

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

**The Detroit Connection** presents its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic, to be held at Lorenzi Park located at Washington Ave. Beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. Bring your basket, blanket, and chairs. There will be entertainment, food, and games, free testing on blood pressure, cholesterol and HIV. Also information on mammograms, prostate, and healthy eating. For more information call 256-9166... **Sparks in the Park.** Desert Breeze Park, 8425 Spring Mountain Rd., call 730-0300 for tickets, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Musical entertainment, food and family fun. Two stages will host the big name bands and vendors offer a variety of merchandise for purchase and exhibit. The evening ends with a fireworks display. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Clark County Development Fund.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

**Family Home Hospice seeks volunteers.** Family Home Hospice is offering volunteer training in September on the following days and times: from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 3, 4, 10 and 11 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 8. A different topic will be covered each session and participants must attend each session to become volunteers for the hospice. Hospice volunteers provide emotional support to terminally ill patients; caregiver respite, errand running, companionship and socialization for patients and caregivers, office help and assistance with the hospice's bereavement program. To register for September's training session, call 671-1193.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

**The Men of Valor** are having its monthly meeting beginning at 6 p.m. at Community Baptist Church, 245 East Foster Avenue in Henderson. All men welcome. For more information call 565-0071... **Why Home School?** Come question, listen. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. West Charleston Library (between Jones & Torrey Pines). Need more info call 877-2438.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**Classical magic "A Symphony of Sorcery and Sound"** to benefit the friends of Southern Nevada Libraries. Straight from the stages of New York City, Jarrett & Raja's Classical Magic is presented at Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd and Saturday, September 15 at Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Drive to benefit the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries. A hosted win reception begins at 7 p.m. and the performances at 8 p.m. for both nights. Admission is \$30 adults/\$15 children 13 and under. Tickets is available through tickets.com or call 1-888-464-2468.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

**Did you drop out?** Do you want to get your high school diploma? Do you need answers to your questions? Get back on track to success! Come join us for FREE information. Refreshments offer. Help available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ranch High School Cafeteria, 1900 East Owens. Call Kathleen Hanselmann at 633-1070 for more information... **6<sup>th</sup> Annual eXtreme Thing Amateur Skateboard, Juline and BMX Competition.** Desert Breeze Skate Park, 8425 Spring Mountain Rd., 455-8200, Call for event and performance times. This event will feature four to six national acts (bands TBD); world-class break dancers, professional skaters and BMX riders. Tickets will be \$5.00. Competitions will be limited to the first 40 enrolled. Trophies and prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**The LVMPD** will hold a community meeting to discuss the impact of AB500, the racial profiling bill. LVMPD officials will discuss the department's plan for meeting requirements of the new state law. The meeting will be from 6-8 p.m., in the Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

**The Cultural and Community Affairs Division** of the City of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services presents Nevada Ballet Theatre in a special performance, "Handel Celebration and Napoli," at 8:00 p.m., at the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park. Tickets are \$12 at the gate, \$10 in advance. Major credit cards are accepted. Call 229-6383... **Tabernacle of Faith Church** presents its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Men's Conference. Theme: "Men of Worship, Men of Praise," Pastor J. Wayne Arnold will be the conference teacher/lecture. This conference will expound on the areas of praise, worship and prayer. Everyone is invited to attend. Couples will be eternally blessed. 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 2030 Yale Street, North Las Vegas. For additional information contact Rev. Fredrick A Johnson 631-0169/657-2024 or Rev. J. W. Arnold 655-1600... **Rockin' Blues and Q's Festival.** Desert Breeze Skate Park, 8425 Spring Mountain Rd., 455-0300 for ticket information. 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Live rockin' blues music and the best tasting ribs in town. Pets and coolers are not permitted.

### ONGOING

**The Southern Nevada Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America Inc.** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month inside the Sunrise Hospital doctors' conference room, 3187 S. Maryland Parkway, from 7-9p.m. Participants will discuss a variety of subjects about lupus in an effort to educate and support lupus sufferers. Call 566-1425 for additional details.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice accepts Community Billboard announcements for non-profit and church organizations. Send notices: 900 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 or fax to (702) 380-8102.



