

Lyons, a medical first

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LISA MARIE LYONS

By John Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Jackie Robinson comparisons often abound whenever an African-American is the first in their race to do something.

The former Brooklyn Dodgers slugger deserves praise for his pioneering efforts in helping integrate baseball. Though Lisa Marie Lyons may not have Robinson's speed rounding the bases, she could treat several injuries the late Hall of Famer might have sustained trying to steal home.

Lyons is the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno's School of Medicine. She finished in May with a bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science degree.

An internal medicine resident at University Medical Center, she is reaping benefits of the grueling study and hard work. She operates her own primary adult care clinic.

"It was a lot of work," she said of her matriculation. "You just couldn't imagine the amount of work you had to do and the time you had to do it."

"My chest is truly sticking out," Willie Lyons, her father said. "She performed well and didn't need much direction," said Dr. Kenneth Maehora, her medical technology instructor. Maehora called her a "hard worker, prepared and always focused."

Reared in Nevada, the Tokyo-born Lyons moved often because of her father's Air Force commitments. The family eventually settled in Las Vegas.

After school, Lyons the student became Lyons the parent, raising her 5-year-old son Cameron Stuart Bass. "It seemed to be unmanageable, but you managed," she said.

After three years of residency or actual patient practice, Lyons can practice anywhere in the country. Like free agent sports stars, Lyons will be able to sign contracts for terms outlined in the agreements.

To set up residency for their graduates, medical schools typically place them in outpatient clinic hospitals, private practices or other related health institutions. Residency training can last from one to three years, depending the discipline.

Lyons said she is glad to be UNR medical school's first black female graduate. "I hope there will be many more after me."

NLV woman nets business honor

Special to Sentinel-Voice
If hurdling career obstacles was an Olympic sport, North Las Vegas' Kimberly McDonald would win the gold. As one of the 1998 Top Ten Business Women of the Year for the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), McDonald, selected from a field of 80,000, will be officially honored at the group's national convention in Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 20-24.

A public information officer for the city of North Las Vegas, she serves as the city's contact for all public relations and information and community outreach. Presently, she is a management analyst, a lobbyist and advocate for legislative bills relating to the city of North Las Vegas, and editor and creator of the North Las Vegas City Council's newsletter, *City News*, read by more than 80,000 residents.

But a life-threatening car accident in 1993 nearly derailed her future.

She suffered multiple pelvic and lower back fractures and had to learn how to walk again.

"After the accident, I vowed to approach every project with a vengeance," says McDonald, known by her colleagues and friends for her "can-do" attitude.

In 1995, again she turned a loss into

a lesson by returning full-time to school and earning her master's degree in public administration after the electrical engineering company she worked for downsized her out of a job.

As immediate past president of the Drifting Dunes Chapter in Las Vegas, McDonald's has exhibited leadership, self motivation and enthusiasm.

"ABWA provides a fun, yet supportive learning environment for leaders to grow personally and discover talents, inspire others, as well as support and encourage members," McDonald said. "ABWA has also helped me assist other members in their goals, which has been the most fulfilling of all."

An active community leader, she is a United Way Co-Campaign Coordinator for the city of North Las Vegas and has taken part in the Child Haven Adopt-a-Cottage program, several holiday food basket benefits, and sponsored a disadvantaged child during Christmas in KVBC-TV 3's Wednesday's Child Program.

Her future goals include becoming an ABWA national officer, obtaining her doctoral degree in public policy, owning and operating a consulting company and completing an inspirational book about her courageous struggle to re-learn how to



KIMBERLY McDONALD

walk. "I aspire to maintain or enhance the tradition of leadership exhibited by so many fascinating women in ABWA," she said. "I would like to use leadership to unite women and promote self-growth among individuals."

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business skills training and networking opportunities for working women. Since 1953, it has annually recognized 10 organization members for outstanding achievement in their careers, community involvement and education.

Cosby testifies in extortion trial

Affair occurred in Las Vegas in the 70s

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Television star, comedian and philanthropist Bill Cosby told a Manhattan Federal Court Jury Tuesday that he did have sex with the mother of a woman who claims to be his daughter but that the financial assistance he gave the girl differed little from his past generosity to college students.

Cosby testified that he met the girl's mother, Shawn Thompson, in Los Angeles in early 1970s. During a Las Vegas visit, he said he contacted Thompson, flew her there and the two had sex.

Thompson's daughter, Autumn Jackson, 22, faces extortion charges for allegedly threatening to milk Cosby for \$40 million. Authorities say she planned to go give the story to *The Globe* tabloid if the



Wife, Camille Cosby, supports her husband, Bill Cosby.

entertainer did not concede to her demands.

Cosby admitted to having

an affair with Thompson but denied fathering Jackson during more than two hours of testimony Tuesday. Initially, he planned to take a blood test but backed out for fear of media disclosure of the results.

Both women constantly pressed for money, said Cosby

who claims to have given them \$100,000 since 1994. He said Jackson is one of 300 students whose educations he and his wife of 33 years, Camille Cosby, have helped finance through a foundation they established.

He said Jackson's repeated demands wore on him. "Look Autumn, I'm not your father," he recalled during testimony.

Jackson and alleged accomplices Jose Medina and Boris Sabas were arrested in January and charged with conspiracy, extortion and engaging in interstate commerce to commit crimes. If convicted, they could face prison terms of 12 years and fines of \$750,000.

On Jan. 16, Jackson wrote a letter to former CBS President Peter Lund relating her "undeserved and impoverished financial and living conditions" and threatening that media exposure could hurt the ratings of Cosby's highly-rated CBS television show.

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