

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Tyson regains right to fight

Commission votes 4-1 to relicense former champ

By Tim Dahlberg

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson won the biggest split decision of his life.

Now, with the help of a certain former basketball player, he could be back in the ring before the year ends.

"I'm just happy I won," Tyson said after the Nevada Athletic Commission voted 4-1 Monday to return the license it revoked when he bit Evander Holyfield's ears 15 months ago.

With Magic Johnson and Muhammad Ali backing him up, Tyson seemed near tears upon learning he would be allowed to return from his boxing exile.

He promised to put his life in order as he prepares to return to the sport he loves and the heavyweight division he once terrorized.

When he does, Johnson says he will replace the spiky-



MUHAMMAD ALI

haired Don King as Tyson's new promoter and help guide the career and troubled personal life of the 32-year-old former heavyweight champion.

"I'll be the closest guy to him, making all the decisions," Johnson said.

The first decision will be when Tyson fights again. He could box at a Las Vegas casino as early as Dec. 5, although Johnson said it will

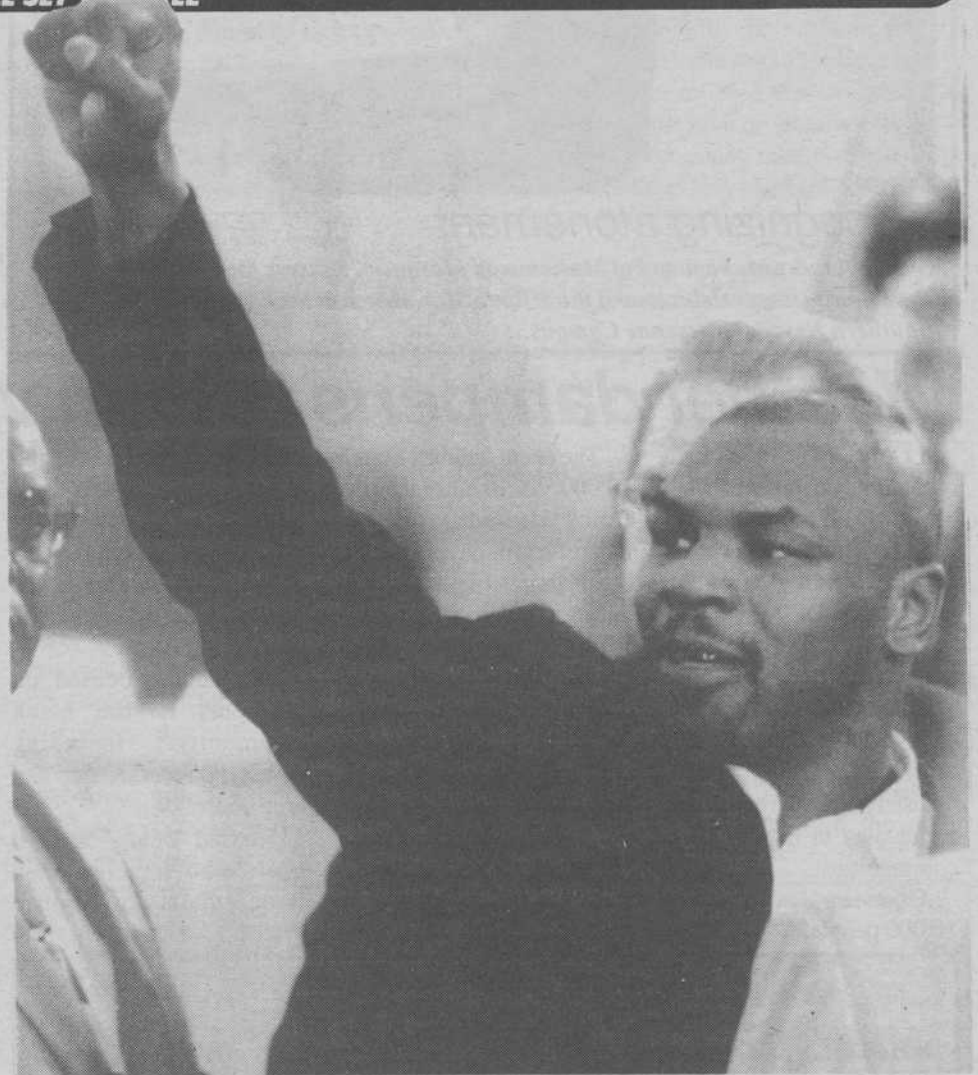
not be against a top opponent.

