



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

Locals participate in a Saturday march through West Las Vegas. Las Vegas FACT organized the march as part of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day.

Residents commemorate day for AIDS awareness

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas F.A.C.T. (Fighting Aids in our Community Together) sponsored a march and rally on Saturday to coincide with National

Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day. Several dozen participants started marching at noon from the office at 1760 Wheeler Peak Street, to the Las Vegas Cultural and Performing Arts

Center, approximately one and a quarter miles, to inform the community that all need to get involved and join the revolution.

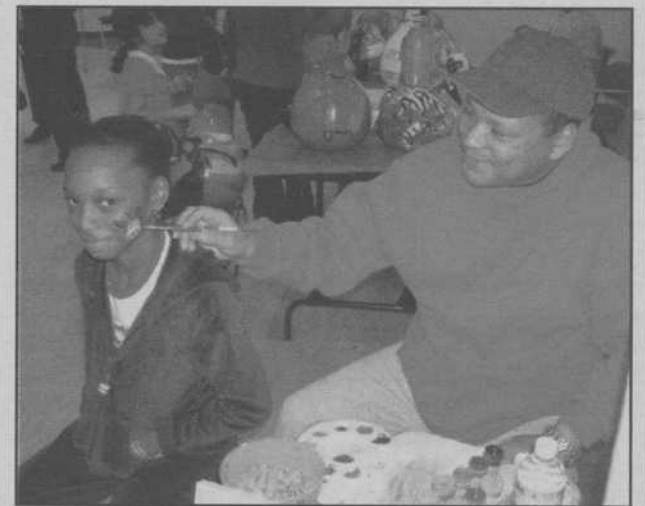
According to the organizational and Performing Arts (See HIV, Page 17)

Event recalls legacy of Black achievers

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

A modest crowd of enthusiastic patrons of the arts gathered at the West Charleston Library on Saturday to kick off the 8th Annual "Remembering the Freedoms" in salute to Black History Month. This two-day event was sponsored by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, the African-American History Month Committee, Women of Diversity Productions, Inc., and Kim Russell.

It featured a number of presentations from a variety of genres highlighting different aspects of African-American Culture. Musical selections from an endearing vocalist Carmen AnnelWoodruff started



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

Raven Cole, left, gets her face painted by Ivan Terrell during the 8th Annual "Remembering the Freedoms" program at the West Charleston Library.

the program and set the tone for an afternoon filled with stimulating entertainment.

Rhythmic sounds, vibrating echoes and heart-palpitating music was produced

by students of the West Las Vegas Drum Ensemble accompanied by drum and percussionist master Bamidele Adefemi. (See Celebration, Page 6)

Simone Fennell follows in father's artistic footsteps

By Tanya Flanagan
Sentinel-Voice

A plastic mesh barricade kept 3-month-old Simone Fennell from the work area where her father stored the paints and tools he used to make images lifelike on canvas. She was accustomed to bouncing around, watching her father blend reds, oranges, blues and greens, manipulating them on canvas to create pictures of strong women.

One night, overrun with curiosity about the colors and determined to touch and experience them, she vaulted over the short fence, headed for her father's studio where she lathered herself in a rainbow of colors to the amazement and amusement of parents, Albert and Shanna Fennell.

"I can still see her on her little toes. I never thought she would get out," Fennell's mother said. "We laughed so hard, and then I said to Albert, 'How do you clean paint off a baby?'"

Neither suspected that



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Simone Fennell chats during her opening reception. Her work will be on display Saturday in the Dallas Room of the Texas Station and through March 13 at the Rainbow Library.

moment would define their daughter as a woman. At 23, she is a Phoenix rising. Art exhibits take her across the country. She is living out the dream of her father. As his legacy, she is breathing a ministry into herself, her mother and others through her vibrant paintings.

Her works will be dis-

played and on sale this Saturday evening at the Texas Station Hotel and Casino during the "An Affair To Remember" gala beginning at 8:30 in the Dallas Room. Admission is free to the public as part of the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration and for Black History Month.

A second exhibit of her

work will be at the Rainbow Library, on Buffalo Drive at Cheyenne Avenue, this month through Mar 13. This exhibit is also free to the public.

The turning point that led Fennell to embrace her natural talent came four months after her father died in 2002. Feeling distraught and bur-

dened with grief, she needed a way to release the pain of it. While talking in the kitchen of their Summerlin home, her mom casually suggested she paint.

She pondered that for a moment, went to her bedroom and grabbed a sketchbook and began drafting images, one after another. Her hand almost could not keep up with the creative energy that flowed through her. Fifteen minutes later, she returned to the kitchen, where her mother was talking on the phone with Fennell's grandmother, and presented the sketches. Distracted, still on the call, she said, "Those are very good. Can you do some more?"

Fennell responded, "Yes." She returned to her bedroom and produced nearly 10 more sketches in less than a half hour.

Again, she presented them to her mother who said, "These are very nice. When did you do all of these?"

Fennell answered, "I just

did them, just now," stunning her mother. She immediately got off the phone to fully absorb the talent her daughter harnessed and what this would mean for their lives should she choose to embrace it and follow in her father's footsteps.

Nearly one year into watching her daughter work as an artist, producing beautiful acrylic abstracts and pieces that symbolize the sass, sexiness, strength and versatility of women, Fennell's mother says she does not recall being the voice that moved her daughter to begin painting.

"I never knew that I was the earthly inspiration until we were on tour at a show... I heard her tell a customer why she got started," said her mother, married to Fennell's father for 23 years until his death from a heart attack. He was famous for his pen and ink drawings primarily of African-American women.

She cared for her husband (See Artist, Page 8)