



Youth focus of atonement

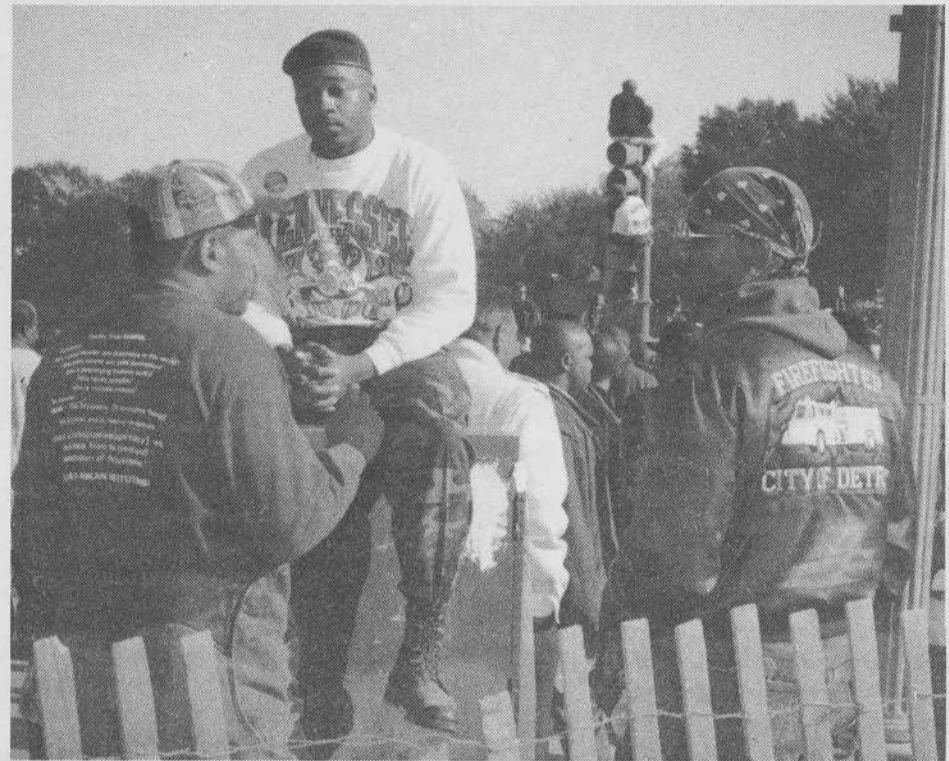
By Olive Vassell
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Black America's youth will be the focus of the 1997 Holy Day of Atonement/Day of Absences, Oct. 16, Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, national spokesman for Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan told the National Newspaper Publishers Association recently in an exclusive interview.

"Our youth are so important to our future," Muhammad said. "We literally have no future, except as it gets carried forward by the younger generation and this ... generation that is with us now, is perhaps in some ways, paradoxically the most gifted, but at the same time the most endangered ... Special care and attention needs to be paid to this new young generation to see to it that they have the opportunity to move forward in time."

Speaking of the violent deaths of prominent rap stars Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G., Muhammad emphasized that using the eight steps of atonement outlined by Minister Farrakhan at the Million Man March could have saved the young men's lives.

"We lost ... since the last Holy Day of Atonement both Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.," he said. "They were gunned down in the kind of violence that ends the lives of



many of our young men and other young people. If Tupac and those with him had put into practice the eight steps of atonement, if Notorious B.I.G. and those with him had understood the eight step process of atonement, perhaps those two great young stars would still be alive."

With events planned all over the country to mark the second anniversary of the Million Man March, many spearheaded by local mosques and the Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) used for the Million Man March, the NOI is also encouraging

communities to organize at a grassroots level.

"During the observance this year, we hope that there will be activities all over the country that involve youth," Muhammad said, adding that this year's celebration is more decentralized, with less of a national focus.

Muhammad said the public are also encouraged to observe the day beginning with a fast from sunset Oct. 15 to sunset Oct. 16 and pre-dawn family prayer and scriptural readings on Oct. 16.

No money should be spent. No one should work or play

and the Day should be a time of reconciliation among family members with visitation to churches, mosques, temples or other houses of worship, he said.

