

# NEWS CLIPS

## ANGELA DAVIS, SONIA SANCHEZ HIGHLIGHT NAARPR CONFERENCE

Appearances by civil rights activist turned full-time college professor Angela Davis and noted revolutionary poet Sonia Sanchez are two noted highlights of this weekend's National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's national conference being held in Las Vegas. Entitled "Democracy or Division-A Human Rights Agenda for the Next Century" the conference will cover a diversity of issues including affirmative action, justice issues, voting rights issues, immigrant rights and basic organizing. The event begins Friday with a free community rally featuring Sanchez at Zion Methodist Church, 2108 Revere Ave., at 7 p.m. Plenary sessions and a dinner dance are scheduled for Saturday and Davis will deliver the session's keynote address at the West Las Vegas Library during Sunday's 9 a.m. to noon session. For more information contact the NAARPR at 796-7484.



DAVIS

## CONVICTION OF MAN IN 1992 RIOTS UPHELD

LOS ANGELES — A state appeals court has upheld the mayhem and assault convictions of Damian Williams, one of the men who attacked truck driver Reginald Denny during the 1992 riots. A three-member panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the 1993 convictions on Tuesday, Gloria Duran, a deputy court clerk, said last week. The panel rejected Williams' claims that court prejudiced his case by, among other things, limiting his ability to cross-examine some witnesses and dismissing a black juror. The panel also rejected a claim that Williams, who is black, was singled out for prosecution because of his race. Denny is white. Williams was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

## CITY SETTLES COMPLAINTS OVER SIMPSON JOKES

BELVEDERE, Calif. — The city spent \$90,000 to settle complaints by three workers offended by more than 100 O.J. Simpson jokes the police chief posted at headquarters. Two police officers and a department clerk claimed chief Glenn Accornero retaliated against them when they complained. Officials in this exclusive community on San Francisco Bay deny the accusations. The 49-year-old chief said the stress of dealing with the claims contributed to his hypertension, ulcers and heart ailments. The jokes were racist, sexist and homophobic, according to the complainers, who contended they were subjected to a "pervasive and hostile work environment" created by the chief and "tolerated" by city management. Accornero, who has taken medical leave, apologized for posting the jokes.

## CLINTON VISITS ARSON SITE

GREELEYVILLE, S.C. — In an appearance Wednesday before congregants of Mount Zion AME Church in Greeleyville, S.C., President Clinton called on black and white Americans to help rebuild black churches and "heal" communities after a rash of arsons in the south. The string of arsons that have destroyed a total of 33 churches over the past year-and-a-half, including Mount Zion, is getting attention in Washington. Close to a dozen suspects have been charged for several of the fires, including a teen-age girl who was charged Monday with burning a black church in Charlotte, N.C.

## DESPITE PROTESTS, THOMAS SPEAKS TO STUDENTS

SEAT PLEASANT, Md. — Defying protesters who said his conservative stands undermine fellow blacks, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Monday kept his promise and spoke to students at an awards ceremony in Seat Pleasant, Md. Thomas had been invited, dis-invited, then re-invited to speak to students of Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts School in Landover. About 50 demonstrators, most of them anti-Thomas, gathered outside the ceremony, even though it was unsure until the last minute whether the justice would show up. Signs reading "No Uncle Tom in our country" and "Uncle Thomas is a traitor" were countered by others reading "Say no to hate and bigotry, let Thomas speak."

## JURY RULES NAACP NOT LIABLE IN SEX SUIT

WASHINGTON — The NAACP does not have to pay the \$332,400 promised by former executive director Benjamin Chavis to settle an employees sexual harassment claim, a jury ruled last week. The jury also concluded the civil rights organization is entitled to a refund of the money already paid. Mary E. Stansel, who testified she feared for her job if she did not yield to Chavis' advances, must repay \$63,800 of the money she already has received from the NAACP. Chavis also must return \$5,400 the NAACP paid on his behalf. Chavis made a deal in November 1993 to settle the claim of Stansel, his executive assistant, without first seeking approval from the civil rights organization's executive board.

# Committee continues work to fulfill King's dream

By Lee Brown  
Sentinel-Voice

"It is still one of the tragedies of human history that the 'children of darkness' are frequently more determined and zealous than the 'children of light,'" Dr. Martin Luther King once said. Through his work, our nation's most famous civil rights leader, King, dreamed of freedom and equality for all. Since his death on April 4, 1968, his dreams have lived through various individuals and organization's.

Locally, his dream lives through the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Las Vegas, who are currently planning the celebration festivities for King Week '97.

Founded November 3, 1981 by State Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams, D-District 6, the group was organized due to a local absence of any organized effort to show respect for the slain leader, and to remind Nevadans that the tenets of Dr. King's philosophy can still serve us in reaching total peace, freedom and equality for all mankind.

No more than two months later, the committee's first birthday parade in honor of King was held in West Las Vegas with a total of 36 entrants.

To expand participation and refute the myth that the Dr. King Celebration was for the progression of African Americans only, the second annual birthday parade took the same route as other parades for national holidays and was held in downtown Las Vegas on January 16, 1983. The participation increased to more than 80 entries and set the stage to debate the issue of the King holiday.

Since then, the parade has moved onto the the famous Las Vegas Strip the past three years, and has become the largest parade in the state of Nevada.

More important than the parade and banquet the committee hosts each year, however, are the other things the local King committee does within the community throughout the year.

The committee and its board of directors (Larry Weekly, President; Eddie Taylor, 1st vice president; Marcia Washington, 2nd vice president; Sharon Mojicar, treasurer; Jo Ann Weddle, parliamentarian; Robert Smith, secretary; Belinda Thompson, operations manager) as Dr. King was, is committed to the development of our nation's youth.

"Our purpose has definately changed over the years. The organization has gotten stronger and its services have broadened since we first started out," said



Portrait of Dr. King watches over operations manager Belinda Thompson as she conducts her daily duties at the center, located at 1316 Morgan. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Larry Weekly, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Las Vegas. "We take great pride in our youth and education.

"I would like to see the organization continue to work more toward the youth. The organization really used to be primarily politically involved, but we're more or less, now, an education-based organization, and one thing I take great pride in is that we're reaching out to a lot of young people who find our programs very attractive and

very interesting to get involved with, Weekly adds. "We have a lot of people who care about kids who are also very excited about getting more involved."

In an effort to expand on their goal of expanding educational opportunities for area youth, a tutorial program (Choice Tutorial Program) was set up in August of 1993. Youths meet for an hour-and-a-half each day, Monday through Friday, with teachers coming from the Clark County School District.

Through a grant written and developed by then executive director Deloris Sawyer, classes began at 19 sites on October 4, 1993, providing tutoring for 40 youths in the areas of drug awareness, self-esteem building and nutrition. Since that time, the program has nearly doubled in size.

The King tutorial program originated as the Doolittle Tutorial Program, based out of the City of Las Vegas

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# PATTI LABELLE

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