



Preparations for profiling study resume today

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

Efforts to determine whether racial profiling by police occurs in Clark County continues today, as legislators, officials from law enforcement and the state attorney general's office, the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights advocates are scheduled to meet. Their gathering will be the second forum held to collect information in advance of a study they hope will either prove what black and latino motorists claim is harsh reality, or debunk what local police say is a myth.

During its last session, the Nevada Legislature passed AB 500, which outlaws profiling and mandates a study by the state Attorney General to establish whether it exists in large counties. The measure was sponsored by Assemblyman Wendell Williams (D- Dist. 6) and co-



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

Sen. Joe Neal, D-North Las Vegas, said law enforcement officials have sullied the intent of his racial profiling law. sponsored by Senator Joe Neal (D- Dist. 4), both African-American lawmakers.

The first forum was held just over two weeks ago here in Las Vegas. Today the parties are meeting in Reno, where the proceedings are

expected to be just as provocative as they were here.

The research will begin with a survey of motorists stopped by police in Clark and Washoe counties. During each traffic stop, officers will complete a survey card

that will provide information in nearly 20 categories.

That information will include the race, sex and age of the motorist, and whether the driver is local. It will even document immigration status, where applicable. The number of occupants in the vehicle will be recorded, as will the reason for the stop, laws- if any- that were allegedly violated, and the action taken, including whether a search was conducted and an arrest made.

"We're trying to help the state," said Assistant Attorney General Thomas Patton on Monday. Information generated by the study will, he said, be analyzed by experts. Understating the obvious, Patton said, "Nobody has the perfect and easy answer."

However, while the motorist would be thoroughly identified, the officer would not. While the information would include the location of the stop, it would not document how long it lasted. Putting it mildly, the ACLU says

these omissions would be "a mistake."

Senator Neal says the survey card police want to use doesn't meet the "spirit of the law," and would allow the study to "dance around the issue." The head of the state's office of the ACLU says it would "erode confidence in the study" and "run the risk of an exercise in futility," and he's skeptical, not only about whether the research will answer the salient question, but also whether it will have any value at all.

Police spokesman regularly deny that profiling occurs here. Complaints by scores of Neal's and Williams' constituents suggest it does.

Neal, who had heated exchanges with Patton during

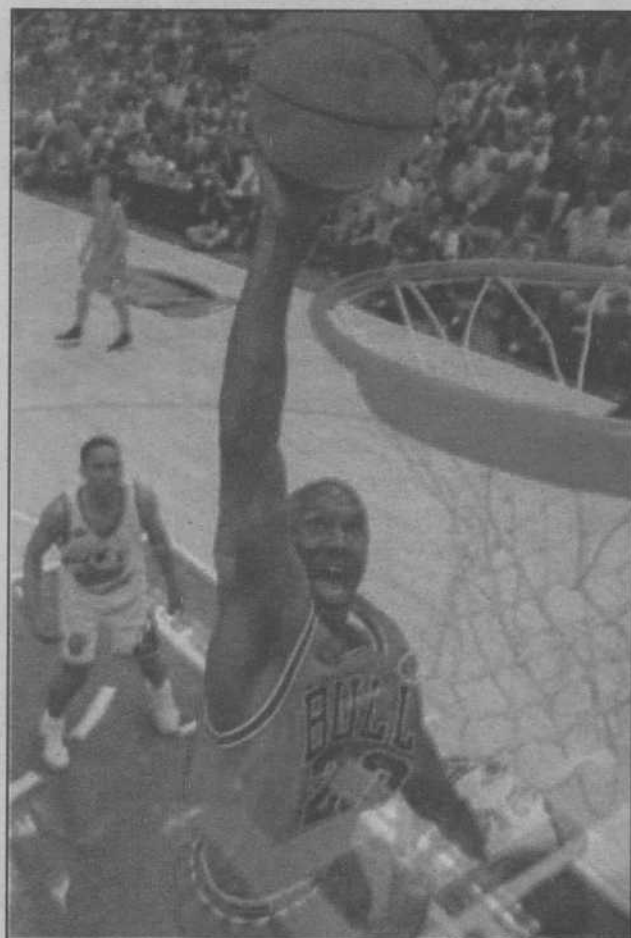
the Las Vegas conference, has been a vocal critic of Clark County Sheriff Jerry Keller and his Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. The senator has been appalled by Keller's public pronouncements



Patricia Davis questioned the fairness of the pending racial profiling study.

about whether Metro has been guilty of profiling. The *Sentinel-Voice* asked to speak with him about the subject, but Keller did not respond.

"Blacks seem to be" (See Profiling, Page 6)



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan goes to the basket as Utah Jazz's Howard Eisley looks on during Game 2 of the NBA Finals in Salt Lake City, Friday, June 5, 1998. File photo

Jordan back for two more seasons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The worst-kept secret in sports is out: Michael Jordan will play again in the NBA- and not just for one season, but two.

After months of hints, smiles and winks that kept his fans on edge, Jordan finally announced his comeback Tuesday, saying he would play for the Washington Wizards through 2003 and donate his first year's salary- \$1 million- to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I am returning as a player to the game I love," said Jordan, 38, and three years removed from what seemed to be a storybook ending to an unparalleled career.

"The opportunity to teach our young players and help them elevate their game to a higher level, and to thank the fans in Washington for their loyalty and support, strongly influenced my decision," he said in a statement issued through his management agency.

The five-time league MVP, who retired for a second time in 1999 after leading the Chicago Bulls to their sixth title of the decade, made it official after clearing up a licensing issue with one of his sponsors- a disagreement that delayed the announcement by a day. NBA rules also required Jordan to sell his ownership stake in the Wizards.

"I am happy to welcome Michael Jordan, the player, back to the NBA, although, as commissioner, I am sorry to lose him in the board room," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "Michael has always brought joy to basketball fans around" (See Jordan, Page 20)



Actor Will Smith and former boxer Muhammad Ali appear together during a recent function.

Ali joins telethon for attack victims

NEW YORK (AP) - Muhammad Ali and dozens of entertainers united in an unprecedented telethon Friday to raise money for victims of the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks.

"I'm here because of the terrible things that happened the other day," Ali said.

"I'm a Muslim. I've

been a Muslim for 20 years. You know me. I'm a boxer. I've been called the greatest. People recognize me for being a boxer and a man of truth. I wouldn't be here representing Islam if it were terrorist. ... I think all people should know the truth, come to recognize the truth. Islam is peace."

Ali was joined by Will" (See Ali, Page 2)