on Youth, Drug Use and Violence will focus on solutions, resources and provide a framework for the 1996 national drug control strategy. Weekly, who is also president of the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee and director of the Kappa League, was nominated to attend the conference by Senator Richard Bryan, D-NV.

KING COMMITTEE NAMES NEW OFFICERS

Dr. Tyree Carr, Assemblyman Wendell Williams and Mary Ann Mele, vice president of R&R Advertising were elected to the board of directors of the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee this week. Eddie Taylor was reelected to the vice president's post and Joanne Weddle ran unopposed as parliamentarian. The committee, founded in the early 1980s by Williams, is a nonprofit organization that sponsors educational and service events for the enlightenment and upliftment of the Las Vegas community. Lawrence Weekly currently serves as the group's president. Elections for that post and that of second vice-president - currently held by Marcia Washington - will be held next year.

RACIST GRAFFITI MARS HIGH SCHOOL

SPARKS, Nev.—Police are continuing their search for vandals who destroyed equipment and wrote "White Power" graffiti at Sparks High School. The culprits caused several thousands of dollars of damage sometime late Saturday. The vandals broke into the school and destroyed television sets, computers and two glass trophy cases. They also drew swastikas, "White Power" and other slogans on the school's walls.

PRISON RATE FOR BLACKS CLIMBS WITH 3-STRIKES LAW

LOS ANGELES—California's controversial "Three Strikes You're Out" law has resulted in an imprisonment rate for blacks that is more than 13 times that of whites, according to a new study. That disparity, according to the nonprofit Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, means that blacks made up 43 percent of some 1,200 "third strike" defendants imprisoned under the law as of Dec. 31, 1995. The study does not resolve the nagging question about the source of racial disparity in the criminal justice system - are people of different ethnic groups, with similar criminal histories, receiving the same punishment for the same crimes?

NAACP PRESIDENT FIRES 15 STAFF MEMBERS

BALTIMORE—In the first shake-up of his two-week tenure as NAACP president, Kweisi Mfume has fired about 15 staff members including the civil rights group's membership director. Mfume's chief of staff went from office to office at the organization's Baltimore headquarters last week handing employees letters telling them that "regrettably, the position you now occupy will be eliminated." Among those fired were Isazetta Spikes, membership director, Janice Washington, a 27-year veteran who was assistant director of branches and field services; and Linda Hursey, public relations director. Staff reductions were inevitable as the organization planned to reduce its \$3.2 million debt to about \$800,000 this year.

CONGRESSMAN SAYS FARRAKHAN GOT \$5 MILLION FROM IRAN

WASHINGTON—Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., in a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, said Tuesday, that he had received information that Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has received a \$5 million payment from the Iranian government. Farrakhan, who returned last month from an 18-country tour of Africa and the Middle East, has only confirmed that he has received a pledge of \$1 billion from Libya's Moammar Gadhafi. The White House has called the trip a thugfest because Farrakhan met with Gadhafi, Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Iranian leaders during his tour. Farrakhan has said he's ready to come before Congress and talk about his trip. "It's time for a showdown. I call your bluff," he said recently.

MANDELA SAYS HE'S IN GOOD HEALTH

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—President Nelson Mandela was poked and prodded Tuesday as doctors began a battery of tests, he says are intended to squelch rumors he is ill. Mandela, 77, checked into a Johannesburg clinic for a three-day stay. He insisted he felt fine and the tests would show he's in top shape for a man his age. Still, his schedule has been curtailed and he said more steps would be taken to reduce the demands on his time and energy. The value of the South African rand, that country's currency, has since slipped, reflecting the view that Mandela is the best hope for the country's continued stability. Mandela, whose election in 1994 ended white minority rule, was examined by his cardiologist last week. "I am my own best doctor," Mandela said, "and the feeling of well-being in me is very strong."

Fruits of Africa blossom under the Fremont Street Experience

By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegans flocked to the Fremont Street Experience Sunday to enjoy "Fruits of Africa: A Journey Through the Black Diaspora," a music, dance and art festival. In honor of the event, Mayor Jan Jones declared the day "African-American Heritage Day."

Organizers, who estimate that more than 10,000 people participated in the eight-hour event, said the turnout was so good they hope to make the festival an annual event.

Calling the event a huge success, event co-producer Diana Aird said this was the first ever black heritage festival held along the Fremont Street corridor.

"This was a movement. This was a putting of our black heritage in the Las Vegas mainstream," Aird said. "Las Vegas is inching towards special events. Now we have a major

ethnic event."

Paintors, sculptors and hair braiders greeted the crowd from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. under the great canopy where the public could view 15 exhibits. There was also a three-hour folklore presentation on famous women of African descent.

At 4 p.m. the artisans cleared the way for the dancers and musicians. King Limbo, RAMA "The Fire Eater," and Darcus Speed were just three of the 130 local performers who entertained on the two fully-equipped stages and four floating performing areas during the next eight hours.

C.O.D.A.M.E., a 2 1/2-year-old performance troupe, "endutained" with music and dances native to Nigeria and the West African region.

"These types of events are especially important in cities like Las Vegas, because we help educate people about the beauty of African culture," said Abayomi (See Festival, Page 16)



Dance partner Elliott Lowery gracefully suspends Darcus Speed in space Sunday night during their musical routine at the first African festival held at the new Fremont Street Experience.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Youth to be the focus of Judge Guy tribute

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

Community leaders, organizations and businesses are rallying together for a March 22 tribute to retired District Court Judge Addelliar Guy, the first black to sit on a Nevada state court bench.

The tribute and fundraiser is a joint venture between the Las Vegas graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Platinum Productions. The two groups are co-sponsoring the opening night of the musical "The Cabaret" at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre. The performance will be preceded by a reception with the judge.

"Many organizations and corporations are purchasing tickets to be in attendance," said Frank Russell, program chairman of the event and an Alpha member. "In addition, several are also purchasing tickets for young people from the Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts and youth from area churches."

Organizers have already received support for the event

from Nevada State Bank, which purchased 30 tickets to the event; the Southern Nevada Urban Bankers Association; the Louis Jordan Scholarship Fund; the Las Vegas graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; the Las Vegas graduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity,

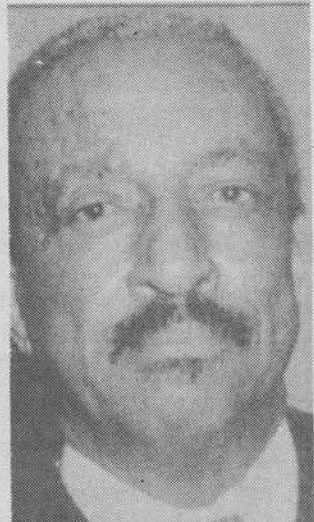
Inc.; the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada and the Winston Henderson Architects firm.

Judge Guy, who stepped down from the bench Jan. 17, is scheduled to attend the program.

"His health is improving and he does plan to attend," Russell

said Tuesday.

In 1966 Guy, the fourth black to pass the Nevada bar examination, was the first black to be appointed as a deputy district attorney in Clark County. Nine years later, he was appointed to the District Court (See Tribute, Page 16)



Retired District Judge Addelliar Guy III

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