

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

The Women's Democratic Club of Clark County is holding a luncheon meeting at Lawry's the Prime Rib on East Flamingo and Howard Hughes Parkway. Call 615-4522 for reservations.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee's 20th Annual King Parade is taking place on 4th St. Call 631-1913 for more information... Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1100 North "D" Street, is offering a School of Ushering to all aspiring ushers. This is a Non-Denominational School instructed by certified ushers. All church ushers in Las Vegas are invited to attend. Call 648-1784... Wellspring Ministries Church of All Nations, 1401 N. Decatur, Ste. 14 & 18, is hosting a Children's and Youth All-Day Conference. This day is set aside for young people, under the age of 18. Lunch will be provided. Advanced registration is appreciated. Call 631-5027 for additional information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee present a Gospelfest inside the Mandalay Bay Resort's House of Blues at 12:30 p.m. Admission for this event is \$10 per person. Join and enjoy a praise-filled anointing.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

The Interfaith Council for Worker Justice celebrates the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush Street, from 6-8 p.m. Feel free to bring photos, posters, books, tapes or any other piece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s history to share. Call 866-6008 for more info... The International Church of Las Vegas, 8100 Westcliff Drive, will host Helen Baylor in Concert at 7 p.m.; a night full of gospel. Admission for this event is \$10.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee presents the Young Dreamers Awards Program. This program honors youth scholars at Victory Baptist Church, 500 W. Monroe Ave., at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee hosts its 20th Annual Banquet at the Monte Carlo Hotel. No-host cocktails starts at 6 p.m. with dinner following at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Martin Luther King III. Call 648-7939 or 799-0670 for ticket information... The Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush Street, presents a choreographer audition. All styles, never performed publicly, will be considered. This Showcase is for Southern Nevada residents only, ages 16 and up. Call 229-6383 for showcase guidelines. Auditions will be held by appointment only on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21... The Cactus Rose Chapter of Romance Writers of America will hold its monthly meeting at Green Valley Library inside the Sunset Room from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Linda Howard, a best selling author, will be the guest speaker. Call 896-1118... The Square and Compass Club of Jodie Cannon, Sr. Lodge #3, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM, of Nevada will host The 60's and 70's Costume Ball of The Century, at Jasmine Gardens, 2550 Duneville Street, across from Burlington Coat Factory, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Enjoy a full course meal, dancing to the oldies, the costumes, door prizes and more. Admission for this event is \$20 per person. Call 399-1231 for ticket information.

ONGOING

Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush Street, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North, and the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 West Lake Mead Boulevard, are offering \$5 off pre-winter dance class registration through Jan. 13 and regular priced registration Jan. 15-20. Classes are for adults, teens and children in theater, dance, music, fine arts, crafts and more. Call 229-6383, 229-6211 or 229-4800 for a free class schedule... Off Broadway Theatres, is presenting "the Mind with the Dirty Man," by Jules Tasca, Jan. 4-21. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for Admission and \$14 for seniors, students and matinees. For reservations call 737-0611... Silver Star Studios presents the Actors Workshop, directed by Carl Butto, is accepting students for training in Theatre, Film and television. Adult classes are Monday from 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. children's classes are held Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m. Adult tuition is \$150 per month and children's tuition is \$100 per month. For more information call 933-7827; Silver Star Studios... The Senior Wheels USA Program is making available Power Wheelchairs to senior citizens ages 65 and older and the permanently disabled at no cost. Recipients meet all requirements of the program to receive a wheelchair at no cost. Call Leon Johnson, toll free at 1-800-246-6010, to address your concerns... The Salvation Army is asking for your donation of any used cars, boats, vans or trucks to support its "Partners for People" project. Please help many other needy families by sending your donations of automobiles to Salvation Army Family Services, 35 Owens Avenue, or contact Sue Markham at 657-0123 ext. 29 or Charles Desiderio and Midge Arthur at 870-4430. Any donation is thankfully accepted.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice accepts Community Billboard announcements for non-profit and church organizations. Send notices: 900 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 or fax to (702) 380-8102.

Teen virginity pledgers delay sex

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just saying no to sex works, at least for a while. A study found that teen-agers who publicly pledged to remain virgins until marriage delayed having sex about 18 months longer than other teens.

Among those who formally promised to avoid unmarried sex, about 50 percent remained virgins until about age 20, said Peter S. Bearman, a Columbia University sociologist and co-author of a study in the American Journal of Sociology.

Among nonpledgers, he said, 50 percent were no longer virgins by age 17.

"The average delay among pledgers is 18 months," Bearman said in an interview Wednesday. "That is significant. And that is a pure pledge effect."

