



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

The Rev. Nelson Rivers delivered Saturday's keynote address at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

NAACP banquet attendants told of voting's power

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

This year's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Freedom Fund Banquet theme centered around mobilizing African-Americans to get out and vote, something locals and long-time NAACP supporter the Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III called right on time.

Rivers, the guest speaker for Saturday's event, said, "The theme of the banquet (The Race is On-Get Out the Vote) comes from the national convention theme that was very successful in Philadelphia. The (national) theme was *The Race is On*. "The time has come to get it on. The race has started. It started in 2000 when there was a grand theft election and the crime of the century happened at the beginning of the century, and now for the rest of the century we have to wake up and find a way to recover from the crime of the century," he said referring to Bush winning the White House.

Rivers continued, "If they can steal an election while you're looking then there's no telling what they can do when you're asleep. The race has two meanings. One is obvious — the election. This is a race. It is on and it's more than Democrats vs. Republicans; more than Bush vs. Kerry. This is about the future. This is about survival. This is about where we ought to be versus where we are. This is about shall we be inclusive or divisive. Shall we move forward or go backwards... Young people let me give you a peep: Folks will tell you about the good old days. Never trust anybody who tells you about the good old days. If it was that good, get them to go back there and see how long they will stay there. There's nothing good about the good-old days except that they're gone."

Rivers also talked about President George Bush's recent decline to come to the NAACP annual conference in Philadelphia.

"George Bush has said that we are the most feared civil rights organization. That's why President Bush refused to come to our annual convention last month.

He said that we criticize him. In case you didn't get the message, Mr. Bush, in America it is our right to criticize

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Blacks figure big in local races

By Mary Bleier
Special to Sentinel-Voice

All around town, signs of political warfare are everywhere — billboards propped up in dusty lots, posters, signs and bumper stickers. You might even catch a candidate slinging mud if you turn on your television or radio. And each time you open your mailbox, it's probably full of propaganda. With the primary elections coming up on September 7 and the all-important November elections following shortly thereafter, candidates are everywhere and in high gear, doing whatever it takes to garner your vote.

Many in Las Vegas, dissatisfied with the current course of action, are hoping to see more minorities get elected into office this year; and a handful of African-American hopefuls have decided to toss their hats into the political ring for the first time to see if they can make that a reality.

Long-time Nevadan Cedric Crear is one of the hopefuls, running for State Senate District 4, which en-



STEVEN HORSFORD

compasses parts of North Las Vegas, West Las Vegas and Northwest Las Vegas. He says his primary reason for getting into the race is because of his dad, Dr. John Crear.

"I grew up in this very district, attended school here and now I'm raising my family here," says Crear.

"My father, the late Dr. John Crear, was Nevada's second African-American doctor and took care of many people in this community. I grew up watching his love for this area and his dedication to the people. I knew that at the first opportunity, I wanted to continue his legacy of public service. This seat

would give me the chance to help those in need and work on a plan for the future of this community."

Crear, who is married with two children, says the schools need a significant amount of help. He also feels strongly about straightening out Las Vegas' traffic nightmares and points out a need for better planning as our city continues to grow.

"I'm concerned about the affects our incredible growth has had on this community...Senate District 4 is losing out when it comes to receiving the funding it deserves for badly needed projects," says Crear.

Crear, a telecommunications consultant, adds he's received a lot of support from District 4 to run.

Also running for State Senate District 4 is Steven Horsford, a native of Las Vegas and Executive Director of Nevada Partners and Culinary Training Academy. Horsford, who is married with two small boys, says he is all about the working family and understands the needs and concerns of many valley

families.

"I am the only candidate who is endorsed by teachers, firefighters, nurses, laborers and the Caucus of African-American Nevadans because of my strong support of working family issues," says Horsford. "They (working



CEDRIC CREAR

families) need someone who knows what it means to get a check every two weeks."

He also stresses the need and importance of addressing real issues in District 4 such as jobs, improvement in education, crime, and development in the community. "I believe that elected officials need to be public servants. I plan on being a strong and articulate voice for working (See Candidates, Page 13)

Humble Gatlin wants new image for track

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - After earning the title of world's fastest man, Justin Gatlin did something unusual. Well, it's what he *didn't* do after winning the Olympic 100 meters in 9.85 seconds that set him apart. There was no strutting. No preening. No declaration that he's the king of track.

"I just want to give a good image to the sport," Gatlin said Sunday.

"I'm not saying that anybody's tainted the sport, but I think it's my turn to show that there's a lot of good people out there in the sport of track and field.

"I want to show that nice guys can finish first... I feel that I'm likable. I feel that I'm honest. I go out there and give a good race for the crowd."

He did this time, clocking



Shocking his peers, Justin Gatlin, right, beat a stellar field to win gold in the fastest 100-meter dash in Olympic history.

a personal best in his biggest race to finish .01 ahead of Francis Obikwelu of Portugal and .02 ahead of defending champion Maurice Greene of the United States. It was the closest finish for an Olympic 100 final since the U.S.-boycotted 1980 Mos-

cow Games.

"It felt so easy," said Gatlin, whose previous best was 9.92. "And there were a lot of technical errors. The last 10 meters, I closed my hands and was running with pumped fists. If I had run relaxed, I could've run 9.8,

9.79. So I think I still have a chance to go out there and break the world record or run faster than I did tonight."

Now that's the kind of talk expected from the Olympic champion. Except the way Gatlin says it, he's being confident, not cocky.

Cocky is Greene getting a tattoo proclaiming himself the "greatest of all time." Or Shawn Crawford, the other American in the field, slowing down while leading a semifinal heat and turning to talk to Gatlin, his training partner, for the last 15 meters.

"That's how they do it, how they get themselves pumped up and run fast times. I hope they still do it because it's better competition when it's a faster race," Gatlin said.

He crossed the line with his mouth wide open, dropped

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