

LAS VEGAS

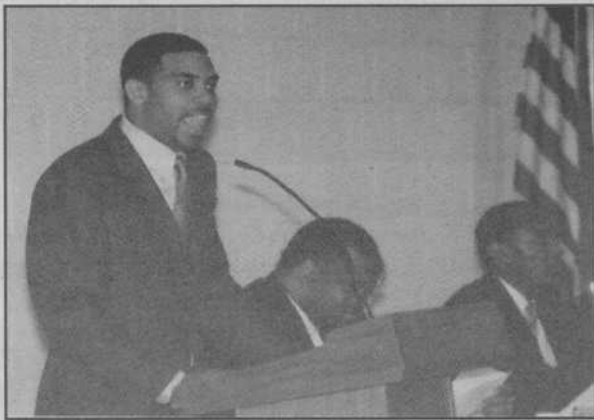
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Steven Horsfor, chief executive officer of Nevada Partners, speaks during the inaugural power breakfast of the Caucus of African-American Nevadans, a new group dedicated to empowering Black Las Vegas.

C.A.A.N. delivers a political punch

By Parker Philpot
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The first "power breakfast" hosted by a newly formed community action and political advocacy group was held Monday.

The free event, open to the public, was catered by the Culinary Training Academy program onsite at Nevada Partners on Lake Mead Blvd in North Las Vegas.

Caucus of African-American Nevadans organizers said 225 people called for reservations and nearly all attended.

"We are grateful for this kind of turnout," said Cordell E. Stokes, spokesperson. "This speaks volumes."

Symbolically, the acronym C.A.A.N., represents the core concept of what the organizers say Blacks "can do" through cooperative effort and collaboration with existing organizations to improve conditions and increase political and economic strength.

C.A.A.N.'s printed mission statement outlines a political objective to work with a wide range of organizations, clubs, groups and individuals within Nevada for the purpose of "ensuring equity and representation for people of color."

In addition to C.A.A.N.'s political focus, the organization has a mission to "increase educational, economic and social opportunities," and to "preserve the cultural heritage of the minority populations."

The major purpose of the breakfast was to introduce the founders, executive leaders and board members of C.A.A.N.

Many on the executive board are already well known for their ongoing work in the Las Vegas community. Dr. Robert E. Fowler, Sr. is president. Louie Overstreet, chairman, was unable to attend. Hannah Brown serves as Vice-President.

The organizers emphasized that C.A.A.N. has "long-term goals as a nonpartisan entity." Any candidates or elected officials were welcome to attend and be recognized.

"We make no distinctions as to any party (or race)," Stokes said. "This is a non-partisan [group]. We are looking to endorse candidates who are going to be long term friends of (the African-American community)."

Fowler spoke on unity and cooperation across any of the lines where people differ—political or otherwise.

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Merger lands Cochran in Vegas

By Mary Bleier
Special to Sentinel-Voice
"If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."

Remember the O.J. Simpson trial? The man behind that captivating statement is a legend in African-American communities across the nation. His name is synonymous with words like "high-profile" and "victorious."

In 1992, he received the highest jury award in the history of the city of Los Angeles in a police misconduct matter on behalf of a 13-year-old girl molested by an LAPD officer. He also handled several cases for high-profile clients such as Todd Bridges, Michael Jackson, former Black Panther Geronimo Pratt, Reginald Denny and, of course, O.J. Simpson.

Attorney Johnnie Cochran announced Tuesday at a press



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Noted attorney Johnnie Cochran has united his law firm with Mainor Eglet Cottle.

conference at the Las Vegas Public Library that The Cochran Firm is merging with one of Nevada's most prestigious personal injury law

firms, Mainor Eglet Cottle. The Cochran Firm is America's largest personal injury plaintiffs tort law firm. "This is a great opportunity

for us to blend our firm with this firm," Cochran said. "We want to make a difference in the community and

(See Cochran, Page 13)

Sharpton endorses Kerry for president

WASHINGTON (AP) - Al Sharpton, the New York activist who flashed quick wit and rhetorical jabs on the campaign trail but failed to spark a large following, on Monday endorsed John Kerry for president but promised to continue his own urban agenda campaign.

The mixed message - endorsing a former rival but not exiting the stage - came after a face-to-face meeting with Kerry, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

"It would be misleading and futile to campaign for the nomination, but it continues for the platform and direction of the party," Sharpton told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "My campaign continues now to pick up delegates so that we can go to the convention to coalesce with other delegates."

Sharpton said he and Kerry plan to meet soon with Black business leaders to discuss the Massachusetts senator's appeal to urban and minority voters.

In welcoming the endorsement, Kerry praised Sharpton's "ability to cut



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., right, speaks with Rev. Al Sharpton as they enter the Kerry campaign headquarters in Washington Monday.

through the double-talk we see coming from this administration," and pledged to work for Sharpton's oft-stated goal of a new "urban agenda."

Sharpton conceded he may not have much time for the campaign trail if he lands

a job on television. He said a deal could be inked as early as this week.

"I don't know how much time I will have. I plan to be on TV this summer," he said.

Although his campaign failed to ignite, Sharpton's performance in Democratic

presidential debates did raise his profile. He recently retained the William Morris Agency to seek opportunities as host of his own cable or radio talk show.

Sharpton had been looking to the presidential race to help him supplant his mentor, Jesse Jackson, as the nation's most influential Black leader. But unlike Jackson, whose campaign made him an established figure within the Democratic Party, Sharpton's campaign has been lackluster.

He garnered just 8 percent of the vote to finish third on his home turf of New York in the March 2 round of primaries. It was a major disappointment for Sharpton, who earned 25 percent of the vote when he ran for U.S. Senate in New York in 1994 and 32 percent in the Democratic mayoral primary in New York City in 1997.

His campaign also has been plagued by accounting problems. Federal election officials voted this month to give the campaign \$100,000 in federal matching funds, but also decided to investigate whether Sharpton deserves

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