Bearman and his co-au-

thor, Hannah Brueckner, a sociologist at Yale University, analyzed the effect of virginity pledges on the behavior of teen-agers enrolled in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a federally funded survey of children in the seventh through 12th grades.

Data from the study suggested that by 1995 a church-led, voluntary effort had prompted about 2.5 million teen-age boys and girls to make spoken or written pledges to refrain from sex until marriage.

In their study, Bearman and Brueckner analyzed data from interviews of 20,000 teen-age virgins in 1994 and 1995.

A follow-up survey in 1997 included 14,000 of those in the original study.

Bearman acknowledged

that some of the characteristics that would lead kids to make the abstinence pledge would have led them to avoid early sex anyway. But even when the researchers made statistical allowance for these factors, "there was an additional delay added by the pledge," he said.

"The more religious kids pledge, as do kids who are more oriented toward school," said Bearman. "Those are protective effects that would delay their entry into sex anyway. But the pledge effect is in addition to that."

The virginity pledges seemed to have the greatest effect on those who took the oath at age 16 to 17, while there was little effect found for those pledging at 18 or older.

The effect of pledging ear-

lier, at age 14 or 15, depended on the students' social environments, the study found.

Ironically, Bearman said the more popular taking the pledge becomes in a school, the less effective it becomes.

The maximum effect, he said, comes when about 30 percent of students in a school pledge.

As the total reaches 40 and 50 percent, the pledge effect is eroded.

In effect, he said, as soon as the virginity pledge becomes too common "and something that everybody does," the persuasive, social impact is lost.

For the whole study group, Bearman cited a "significant" difference between the percentage of pledgers and nonpledgers who remained virgin through their teen years.

Thomas

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ment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment;

- In *Adarand v. Peña*, Thomas voted to limit affirmative action set-aside programs designed to help people of color gain greater access to federal contracts;

- In *Shaw v. Hunt* and *Bush v. Vera*, Thomas cast the deciding vote in the 5-4 cases to declare unconstitutional five congressional districts in North Carolina and Texas that had been drawn to maximize Black and Hispanic voting power;

- In *Texas v. Hopwood*, Thomas voted to let stand a ruling involving the University of Texas that held that the law

Medals

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The recipients are:

- Aaron, who in 1974 broke Babe Ruth's home run record. His career record of 755 home runs remains unbroken. A front office executive for the Atlanta Braves, Aaron runs the Chasing the Dream Foundation, which helps poor children pursue careers in sports and the arts.

- Muhammad Ali, former heavyweight boxing cham-

pion. Convicted in 1967 of refusing induction into the Army during the Vietnam War, Ali retired from boxing in 1980 and has traveled the world as a goodwill ambassador.

- Ruby Bridges, who integrated a Louisiana elementary school at age 6. She runs a non-profit foundation that promotes education and racial reconciliation.

- Brown, the first black

American to serve as chairman of the Democratic National Committee and as commerce secretary. He died in a plane crash in April 1996 while on a trade mission to the Balkans.

- Constance Baker Motley, a civil rights attorney appointed to the U.S. District Court in New York in 1966, the first black woman federal judge.

- Sengstacke, publisher

and editor of the black-owned Chicago Defender and founder of the National Newspaper Publisher Association. Sengstacke died in May 1997.

- The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the civil rights leader who brought Martin Luther King Jr. into efforts to integrate public facilities in Alabama and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Powell

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gilded window-dressing in the Bush administration.

• Race. Republicans cheered his address at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. However, at the Republican Convention in San Diego in 1996 they greeted his speech with a mix of jeers and stone silence when he touted affirmative action, pro-choice, and social and education programs.

In his autobiography, *My American Journey*, Powell openly condemned his boss Bush Sr. for making escaped Black convict Willie Horton the poster boy in his 1988 presidential campaign for

crime to inflame white voters.

And in an interview after the O.J. Simpson trial he cited the racist remarks of rogue LAPD cop Mark Fuhrman in the trial, as proof that racism is still very much alive and well in America.

None of Powell's utterances sat well with Republican ultra-conservatives. Pat Buchanan, and dozens of rightist Republican groups issued saber rattling public statements that they would not support Powell as president in 1996 and even frowned on him being chosen as eventual presidential candidate Bob Dole's running mate.

Powell is not an Olympian perched political outsider but a consummate team player that cut his teeth in two Republican conservative administrations.

Like a good general he took orders, followed directions, and strayed not one inch from the Republican White

House political script. He will do the same as Secretary of State and he will be applauded for it. But as a wannabe President it would have been a far different story. Powell's mythmakers ignore this.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the President of the National Alliance for Positive Action.

Mikey's & Mr. Bigz

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