

# Folks chide F.A.C.T.

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

Judging by the reaction during Monday's nearly three-hour meeting of F.A.C.T., the group behind billboards boasting that the Westside had one of the nation's highest HIV infection rates, participants seemed ready to do something about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but not necessarily thrilled about how F.A.C.T. chose to highlight the problem.

The meeting at the West Las Vegas Library was called in the wake of a controversy many residents felt further hurt West Las Vegas's image. It also opened the lines of communication between the six members of Fighting AIDS in Our Community Today, who served as panelists during the meeting, and the



Marzette Lewis makes a point during Monday's forum organized by F.A.C.T. F.A.C.T. member Lionel Fleming spoke of the group's noble intentions in highlighting the HIV/AIDS problem.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

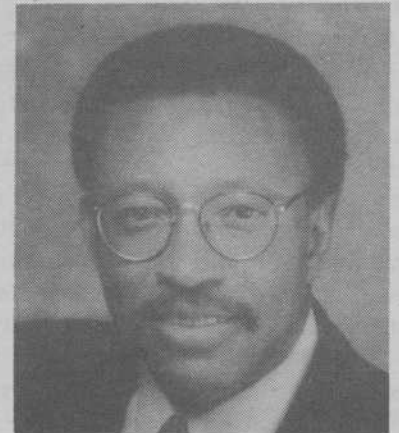


estimated crowd of 40.

F.A.C.T. is comprised of Lionel Fleming, Pat Broadbent, Reva Anderson, Ulysses Palrose and Jocelyn Nixon and executive director Vaughn Taylor, a prevention specialist for Aid for AIDS of Nevada.

"I have a problem with the way you addressed West Las Vegas with the sign," said local business owner Joanna Wesley. "We already have high insurance rates because of the impressions people have of the Westside. This creates the chance of me losing more business. You're messing with our livelihood. You're messing with our businesses."

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RAY WILLIS

# Willis to take school position in Yonkers, NY

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Clark County School District Public Information Director Ray Willis is leaving to accept a position in Yonkers, New York as assistant superintendent of communications for Yonkers public schools.

The Yonkers school district is reportedly the state's fourth largest system with 25,000 students and 38 schools.

"I have mixed feelings," said Willis, who has worked with the Clark County School District for 21 years, beginning in 1978 as an information services coordinator. "I'm going to miss the atmosphere of collegiency and friendship."

Willis began his communications career in Vegas as a reporter for KORK-TV Channel 3, now KVBC-TV.

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# Illinois mother can't escape poverty

Douglas Holt

Special to Sentinel-Voice

For years, Deneen Clark drifted on and off welfare, sometimes relying entirely on a government check to raise her three children. Now she has a job, landed with the help of programs designed to shrink

welfare rolls.

As a gainfully employed mother of three, Clark, 33, qualifies as a success story in the eyes of welfare officials—as one of the 40,000 Illinois welfare recipients who work and whose jobs count toward satisfying requirements of a 1996

federal welfare overhaul.

But Clark's story is not that simple. Her minimum-wage, \$5.15-per-hour cooking job at Harold's Chicken Shack No. 7, where 350-degree deep fryers overwhelm the air-conditioning system, means she and her teenaged children still live

on an annual salary that, while still somewhat more than she received while on welfare, is about \$4,000 less than the government-designated poverty line of \$14,000.

Her home has holes in the linoleum flooring, a roach problem

(See Welfare, Page 13)

# Black, Hispanic leaders announce new alliance

CHICAGO (AP)—Black and Hispanic leaders announced Tuesday that they have formed a coalition to promote solidarity between their communities on issues such as voting and education.

"We hope ... to create an alliance to work together on some of the issues that are significant to our communities," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

The signing of the agreement by the black and Hispanic leaders kicked off the Rainbow-PUSH annual convention.

At a news conference to

announce the signing, Jackson was joined by Raul Alarcon Jr., president of the Spanish Broadcasting System.

Jackson and Alarcon said the pact was meant to unite and mobilize the Hispanic and black communities on such issues as voting, redistricting, the census, health care, education and immigration.

Others who signed the pact included leaders of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the National Hispanic Leadership Council and the Chicago Urban League.

# SWEET VOICE

Singing hits "Sweet Lady" and "Lately," among other songs, R&B crooner Tyrese moves the crowd Saturday during his performance at the House of Blues inside the Mandalay Bay.

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

