



100 Black Women form local chapter

By Tanya Flanagan
Sentinel-Voice

Over the past several years, Las Vegas has seen what the local chapter of 100 Black Men have done as mentors in elementary schools and a middle school on the Westside. Now the Las Vegas Valley has a chapter of 100 Black Women.

The inaugural Greater Las Vegas Chapter of the Coalition of 100 Black Women introduced itself during an induction ceremony Saturday, May 22 at Texas Station Casino.

The chapter was a year in the making, said founding president Sandra Mack.

Mack is a retired educator who moved to Las Vegas three years ago from San Jose, Calif., where she was a member of the Silicon Valley Chapter.

"The main purpose of the organization is to serve as an advocate for issues affecting women," Mack said. "We are for women, by women and about women. We promote economics, leadership, health and education for women."

"We form leadership with women of color for collective goals," Mack said.

"We design or work toward the design of programs for literacy, but we are not about programs and projects. We are about advocacy. We work to impact legislation and to make Black women aware of the

resources that are available to them and to make sure they have equitable access to those resources."

Mack, 65, joined the organization that has 62 chapters nationally and more than 7,500 members seven years ago.

She established the local chapter with help from Rose Crowder, who relocated to Las Vegas about seven months ago from the San Jose area and immediately pledged her time to assisting Mack with building a local chapter.

Both women have fond memories of accomplishments made by the chapter in Southern California and look forward to seeing some of the inertia built up in San Jose become a reality in Las Vegas.

Crowder spoke fondly of the PSMT program, as did Mack. The program, "Path finder to Science, Math and Technology," is designed to target girls in grades fourth to seventh and encourage them to remain or become excited about science, math and technology.

The goal is to have more females, especially African-American, pursue career paths in these areas, Crowder said.

"Women are underrepresented, but minority and particularly Black women are really underrepresented in these fields," Crowder said.

The program was well received in the Silicon Valley area and garnered (See 100 Black Women, Page 3)



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Earl Reddix

International Nation of Islam representative, Minister Akbar Muhammad, stands with a UN Ghana Refugee Camp commander and his trade delegation. Pictured (R to L) are Akbar Muhammad, Emmanuel Muhammad, Dr. David Harmon, Paul Henry, UN Ghana Refugee Camp Commander John Thompson, Dr. Bruce Muhammad, radio host Lizz Brown, Greg Harmon, Jerome Griffin and Earl Reddix.

Lecturer: Africa still important

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

The International Representative for the Nation of Islam and Minister Louis Farrakhan will deliver a lecture titled "Africa Matters in a Challenged World."

Minister Akbar Muhammad's lecture will be Saturday, June 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Muhammad, who has lived in Accra, Ghana for the past 13 years, says African-Americans should be interested in establish-

ing business ties with Africa.

"There are two fundamental reasons," Muhammad said. "First, a business person would ask about the return on an investment. If you read some of the trade magazines in the investment journals, they talk about percentages. Africa now is offering anywhere from 18 to 30 percent returns on solid investments. This is the number one reason. The reason why the African-American community should be interested is that this is where you came from. There are many doors in Africa

opened by heads of state. They would like to see Africans in the Diaspora who have gained a tremendous amount of expertise in all fields of knowledge and business share that now with the homeland."

Las Vegas-based Concerned Citizens for Africa (CCA) is sponsoring Muhammad's lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public. CCA wants to spread information about the social and economic climate of living, traveling (See Africa, Page 7)

Experts: U.S. prisoners often endure Iraqi-style abuse

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As Americans continue to recoil at the sight of photographs and videotapes showing handcuffed prisoners piled naked on top of one another, being bitten by dogs, being sexually exploited and subjected to other forms of debasing abuse at the Abu-Ghraib prison in Iraq, human rights advocates say similar constitutional violations occur on a regular basis in United States prisons.

"In recent years, U. S. prison inmates have been beaten with fists and batons, stomped on, kicked, shot, stunned with electronic devices, doused with chemical sprays, choked, and slammed face first onto concrete floors by the officers whose job it is to guard them. Inmates have



ended up with broken jaws, smashed ribs, perforated eardrums, missing teeth, burn scars, not to mention psychological scars and emotional pain. Some have died," states a report, published last month by Human Rights Watch, titled, "Prisoner Abuse: How Different are U. S. Prisons?"

The report, written by Jamie Fellner, director of the Human Rights Watch U. S. Program, observes: "Correctional officers will bribe, coerce, or violently force inmates into granting sexual favors, including oral sex or intercourse. Prison staff have laughed at and ignored the pleas of male prisoners seeking protection from rape by other inmates."

It continues: "A culture of brutality has developed in which cor-

rectional officers know they can get away with excessive, unnecessary, or even purely malicious violence...Perhaps if photos or videotapes of abuse in U. S. prisons were to circulate publicly, Americans would be galvanized to protest such treatment as they have the treatment of Iraqi prisoners. Absent such graphic and unavoidable evidence, it is all too likely that abuse will continue to be a part of many prison sentences."

Children are not immune, the report concludes. "They too are kicked, beaten, punched, choked, and sexually preyed upon by adult staff."

President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Senate Arms Services Committee Chair (See Abuse, Page 13)