

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice



VOLUME 19, ISSUE 31

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

December 3, 1998

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Group to demand full pardon for Hayes

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

A local civil rights group next week will demand that state officials wipe the slate clean for man released from prison 14 years after indecision and sloppy judicial work put him there.

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression will seek a "complete and unconditional pardon" for Reginald Hayes Monday, December 7th during a community forum at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 West Lake Mead Blvd.

"Reggie should've never been convicted," said Dr. James Tate, executive director and local chairman of the Alliance. "He should've never even been indicted.

We want a full expunging of his records. That the governor can do."

Hayes was 14 on Aug. 10, 1985 when he accepted a ride home from Donald Lee and Eddie Hampton, both 16, and Phillip Minor, 18. Instead of taking Hayes home, Lee and Minor kidnapped 21-year-old Nellis airman John Brown at gunpoint, beat him, robbed him of \$9 and shot him in a vacant alley.

At the trial, the four young men in the car that day were also accused of shooting out of the car window and trying to kill four other people.

Though no one alleged Hayes was involved in the Brown shooting, prosecutors argued that he was guilty under Nevada's felony murder rule because the kidnapping led to the slaying.

His attorneys argued he was merely present and in no way participated during the crimes and was not even in the car during the attempted murders that occurred earlier that day.

Looking back, Tate called the law used to charge Hayes "excessively broad" and charged the court system of "blatant racism" by admittedly excluding blacks from the jury.

Some argue that Hayes' situation was similar to that of Christopher Brady, an off-duty Metropolitan Police Department officer who drove the truck the night convicted murderer Ron Mortensen shot and killed 21-year-old Daniel Mendoza.

District Attorney Stewart Bell refused to charge Brady with any

crime, saying that his testimony was crucial in getting the conviction.

Minor told police all he knew and took police to the spot where the Nellis airmen was killed.

He eventually pleaded guilty to the murder and got two life sentences without the possibility of parole. Hayes, Lee and Hampton were convicted and got two consecutive sentences of life without the possibility of parole plus 160 years.

After years of appeals, the district attorney's office in October allowed Hayes to plead to kidnapping and to drop all other charges.

He entered the type of guilty plea that required him to admit only that prosecutors could prove their case against him.

District Judge Kathy Hardcastle

disregarded the plea agreement and sentenced him to time already served on November 19.

Under the terms of the deal, Judge Hardcastle was supposed to sentence him to life with the possibility of parole, for which he would be eligible immediately.

But she said she was not bound by the plea agreement to do anything and then sentenced Hayes to time already served: 13 years, three months, 11 days.

"This city took 14 years of a child's life, which he can never get back," Tate said. "They need to apologize and make amends."

Tate said that Bell has been invited to explain his objections.

Those interested are asked to call 382-5344.



LV Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

In memory of 23 people who died from AIDS in Clark County, silhouettes lined the hallway of the Clark County Government Building during World AIDS Day.

Prevention main focus of World AIDS Day events

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Reggie Baker not only fights the effects of HIV, but the stigma of being infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

"People still think it's a gay disease," Baker said. "They think if you have HIV, you did something wrong."

Baker said he is not gay, but "I slept around, like Russian roulette."

When he told friends he had tested positive for HIV, they dropped him.

"I thought they were friends," he said.

Baker, 34, of Iowa City has since told few others and has not told his parents or his employers. In the meantime, Baker copes. He takes it one day at a time. Some days are good, some not.

"This disease can turn around and zap you," he said.

Baker is one of 10 people with the disease participating in studies at the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Those working with HIV patients used World AIDS Day Tuesday to push for prevention and reduction of the spread of HIV, particularly among young people.

"Youth don't perceive themselves at risk," said Julie Katseres, HIV-AIDS clinical trials coordinator at the Department of Internal Medicine at Iowa's College of Medicine. And neither do heterosexuals, health care workers say.

At Iowa's HIV-AIDS clinic, 19 percent of patients are women, up from 11 percent in 1992, said Dr. Jack Stapleton, the clinic's director. And people infected through unprotected heterosexual intercourse is at

(See AIDS, Page 2)

Parents, educators discuss academic achievement

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

One mother stood up—frustration evident—you could see the grooves settling in her forehead and her breath was short.

"My daughter has been in special education from sixth to twelfth grade. She's done very well in school, but she hasn't passed the proficiency test.

"Now, she has all her credits but she can't graduate without passing that test. In special ed, the curriculum doesn't teach anything to

prepare her for the exam. How can I make sure my child walks in June?"

That's just one of many issues addressed Tuesday at the Clark County School District Community Education Forum. The forum, started by Shirley Barber, CCSD Board Trustee, District C, brought together Westside parents, students, elected officials and concerned community members to talk about problems with the Nevada educational system and create solutions.

CCSD Public Information Director Ray Willis moderated Tuesday's meeting, which featured an update on education laws by Larry Spitzer, CCSD lobbyist, Barber's speech on the importance of parental involvement and assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani's report about truant students.

Bill Hanlon, teacher and representative from the State Board of Education, covered proficiency testing, while assemblyman Wendell Williams asked that old

(See Forum, Page 2)



LV Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

Clark County School Board Trustee Shirley Barber responds to questions by elementary school teacher Keith Harrison during an open forum addressing concerns and issues in the school district.