



ALI-LUJAH

Laila Ali celebrates after pounding out a majority decision victory over Jacqui Frazier-Lyde in a hard-fought, eight-round bout Friday in Verona, N.Y. Thirty years ago, their famous fathers, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, faced each other for the first time. (AP Photo/Jim McKnight)

Panthers set deadline for meeting

Leader: Every level of government, social services sectors involved

Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Black Panther Party is running out of patience with footdragging by government officials that, it says, has impeded the economic development of West Las Vegas. Its leader, Ron Current, now says those officials have until the middle of next month to explain how they intend to revitalize the community.

Current has been pressing the City of Las Vegas to make infrastructure improvements in the area, create jobs to counter its high unemployment and rebuild a community center there.

He's had little satisfaction, nevertheless, he is now intensifying his call for improving the delivery of social services to westside residents.

"(We) are doing everything conceivably possible to give the city and the state time to do the right thing by the people of that community."

—Ron Current, Las Vegas Black Panther Party

Current was frustrated this week when the city told him to take that matter up with the county, and the state.

In a scathing letter addressed to Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and dated June 6, Current warned that depressed conditions in West Las Vegas are of a type that could "explode," consequently, he said, "the entire city is facing a crisis."

"I am proposing a conference which will include every social service, every program, every Black organiza-

tional leader that has anything to do with the so called, "quality of life" of the community," Current said in the letter.

Two days ago he announced how long he would wait.

"This conference needs to take place by July 15th," Current said emphatically. "It has to be called and everybody has to be there."

In his letter to Goodman, Current complained that providers of social services "have 'little' or 'no' effect in im-

proving the conditions in West Las Vegas." The city "employs a number of people who are ineffective...Right job - Wrong people!" he wrote, saying of social services on the westside: "They just don't work!"

Citing overlapping of services, lack of communication between providers and clients, poor supervision and quality assurance, even falsified statistics, Current advised Goodman: "The system has failed."

Taking note of recurring violence, including homicides, that has taken its toll on the community, Current also called for "a task force" made up of Deacons from various churches "to patrol the streets of the community on a regular basis to insure

(See Deadline, Page 2)

Suspended NAACP branch's court proceeding continued

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

The future of the former Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP remains unknown to its ousted officers and to membership, as a new court date on an injunction to reverse its suspension has been set for June 26. The hold up, ironically, is for the same reason that the local chapter felt it needed to go to court—due process of the law. It was brought out during the proceeding that earlier this week, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had been served with lawsuit papers just one day before it actually needed to appear in court to address allegations and complaints by the defunct chapter.

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume, Board of Directors Chairman Julian Bond, Western Region Director Frank Berry, and Tri-State President Ed Lewis have all been named in the complaint, which was heard in District Court Judge Sally L. Loehrer's courtroom.

"(Lawsuit papers) served yesterday, to be here today...there is a thing called due process," said Loehrer to attorney David Phillips, who represents former Las Vegas Branch President Gene Collins and Rev. Chester Richardson in the suit.

"There is no way in the world they would be here today." The judge also ordered Phillips to file an "order to show cause" document

before going forward with the case.

According to Black's Law Dictionary, an order to show cause is: "An order directing a party to appear in court and explain why the party took (or failed to take) some action or why the court should or should not grant some relief."

"(The NAACP) should have at least one judicial day," said Judge Loehrer.

"It's proper," Phillips said of the judge's ruling. "Everyone is entitled to due process."

In his defense, Phillips did tell the court that he had served the national NAACP office with legal documents three weeks ago but had not heard from the organization.

"This was put on an order shortening time,"

said Phillips of the judge's authority to decide when a case will be heard in court. "(The court date) came so fast—we're here on a lack of due process...we're here for fairness."

Said Collins of what he wants from the lawsuit, "have officers reinstated, bank accounts unfrozen, and we go back to work. We're waiting for the final analysis to come, we don't want to put the cart before the horse."

"It's just been delayed," Richardson said of the outcome. "The next step is to file the motion the judge requested."

"People need some type of resolution...people are counting on us," said Richardson.

Local celebration commemorates anniversary of freeing of slaves

By Melinda A. Vereen
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The celebration of Juneteenth has arrived in Las Vegas—finally, some would say—although there were many Las Vegas who didn't know what "Juneteenth" was all about. Juneteenth is a celebration of the ending of slavery that dates back to 1865.

The Las Vegas Juneteenth Committee was formed to enrich the lives of youth by providing educational assistance and opportunities that would not otherwise be available.

"The Juneteenth celebra-

tion is in an effort to raise money for The Academy of African-American Studies (AAAS) in West Las Vegas, which will offer supplemental after-school educational opportunities to the youth in the community," says Diane Hughes, committee president.

The celebration took place Sunday, June 10, at Lorenzi Park. Although the sun's rays were high, they didn't stop the many supporters who were out promoting this event. There were several vendors providing information and demonstrations

about their products and services in an effort to promote education.

Citibank, which was a major corporate sponsor, provided financial education at the event.

"Our main focus is financial education, rather than just open an account, to teach people how to run their finances until they can become financially responsible," said the financial manager for the Summerlin office. Citibank also offers free financial analysis that will map out one's financial future.

(See Juneteenth, Page 9)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy
Rahim Amin (far left), Anyika Kamal (middle) and Lian Garbutt (far right), all members of the Ju-Jitsu Self Defense School, demonstrate their sword-wielding proficiency during Juneteenth festivities Sunday at Lorenzi Park.