



Sentinel-Voice by C.J. Cansler

Lamon Brewster (right) weathered Wladimir Klitschko's early-rounds attack to score a fifth-round knockout. Klitschko was favored 4-1 to beat the Los Angeles native.

Brewster defies odds, nabs heavyweight title

By Huel Washington
Special to the Sentinel-Voice

When it seemed things had turned against him, Lamon Brewster, a transplant from Indianapolis unloaded an arsenal of blows. His opponent was sent reeling and unable to continue at the end of the fifth round of their contest last weekend at Mandalay Bay Resort. Brewster had promised supporters a victory over Wladimir Klitschko, the Ukrainian giant. Now he takes the WBO belt back to Los Angeles.

Brewster, who was outweighed and four inches shorter than the younger of the Klitschko brothers, was literally man-handled in the early rounds. Although Klitschko seemed tired after two rounds, he

floored Brewster in the fourth and a quick decisive ending for Klitschko seemed inevitable.

However, Brewster got up and rallied. He was a man on a mission. With Klitschko bouncing along the ropes and the crowd on their feet cheering him on, Brewster, sensing a change in the momentum, didn't waste his opportunity to finish the job.

After wanting a title bout for more than 18 months, verifying his boast as a hard puncher, Brewster landed devastating blows to Klitschko's head in the fifth round. As a limp Klitschko attempted to rise from the canvass, referee Robert Butler signaled that the fight was over and that Brewster had

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Jury of peers fete new Black state court justice

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

Michael Lawrence Douglas, the first African-American justice appointed to the Supreme Court of Nevada, acknowledged the role of his parents and legal profession trailblazers in the state during a "meet and greet" at Victory Missionary Baptist Church.

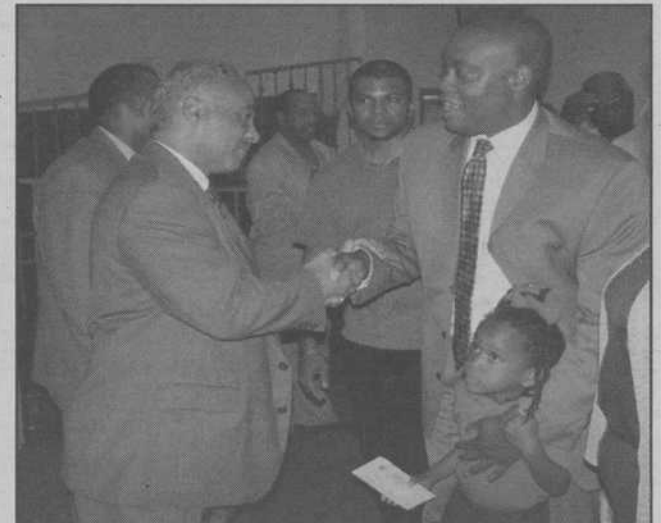
"Great event, great person," said Steven Horsford, chief executive officer and president of the Board of Trustees for Nevada Partners.

"My mother always told me two things," Douglas said. "Be home by the time the street lights come on and always do your homework. I always did my homework."

Douglas named trailblazers, too.

"Charles Keller passed the law test, but they would not let him in the bar association," he said. "He didn't get credit for being the first Black to pass the law test. Earl White followed him and was the first admitted to the bar."

Douglas also mentioned Judge Johnnie Rawlinson, who served on the U.S. District Court in the state. In 1999, Rawlinson was recommended by Sen. Harry S. Reid for a Nevada opening on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Cedric Crear, Democratic candidate for the District 4 State Senate seat (right) and daughter Hadan congratulate Nevada Supreme Court Justice Michael Douglas during a meet-and-greet Monday evening at Nevada Partners.

Appeals. The United States Senate later confirmed her.

"On these shoulders, I was picked," Douglas said. "I'm a 20-year overnight success. No one gets to anywhere by themselves."

The public gathering on Monday, was attended by more than 100 supporters of Douglas. The meet and greet was sponsored by the Caucus of African American Nevadans (CAAN). The political activist group, started earlier this year, patterns itself after the Congressional Black Caucus. With 16 standing committees, the Rev. Dr. Robert

E. Fowler, pastor of Victory Missionary Baptist Church, leads CAAN. He is president.

CAAN presented Douglas with a framed "certificate of endorsement."

"We pledge to work with your candidacy and your service on the Supreme Court," Fowler said, adding. "We need to defend our public figures. We make mistakes and some of the criticism is justified. But if we put him in office, we ought to defend him."

Then he quoted Frederick Douglass. "Power will come." (See Douglas, Page 12)

Blacks still color conscious after centuries of assimilation

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

This is the first of two articles on how one's complexion still colors how many African-Americans view themselves and others in their community. The first part, about a dark-skin woman, and the second, about a light-skin woman, underscores the issue of perception. Each story begins by showing how, in the course of each woman going about her daily routine, her life was interrupted and impacted by someone else's perception of her — good or bad — based on her

complexion. — The Editor

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Atima Omara-Alwala had just left her office at the State Capitol in Richmond, Va. and was on her way to lunch when she heard a voice from a passing car scream, "Blackie!"

It was the kind of insult that she has come to expect but not accept.

A few years earlier, as a sophomore at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, 40 miles away, she heard some guys in a passing car laugh as one yelled, "Darkie!"

That anyone would stoop to that level of behavior was



disappointing enough. But what made these insults doubly painful was that they were uttered by Black men.

"It's not surprising anymore. But it's still somewhat

"Nothing has changed among African-American people. We are doing everything to not look African and to look as White as we possibly can."

— Sandra Cox, director of the Coalition of Mental Health Professionals in Los Angeles

painful," Omara-Alwala admits. "I kind of wince or flinch on the inside. Even when I work in Black communities, I'm always conscious that there might be some reason

that I'll be picked on — not because of any fault in my personality — just the fact that I'm this complexion. And, of course, I'm no good if I'm this complexion."

Omara-Alwala's complexion is dark. She was born in Providence, R.I. to parents from Uganda in East Africa.

C. Yvette Taylor, a psychologist who counsels many women of color at the University of Virginia, and has heard many stories similar to Omara-Alwala's, says stereotypes based on color are not unusual.

"Certainly they still exist

and they are age old," she says. "And they very likely will always be around. And the ramifications of them are myriad. Lots of people — women and men — struggle with the skin-tone issue."

Taylor argues that light-skinned African-Americans are favored because they more closely resemble the White majority in the U.S., which is depicted as the paragon of beauty in photographs, television commercials and popular culture. She also traces it back to slavery and the favoritism the master

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