



# Sharpton targets Las Vegas

By Nancy Watson  
Sentinel-Voice

Al Sharpton's whirlwind visit to Las Vegas last weekend was the first of many he will be making here as the leader of the National Action Network.

He will return in two weeks to officially open the National Action Network's office and will he visit Las Vegas at least once a month, he said.

"I'm here and I'm on the ground to get involved. I'm not just passing through. This chapter is going to be a major focus. If we can democratize capital in the gaming capital of the world, it will reverberate through the country. So this is very important," he said.

Gene Collins will be president of the local NAN chapter and will operate the office, which will be located in West Las Vegas.

In an interview at H & H Barbecue after speaking at Victory Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, Sharpton said he wanted the people of Las Vegas to know that he came to town to do something about the disparity between the opulence he sees

on the strip and the despair he sees in the black community. He plans to use the National Action Network to pressure casinos nationally.

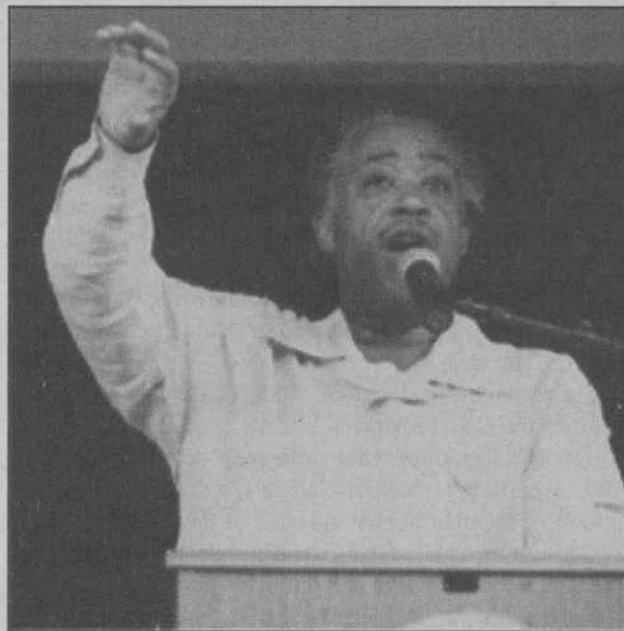
"I don't think they can take that kind of money out of the community without putting something back. And I don't think that's starting trouble. I think that's stopping trouble because if they reinvest in the community it will help educate the children and stabilize the community," he said.

About 200 people and many police cars were on hand for the evening rally, which took place at the Doolittle Center on J Street in West Las Vegas.

Gary Peck, executive director of the ACLU of Nevada, said he welcomes Sharpton and his organization to Las Vegas.

In particular, Peck is hoping that Sharpton will help the American Civil Liberties Union fight racial profiling in the city.

"The police deny that racial profiling occurs. They claim it never happens and that is just absurd. That statement is preposterous. It undermines the confidence



The Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network introduces himself to over 200 potential members Sunday.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

people in the community have for the police, because it does happen and we know it. Racial injustice weighs heavily on the African-American community," he said.

Sharpton said racial profiling is an issue that the NAN is ready to address in Las Vegas, and pointed out that national legislation currently pending in the U.S. Senate was initiated through the efforts of NAN.

"We helped make racial

profiling a national issue. Clearly we have the experience to help Nevada deal with racial profiling. I intend to be very, very active in that. That will be one of our issues," he said.

Sharpton also said he may run for the presidency. Cornell West of Harvard University is now studying the potential of a presidential bid for Sharpton.

"I think we've lost a lot (See Sharpton, Page 3)

## Officials work to salvage racism conference

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) - South African and European officials worked to salvage the world racism conference Tuesday after the United States and Israel walked out over Arab efforts to condemn Israel.

Both countries had warned beforehand that they would leave if language in a proposed final declaration and program of action singled Israel out for criticism. When a Norwegian compromise was rejected by Arab delegations Monday, they decided to go home, accusing Arab nations of using the conference as a platform to criticize the Jewish state.

Seeking to save the conference meant to develop an international plan to combat discrimination, the European Union, the Arab League and



American actor Danny Glover takes part in a candlelight vigil at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, Wednesday. Glover, among several hundred people, staged the vigil in opposition to attempts to change the wording of the final declaration document.

(AP Photo/Obed Zilwa)

South Africa met into early Tuesday to seek a compromise on the dispute, said Olivier Alsteens, spokesman

for Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel, who represented the EU at the meeting. "We want a short, well-

balanced text," Alsteens said. "Europe could not agree that the conference support only one part of the (Middle East) conflict."

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was working to come up with compromise wording, Alsteens said. The three groups met Tuesday morning and planned to continue meeting, he said.

In a statement released in Durban on Monday evening, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who had remained in Washington, denounced the draft declaration's "hateful language" and said he had told the U.S. delegation to return home from the World Conference Against Racism.

"I have taken this decision with regret because of (See Racism, Page 2)

## Educator resigns

"She's a nigger, and niggers are never on time."

— former CCSN-West Charleston Vice President, Mike Meyer

By Al Triche  
Sentinel-Voice

An indiscreet comment made by a high-level administrator of the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN), an insulting remark that included a racial epithet, resulted in him losing his job late last week. In it, the official referred to the wife of a prominent black state legislator as "a nigger," and used the perjorative a second time, insulting all African-Americans in the process.

Mike Meyer, who was Associate Vice President of Community Development at CCSN's West Charleston campus, resigned under pressure last week, two weeks after making the comment about the wife of Nevada Assemblyman Wendell Williams (D-Dist. 6) of Las Vegas, speaker pro tempore of the Assembly and, ironically, chairman of its Education Committee. Meyer had served as interim president of the school earlier this year.

The assemblyman said Meyer knew Zelda Williams was his wife when he made the remark. What Meyer didn't know was that Mrs. Williams, a CCSN student, was present at the time.

"In this particular case," said Williams on Friday, "a person who was president six months ago, and in a position that could help a lot of people, instead abused this position."

Zelda Williams was on campus the morning of Aug. 17, having arrived for an appointment with another school official, John Cummings, who is also a friend of the Williams'. Meyer occupied an office next door to Cummings', and had entered Cummings' office, apparently in a hurry to speak with him.

Cummings reportedly informed Meyer that he was scheduled to meet with Zelda Williams' and that Meyer's business would have to wait. Mrs. Williams says she heard him respond to Cummings: "She's a nigger, and niggers are never on time."

Cummings has verified her account of the incident, including what he called the "racist remark." Williams described his wife as having been "devastated" by the experience, and says she did not tell him about it for a week.

"I think Mike Meyer served the college and his community well," said the president of CCSN's West Charleston campus, Ron Remington. "He did a stupid thing and admits that he did a stupid thing, apologized, and has agreed to step down." Early last week, after he'd been informed about the incident, Remington called Mrs. Williams to apologize.

Meyer, evidently, accepted his fate two days later and resigned his position with the college last Friday. Remington considers the incident an isolated one, not indicative of widespread bigotry at the school.

But Linda Howard, the only African-American member of the Board of Regents for the University and Community College System of Nevada, says racism is, indeed, spread wide- not only at that campus of CCSN but also throughout the entire system of higher education in the state.

"I'm not surprised at what happened," said Howard on Tuesday. "I'm surprised at the person, that it was Mike

(See Slur, Page 5)