Farrakhan has also requested that all pastors preach a sermon on atonement, reconciliation and responsibility on Sunday, Oct. 12 in preparation for the holy day, Muhammad said.

"Each and every year, October 16, is the holy day for the overall purpose of spiritual atonement," (See Atonement, Page 2)



Million Man March organizers said the Oct. 15, 1995 event drew more than one million black men to the nation's capitol to atone. Lincoln Memorial Park officials estimated that a little more than 400,000 black men were in attendance. Estimates aside, the march was on the largest in the history of the nation's capitol.

Photos special to Sentinel-Voice by Lisa Margerum



School plants gardening seed

By Sandra Fleming
Sentinel-Voice

For many people gardening is a hobby; something to do on the weekend for relaxation.

But at Mabel Hoggard Math/Science Elementary Magnet School, gardening is a job for first- through fifth-graders.

"I knew nothing about gardening when I began on this project," said Belinda Duncan, the school's Magnate Theme Coordinator. "So I went to the master gardeners of the Cooperative Extension."

They told her she needed raised garden beds and gave her a list of what seeds the children could expect to do reasonably well in Las Vegas's climate.

The knowledge has been fruitful. The garden consists of 20 raised beds, separately contained in untreated redwood boxes measuring 4 feet by 12 feet by 1 foot. There is a bed for each class at the school, 950 N. Tonopah Drive. Once the seed selections are made, the garden is tilled,

sown and maintained by the students.

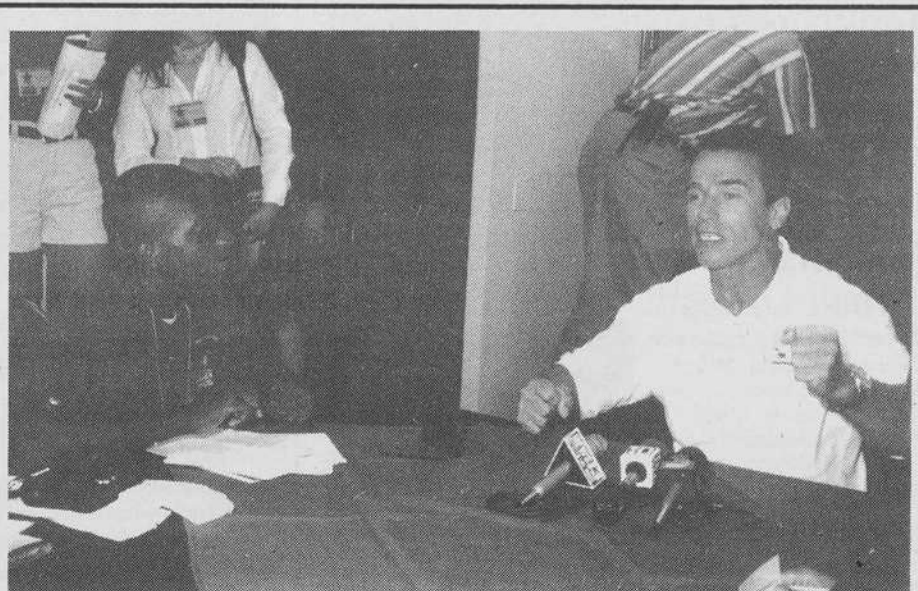
"We plant a lot of lettuce, radishes, peas, beets and cauliflowers; they all grow quickly and the kids can see some of the results fairly soon," Duncan said.

"This has been a great way to teach them about farming and all that goes into it," she said. "They know now that vegetables and flowers don't just materialize at the supermarkets; someone had to think about soil maintenance and watering. It's still a little difficult for the first graders. They think they can plant carrots and they will have carrots next week."

All of the garden's produce is used by the pupils in soups and salads. The flowers are displayed, then sent home with the pupils for them to enjoy.

The garden and its accompanying greenhouse came as part of a grant at the school's inception. The grant allotted \$10,000 for a garden, \$7,500 for a greenhouse.

(See Gardening, Page 2)



INNER-CITY GAMES

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Arnold Schwarzenegger fields questions from Zach Poque at the concluding ceremonies of the Greater Las Vegas Inner-City Games. See page 8 for related photos.