

NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 32

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

December 16, 2004

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Court sides with cops over force

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused Monday to clarify when police can use deadly force to stop fleeing criminal suspects but said a lower court got it wrong in allowing a lawsuit against an officer in Washington state who shot a burglary suspect.

Law enforcement groups and 16 states had encouraged the court to use the officer's appeal to clarify protection for officers from lawsuits when they injure or kill fleeing felons.

Instead, the court issued an unsigned opinion that found only that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco erred in ruling that the officer, Rochelle Brosseau, clearly violated the suspect's constitutional rights.

Brosseau shot Kenneth Haugen in 1999 as he fled in his Jeep to avoid being arrested for drug charges and for questioning in a burglary in Puyallup, Wash., a city of about 35,000 people in the Puget Sound region 10 miles east of Tacoma. Haugen pleaded guilty to fleeing police but then filed suit claiming a civil rights violation. He suffered a punctured lung in the shooting but recovered.

The 9th Circuit, which is frequently overturned by the Supreme Court, said Brosseau should face a jury.

"Officer Brosseau shot an unarmed man in the back as he attempted to drive away from her. In these circumstances, the officer's actions should be second-guessed," justices were told in a filing by Haugen's attorney, Bonnie Robin-Vergeer of the Public Citizen Litigation Group.

On the other side, the officer's actions were praised by law enforcement groups and states.

"Officer Brosseau should be commended for her selfless bravery in the face of imminent danger to herself, and those residing in the quiet residential neighborhoods of (See Force, Page 4)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

The 100 Black Men of Las Vegas recognized top students at their annual celebration. (See additional photos on page 11)

## 100 Black Men enjoy recognition

By *Lés Pierres Streater*  
Sentinel-Voice

More than 900 people donned tuxedos and evening gowns at the Paris Hotel and Casino on Saturday, to celebrate at the annual Las Vegas chapter of the 100 Black Men of America scholarship fund-raiser gala.

The 100 Black Men chap-

ter, established about five years ago, seeks to instill in every child they serve a sense of pride, respect, integrity, and the love for self, peers and the people around them through good behavior, honesty and brotherhood. Members of the organization do this by working to improve the quality of life for children

in Las Vegas by helping them stabilize their learning environment, eventually becoming self-supportive and controlling their own destiny. They are committed to the "Four for the Future" program — mentoring, education, health & wellness, and economic development. As a group of dedicated individuals giving back

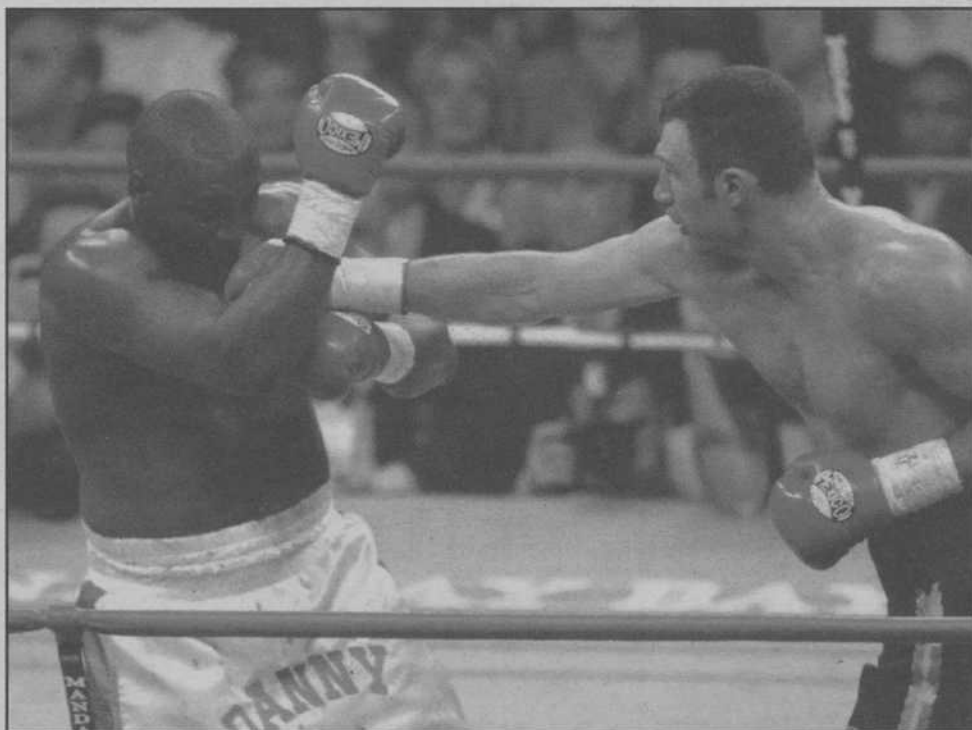
to the community and enriching the lives of children, the group raises money that is awarded to Clark County School District students, including recent high-school graduates. The chapter sponsored 42 young male and female students in its mentoring program, bringing (See 100 Men, Page 2)

## Klitschko beats Williams, off to Ukraine for political fight

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vitali Klitschko won a big heavyweight title fight by giving Danny Williams such a savage beating that his hand hurt badly from hitting Williams so much. That accomplished, he headed Sunday for Ukraine, where an even bigger fight awaits outside the ring.

Klitschko established himself as the heavyweight to beat among the various champions by knocking Williams down four times Saturday night before finally stopping him in the eighth round of a fight that left the loser beaten, bloodied and battered.

He did it while wearing an orange flag on his trunks signifying his support for Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko. The gesture was seen by millions of Ukrainians who stayed up late



Sentinel-Voice photo by C. J. Cansler

Vitali Klitschko, right, batters Danny Williams with a straight right hand Saturday night during their heavyweight title fight. Klitschko, the champion, pummeled Williams, who beat Mike Tyson earlier this year, for eight rounds before the referee stopped the bout.

or got up early to watch the fight on national television at 6 a.m. Sunday.

Right after leaving a hospital where x-rays on his left hand proved negative, Klitschko turned his attention to the crisis gripping his nation and his desire for democracy in Ukraine.

"This win was very important for the people. It was a gift of good nature," Klitschko told The Associated Press early Sunday morning. "It was not enough to show a good fight but to show that we're together as a people."

Klitschko, who briefly considered pulling out of the Williams fight because of the turmoil in his native land, instead used the fight as both a showcase for his skills and his desire to see Yushchenko elected in the Dec. 26 revote

in Ukraine.

He was successful in both, giving Williams the beating that Mike Tyson couldn't administer and then sending a message to his countrymen who watched the fight.

"I hope this fight supports people who fight themselves for democracy," Klitschko said. "To win the fight was very important in the fight for freedom in our country."

Klitschko now lives in Los Angeles but travels often to his homeland, where he and his brother, Wladimir, grew up as the sons of a helicopter pilot in the Soviet Union's armed forces.

Both brothers have been vocal in their support of Yushchenko, and Wladimir joined tens of thousands of protesters last month in Freedom Square in Kiev, where (See Fight, Page 19)