



Sentinel-Voice photo by Dianna Saffold

Anna Bailey, left, recognized as one of the city's first showroom entertainers and D.D. Cotton, right, one of the first African-American dealers to desegregate Downtown and the Strip, were honored during a recent forum by the National Research Institute. The event recognized the gaming industry contributions of local women.

Female pioneers honored

Contributions noted in gaming industry

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Some of them "danced their way into town," others came from the south for better jobs and to be near family. Some of them were born in the southwest.

They are all women whose contribution to the history of Las Vegas was celebrated last week at a reception hosted in their honor by the University

of Nevada, Las Vegas Women's Research Institute of Nevada.

All had taken part in a research effort begun by Claytee White, who interviewed the women as a history graduate student at UNLV. White wanted to balance the history of the West by including the women's stories.

White, now teaching his-

tory in North Carolina, is writing her doctoral dissertation on the history of Las Vegas' "Westside" area, and its predominantly African-American community.

The honorees were introduced by former Senator Richard Byan. Each received a bound version of their histories. Toni Clark and Sarann Preddy were honored for be-

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Workfare working

Proponents laud welfare-to-work

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

The status quo for federal entitlement programs was shaken in 1996 when lawmakers radically changed the welfare system in the United States. Perfect timing had brought public eagerness to overhaul the system together with an equally eager congress and an enthusiastic second-term president.

It resulted in sweeping legislation—"welfare reform." The euphemism, "Workfare," described a new rationale for granting benefits as "entitlement" was replaced by "responsibility." Other features affected the duration of welfare benefits, setting a limit on the amount of time people could receive them.

Out of welfare reform came a "60-month federal requirement" that limited eligibility for benefits to a total of five years. Because it took effect in 1996, many welfare recipients might otherwise have seen their benefits end this year. Federal officials, however, allowed states to prevent that if they desired, and Nevada did.

"They gave the states time to revise their programs," said District Manager Barbara Clark of the State of Nevada Welfare Division Charleston office. "The way Nevada chose to do theirs," she explained, was: two years "on" the list of those to receive benefits, and one year "off," then another two years on and a year off, followed by one more year—the last—on the list.

Administrators hope their revised program will soften the landing for recipients whose benefits would have ended in a matter of weeks. "It's really a seven-year

stretch," said Clark. "January 2000 was the first 12-month 'sit-out period.'"

Welfare Division statistics indicate the caseload in Clark County peaked in March 1995, when the department managed 6,305 cases, representing 42,703 recipients. In March 2000, although cases rose to 6,536, the number of recipients reached a low at 15,487.

Figures have been fairly stable in the year-and-a-half since then. Based on an average of data from the first three months of Fiscal Year 2001, there's been a relatively small increase in cases, to 5,991 and a modest drop in the number of recipients, 14,590.

"Our 24-month periods began in January 1998," explained Lynette Grundy, Nevada Welfare Division Chief of Eligibility and Payments. "Some people are into their second 24-months on."

Even as time remaining in the 2-year cycles counts down, in special cases, categorized as "Hardship," these biennial deadlines don't necessarily bring termination of benefits.

Factors considered in determining whether recipients meet hardship criteria include the realities of their financial situations, how long they would need their benefits continued and how close they are to finding work.

"If a person is claiming a hardship, and we were able to help them," in a reasonable time, says Grundy, "we can extend their benefits, delay their 12-month sit-out." She noted, however, that even this safety feature of the safety net has limitations. "We cannot exceed 20 percent of the caseload

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Farrakhan: War can end through atonement

CHICAGO—If America would adopt the process of atonement, she would remain strong hundreds of years into the future, said the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan during his Oct. 16 Holy Day of Atonement address celebrating the 6th anniversary of the Million Man March.

"I would hope that President Bush would lead the country in atonement" and say to the world that "we're going to change our policies that are unjust, unfair; we're going to deal with the Middle East crisis with an even hand," he said to more than 3,000 people at Christ Universal Temple, and thousands more nationwide via satellite and the Internet.

"If you do it, all this hatred will begin to diminish, dissipate, and go away; and the American people

would not have to worry about bombs and bio-warfare. The American people don't deserve that," he said.

Min. Farrakhan noted that although some of the founding fathers of America were slave-owners, still they were God-fearing men and would not be pleased with the present deviation from the principles that made the country great.

He also warned that President Bush is not satisfied with a war on Afghanistan alone but is planning a wider war to include Iraq, Libya and Sudan. The U.S. government would like to link the Minister himself to terrorism because of his uncompromising voice, he said.

"I pray, President Bush, that you won't pursue what you have in your mind because if you do, I'm going on record as saying this, you will

end the United States as it is currently known," Minister Farrakhan warned, adding that God's judgment will visit the country.

Questioning the role of oil in the current events, the Minister stressed that President Bush has the responsibility to present the "overwhelming evidence" he claims to have to justify the war instead of hiding behind national security. Min. Farrakhan also questioned the President's motive for repeatedly defining Islam as a religion of peace.

While in agreement with the president on the definition, the Minister said that President Bush is not qualified to represent Islam and Muslims should not allow Islam to be misrepresented to fit into a scheme to paint the religion as non-violent. Islam is not non-violent nor

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UNITED IN DESTINY

"Destiny's Child" members (L-R) Kelly Rowland, Beyonce Knowles and Michelle Williams perform during the "United We Stand" benefit concert at RFK Stadium in Washington. A line-up that reads like a who's who of popular music over the past 30 years came together this weekend for a series of marathon concerts, including the one at RFK Stadium, aimed at raising millions of dollars for the victims of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.