

Festival promises spirit of fun and brotherhood

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Some Las Vegans will celebrate Black History Month with a two-day festival presented by Friends in Support of the Million Man March, Inc. Feb. 8 and 9 at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

The Cultural Festival of Love, inspired by the example set by the men who attended the Million Man March, will take place that weekend at the college's Cheyenne campus, organizers said.

The festival will include an African marketplace, music, youth groups, dance demonstrations, bands, drill teams, storytelling and poetry.

Also included in the festivities will be a fine arts exhibition, handicrafts and booths with information from community service organizations. More than 100 exhibitors are expected to take

part in the festival.

Various choirs will perform and other musicians offering jazz, rhythm, blues and hip hop will entertain.

Event organizers are promising a weekend of excitement, fun, information, family entertainment and community unity. Special guest Minister AVA Muhammad from the Nation of Islam will speak from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb 8.

The event is sponsored by the African American Cultural Society, Inc., Kids for a Better Society, KCEP FM Radio 88.1, the City of Las Vegas and Wells Fargo Bank.

Events begin at 10 a.m. both days. Advance purchase tickets are available at Final Call Books & Tapes, Proper Gear Int'l. and Sight & Sound Center.

For more information including vendor information please call 631-1493.

Nation of Islam leader to speak at college

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Minister AVA Muhammad, representative of Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam will speak Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. in the Nicholas Horn Auditorium on the Cheyenne campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada.

Described by Farrakhan as "one of the most profound teachers of Islam in North America today," Muhammad is expected to deliver a message that is both inspirational and informational.

A native of Ohio, Muhammad graduated from East High School and attended Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. In addition to her studies in history and political science, she joined several academic, professional and service organizations. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1972.

At the age of 24, she received her law degree from Georgetown University Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar the following year.

After serving as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens, New York, she practiced criminal law until 1983 when she moved to Chicago to give her services to



AVA MUHAMMAD

the Nation of Islam.

In 1985, Farrakhan appointed her to the ministry. In addition to teaching at Mosque Maryam, the educational institution of the Nation of Islam, she has lectured at many colleges, universities and organizational conferences.

A popular speaker among youth, excerpts from Muhammad's lectures can be heard on recordings of rap artists such as Public Enemy.

Muhammad's presentation is in conjunction with the Cultural Festival of Love scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9 at CCSN.

For more information call 631-1493.

Protest

(Continued from Page 1)

"true power" over the department.

On Tuesday, Senator Joe Neal (D—District 4) submitted Senate Bill 39 which, if it passes, will empower local governments to create, by ordinance, a board to review matters concerning police or law enforcement agencies.

The board will have the power to hold hearings and subpoena witnesses, documents, books, papers and other evidence. "They (the board) would be able to put the police 'on the spotlight,'" Neal said.

Enforcement would be handled by the district attorney or the attorney general's office.

The hearing on the bill which is in the government affairs committee will require the support of the community, he said.

Assemblyman Wendell Williams (D—District 6) echoed Neal's words about support. On Thursday, he will enter his own bill into the Assembly. If it passes, the bill will give local governments the ability to create a control board.

It is much easier to pass a law that allows local

governments to create a control board than to try to get the legislature to create a control board, said Neal and Williams.

Williams first submitted the

bill in 1991 but influential police lobbyists from out of state testified against the bill. He hopes people from Las Vegas will

(See Protest, Page 12)

Coach

(Continued from Page 1)

unable to consent to having sex.

Thomas was arrested after an adult relative of one of the girls became suspicious and began questioning the children in May 1994.

Thomas started the drill team to share his own positive experiences with young people and to "instill self-esteem through

hard work," Cano told the court Thursday.

About 50 girls between the ages of seven to late teens were members of the Queenettes. They performed synchronized dance and marching routines in parades and competitions in Nevada and other states. Most of the girls were from the North Las Vegas area.

If convicted, Thomas faces a possible sentence of life in prison.

Painters

(Continued from Page 3)

That's one of the reasons she and the other members of the year-old Neighborhood Executive Board began the project. Pride in the community is another reason.

"We're doing this because there's a need to help those people and (help) the community maintain a level of pride," Wilson said.

Rained out last Saturday morning, but undaunted and ready to begin this weekend, the group will disperse from the Neighborhood Preservation Office in the Nucleus Plaza with donated paint brushes, scrapers and buckets of paint to begin painting.

They will also be doing general yard clean-up, covering graffiti and identifying homes that may need shubbery.

Helping the group will be the young adults involved in the Weed'n Seed program and other members of the community.

"We're hoping some of the able-bodied men in the community will join us," Wilson said in a pitch for additional volunteers. A total of 18 people showed up ready to work last Saturday before the rain started. Williams is hoping that more will volunteer this Saturday morning.

During the past year, the West Las Vegas Neighborhood Executive Board was responsible for helping install covered CAT bus benches in

West Las Vegas, the holiday banners along Owens Avenue and the decorative Gateway sign at I-15 and Owens Avenue.

The Gateway is still awaiting landscaping promised by the City of Las Vegas, the group said.

"We started one year ago and we've proved to ourselves and the community that things can be done," Wilson said.

The group is also now involved in a collage tile project located at Washington and D Streets near the old Westside School. The tiles make up a mural which depicts some of the history of the area and the African Americans who first settled in West Las Vegas.

"We can't build buildings, but we can do things that make a change," she said.

Funding for the projects comes from a variety of sources including banks and lending institutions, private donations and the City of Las Vegas. The group members said they are particularly grateful for the help provided by Councilman Gary Reese.

The WLVNEB said they want to have access to the drug moneys that police occasionally take from the neighborhood during a drug arrest when even homes are sometimes confiscated, Wilson said.

The volunteer group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Neighborhood Preservation Office and is

seeking new members.

"We welcome new members and new ideas," Wilson said.

The group enjoys working for the neighborhood and feels a sense of pride and reward as compensation for the work, Wilson said.

"Anytime a determined group of people get together and accomplish things and see the benefits of their work, they are rewarded. We aren't paid but we are rewarded," she said.

Anyone wishing to help with the painting project should show up at 9 a.m. this Saturday at the Neighborhood Preservation Office at 914 W. Owens Ave. Contact Michael Chambliss at 229-2540 for more information about the group or the painting project.

Graffiti

(Continued from Page 3)

and opening another office at 1100 Martin Luther King Blvd. N, Suite E. The present Madison Avenue location will also remain open - from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily - for the convenience of local members who walk to the credit union, Rainey said.

The new location will offer services for newer members and others closer to the MLK Boulevard location. The hours at the new location will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The new location is expected to open after Feb. 18.

African Americans Inspiring The Future For Nevada.

Darnell

Millennium Association, Inc.
Manuel Mojicar
General Contractor and Developer

**Citizens Area Transit and the Regional
Transportation Commission proudly celebrate
Black History Month 1997.**

CAT- A service of the Regional Transportation Commission
Call CAT-RIDE for information: 228-7433