

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## HUD shells out \$865 million, books for needy

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore and Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced Monday an allocated \$865 million effort to help homeless Americans find housing that will coincide with HUD's mission to donate 500,000 books to homeless children.

To date, 205,000 books have been collected, which is more than one book for each of the estimated 165,000 homeless children in the nation.

"Especially in this holiday season, we must all recommit ourselves to helping homeless Americans achieve what most of us take for granted—a safe place to live and the opportunity to become responsible, self-sufficient citizens," Gore said. "These new resources will go a long way toward helping our communities to achieve that goal."

"We are giving some of the most vulnerable Americans a second chance to reach for the American Dream," Cuomo said. "Our grants will literally save the lives of homeless people and help them build new lives by getting jobs, becoming self-supporting, and moving into permanent homes. Our book drive will give children without homes a precious gift to call their own—books that will open new worlds to their growing minds."

Some \$700 million will fund 1,396 homeless assistance projects, helping out an estimated 330,000 homeless.

Besides providing homeless people with transitional and permanent housing, the competitive grants will fund job training, child care, substance abuse treatment programs and mental health services. The other \$165 million will go to the Emergency Shelter Grants program, which is distributed based on a community's housing and poverty needs.

The book drive is part of HUD's Take Ten Homeless Campaign, a national initiative designed to recruit more Americans to help homeless people become self-sufficient.

Gore and Cuomo urged Americans to join the book drive by donating books to local homeless shelters in their communities.

For information, contact HUD's Homeless Information Line at 1-800-HUD-1010.



### Ho Ho Ho... Merry Christmas

Young shoppers recently gave adults private lessons at FAO Schwartz located inside The Forum Shops at Caesar's on how to pick the right presents for children on Christmas.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

## Tawana Brawley: 'I was raped ... I do not lie'

By Charles Baillou

Special to Sentinel-Voice

As her former defenders, the Rev. Al Sharpton and attorney Alton Maddox, Jr. face a multi-million dollar defamation lawsuit, Tawana Brawley, flanked by the now-suspended Maddox and her stepfather Ralph King, recently stood in the pulpit of Bethany Baptist Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and thanked the congregation for believing she was raped by several white men a decade ago.

"Thank you for believing me," she told a group of over 500 gathered there.

Nearly nine years ago, Brawley and her mother Glenda stayed in the same church for 40 days in order to avoid being served a contempt citation.

"It is most fitting that Tawana Brawley's return should occur at this church," Maddox told supporters. "Many of us see this as a homecoming. We still love her. We still believe

in her - because the story of Tawana Brawley is the story of Black women in America."

When Maddox introduced Brawley, the audience gave her a standing ovation and chanted, "We believe Tawana!"

"Thank you for believing me. I believe in Alton Maddox," said Brawley, who embraced Maddox tightly for more than a minute before she approached the press' microphones.

Asserting that her mother Glenda is a strong woman who maintains a close-knit family, Brawley said her parents had lost their jobs and homes because she charged that several White men had abducted and raped her for several days in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. in late November 1987.

Obviously bothered by the mainstream media's acceptance of Attorney General Robert Abrams' report that a grand jury found her charge a hoax, Brawley said, "If I had read what I have seen written about me for the past 10

years, I would say it was a hoax too."

Maddox said he believes Brawley because of his personal experiences in southern Georgia. Maddox said he remembered Black men being ordered out of their houses so that White men "could take care of some business," they were often told.

According to Maddox, the case in New York's Dutchess County in which Steven Pagones, a former county assistant district attorney charged defamation of character, "is about whether White America has the will to place White men in jail for raping Black women." Brawley claimed that Pagones and several of his alleged accomplices raped her.

A confident Maddox predicts that the defamation suit will fail. "To demonstrate how weak Pagones' case is, he's calling me as one of his witnesses," he said.

Charles Baillou writes for the Amsterdam News.

## Farrakhan, Arafat discuss plight, future of Palestinians

By Askia Muhammad

Special to Sentinel-Voice

AMMAN — "Until all Muslims who live in the West Bank and Gaza can pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque, how could I rejoice, even going to pray?" Minister Louis Farrakhan asked reporters Dec. 15 after returning from Palestinian-controlled territory in Israel, without getting to pray at the Islamic holy site in Jerusalem.

Following the surprise arrival into Israeli-controlled territory with help from his host, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Farrakhan

was told by Foreign Ministry officials that since he has an American passport he was free to tour Israel, "without hindrance."

However, members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet were less conciliatory. Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh called for Farrakhan and his delegation of 24 to be expelled "at once," adding that this should be done "in a legal way."

A spokesman for Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert refused to guarantee the safety of the Muslim group. "It's a free city," Haggai Elias said in a

published report. "Anybody can go wherever he likes. But if someone is instigating a provocation, then it's for the police to decide what to do."

Palestinian Authority advisers, including Christian Arabs who administer the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, told Farrakhan they were concerned for the group's safety because they have no security authority in Israeli-controlled areas.

Farrakhan considered leaving the territory immediately after meeting President Arafat, a delegation official (See Farrakhan, Page 3)



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Present in New York City to wish Nation of Islam leader Brother Minister Louis Farrakhan, center, a safe and spiritual journey on the 50-nation "friendship tour" is his wife Martha and Minister Benjamin Muhammad.