

LAS VEGAS

## Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

# Conference to raise awareness of hate crimes

John T Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The National Conference for Community and Justice, in conjunction with United Way of Southern Nevada, will sponsor a 'Stop Hate Crimes Conference' Thursday, June 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway.

Representatives from law enforcement, economic development, government, education and religion will be present. The media is invited to participate.

"(We want to) Educate the public about the pervasiveness of hate crimes and how to report them," NCCJ executive director Susan Boswell said. "(Hate crimes) may be hate incidents and may not go recorded (reported to police)."

In addition to raising awareness of hate crimes and encouraging people to report them, the NCCJ wants to create agencies to dismantle support groups aiding hate groups.

Guest speakers include Tracey St. Pierre of Human Rights Campaign, James Weinstein, professor

of Constitutional Law at Arizona State University, State Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa and Clark County Commissioner Dario Herrera.

Program Specialist Merlinda Gallegos said the event is needed "so that we may organize our community before we have a James Byrd (a black man chained to a truck and dragged to death in Texas by white supremacists) and a Matthew Sheppard (a gay University of Wyoming student hung on a fence and beaten to death by

homophobics) or a church or synagogue is blown up."

"We must be proactive rather than reactive," she said.

The all-day workshops will focus on race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and ability, which refers to the disabled, who are often targets of violence or harassment. Boswell said deaf citizens could get beaten up by gang members who mistake their hand signs.

"Racism and all the other isms are such a part of our society ... that individuals are moved to violence,"

she said.

Hate crimes are violent acts against people, property, or organizations.

The most recent FBI data on hate crimes, produced in 1996, reported that 30 percent of hate crimes are crimes against property — robbery, vandalism, theft, and destroying cars, homes, stores, or places of worship.

The remaining 70 percent involved assaults on people.

Those interested can call 387-6255.



RAY LEWIS

## Lewis testifies after charges dropped

ATLANTA (AP) — Ray Lewis placed a laser pointer in his fist and showed jurors Tuesday how his friend held a knife and described striking a man repeatedly during a street brawl that left two men dead after the Super Bowl.

The NFL star, testifying one day after murder charges against him were dropped, said he asked Joseph Sweeting what happened in the hours after the Jan. 31 fight.

Sweeting said, "Every time they hit me, I hit them," Lewis testified, showing how Sweeting brandished a knife in a closed fist and moved it back and forth in a punching motion.

Lewis said the fight, which happened outside an Atlanta club after a Super Bowl party, was over so quickly he couldn't tell if Sweeting or defendant Reginald Oakley — who still face murder charges — had stabbed the two men.

Lewis said the knife was not bloody and Sweeting had no blood on him when they returned to their hotel. Lewis testified that (See Lewis, Page 2)

## Citizen Review Board seeks applications

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Applications are now being accepted from volunteers interested in serving on the newly formed Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Citizen Review Board, Executive Director Andrea Beckman announced today.

Beckman said the applicants must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible to serve on the 25 member panel. Applicants must reside in unincorporated Clark County or the City of Las Vegas. They cannot be currently

employed as a peace officer or employed in any capacity by LVMPD.

"The importance of the panel's work cannot be stressed enough," Beckman said. "We are looking for a diverse group of individuals, with diverse backgrounds and experiences, to serve on the board."

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Citizen Review Board Office at 455-6322 or on the Internet at [co.clark.nv.us/humanr/hrjobs.htm](http://co.clark.nv.us/humanr/hrjobs.htm). Initial applications should be received by June 28.



## THREE'S COMPANY

A young trio, two donning toy firefighter helmets and one clutching a balloon, rest during Sunday's first downtown-area street fair at Fremont and 8th Streets. Sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department and the Fremont Villas Resident Council, the fair was geared toward celebrating downtown's burgeoning renaissance. Featured were gospel, R&B, rap, reggae, Latin, pop and Rock 'n Roll acts. There were also games, booths, vendors, food, a youth art mural project and a special performance by Stan Rankin' T. (See related photos page 9)

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

## Jackson: GM needs black customers

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson says General Motors Corp. would improve its business if it had more black customers and executives.

"Inclusion leads to growth," Jackson told investors Tuesday at GM's annual meeting for shareholders. "There are simply underserved markets in America."

Jackson, whose Rainbow/PUSH coalition owns shares of GM, said there were strong business arguments for GM to become more inclusive. He said that GM could add sales if it did a better job of selling in urban areas, noting that Washington, D.C. had about 600,000 residents but no GM dealerships.

Among GM's top 55 executives, there was only one black executive since the departure earlier this year of Roy Roberts, the head of North American vehicle sales, service and marketing, said Jackson.

He added that the automotive giant was overlooking a rich pool of talent. "We didn't know how good baseball could be until everybody could play."

GM chairman Jack Smith and chief executive G. Richard Wagoner Jr. said they welcomed Jackson's comments. Smith said GM had worked hard to increase the number of minority dealers to 325 out of about 7,400, and to make them more profitable.

"We have made a lot of progress over the last few years to improve economic development," Smith said. GM's efforts "are certainly a lot better than any of the foreign manufacturers."

Wagoner drew a rosy picture of GM's business over the past year. Profits totaled \$5.9 billion, and global car and truck sales were up 9 percent.

(See Jackson, Page 5)



JESSE JACKSON