

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

May 13, 1999

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Carl Lewis addresses a group of youngsters at the Mayor's Sports Challenge on Thursday.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Lewis, Nike promote track

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

On your mark. Get set. Go. With that command, participants at the first Mayors' Sports Challenge Day were off and running.

Held at the UNLV McDermott center last week, the sports-themed event featured Olympian Carl Lewis and Mayor Jan Jones touting the merits of athletics.

On hand were six middle schools; Martin, Brinley, Fremont, Bridger, Smith and Knudson. NikeTown sponsored the track and field event which will tour 11 cities, seven schools in each

city will be chosen by the mayor's office to participate.

Once selected, the school's entire seventh grade class begins an athletic program to become physically fit.

"I am so proud that Las Vegas was selected as one of the pilot cities for this innovative program for our children," Jones said. "When a corporation like Nike asks us to join the ranks of other metropolitan cities like New York, Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles, it shows that Las Vegas has grown up."

"A lot of children are overweight and athletic

programs for middle schools are being cut," said Claudine Leith, a Niketown spokeswoman.

"We (NikeTown) want to give them the opportunity to run and have the experience of track & field."

Lewis, a nine-time Olympic gold medalist and winner of seven world championship titles encouraged the young athletes to stay positive and stay in school.

"It's fun that we get to meet with other schools," 3-year-old Brinley pupil Tony Jones said. "(We get to) See

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Tuskegee Airman paintings wow visitors

Brenda Kirkpatrick
Sentinel-Voice

An avid crowd ogled at Randy Proby's depiction of the heroism and challenges of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Proby opened last week's art exhibit reception West Las Vegas Arts Center Community Gallery with a historic overview of the careers of the black fighter squadron of the U. S. Air Force.

Most of Proby's large paintings were done in oil with only three water colors.

The exhibit will be open to the public until June 6.

For years, Proby has been fascinated with the trials and tribulations of the men and women who more than 50 years ago blazed a career trail for others who wanted to serve their country.

During the Second World War, nearly 1,000 black military aviators were trained at an isolated air base near



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Artist Randy Proby talks about his exhibit in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen at a reception at the West Las Vegas Arts Center Community Gallery Monday.

Tuskegee, Ala. These soldiers were "used" as an experiment to determine if blacks could "cut it" in aerial combat.

Glossed over in history are the support groups that backed the aviators. These support staff members numbered at least 100 personnel for each pilot. Thanks to them and the pilots themselves the Tuskegee

Airmen not only did quite well as fighters, but distinguished themselves in battles in North Africa, Sicily and Anzio.

Tuskegee airman Jay Bernard Knight was on hand for the reception. Hemixed history-telling with humor.

Said retired Maj. Ted Carey s, "Those days the Tuskegee Airmen broke the

ice. And we that followed had to swim in ice cubes."

He was born in Natchez, Miss. and moved West at an early age. He began his career by airbrushing clothing for friends and family.

He attended both UNLV and CCSN, majoring in fine art before attending The Art Institute in Seattle. He is currently artist in residence at the Left of Center Art Gallery here in Las Vegas.

Each of his paintings are accompanied by a statement which explains the historic significance of his work and what it means.

This is an American exhibit that no one should let his child or friend miss. We must collectively welcome contributions by young black men like this talented artist. His and others' efforts help us to remember how our forefathers had to suffer-least we forget. Las Vegas can point with pride at Proby.



SINGIN' THE BLUES

Decked out in purple, classic soul royalty Bobby Womack, croons to the crowd at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Hundreds protest court ruling in Riverside cop shooting

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of protesters gathered at City Hall today to denounce a decision not to prosecute four police officers who shot to death a 19-year-old black woman who was sitting in a car with a gun in her lap.

The decision by the Riverside County district attorney last week has angered supporters of the

woman, Tyisha Miller, a victim they say of police racism and brutality. Monday's protesters included members of her family and religious leaders such as the Rev. Al Sharpton, the New York civil rights activist.

Protesters denounced police and called for civil disobedience, but organizers urged everyone to keep calm and avoid clashes with police.

"We're not here to riot or to disrupt. We're here to demonstrate and to protest," the Rev. Ron Gibson told the crowd.

By morning, about 600 people had gathered at City Hall and in a park across the street, some of them holding signs.

"I don't need the white man to give me my rights. I have my rights," shouted

Nathan Smith, a protester from Los Angeles. "No justice, no peace" was scrawled in red on a green combat helmet he was wearing.

About six police officers stood at the entrance of City Hall.

Miller was killed on the early morning of Dec. 28, 1998. The officers had responded to a 911 call from

the woman's cousin, who reported Miller was unconscious with a handgun on her lap in her car at a gas station. The officers broke into the car to take the weapon away from her.

Police said they fired 23 shots at her only after she sat up and reached for the gun, but family members and activists claim her killing was racially motivated. Miller was

black and the four officers are white.

The Police Department has been on special alert since District Attorney Grover Trask announced Thursday that the officers would not be prosecuted. Trask said a four-month investigation showed that while the officers may have made mistakes, their actions did not warrant charges.