

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Music workshop sings

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

Youth between the ages of 13- and 25-years-old invoked the presence of God Sunday at the Ninth Annual City-Wide Youth Music Workshop.

Victory Baptist Church, 500 E. Monroe, sponsors the yearly event.

About 200 youngsters attended workshops and grueling rehearsals just one week before the concert.

The program featured presentations by a praise and worship team, a youth mass

choir, praise dancers, steppers, a rap and signers.

Seventeen-year-old Tiána Jones took a week off from school and came from Colorado to participate in the event.

"I've learned how to step," she said, "This has really brought us together and I feel I've been blessed the whole week."

Vocals instructor Ken Young has been involved with City-Wide since its inception.

"I love doing this," he said, "This is one of the best things

going for young people. It gives young folks from different churches and different areas of the city the opportunity to meet each other. We're breaking down a lot of barriers."

Kynicki Pollard, also 17, was proud to be involved. "I want to be an example for younger kids," she reflected, "They imitate us so easily that we need to do more positive things."

As joyous as Workshop Coordinator Jocelyn Oats is to run the program, she (See City-Wide, Page 9)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Dustin Bass belts out a soul-stirring song during the City-Wide Music Workshop.

## Holyfield-Lewis rematch ordered to quell controversy

NEW YORK (AP) — It takes a lot to get the heads of boxing's three warring factions to agree on anything. Watching Evander Holyfield get a draw after taking a beating at the hands of Lennox Lewis apparently was enough.

Just hours after a trio of judges concluded early Sunday morning that the first heavyweight title unification fight in seven years was a draw, the people who control the title belts ordered a second fight within six months.

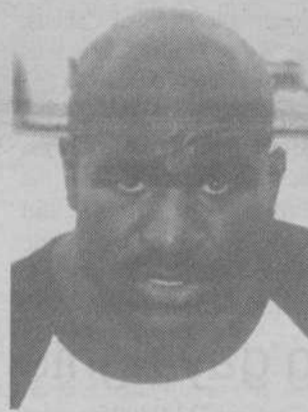
If anyone is interested in paying to see it again — and assuming the two fighters are as willing as they say — Holyfield and Lewis will meet once more for the IBF

and WBA titles held by Holyfield and the WBC crown owned by Lewis.

"In six months if he wants to get it on we'll get it on," Holyfield said. "Six months ain't no problem with me."

Nor with Lewis, although a lot of agreements would have to take place and deals be made if the fight is actually to occur.

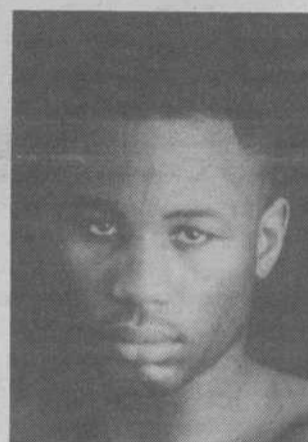
Chief among them would be the purses — Lewis is unlikely to accept half of what Holyfield gets this time around — and a place. There's also the matter of competing networks — Holyfield fights for Showtime and Lewis for HBO — and promotional disputes.



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

"There should be an automatic rematch," said Lewis, who earned \$10 million to Holyfield's \$20 million.

Bob Lee of the International Boxing Federation, Jose Sulaiman of



LENNOX LEWIS

the World Boxing Council and Gilberto Mendoza of the World Boxing Association met privately after the fight and issued the rematch declaration.

"It's a shame there was so much controversy attached to

this important fight," Lee said. "But we did what we thought was the most sensible thing by ordering a rematch in six months."

It came after a fight that saw Lewis see much the same thing 21,284 fans saw — an aging champion losing a lopsided fight.

What two of three judges saw was something quite different. And because of that, the outcome of the first fight for the undisputed heavyweight title in seven years was thrown into dispute.

"He looked like an old man in there," Lewis said. "He looked slow to me and he missed a lot of punches."

Not in the eyes of ringside

judge Jean Williams. "I don't care who the winner was," Williams said. "I scored by the blows that connected."

Williams thought Holyfield connected with enough punches to win the fight seven rounds to five, allowing him to escape with a draw in a fight Lewis appeared to dominate from the opening bell.

She gave Holyfield the edge even though the WBA and IBF champion was credited in ringside stats with landing fewer than 10 punches in each of six different rounds.

"I don't have the privilege of a boxing stat," Williams said.

(See Rematch, Page 20)

## Lyons resigns as Baptist president, sentence could be lengthy

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Rev. Henry Lyons, president of one of the nation's largest and most influential black denominations, sobbed and apologized as he resigned Tuesday, two weeks after being convicted of swindling more than \$4 million.

"I'm just so sorry about all of this," he said quietly at a news conference outside his Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, where he told the board of the National Baptist Convention USA of his decision.

"I'm truly repentant about



REV. HENRY LYONS

it. I hate that I hurt so many people," he said, his voice breaking.

He was surrounded by

other ministers, who told him: "You're not alone."

"I appreciate it," he said as he began sobbing.

The Rev. E.V. Hill, who will run for president when the convention's next elections are held in September, patted Lyons on the back and told him: "We are with you. We forgave any errors you have made. We love you."

Lyons' wife, Deborah, then kissed him on the cheek and defense attorney Denis de Vlaming helped lead him back into the church where he has been pastor for the

past 27 years.

Lyons, 57, is awaiting sentencing March 31. He faces three to seven years in prison under state sentencing guidelines. He is also expected to plead guilty to similar federal charges.

The Rev. S.C. Cureton of Greenville, S.C., the convention's vice president at-large, will take over immediately as president until the September election.

The board voted to support Hill as their candidate.

Defense lawyer Grady Irvin, a member of Lyons' church and a friend of the

minister, said the decision to resign was difficult for Lyons, who was elected to a five-year term as president of the Baptist group in 1994.

"It's like losing something you really loved, like a marriage not working out. You dread it, and one day you finally say, 'It's time to go on,'" Irvin said.

Other ministers said the group is restructuring to prevent future church leaders from abusing the near-autonomy now vested in its president.

"I think it will bring about a sense of healing to the

convention and we'll be able to go on," said the Rev. Herman Powell, pastor of Early Grove Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Lyons was convicted Feb. 27 of racketeering for swindling corporations seeking to do business with convention members.

The defense had described the transactions as failed business deals, not crimes.

Prosecutors say Lyons duped businesses by claiming the convention had 8.5 million members when the real number was closer to 1 (See Lyons, Page 15)