

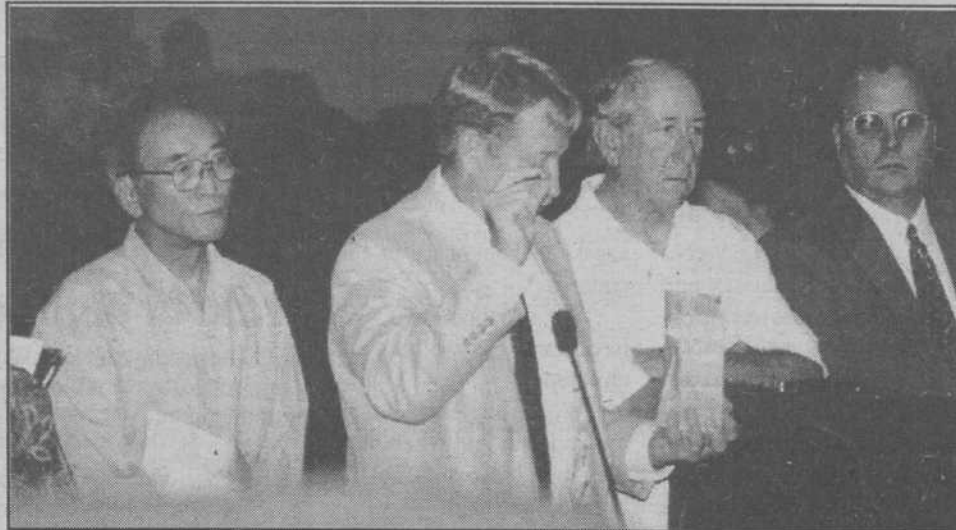


Council denies licenses

Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

The battle to eliminate convenience stores selling drug paraphernalia in West Las Vegas continued to unfold at yesterday's Las Vegas City Council meeting, and Ward 5 Councilman Lawrence Weekly won a couple of nasty skirmishes on behalf of westside residents, who abhor the practice.

The council denied two applications for licenses to sell beer, wine and so-called "coolers" at westside locations - in part, due to proximity to churches in one case and to a youth club in another. While there was practically no public comment allowed, a pastor said one site was in the midst of a community of churches and that his



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Jackson Market owner Ki Sun appears with his lawyer David Crosby (second from left) during a City Council meeting Wednesday. The council denied Sun's request to transfer his Jackson Market convenience store's liquor license to a store two blocks away.

own was "less than a hundred feet from the store." He claimed to have a petition bearing some 200 signatures of those opposed to the store.

But the denials were mostly because both stores sell items popular among drug abusers. Perhaps ironically, both applicants were non-black ethnic minorities, and residents have been awaiting a decision regarding one of them for weeks.

Koreans Ki Son and his wife, Suk, owners of the Jackson Market, 1312 F Street,

sought to relocate to 1218 D Street, taking their license to sell alcohol with them. But two weeks ago, their "suitability" to operate had been questioned by the council. The store sells single razor blades, used to cut and shape rocks of crack cocaine; glass pipes, used to smoke it, and "chor boy" copper scouring pads cut into small pieces, which are used as screens to hold the dope.

The Suns attorney, David Crosby, objected to what he said have been attacks on the

Suns' integrity, claiming paraphernalia discovered at the new site by city license investigators belonged to the previous owner.

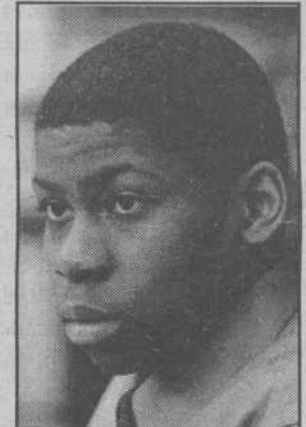
Ward 3 councilman and mayor pro tem Gary Reese felt proximity to churches, alone, was grounds for denial.

Reese noted that, before Weekly, he had represented westside residents. He said he understood the issues and supported Weekly's strong objections to the stores. "I (See Denial, Page 3)

Teen convicted in teacher shooting

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) - A 14-year-old boy who shot his English teacher to death on the last day of the school year was convicted of second-degree murder Wednesday, escaping an automatic sentence of life behind bars with no hope of ever getting out.

"Not too bad," Nathaniel Brazill told his lawyers, who later said the boy wept as he was escorted from the courtroom.



NATHANIEL BRAZILL

Brazill had insisted that he only meant to scare the teacher and that the gun went off accidentally.

A sentencing hearing for Brazill was scheduled for June 29, and a battle was shaping up over the boy's punishment.

The jury rejected a first-degree murder conviction, which carries a mandatory life sentence. A second-degree murder conviction carries a penalty of 25 years to life. A life sentence in Florida is just that - there is no chance of parole - and those given lesser terms must serve at least 85 percent of their sentence.

However, defense attorneys say such measures were not intended for teens like Brazill and there is no minimum sentencing guideline Circuit Court Judge Richard Wernet (See Brazill, Page 8)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders broached topics like marijuana and sex at the Fourth Annual Child Welfare Conference and Awards Luncheon at UNLV on Friday.

Elders still very controversial

By Nancy Watson
Special to the Sentinel

The first female African American Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, was fired from that position for speaking the truth.

"My mother always said, 'The day you see the truth and cease to speak it is the day you start dying.'"

Elders, keynote speaker at the Fourth Annual Child Welfare Conference and Awards Luncheon held last Friday at UNLV, is far from dead and still speaking the truth as she sees it.

Elder's addressed her remarks to support the social workers in the audience, "to those of you who are on the front-line protecting children and respecting families."

"You are out in the field. You see all the behavioral, cultural and social problems. Every day you are faced with something you are not pre-

pared for."

She reminded them of the power their profession holds because they are often the only ones supporting families and "lots of powerless children."

"Our children are only 20 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future," she said.

"We live in a throw away society. Everything disposable. Even our children are relegated to human landfills," she said.

The "human landfills," or jails, are filled with 2 million people and sixty percent of them are there for non violent crimes, she said.

Many of the younger ones in jail are there just for smoking marijuana.

"But marijuana never killed anyone," she said, "Some are in jail because we let them fall through the cracks."

She encouraged the social

workers to work with families.

"We know that children do best in families and we know some children are disadvantaged from conception," she said. Some families need more help than others.

She cautioned the caseworkers that are overextended to not forget all pieces to the family puzzle.

"Deal with families where they are," she said, "Some need money, some need to learn how to parent, 50 to 80 percent of the problems faced by the families are alcohol or drug related. There are all sorts of problems and you know what to do, just don't forget the strength of the families."

"We have a crisis of anticipation. Youth have no expectations. We have a crisis of vision, youth have no idea there's anything any differ-

(See Elders, Page 2)