## CELEBRITIES SCORE WITH READING

Children from 100 Black of America crowd around a table, eager to be photographed with celebrity participants in an NBA Hoops Exhibition during the Men's Apparel Guild in California, or MAGIC, convention. Ice Cube, Ashton Kutcher, Breckin Meyer and Coolio teamed with NBA stars in a charity basketball game to benefit Reading is Fundamental as part of the NBA Read to Achieve program. The event took place Monday at Cox Pavilion on UNLV's campus.

## Why U.S. won't apologize for slavery

By Malik Russell

Special to Sentinel-Voice

From Aug. 31-Sept. 7, nations, activists and media will gather in Durban, South Africa, for the third United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR).

Already, in the months building up to WCAR, controversy has once again reared its ugly head. The administration of George W. Bush, a.k.a. George II, has threatened to boycott the conference or at worst, send a low-level delegation unless certain planks in the draft documents to WCAR are changed.

The major obstacles to full United States participation are planks equating "Zionism" to "Racism," and another dealing with the issue of viewing slavery as "a crime against humanity." While on the surface U.S. opposition may appear simply political, those privy to inside information realize that in reality America has never feared apologizing for slavery. Instead the fear that has driven it to under-fund WCAR, attempt to derail the conference, and simply wish that it would just go away is none other than the issue of reparations.

While ridiculed, laughed at and criticized more than a Black quarterback, quiet as kept-reparations for Africans enslaved in America is no joke. It is a real economic and political minefield for the

government of the U.S. as well as many major corporations that benefited from the slave trade, such as Aetna, or the poisonous Ivy Leaguers Yale and Brown Universities, etc...

The ugly side to the whole matter is that by simply acknowledging "slavery as a crime against humanity," the U.S., in the eyes of the international court, sets the legal grounds for reparations to the descendants of the African Holocaust. Any half-literate person around the world, much less the world's top lawyers, understands the frequent use of reparations and its common acceptance by all nations-don't let them fool you.

This whole issue surfaced in an untold way in the halls of Congress during a hearing of the House Committee on International Relations on July 31st of this year. Bringing the issue to the forefront and making hell for the reign of George II was Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.), currently by far the most outspoken member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

While questioning William Wood and Steven Wagenseil, two high-ranking State Department officials, on their opposition to draft documents to WCAR, McKinney initiated the following dialogue:

**McKinney:** Do you object to the characterization of slavery as a crime against humanity?

**State Department:** Con-

gresswoman, the term crime against humanity is a legal term and in asking that question you are asking me a legal question to which I must give a legal answer.

**McKinney:** I'd like you to give me a legal answer and you said that eliminating racism was something that was close to your heart? So give me the legal answer and then give me the answer from your heart.

**State Department:** The legal answer is that there is a new definition for crime against humanity that can include enslavement, but there are other elements and other circumstances, which would render the simple phrase crime against humanity incorrect.

The answer from my heart is slavery is a mortal sin against humanity it is possibly the greatest mortal sin because it treats other human beings as property.

**McKinney:** Sounds to me as if on both accounts, the answer is yes...Is slavery a violation of the laws of civilized nations?

**State Department:** It is certainly a violation of the law of any nation that I would view as civilized.

McKinney then continues her questioning, "So we kind of agree that slavery was a crime against humanity and is a violation of the laws of civilized nations and so then there only remains the apology. If the state department can go so far as to say 'yeah slavery is wrong...yeah sla-

very violates laws of civilization," so why can't you just take that next leap or just saying I'm sorry?

The officials from the State Department responded slowly. "I think that again the concept of an apology incorporates not simply regret but also the question of reparations for which there is no consensus here in the United States..."

As one of our more popular expressions in the Black community goes, "Whoop, there it is!" Far from its portrayal by White-owned media as a ludicrous idea of Black radicals, it appears that reparations for the victims and descendants of the Maafa (the African Holocaust), makes more than just a little sense.

How serious is the issue of reparations for the victims and descendants of the African Holocaust? Well, since you asked: House Republicans have now threatened to hold up the \$582 million payment the wealthiest nation in the world owes to the UN unless George II signs legislation exempting Americans from the soon-to-be-established International Criminal Court. It will be created in The Hague to prosecute those accused of genocide, war crimes, and guess what else? "Crimes against Humanity."

Oh well, see you in court. Overstand.

Malik Russell is director of The Black World Radio Network.