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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Addressing the Saviours' Day crowd, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan urged a peaceful approach to Iraq.

Farrakhan: War could speed U.S. destruction

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CHICAGO (FinalCall.com)—Referring to his message as a final call, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, declared during his Feb. 23 Saviours' Day address from the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion (UIC), that President George Bush, the United States and Blacks in America are at a crossroads.

He condemned Bush's pursuit of war against Iraq, calling it the tip of an iceberg to America's own ruin as a superpower. In addition, he told the world that the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy was an excuse for U.S. government and corporate officials to

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Hotel lauds diversity strides

MGM Mirage boosts minority business procurement

By Monica Verley
Sentinel-Voice

"I look forward to the day when we all refer to ourselves as Americans and not just hyphenated Americans." J. Terrence Lanni, Chairman & CEO of MGM MIRAGE

Just one year and one week after coming under fire and national scrutiny by the Rev. Al Sharpton and local leaders and members of the NAACP for the lack of minority representation and advancements in the areas of employment, construction, philanthropy and community relations, MGM MIRAGE Chairman and CEO, J. Terrence Lanni, announced on Wednesday, the significant "milestones" and key successes achieved under its diversity initiative for the year 2002.

Lanni delivered highlights from The 2002 Diversity Report before an audience of more than 400 vendors, contractors, company executives and community leaders in the Sigfried & Roy Theatre at the MGM MIRAGE. "As we continue along this path, we deepen our resolve and



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Former U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, who sits on the MGM Mirage's Diversity Committee, was on hand to celebrate the casino operators diversity gains.

continue to gain wisdom. Weaving diversity into the fabric of our company and our society is a long-term endeavor that will help make our company stronger." Lanni announced.

The MGM MIRAGE Board of Directors started at the top by creating a Diversity Committee. This committee, chaired by Alexis M. Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, assists the Board in guiding the Diversity Ini-

tiative as a strategic business imperative, engaging all aspects of the Company's operations.

"As my first year as Chairman of the Diversity Committee, I have been impressed by the commitment of leadership from top to bottom of every aspect of the business," stated Herman.

"We have the full support of the direct leadership involved." Herman said.

Reporting to the Committee is a diverse team of Com-

pany executives that is responsible for implementing the initiative. Present at Wednesday's gathering were members of The Diversity Committee. They include: Willie D. Davis, President and Director, All-Pro Broadcasting, Inc.; Daniel M. Wade, Vice Chairman, MGM MIRAGE and Melvin B. Wolzinger, General Partner, W.W. Investment Co.; Roland Hernandez, Presi-

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Exhibit walks viewers through African artistic tapestry

By Sonya Ruffin

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Art enthusiasts, once again, gathered in the sky lit Left of Center Art Gallery for an afternoon of fun and cultural enrichment. Left of Center hosted the opening to its current show for 2003 entitled "Africa: The Source." The show consists of pieces from various regions of Africa - from the contemporary to the traditional and will run throughout the year.

This is not your typical exhibit with art merely on the walls. It is an interactive exhibit with items above your head, at your feet and at eye level and opportunities to learn about their uses. African masks, basketry, textiles and instruments are complimented by work from Left of Center's resident artists. An African-inspired mud cloth by resident artist Jack Wilson rests immediately behind a traditional Dan Mask.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

The Jester Hairston Singers christened the African art exhibit with song and praise movements. The 61-year-old group is part of the National Association of Negro Musicians.

"The gallery wishes to create an experience as opposed to just putting pictures on the wall. We hope to use the exhibit as an educational tool, encouraging schools and community groups to take advantage of this unique opportunity in our state," says Left of Center Executive Director and show curator, Vicki Richardson. Richardson anticipates an exhibit-related film series and discussion groups.

Visitors enter the gallery under a canopy created by the draping of a tribal kilim, a hand-woven tapestry with geometric motifs. "I wanted to give it a space that did it justice, not just hang it on the wall," said Sylvester Collier who assisted in curating the show. "I just thought of clouds. It gives you a feeling of enclosure."

Other striking items in the show include a Masaai Bridal bag from the Massai tribe of Central Kenya. The bridal bags are passed

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