



Sentinel-Voice photo by Randy Merritt

Gubernatorial candidate Joe Neal greets a supporter at his fundraiser.

Neal: A fair deal for NV

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Using "A Fair Deal For Nevada," as his slogan, Sen. Joe Neal kicked off his gubernatorial bid last week, more than 100 friends and supporters jammed in the Lions Club off Van Der Meer St., in tow.

The 26-year North Las Vegas senator plans to attack the casino industry, hoping to convince citizens that gaming should foot more of the

cost for the state's infrastructure needs.

"We must control gaming and not let gaming control us," Neal said. "Gaming has come in and had their way in terms of legislation."

As he did in the 1997 Legislature, Neal, if elected, would insist on a tax hike on the gaming industry, a move he admits has alienated him from many of his colleagues and virtually assured that gaming dollars won't

line his campaign coffers.

Despite being at odds with gaming, Neal appears to have not alienated voters. On the March 2 edition of "Nevada Issues," a program on KTV-63, a poll showed 69 percent of viewers favoring gaming tax hikes; 31 percent opposed the idea.

According to Neal, 21 locations on the Strip alone generate \$6.4 billion dollars annually, yet, statewide, (See Neal, Page 2)

Court rules against white UNR professor

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday ruled against a former University of Nevada Reno professor who claimed she was discriminated against because she's white.

The court, without comment, dismissed Yvette Farmer's arguments that the university violated a federal anti-bias law when it hired a black sociology professor before her and illegally paid her less money than her black colleague when it hired her a year later.

She asked the court to decide what, if any, efforts are legal to achieve or enhance racial diversity in an employer's workforce if there's no proof of past discrimination.

In 1990, the university's sociology department hired Johnson Makoba in 1990. The Ugandan emigrant was given \$35,000 a year, which would bump up to \$40,000 when he completed his Ph.D.

Farmer claims she was a more qualified candidate but the search committee that recommended hiring Makoba decided his qualifications "slightly exceeded" Farmer's.

Justices in a Piscataway, N.J., case, probed the issue, but did not rule on it because civil rights activists in November agreed to a \$433,500

payment to a white high school teacher who claimed she was discriminated against in favor of a black colleague.

At issue in the Nevada case was a temporary affirmative action policy under which the university sought to increase the number of minorities among its faculty members.

Between 1989 and 1991, only 1 percent of the school's faculty were black; nearly 90 percent were white. The university added a "minority bonus policy" to its existing affirmative action program that allowed any department to hire an additional faculty member following the initial hiring of a minority candidate.

The sociology department hired Farmer in 1991, at an annual salary of \$31,000. She was promised her salary would be raised to \$33,000 when she completed her Ph.D. Farmer, 37, now has a job in the Seattle area.

In 1993, Farmer sued in state court arguing that the university violated both the federal Equal Pay Act and an anti-discrimination law known as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded \$40,000 after the jury ruled the university violated both federal laws.

Relying on a 1979 Supreme Court ruling that (See Court, Page 16)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Rebels win!!!

Kevin Simmons stuffs home two points during UNLV's WAC tournament victory over the Jerry Tarkanian-led Fresno State Bulldogs. The Rebel victory over the former UNLV head coach rocketed them to the conference title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The 12th seeded Rebels will play Princeton today. (See additional photos Page 5)

Lyons' woes financially impacting Bible college

By Kendall Wilson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

While Rev. Henry Lyons struggles with his current legal dilemmas, the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., the organization which he heads, is experiencing its own financial crisis.

On Feb. 26, the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office accused Lyons of swindling money from big companies by inflating membership numbers, spending money meant for burned churches and hiding \$4.8 million in a secret convention account he used mostly for lavish personal purchases, according to reports from *The St. Petersburg Times*.

A federal grand jury is also investigating Lyons' financial dealings.

Bernice Edwards, also known as Bree Jones, the former director of public relations for NBC and alleged companion of Lyons, was also accused of racketeering.

With lawyers F. Lee Bailey, Anthony Battaglia, his daughter and 40 supportive ministers, Lyons declared his innocence of all charges at a recent press conference and vowed to fight to the end to clear his name.

While the Convention is maintaining its support of Lyons, general secretary Roscoe Cooper told *The St. Petersburg Times* that the Convention won't pay his legal bills.

In fact, the convention is having difficulty meeting all of its financial obligations. It has stopped supporting its 700-student Bible college, causing



HENRY LYONS

a "severe financial crisis" at the school.

Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr., the college president, said conditions are so bad that he and other officials have

worked without pay for more than a month.

"It's been a real struggle," Lafayette said to *The St. Petersburg Times*.

He said administrators are teaching some classes because the school cannot afford professors. Repairs have been delayed and a hiring freeze is in effect.

Lafayette said the college, founded in 1924, had been receiving about \$50,000 a month from the convention — nearly half the school's monthly operating expenses — but that those payments ended in October 1997.

That development came after months of revelations about lavish spending by Lyons and the investigations that followed the fire

set by Lyons' wife to a \$700,000 home he owns with Edwards.

"Dr. Lyons explained to me that the funds coming in were not enough for the convention to continue (payments) at this time," Lafayette said to *The St. Petersburg Times*, adding that it was common knowledge in the religious organization that many churches are withholding donations from Lyons' administration.

"We are in crisis mode," he continued, "so we can't make assumptions at this point. But it is clear we should not expect major support to come from the convention."

To add to the school's financial woes, the 15-million member Southern Baptist Convention has also (See Lyons, Page 2)