

# NAACP reorganizing effort underway

## Las Vegas group learns how chapters exist

By Nancy Watson  
Sentinel-Voice

Members of the unchartered Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP now have a phone number they can dial for help with discrimination issues.

Frank Humphreys, the administrator selected by the National Board of the NAACP to rebuild the Las Vegas Branch, stated Saturday that calls to the number would be forwarded to the western regional office or the Washington office.

"During the reorganization process, the national office wants to take steps to insure that the needs of at-large members are met and service is available," Humphreys said.

Las Vegas members of the NAACP have been "members at-large" of the NAACP since the branch's charter was suspended.

Humphreys, a board member of the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People, was in town to lead a meeting of at-large members, which included extensive training on NAACP basics, namely the "white book," which contains the organization's constitution and bylaws, and the "blue book," which contains the rules and regulations.

"Every member or prospective member will be informed of the policies, practices and procedures of the NAACP so that everyone will know how a branch should work," said Humphreys.

The training meetings will take place monthly and conclude in October. Humphreys will then select members of the branch's reorganization committee, he said.

Humphreys was chosen as an official NAACP administrator after the branch's charter was suspended. His job is to rebuild the organization from the ground up.

About 50 people attended Saturday's training session and several people have

signed up to be members of the reorganization committee. Humphreys has also received many resumes from people who want to participate in the committee, he said.

The intensive three-hour training sessions will take place on a monthly basis so that people have a chance to digest the information and formulate questions, he said.

Humphreys refused to discuss the history of the Las Vegas Branch or the reasons for its downfall.

He said he is aware that the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network is planning to open a chapter in Las Vegas. The chapter will be led by Gene Collins,

former president of the suspended Las Vegas Branch. Sharpton is expected to arrive in Las Vegas next month.

"The issues that confront the African-American community, people of color and the disadvantaged are so numerous and so complex, there's no reason to feel there is a turf issue involved. We welcome all civil rights fighters in the crusade for social justice," he said.

Anyone with discrimination issues may contact the local NAACP at 638-1300. Members at-large and in good standing who wish to take part in the reorganization have until September to submit their resumes.

## Sharpton

(Continued from Page 2)

litical protest into public life" and to ask the question, "What is the relation of that legacy to electoral politics?"

Though Sharpton said he would listen to the committee "and not run if we didn't think we could win," he seemed bent on teaching the Democrats some sort of lesson.

"Let it be clear that I feel there is a necessary strategy that must come into play nationally to challenge the Democratic Party to not abandon its base voters," he said.

He said action is needed "to stop this continual drift to the right when it has not proven" to be a winning strat-

egy, or "even a fair, ethical and moral strategy."

Sharpton said though he may run for the Democratic nomination, he has not ruled about a possible run as an independent.

"Everytime I've run, I've run within the confines of the Democratic primaries," he said, speaking of his earlier race for the U. S. Senate in 1994 and for mayor of New York in 1996. Because those races went better than expected, he said, people "underestimate me at their own peril if we choose to make this race."

Sharpton drew chuckles from reporters when respond-

## Two men charged in Farrakhan shooting

CHICAGO (AP) — Two men have been charged in the shooting of a son of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, police said Sunday.

Clarence Goree, 26, and Jason Bailey, 22, each were charged with aggravated battery with a firearm, a felony, police spokesman Carlos Herrera said.

Thursday morning, Joshua Farrakhan, 42, was beaten and shot in both legs by assailants who entered a house where he was visiting a friend, according to police.

Goree and Bailey were being held without bond and are scheduled to appear in court Thursday, Herrera said, adding he did not know any details about the two men, why the attack occurred or how police were led to them.

A woman in the home at the time of the attack also was beaten, police said. She is considered a witness in the case and has not been identified.

On Friday, a recorded message at Advocate Christ Medical Center said no further information would be provided on his condition at the request of the Farrakhan family.

A Nation of Islam member said late Sunday a spokesman for the group was unavailable for comment.

## NAACP

(Continued from Page 2)

his diverse Cabinet and expressing a desire to ensure the Republican Party "keeps faith with the memory of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass."

Bush has largely avoided general sit-downs with civil rights groups, preferring to reach out to carefully chosen minority audiences for input on specific issues. A meeting request from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, an umbrella organization of groups representing ethnic minorities, women, the disabled and various religious denominations, has gone unanswered for four months.

## Heart

(Continued from Page 1)

and doctors said they are pleased with his recovery.

Dr. Laman Gray Jr. said if Tools gains strength, a heart transplant could become an option in four to six months. Tools' liver and kidney, which were failing at the time of the surgery, are now functioning normally.

"We've taken someone who has been the sickest you can get and literally gotten him now back into a very healthy situation," Gray said.

Dr. Robert Dowling, who implanted the device with Gray, said their patient still needs to gain about 30 pounds and go through physical therapy. Should everything go well, Dowling said, Tools should be able to take long walks and resume fishing, one of his favorite hobbies.

The first recipient of an artificial heart, Barney Clark, a Seattle-area dentist, lived 112 days after receiving the bulky Jarvik-7 in 1982. William Schroeder of Jasper, Ind., lived longest with a complete artificial heart - 620 days before he died in 1986.

Tools' heart, called the AbioCor, is self-contained, with an internal battery. Unlike the earlier mechanical hearts, it has no wires and tubes that stick out of the chest and connect to a power source.

Abiomed has received federal approval to perform at least five human experiments with the artificial heart. Tools is the first to receive it. Tools said the device feels "a little heavier than my regular heart."

After the operation, he said, "I was happy to wake up, to see people, to know that I was alive and to know that I had gotten that far."

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