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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Family members of Sherrice Iverson, LeRoy Iverson, her father and Harold Iverson, her brother, paid tribute to the slain girl at the memorial tree in James A. Gay Park in Las Vegas.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Members of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP led the way for the "Community Walk for Justice" as politicians, parents and concerned citizens marched thru the streets to the memorial site of Sherrice Iverson on Saturday.

Murdered, abused children supported!

Special to Sentinel-Voice

In memory of 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson, who was slain in May 1997 in a hotel restroom, over 200 people came out to participate in the "Community Walk for Justice" May 23, which was sponsored by the Las Vegas NAACP.

"This tragic event happened some time ago," said Rev. James Rogers, Sr., president of the Las Vegas NAACP. "We're here to keep it fresh on the minds of the people in this community and abroad."

"Anytime a life is lost, especially when it's a young life, due to tragic circumstances, people want to make their voices known. We want to make sure people understand that Sherrice may be

gone but she is not forgotten."

Participants included District-D assemblyman, Wendell Williams, who led the 4-block walk with Rogers; North Las Vegas City Councilman John Rhodes and Aaron Russo, who is running for governor. The procession began outside the NAACP office located at 912 W. Owens Ave. and traveled to the James A. Gay Park, where the NAACP planted a Mondale pine tree last year in honor of Iverson and other slain children.

At James A. Gay Park, the memorial event began with an opening prayer and opening remarks from Rogers. Poems were presented to the Iverson family, and words were given by politicians about child safety. At the end of the ceremony, LeRoy

Iverson, the father of the victim, and his son released 800 pink and yellow balloons in memory of Iverson's life.

According to Tarsha Crockett, elected branch secretary and event coordinator, the tragedy surrounding Iverson's death represents an epidemic that is plaguing the entire country—violence against children.

"As a whole, this event is about children. We are going to remember and show our condolences toward other child tragedies," Crockett said referencing the recent school shootings in Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

Crockett also explained that this memorial event would help

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Democracy alive and well in African-American community

By Deborah Kohen

Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Citizens United for Equity for Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates" held a press conference Thursday morning, May 21, to "address the ongoing character assassination campaign against" Chairwoman Gates.

Although the commissioner did not make an appearance at the conference, some 40 of her supporters did - about the same number who attended Dr. Terry Akers press conference, also at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, a few weeks ago.

Predictably, the first gathering was better attended by men, the second by women, though gender was not mentioned in either forum.

The first featured red-white-&-blue banners and balloons, the second offered a continental breakfast. Dr. Akers' meeting was well orchestrated, professional, stiff, prepackaged, and recorded by at least one television video

crew. Gates' supporters were much more earthy, rougher around the edges in their manner of presentation and, to an extent, more open minded - certainly more unruly. Equally intelligent, less glossy.

You could almost say that the first was quintessentially Republican, the second, old-fashioned Democratic.

The conference got off to a very late start because for most of the first hour, organizers were holding on to hope that a television crew would show up (none ever did). The keynote speech scheduled for 10 am was not given until 11. The last 15 minutes of the delay were filled in with an open forum in which various members of the audience either were called upon or stood up to speak.

Pastor Willie Davis of Second Baptist Church was one of the impromptu speakers. "Too often when we don't like something, we scrap the whole thing and start over," he said, adding, "we could do more if

we can come together and work with what we have. Personality conflicts have destroyed much of our efforts."

Having previously mentioned the fact that some New York New York employees are paid so little as to qualify them for welfare payments in spite of steady

employment, Davis, president of the Minister's Alliance Association of Nevada, encouraged the crowd to rise up: "We should get back out in the streets like in the 50's and 60's," he said. "It worked then and it will work now." The pastor suggested that if five hundred residents were to

march on the Strip, they would get national press coverage and tourists would stay away out of fear, to the tune of 50% vacancy at Strip hotels.

"We need a strategy," Davis proposed, though he followed by warning of a potential problem with strategy sessions: spies (presumably) "go and tell

the white folks what we're planning to do. I think they should all be executed," the reverend concluded before proceeding, ironically, to complain about the lack of press coverage for the event, commenting that the media doesn't want to give Black

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Marion Barry stepping down

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Controversial politician Marion Barry has announced that he will not seek another term as mayor of the District of Columbia (Washington, D. C.).

Barry's roller-coaster public and private life has been the subject of wide press coverage. His 1990 arrest for possession of cocaine, and subsequent six-month prison sentence, have made him a notorious figure.

But it is his alleged mishandling of resources and services in the nation's capital that ultimately will prevent him from seeking further office there.

Barry's political career began in 1971 with a stint on the D. C. school board, followed by moves to the city council and, finally, the mayor's office. It was during his third term as mayor that



MARION BARRY

Barry was caught on videotape at a hotel room during an FBI sting operation and sent to jail.

His apparently unassailable charisma with voters propelled him back into the city council and on to a return performance as the capital's top official.

However, fiscal and structural problems within the city grew so great that finally Congress had to step in with remedial efforts. In order to effect the necessary changes, Congress moved to take over many of the city government's powers, transferring them to a financial control board.

Perhaps Barry has seen the writing on the wall. Speculation has it that when his term expires, he's headed for a job with the National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, a group that represents Black colleges and universities.