

Public to debate raising of GPA

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

One of the challenges to increasing black college enrollment is getting more black students into college, another is keeping them there, one hopes until they graduate. Here in Nevada, rubber will meet road in coming weeks as the debate about how best to accomplish both takes a very public turn.

The University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents is considering whether to raise the requisite Grade Point Average (GPA) for admission to the state's university. Some African-Americans in higher education are now speaking with considerable urgency about the decision, and about how it may affect minority students. Battle lines formed for and against raising the standard, yet the more GPA is discussed, the more the real issue appears to be something else.

Admission requirements for the University of Nevada—both at its campus in Reno and here in Las Vegas at UNLV—have, for the past decade, included a minimum GPA of 2.5.

"The proposal made to the Board of Regents was to increase it to 2.75 starting the year 2003," explained Regent Linda Howard of District

A. Howard, an African-American, is the only minority member on the board. "In 2005, it would increase from 2.75 to 3.0," she added.

Some in the university system contend that a higher requirement would enhance the academic reputation of the university, and improve enrollment, their theory being that high school students with better grades are better prepared for college. The proposal was strongly supported by UNLV President Carol Harter and Vice President Juanita Fain, at first.

Last month, Fain, who is African-American, told regents that high school GPAs were the best indicators of students' success, and that raising the requirement for incoming freshmen wouldn't disproportionately affect minority students.

This past weekend, however, a local newspaper reported that under the proposed standard, 44 percent of the African-American freshmen at UNLV last year would not have been admitted, and that blacks would have been affected worst among all minority groups, followed by Native Americans.

Contradicted by those and other revelations in the article, the officials regrouped.

Fain said her sparse Fall 2000
(See GPA, Page 13)

Breakfast honors veterans

By Sonya Ruffin
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Once let a black man get upon his person a brass letter, 'U.S.'; let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States."— Frederick Douglass

According to recent statistics, there are 272,828 blacks in the United States military, 20.1 percent. Men, women, fathers, mothers, brothers, sons, husbands and friends— all laying everything on the line for the love of country. They did it in the Civil War, in the World Wars, in Desert Storm, and they're still doing it today.

As citizens of the greatest nation in the world, we are most often proud of our veterans and deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have willingly made on behalf of our freedoms. Even moreso, there is a heartfelt gratitude to those who faced opposition from the very country that they were enlisted to protect. Many patriotic Americans understand the level of character it must take to accept such a responsibility with bravery and honor.

Recent events have made us all too aware of how vulnerable we are, and have forced us to



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Veterans Jon Grubbs, right, and David Mason were among those honored during a city-sponsored event at the Suncoast Hotel-Casino.

examine much more closely what war means, and how it affects us as well as our enemies. Las Vegas, a city that is often accused of not cherishing its history, has stepped up to honor its proud soldiers.

Mayor Oscar Goodman joined Las Vegas City Councilwoman and congressional candidate, Lynette Boggs McDonald to help celebrate the valley's veterans in an elegant breakfast affair. The event was the "Ward 2 Veterans Appreciation Day Breakfast," and was held at the Suncoast Hotel Grand Ballroom on Saturday, Nov. 3.

Included in the ceremony were the Palo Verde High School ROTC, Mountain View Symphonic Band and Nellis Air Force Honor Guard. Councilwoman Boggs

McDonald was especially thrilled to host the morning's festivities. "It's the first time we've had the veterans' celebration breakfast in Ward 2 to honor the many veterans who happen to reside within the boundaries of this ward. It's our way to show our appreciation of the sacrifices that they've made to our country," she said.

Mayor Goodman, in his inimitable style, represented the city with pride. "It's a wonderful celebration of America because we're honoring today the people who make our country great—the veterans."

Some black veterans, like David Peters, former Navy man from Chicago and current Las
(See Veterans, Page 2)

Anti-war movement grows with media blackout

By John Price
Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK—Over the past several weeks, as quiet as it's been kept, tens of thousands of Americans have been taking to the streets to protest U.S. military action in Afghanistan. Despite the hundreds of mass rallies that have taken place in over 100 cities across the nation since U.S.-led strikes began on Oct. 7, the growing antiwar movement has been all but ignored by mainstream media.

Some protestors have forewarned the growing voices of dissent—some 7,000 antiwar activists showed up in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 29—will only grow louder, more visible, and less restrained as the war continues

to escalate, and as the media continues to glance over the antiwar movement.

There are already clear indications—from the heavy police presence at two major protest actions held in New York City on Oct. 8 and Oct. 27—that the growing antiwar movement has stirred strong emotions and has even led to verbal confrontations between vocal antiwar activists and emotionally charged New Yorkers who support the war effort.

Some 2,000 protestors gathered at Times Square Oct. 27 chanting antiwar slogans and carrying signs that boldly declared, "Stop Bombing Afghanistan," "War is Not the Answer," and "Our Grief is Not a Cry for War." The



Demonstrators take to New York City's streets to protest America's bombing of Afghanistan. Anti-war activists say the nation's mainstream media is deliberately downplaying the growing peace movement.

faces of protestors were mostly White, but included a noticeable presence of people of color, including a handful of African-Americans and

Latinos.

Samia Halaby, a Palestinian activist and co-chair of the Al-Awda Right to Return Coalition, wore a checkered

keffiyeh, the traditional Palestinian headscarf, and carried a placard bearing the words "Free Mumia" on one side and her homeland flag on the other.

Midtown shoppers appeared caught off-guard at the heavy throng of protestors and by the platoon of helmeted, stern-faced NYPD officers on motorcycles revving their engines along 42nd Street near 8th Avenue, where activists had been gathering since late-morning.

A larger second unit of police, carrying nightsticks and bands of plastic handcuffs tucked beneath their blue jackets or dangling from their belts, patrolled on foot at close interval along 8th Avenue where a crowd of

protestors stood waiting between two block-long barricades for the march to begin. The NYPD's elite unit, known as TARU—the Technical Assistance Response Team—was also on hand.

TARU officers came under fire in 1998 at the Million Youth March in Harlem, where the special tactical unit rolled out their latest surprise: an unmarked White truck with a telescoping microwave transmitter protruding from the roof. Undercover TARU officers reportedly transmitted live video to NYPD headquarters and videotaped the demonstration. A 1985 federal law, known as the Handchu Consent Decree, prohibits police from video-

(See Blackout, Page 7)