

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

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July 4, 1996

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Rangel re-energizes LV Democrats

By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

Outspoken New York Congressman Charles Rangel said he would pump more money into education and job training programs if the Democrats retake the majority on Capitol Hill after the upcoming November elections.

Rangel spoke during a Bally's Hotel-hosted campaign fundraiser Tuesday for state Sen. Bob Coffin. The \$1,000 per couple fundraiser aimed to raise money for Coffin's campaign to unseat first-term incumbent Rep. John Ensign.

Coffin, who is campaigning as "an independent Democrat for Congress," sought out Rangel after watching him during last year's volatile budget sessions. He finally met the veteran congressman last week.

Also as part of his visit, Rangel accompanied by Coffin, met with a group of black Democrats Wednesday at the Bonanza Village, home of Martin Luther King Jr. Committee 1st vice president Eddie Taylor.

Rangel delivered a stirring speech that urged support of Coffin's candidacy and the ousting of "Gingrich gang" member Ensign.

Rangel, the District 15 representative whose constituency includes Harlem, is the second most powerful Democrat on the congressional Ways and Means Committee. He first entered Congress in 1970, beating the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, and has been in office for 13 terms.



During a fundraiser visit for state Sen. Bob Coffin's campaign Wednesday, New York Congressman Charles Rangel excitedly proclaimed a new agenda for America if Democrats regain majority control of the House of Representatives.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

During his 26-year-long career, he has served as chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control where he is credited with leading the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

He also authored legislation which led to the creation of the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community. The SNEC is just one of more than two dozen economic improvement areas created by the \$5 billion Federal Empowerment Zone program.

Additionally, the St. John's University-educated lawyer wrote legislation creating the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which finances 90 percent of affordable American housing.

But many of the advances Rangel worked for throughout his illustrious career were nearly wiped out with the 1994 Republican revolution of

Congress.

Cuts in programs like Medicare and Medicaid were only the beginning. For black leadership in Congress, the election marked the loss of political influence.

The record-high 40 blacks in Congress wielded great influence as 20 percent of the majority party. But when they became part of the outnumbered minority block, they were nothing, Rangel said.

"We lost our seniority. We were in the majority...We influenced the party," he said.

That influence along with funding for the Congressional Black Caucus is now gone. Losing the election was a blessing in disguise, said Rangel, who is also a veteran of the Korean War.

"Forty years is a long, long time...This (See Rangel, Page 6)

## Community baseball "a hit"

By Lee Brown  
Sentinel-Voice

Youth baseball is alive and well in West Las Vegas.

Now in its third year, and currently midway through its 1996 season, the Community Baseball League has renewed the interest of area youth in the great American pastime.

Sponsored by the Las Vegas Housing Authority, the independent league — not affiliated with other area Little League programs — has seen an increase in participation in recent years. The league runs through the months of June and July, with games being played at Doolittle Field, adjacent to the Doolittle Community Center, 1940 N. "J" St. League playoffs will take place at the end of July.

"We've grown from 12, to 22, and now 24 teams. We've grown tremendously," says Ricky Towers Sr., the league advisor and co-founder. "We anticipate the program growing by 50 percent, at least, next year."

The league is divided into three divisions — T-ball (ages 4-7); Rookie (ages 8 and 9) and Minors (ages 10 and 11); with well over 350 area youth participating.

With baseball missing from the area for almost a quarter century, and with the increase in popularity of basketball and other sports, Towers felt it was time to bring the sport he holds so dear to his heart (See Baseball, Page 13)

## Black women join NOW in protest of automaker

By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

Protestors from the National Organization of Women and the Rainbow Coalition marched outside the Fletcher Jones Mitsubishi Dealership June 27.

The protest at the 444 S. Decatur Blvd. dealership was one of 59 demonstrations held worldwide to protest the treatment of women by the international corporation. Officials at the nation's largest women's rights organization called the efforts a Global Day of Action.

Specifically, "we're protesting the sexual harassment and sexual discrimination that occurred at the Mitsubishi plant in Normal, Ill.," said Karen Johnson, NOW national secretary.

Women in the plant complained they were pinched, had their breasts fondled and were subjected to derogatory language, Johnson said.

The Chicago branch office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has taken action in the case. They filed a lawsuit which is expected to cover 300 to 500 women. Twenty-six workers also filed a joint suit against the company

before the EEOC move, NOW officials said.

"The bottom line was that there were too many complaints, too numerous, for us to ignore that," Johnson said.

Amy Meedel, president of the organization's local chapter, called the protest "an extension of our effort to end violence against women. This is no different than our demonstration outside the (Mike) Tyson fight" last year at the MGM Grand Hotel, she said.

Andrew Burningham was the lone male participant in the 9 a.m. so-called 30-minute zap action. Women's equality is a key issue, he said.

"Women are prevented from working (equally) in our work force, and it's to the detriment of society as a whole," Burningham said.

"I have seven children. I think it's important they grow up in an equal society as a whole," he said.

At the request of numerous Japanese civil rights and women's organizations, NOW Action Vice President Rosemary Dempsey was in Tokyo to discuss employee diversity, employment, education equity and grass roots organizing. She



The signs of the women protesters express their feelings toward Fletcher Jones Mitsubishi during last Thursday's march.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice



While protesting the local Mitsubishi dealership last Thursday, Karen Johnson, national secretary for National Organization of Women (NOW), explains the charges facing the Japanese automaker.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

also met with Mitsubishi management, officials said.

"Activists here are building unbelievable momentum in their fight for equal employment opportunities for women and people of color," Dempsey said. "Multinational corporations like Mitsubishi had better get the message: Any form of discrimination is bad business.

"And as feminist movements strengthen, women will wage even more challenges to (See Protest, Page 3)