

Breakfast talk focus on solving violence

Sentinel-Voice

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression will host a breakfast on Saturday, May 19, at 9 a.m. at Seven Seas Restaurant, 808 W. Lake Mead Blvd., to discuss possible resolutions to problems plaguing the African-American community.

Elected officials and members of the community are invited to come and share their ideas while they break bread.

"Explore the issues...bring elected black officials and the



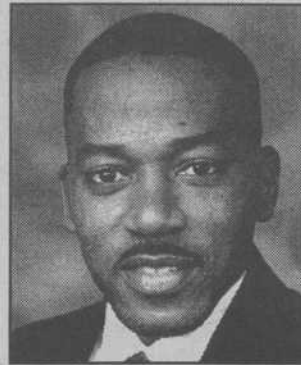
OSCAR GOODMAN

community together," urged Dr. James Tate, executive director of the NAARPR. He said the event will help determine "what the community

needs and (will) let the elected officials know."

Special invited guests are Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, City Councilman Lawrence Weekly, Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald and former Councilman Frank Hawkins, and North Las Vegas City Councilman John Rhodes.

"We're trying to make people aware of the rise in violence...there is an increase of violence throughout the city," said Tate, a trauma surgeon who says he sees people from all over shot up need-



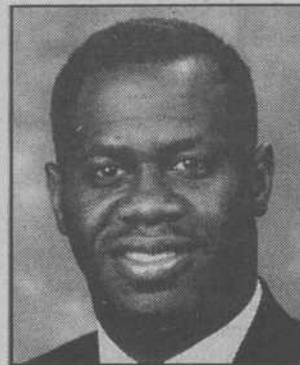
LAWRENCE WEEKLY

lessly. "This is not a gang issue," said Tate, who believes the cause of a recent rash of senseless violence stems from the

lack of jobs in the community. He feels there is no real gang affiliation, just homeboys and girls retaliating against anyone who attacks their own.

"We're not bringing elected officials to solve problems," he said. Instead, Tate explained, NAARPR is saying, "here are some of the solutions we think will work. You're supposed to give them the assignment and they do it, or we elect someone who will."

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.



JOHN RHODES

The NAARPR was founded in 1973 by Angela Davis.

It claims 75 local members and 3,500 nationally.

NAACP

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that the MGM had agreed to operate, to work with the local branch. That came from some very, very supportive information that we received," he said.

A spokesman for the MGM, however, said, "We have no knowledge of any job fair."

The next day, Collins explained the strategy agreed upon at the meeting. "Members," he said, "voted to file an injunction against national" and to march in protest "if there's nothing from national and no movement from the injunction." That meeting was held last Thursday. On Friday, Collins said: "I have not heard anyone call to object to what we did. In fact, I've had calls today in support."

The NAACP has not responded, either to what it calls the "unauthorized" meeting or to the strategy. Said Rivers: "Since we can't speculate on why the members came, we're not that upset." He did, however, clarify the association's position on the matter.

"There is no authorized activity of the NAACP, so any that is being taken is done by individuals," he said. "We need to be clear, there is no NAACP in Las Vegas. No one has the authority to act except myself and the administrator."

To start the long process of rebuilding the branch, the administrator will establish a reorganization committee to be comprised both of NAACP members and non-members.

The identity of the administrator, whose status will be non-paid and who has been selected, will be revealed within the next few days. "The person has accepted," Rivers confirmed, saying he expects the individual to arrive in Las Vegas within the next month.

The NAACP wants, first, to stabilize the situation here, then to dispatch the national representative. That individual "will assess where things are," said Rivers, "that's what the administrator will review. We first wanted to make sure nothing else happens."

The procedure being applied in Las Vegas is one of two the association uses to rectify dysfunctional branches, deciding whether to designate what it calls "Level One" or "Level Two" administrators to resolve the problems.

When level one administration is implemented, the affected branch retains control of its financial affairs, but when a level two administrator steps in, Rivers said, "we take over the finances." The magnitude of problems here resulted in level two administration, consequently, finances of the former Las Vegas Branch will be managed by national's designee.

Normally, the expense of reorganizing a troubled branch through an administrator is shared by the national office and the local chapter. Whether that will be the case here is uncertain because the NAACP does not yet know the status of Branch 1111's treasury.

The national office does have the chapter's 2000 financial report. "The branch reported that it had three accounts," said Rivers, adding, "but we don't know the status of those finances because we haven't done an audit."

While NAACP officials said little about last Thursday's meeting, the distribution at that time of two items- both of unknown origin- brought a strong reaction.

One was a fabricated news release, attributed to the NAACP and dated April 25, purporting to announce "a new Corporate (See NAACP, Page 8)

LV youth create civic organization

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

SGI-USA (Soka Gakkai International), an American Buddhist organization dedicated to promoting world peace through open dialogue, culture and education, is hosting a community youth celebration this weekend. "Victory Over Violence" is a forum that intends to counteract the actions that create violence in young people's lives.

"There is so much vio-

lence that exist around us," said Audrey Dempsey, of the SGI-USA Public Relations Committee. He explained that the organization wants to "make people more aware," saying, "if you're more aware, you'll take action and do something about it."

The forum is scheduled to be an all-day event starting at noon on Saturday at the Rainbow Library, 3150 N. Buffalo Drive. Guest speakers will be Cynthia Luria, local director of the Anti-Defama-

tion League and Lillian McMorris, Public Affairs Director of Fox 5.

Stage performances, dance, choral, music groups, exhibits and information booths will be on display to celebrate "Victory Over Violence."

"Although this event may not be the solution to this problem in and of itself, we believe it will inspire the youth in our community to awaken the energies needed for positive change," said SGI

Youth Leader David Sharp.

"We're hoping to bring the youth together...(so) they can be more tolerant of each other and accept one another," Dempsey said, (and) "learn to be more diverse in their thinking."

Soka Gakkai is Japanese for "value creating society." The organization was founded in Japan during the 1930s by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi. It was officially founded in the United States in the 1960s.

Ministers

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under-employment and the difficult-to-employ...we help them get their health cards, sheriff cards, anything to get them work."

Along with job placement and vocational and academic

education, the alliance is also touting its amnesty program with North Las Vegas and Las Vegas courts for bench warrants and misdemeanors.

"We do that for the general public," Jones said. "(We) try to get the gang

members to come out...arrange some kind of amnesty."

The community rally at Doolittle Park will be on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, under the banner: "God's People Restoring

Peace."

The march, which will begin at 9 a.m., will consist of two groups that will walk simultaneously through the community and converge at Doolittle Park for the community gathering.



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