

# Glut of minority arrests provokes questions

RENO (AP) - Nearly half of the arrests made during the recent Hot August Nights classic car event involved minorities, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported.

The analysis, published Sunday, adds fuel to a debate over how police handle security problems that have become a hallmark of the annual event.

Of the 245 arrests made during the Aug. 4-7 event, 49 percent were Hispanic, black, Asian or American Indian, the analysis of arrest records shows. Up to 200,000 visitors attended the car show.

About 12.6 percent of Reno residents were minorities, according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Local civil rights leaders said the analysis shows that a disproportionate number of minorities were arrested.

Reno police defended their performance, saying the high proportion of minorities thrown in jail stemmed from the high percentage of minorities attending the car show.

Civil rights leaders met with Reno police last week to discuss the arrests. They also requested that

*"This is not an anti-cop issue, it is a civil rights issue."*

— Lonnie Feemster, president of the local NAACP.

officers be given more racial sensitivity training. At the time, neither side knew the number of minority arrests.

"Were they (police) doing it because they felt if they get the blacks and Hispanics out it would make it safer? Were they being targeted?" asked Jesse Gutierrez, executive director of Nevada Hispanic Services.

"This is not an anti-cop issue, it is a civil rights issue," said Lonnie Feemster, president of the local NAACP.

Eight people, two of them minorities, have filed internal affairs

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# Bennett apologizes to Blacks for remark

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Sen. Bob Bennett said he didn't mean to offend anyone when he predicted that George W. Bush will be the GOP presidential nominee unless "some black woman comes forward with an illegitimate child that he fathered."

"When I make a mistake, it's a beaut," Bennett, R-Utah, said Monday after a private meeting with civil rights leaders. "There's no question this was a mistake. I had no intention of offending anyone."

Bennett had said he regretted making the "clumsy" remark to the editorial board of the *Standard-Examiner* newspaper in Ogden on Aug. 13. Bennett said he was thinking of the movie "Primary Colors" and its portrayal of a fictional Southern governor's womanizing.

"Unless George W. steps in front of a bus or some woman comes forward with an illegitimate child that he fathered within the last 18 months, or some other scenario that you could be equally creative in thinking of, George W. Bush will be the nominee," Bennett told the newspaper.

"It was simply a clinical description of the state of politics in America, but it was not received that way, and I should have been smart enough to realize it probably would not be received that way," Bennett said Monday.

"We told him that was a very poor excuse," Jeanetta



JEANETTA WILLIAMS

Williams, president of the NAACP's Salt Lake City branch, said after meeting with Bennett.

"Only Sen. Bennett can give you a clear explanation about what was in his mind," said Edward L. Lewis Jr., president of the NAACP's Utah, Idaho and Nevada branch.

Leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also are upset with comments made by Utah's other Republican senator, Orrin Hatch.

"People of color can't do anything about their color," Hatch said recently. "But I do believe gay people have a choice to live within the legal rules or not. It's personal to them, they do have a choice, where an African-American has no choice with regard to the color of their skin."

Williams and Lewis criticized Hatch for contrasting gays and blacks in terms of civil rights.

"We do not equate being gay or being lesbian with 300 years of slavery and being black in America. It is not the same thing," Lewis said. "However, we do feel that everyone should have their civil rights."

Hatch was hosting a golf tournament and was not immediately available for comment Monday. His spokeswoman, Heather Barney, said Hatch has "done an awful lot for the minority communities and he takes his responsibilities very seriously in representing everyone in Utah."

# Florida could redraw eight congressional districts

MIAMI (AP) — Democrats and civil rights groups have attacked the state's decision to settle a lawsuit challenging Florida congressional districts, denouncing a plan to alter several districts as a "backroom deal."

The deal, approved by lawyers for Gov. Jeb Bush, still must be approved by a panel of three federal judges.

The plan would change the boundaries of seats now held by two black Democrats — Alcee Hastings and Carrie Meek — and a Hispanic Republican, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, along with five neighboring districts.

The plan was devised to settle a lawsuit filed last year by a white candidate, Tom Fouts, who lost a bid for a state Senate seat held by a black incumbent. Under the

terms of the settlement, Fouts dropped any challenge over state districts.

Meek, a lawyer for Hastings and state NAACP President Leon Russell said they will contest the plan at a court hearing Monday.

"For over a hundred years, black voters were denied voting rights and meaningful representation in Florida," Meek said. "This deal is a step backward, and I am concerned that African-Americans have a fair opportunity to compete for a seat in Congress in the future."

She called the proposal "a secret backroom deal that threatens to undermine the congressional representation of hundreds of thousands of African-American Floridians."

Hastings' existing district

ties together black neighborhoods in seven counties in southern Florida, yielding a black voting constituency of 44 percent. The proposed settlement would reduce that number to nearly 37 percent; in Meek's redrawn district, the black voting-age population would decrease from 51.3 percent to 45.5 percent.

Hastings' district was one

of three designed to give black voters a better opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice when it was drawn by a panel of federal judges in 1992. That year, Florida elected its first blacks to Congress since Reconstruction: Corrine Brown, Meek and Hastings.

But the U.S. Supreme Court has since ruled that race cannot be the predominant

factor in drawing political boundaries. That has forced changes in congressional and legislative districts across the country.

Florida Republicans emphasized that Democrats would keep safe seats. State Senate Majority Leader Jack Latvala of Palm Harbor, who was involved in the negotiations, said the goal was to draw compact districts

for Hastings and Meek that would meet new requirements set by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"There is nothing in this settlement that is going to change the makeup of these districts politically," Latvala said.

But Democrats contend Republicans manipulated the new boundary lines to their advantage.

# Williams

(Continued from Page 1) disease is not having control," his wife, Grace, said. "He's had control of everything in his life, from being a naval officer to his talk show." She allowed herself a joke, adding, "But not his family."

"She's got control there," agreed Williams, kissing his wife.

About 300,000 Americans have MS. They have such symptoms as unusual tiredness, loss of balance and muscle coordination, slurred speech, tremors and difficulty walking. In severe cases, they are partly or completely paralyzed.

Williams announced the creation of a multiple sclerosis research fund.

He said he hoped his coming forward "will maybe increase people's donations so that in the next five years we can cure this."

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