

POINT OF VIEW

Our View

The price of life; the sound and fury of \$

Chaos reigned inside and outside the ring June 28.

Inside the ring, the once unstoppable Mike Tyson was disqualified for biting both ears of World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield during their title rematch.

Outside the ring, noises resembling gunfire - according to police and MGM officials - sparked a post-fight stampede that trampled approximately 45 hotel guests.

For his actions, Tyson got his licensed revoked for one year, a \$2.98 million fine and paid for the Nevada Athletic Commission's (NAC) hearing last week.

U.S. Senator Richard Bryan lauded the commission's ruling. In 1996, he introduced a law, passed this year, promoting boxing safety and health standards and encouraging other states to comply with rulings.

Add to that, hastily passed state legislation by the 1997 legislature - the longest and costliest in history - to seize a boxer's purse if he/she violates the commission's regulations.

Such swift action against Tyson, but where were Bryan, the legislature and the Gaming Control Board during the Sherrice Iverson tragedy. Where's her bill? She deserves better. Her story is no less important; her life, no less precious, even though the slain 7-year-old didn't draw thousands of fight fans to the city, nor make the fight one of boxing's richest ever, nor boost the city's already healthy bottom line.

Where are her allies in the nation's capitol, in Carson City or in gaming?

It's not like lawmakers haven't pushed for laws protecting children i.e...Megan's Law, which alerts communities about convicted sexual predators living amongst them or state Sen. Mark James failed attempt to chemically castrate sex offenders or hold them indefinitely.

Just as Bryan pressed the NAC to uphold his legislation, he could have pressed gaming's regulatory body to enact hotel security improvements. Legislators could have created a bill, similar in haste, beefing up hotel security. If not for county commission chair Yvonne Atkinson-Gates' ordinance, government officials would have shoved the issue to the side. We applaud you Gates.

"The Sound and the Fury" for Sherrice should be sound legislation, passed with a fury, to ensure the safety of all children.



Chief Wahoo disrespectful

Special to Sentinel-Voice

I live in Cleveland, where the city hosted the 1997 All Star Game.

It was a time when the nation's sports attention turned to our city and to baseball. But what probably will receive little attention is the movement to change the name and the logo of the Cleveland baseball team.

It's not a popular story because it is a story of institutional and public racism, but as President Clinton encourages us to talk about racism; we need to include Chief Wahoo in that dialogue.


Maybe you've seen the logo of the Cleveland baseball team - a grinning, big-nosed, bug-eyed, deep-red colored caricature of a Native American. But, maybe you never looked at the image closely or thought about what it was saying underneath the stereotype. Or, maybe you believed the explanation that the name, the Cleveland Indians, and the logo, Chief Wahoo, were honoring Native Americans.

But Chief Wahoo is no more an honor than Aunt Jemima or Uncle Ben or Step n Fetchit or Little Black Sambo were to African-Americans. They were all racist caricatures which showed black women as vestiges of our slavemothers and black men as subservient, lazy and slow-witted.

Chief Wahoo is no more an honor than Charlie Chan was to Asian Americans or the Frito Bandito was to Mexican Americans.

All of these stereotypes dehumanize and take away the

Civil Rights Journal



By Bernice Powell Jackson

dignity of a group of people. All of them take the worst, often imagined characteristics, and put them foremost in the public mind. All have been used to sell products or to demean people rather than to honor them.

Unfortunately, stereotyping is not a new concept. Germany branded Jewish people as money-grabbing and power-hungry before World War II. And a demeaning caricature similar to Chief Wahoo was used in anti-Jewish German propaganda.

Nor is stereotyping uniquely European or American. Idi Amin, former Ugandan president and one of Africa's most infamous despots, stereotyped Indians who lived in that nation.

But stereotyping is dangerous. Television news and programming constantly portray black men as criminals, fanning America's fear of them.

Once stereotyped as less intelligent, more moody and marriage-driven, women were barred from jobs in the corporate and government worlds. Chief Wahoo poses such a danger.

Chief Wahoo fails to honor those people who discovered

Columbus, then shared their wealth, knowledge and resources with those who followed him. That grinning, bug-eyed Chief Wahoo is no honor to a people whose land was taken away from them, whose language was stripped, whose religion was dismantled and now whose dignity is being attacked

If Native Americans are offended by the image of Chief Wahoo, then the rest of us must be offended also.

Outside this All Star game the descendent of Louis Sockalexis, the Native American baseball player for whom the Cleveland team is reportedly named, will announce his family's and the

Penobscot Indian nation's rejection of the myth that the name and the logo honor Sockalexis.

In words from the first stanza of a poem written by Native American poet Juanita Helphrey: *Why is it that when we say, "It hurts, take it away," You say, "No it doesn't, You shouldn't feel that way?"*

Remember the struggle of Native American people to get rid of Chief Wahoo and to change the name of the Cleveland baseball team. And then write to Dick Jacobs, the owner of the team, and, while you're at it, write to the owners of the Washington Redskins, the Atlanta Braves and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Dick Jacobs, Cleveland Indians, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, OH 44115.

Ted Turner, Atlanta Braves, 521 Capitol Avenue, SW, Atlanta, GA 64129.

Lamar Hunt, Kansas City Chiefs, 1 Arrowhead Dr., Kansas City, KS 64129.

Washington Redskins, RFK Stadium, Washington, DC 20003.

NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

**LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice**

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper. Published every Thursday by Griot Communications Group, Inc. 900 East Charleston Boulevard • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone (702) 380-8100 • Fax (702) 380-8102

<p><b>Contributing Writers:</b> Lee Brown Carl Chamberlain Loretta Arrington Hall Sharon Savage John Stephens III Fred T. Snyder</p> <p><b>Photographers:</b> John Broussard Jonathan Olsen</p>	<p><b>Ramon Savoy, Publisher-Editor</b> <b>Lynnette Sawyer, General Manager</b> <b>Marcello Sawyer, Copy Editor</b> <b>Damon Hodge, Staff Writer</b> <b>Diamond Ross, Staff Writer</b> <b>Willis Brown, Production Manager</b> <b>Don Snook, Graphics</b> <b>Ed &amp; Betty Brown, Founders</b></p> <p>Member: National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association</p>
---	--