



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Stephens III

State Assemblyman Wendell Williams, D-North Las Vegas, speaks out against racial profiling.

Victim

(Continued from Page 3) causing "emotional injury and distress."

They are further charged with "Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress" because, the suit claims, Keller and Metro "knew, or reasonably should have known, that their adoption of the policies" would cause the kind of emotional harm from which they had a duty to protect Reinhardt. Consequently, it says, Keller and Metro "breached that duty."

Reinhardt said his arrest and incarceration when he was merely transacting business was "very humiliating." But his representatives say Metro exacerbated the abuse when four months after the robbery, on April 2, Metro Officers Gil Shannon and Dwayne Morgan arrived at Reinhardt's residence on Mountain Vista. Although he was not at home, police told his mother they wanted to further interrogate him concerning the incident.

Infuriated, Peck filed a complaint with Metro's Internal Affairs Bureau eight days later, saying Reinhardt and others like him "should never be exposed to prosecution by police officers who play fast and loose with the rules."

"It was at best unprofessional, and at worst, unethical for Metro officers to attempt to question Mr. Reinhardt without first contacting his attorney," he declared. Peck also said any claim by Metro that it was unaware— either that Reinhardt had retained a lawyer or that he was suing the police— is unbelievable. Bringing Keller's policies further under scrutiny, Peck said he had been informed that "the order to contact Mr. Reinhardt came from Metro's top brass," calling the entire

scenario "outrageous." "Four months later," Peck explained, Metro has not answered his inquiries concerning the matter, and he vowed the ACLU "will not play the games," such as corresponding with officials via certified mail.

Reinhardt said he would like to have an apology from Metro, but also said he considers it "highly unlikely" that he will get one.

Tate put it succinctly: "The problem is the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department...they've clearly maintained that they don't practice racial profiling, and that is a lie."

"It exists, people of color in this town know it exists and they don't need a study to prove it," Peck assured all listening, as Neal added: "If you want proof that it exists, go down to Traffic Court and you'll see. It exists right there."

"To have to prove the reality is disturbing," said Moore, local coordinator for PLAN.

Williams is the author of AB 500, the so-called "Driving While Black" law, which passed during the recently completed legislative session. It not only makes racial profiling illegal in Nevada, but also provides protections for "whistleblowers" who witness and report the behavior. But the assemblyman said "Driving While Black" describes just one element of a larger set of injustices that, in southern Nevada, might be more correctly called "Living While Black," and that racial profiling "goes beyond the crime and victimizes the public safety."

"I think the police in Clark County need to be educated," said Neal. "I think the best way is for the Sheriff to be held responsible by the law-

suit." Keller, according to Reinhardt's lawsuit, "has tolerated and encouraged, through a failure to discipline his officers, certain customs and practices." It says they include: "detaining citizens for questioning without reasonable suspicion...searching (them) and their personal effects without probable cause or reasonable suspicion, (and) charging (minority) citizens with offenses as a pretext to cover up for officers' unconstitutional conduct" - solely on the basis of race or ethnicity.

"Keller's tolerance and encouragement" of such policies, "under the color of state law, have caused them to become the official policy of the LVMPD," the lawsuit asserts, and consequently deprived citizens of constitutional rights. Keller's "failure to train and discipline officers who commit constitutional violations," it says, "is itself a policy of LVMPD, with similar plainly obvious consequences."

"All of the foregoing," Reinhardt's attorneys claim, "have caused Plaintiff to suffer physical and emotional

injuries and damages, as well as monetary damages." The latter, they say, he incurred because of his need to hire an attorney "to defend himself against defendants' baseless charge," and "missing work due to being wrongfully incarcerated."

Said Peck: "You should not be stopped because of who you are, you should only be stopped for what you do. Nothing could be more fundamental."

Hawaiian programs lawsuit dismissed

HONOLULU (AP) - A federal judge last week dismissed a lawsuit that challenged the constitutionality of state programs that specifically benefit Native Hawaiians.

Chief U.S. District Judge David Ezra said a man who sought to open the programs to non-Hawaiians lacked legal standing to sue the state because, among other reasons, his lawsuit was filed before he applied for any of the programs.

The judge did not rule on the merits of the case filed by Patrick Barrett, a Hawaii resident for 30 years.

Barrett had challenged state-administered programs that benefit only Native Hawaiians, including a program set up by Congress in 1921 that allows people with at least 50 percent Native Hawaiian blood to receive 99-year leases on house lots and farmland for \$1.

The lawsuit's dismissal was hailed by Native Hawaiian leaders who said the programs are needed to preserve their culture and combat poverty and other social ills in their community. But they said the victory may be short-lived, as similar challenges are likely.

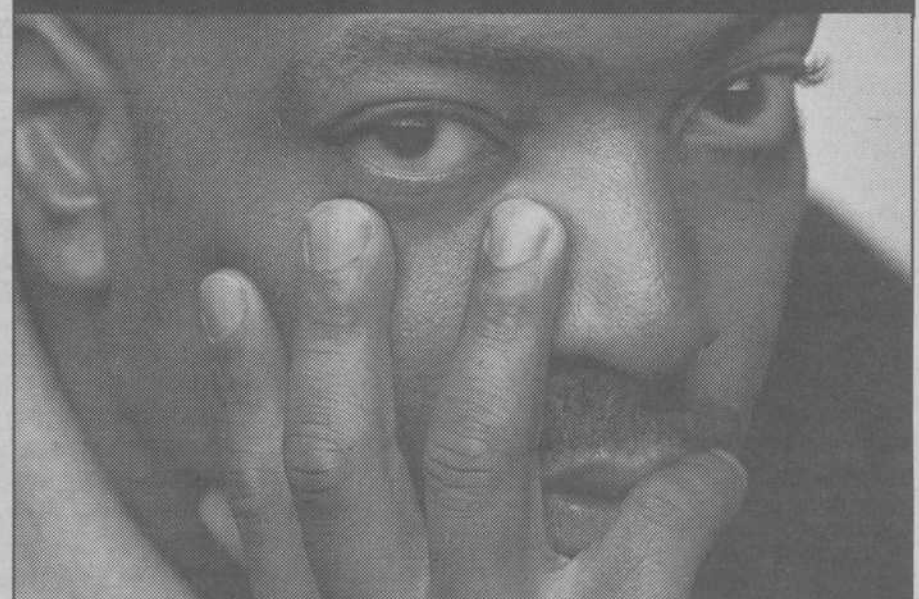
"If there's a war on against these program, we certainly won the first skirmish," said Robert Klein, a former Hawaii Supreme Court justice and part-Hawaiian who represented a council for Native Hawaiian homestead associations in the lawsuit.

Barrett's attorney, Patrick Hanifin, said Barrett likely will consider appealing, or refileing the case in a way that addresses the judge's concerns, possibly with other plaintiffs.

"We believe that (the programs) affect a lot more people than Mr. Barrett - people who have not applied for the programs because they see the Hawaiians-only sign on the door," said Hanifin.


The state has 200,000 residents who are at least part-Hawaiian - about 20 percent of Hawaii's population.

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Sankofa

(Continued from Page 4) local Mosque No. 45, Minister Robert Muhammad, who was Sankofa's spiritual advisor and witness to his execution.

Two films documenting the struggle to save Shaka provided background on his case. Footage from a BBC News broadcast caused many in the crowd to shake their heads in disbelief when George W. Bush came on the screen claiming that no innocent people had been executed while he was governor of Texas.