



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Youth activist convene during a forum on violence.

Youth seek victory against violence

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

A "Celebration of Peace," hosted this past weekend by SGI-USA (Soka Gakkai International), gave youth a forum to discuss violence and its effects in their lives. Booths, music, food and entertainment were part of the weekend event that sought to put an end to violence in the community.

"So far so good," said SGI-USA Public Relations Coordinator Audrey Dempsey of the more than 300 people participating in the festival of non-violence.

The celebration was held from noon to 6 p.m., with the youth forum meeting for an hour and 15 minutes with a

break in the middle, then meeting with a panel of community leaders for an hour and 45 minutes.

"Domestic Violence," "Neighborhood Violence" and the "Role of Media" were the three topics of the forum. Assembling in 12 groups with six people per table, attendees conducted frank discussions on violence and possible resolutions that could help end it.

That drugs, rap music and parents play major roles in curbing teen violence was brought out in the frank and honest talks.

"Adults, discuss with your kids what to do in a situation," said 16-year-old Hank (See Victory, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Elder Matthew Goins sings a musical selection during the God's People Restoring Peace Community Rally in West Las Vegas. The clergy-backed rally touted religious and educational programs as means to stop gang violence.

Ministers Alliance rallies for change

Religious leaders preach, pray for community healing

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

One after another they took to the stage offering blessings and praises accompanied by church choir singing. A small assembly of 100 people gathered to hear the words of pastors, ministers, and associate ministers at Doolittle Park on a hot Saturday morning.

The Ministers Alliance Association of Southern Nevada had staged a march and a community rally to address the needless and senseless violence in the African-American community. A long list of dignitaries had added their names to support the motives of the religious organizations trying to make a difference and a change in



the North Las Vegas and Westside areas.

"Support the peace of the community," said Minister Willie Jacobs Jr. of True Love Missionary Baptist. "That the community be aware that the church is a vital asset to the community."

"We can come together as a community to stop the (See Ministers, Page 9)

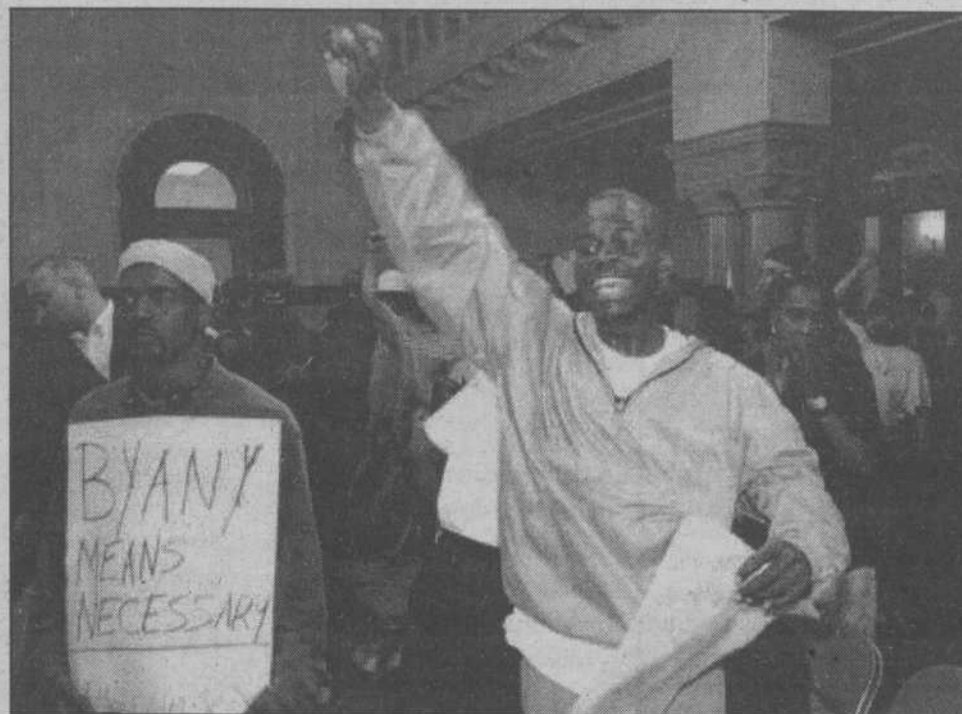
Concerned citizens march in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (AP) - About 40 black activists marched into City Hall on Tuesday to complain that blacks are mistreated in Cincinnati.

The protest came a day after a white police officer was charged with two misdemeanors for shooting an unarmed black man.

"I've got kids at home - nieces and nephews. They're scared of the police. It shouldn't be that way," Brandon Johnson, 21, said during an impromptu session with council members gathered for a committee meeting. "You've got to open your eyes."

The meeting lasted for more than 90 minutes, with speakers complaining about (See Indictment, Page 3)



Demonstrators march into city hall chambers Tuesday, in Cincinnati, where they voiced their displeasure to the two misdemeanor counts brought against a police officer in the shooting death of a black teenager. (AP Photo/Tom Uhlman)

Group seeks jobs for area gang members

Participants want to work

Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

A fledgling community organization is claiming early success in confronting a fundamental cause of gang activity in Las Vegas' African-American neighborhoods. It believes joblessness among current and former gang members - considered to be some of southern Nevada's most unemployable - is at the heart of the problem.

To begin with, "Our Choice" founder Bill Miller is encouraged by the response he has received from people he's trying to help. "I've gotten over a hundred calls," he said, enthusiastically.

The point man for the month-old agency wants to overcome legal barriers to employment that stand in the way of sincere jobseekers with gang associations. Miller is currently exploring ways to expedite his clients' job searches despite their police records. District Attorney Stewart Bell has designated an official in his office to conduct talks with Miller.

"I met with Mr. Bell, who told me to get some more (See Choices, Page 7)