"We're going to be bringing Mike along very slowly," Johnson said. "Don't be looking for him to be fighting these champions."

It was a contrite and thoroughly humbled Tyson who appeared before the commission Monday in a repeat of a hearing a month ago that went on for six hours before commissioners ordered psychological tests for Tyson before making a decision.

This time, though, it was a far different atmosphere as Tyson sat with his wife, Monica, and lawyer, Jim Jimmerson before the five-member panel.

Gone were other attorneys who presented the case in the first meeting and adviser Shelly Finkel, who irritated the commission by trying to get licensed in New Jersey in



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Olson/Front Row Photos

A jubilant Mike Tyson pumps his fist after the Nevada Athletic Commission relicensed him.

August.

Tyson and his wife both spoke to the commission instead of the lawyers.

Johnson then gave a plea and Ali's wife, Lonnie, read a statement from her husband, who sat trembling next to her.

"I have made many mistakes in my lifetime that cost me dearly," Ali said in (See Tyson, Page 6)

Wolf Trap making kids leaders of pack

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Eighty Kermit Booker Elementary pupils ages 3 to 4 at Kermit Booker Elementary are presently involved in a multi-faceted program geared toward ensuring their academic success.

"We give them lessons that help them to learn," pre-kindergarten teacher Lendia Euwing said. "Much of what they will learn will help them do well in school."

The educational project uses singing, dancing, and storytelling as a means of teaching children before they enter primary schooling.

"We are trying to encourage children to understand and take in the communication skills we give them," said Cynthia

Word, an artist from the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts. An accomplished choreographer and dance educator, she works for George Washington University in Washington D.C. "We want them to use their imagination to create and to learn."

Project stART smART incorporates a curriculum based on improving language, numbers, color identification and motor skills and promoting social and emotional growth.

TRW Inc., a company specializing in products and services for the automotive, space and defense industries is sponsoring the 1998 stART smART in Vegas. The company also supports stART smART operations in more than 30 U.S. cities and in foreign countries abroad



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Lendia Euwing works with Wolf Trap participants.

where it has subsidiaries.

"TRW Inc. believes in the concept of partnering with educators for the betterment of students," TRW spokeswoman Linda Javier said. "I've actually witnessed the program working and the children having fun."

"Through active participation in arts-based curriculum activities," said Miriam Flaherty, director of the Wolf Trap Institute, "children are experiencing the joy of learning while improving confidence and problem-solving skills."

Mfume: Proposition more hurtful than some think

By Laurence M Cruz

SEATTLE (AP) — If approved in the upcoming general elections, Initiative 200 will have a more devastating impact than voters think, a top official for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Saturday.

"What the proponents won't say about this is that it will spawn a plethora of lawsuits, that it will further delay the fight of women to have equal pay for equal work, that it will narrow opportunity," said Kweisi Mfume, NAACP president and chief executive officer.

The initiative would ban preferences for women and minorities in state government hiring, contracting and public college admissions.

Most of those lawsuits

would come from advocacy organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP, said Mfume, who spoke in Seattle for the group's quarterly board meeting.

The Baltimore-based NAACP moved its meeting to Seattle specifically to focus more attention on the I-200 issue and has contributed more than \$50,000 to defeat the ballot initiative, said Chairman Julian Bond, who was also at the board meeting.

Half of that sum was spent on television ads, another \$10,000 on radio and newspaper ads, and several thousands have been spent on mobilizing voters, Bond said.

The effort seems to be bringing results. A new tracking poll taken last week (See I-200, Page 15)