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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Rove meets with Caucus of African American Nevadans

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

The presidential election of 2004 was surrounded with controversy, as was the one in 2000 that sparked debate all the way to the Supreme Court.

One thing that was not argued by many was the demonstrated skillfulness of Karl Rove in his role as chief crafter of the second-term victory for President Bush. Rove, considered a "master strategist" by some, labeled, less favorably, a master manipulator by political opponents and others, was in Las Vegas this weekend for the annual Clark County Republican Party's Lincoln Dinner fundraiser. While here, he met with a local community organization.

Prior to Saturday's dinner at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino, Rove met with local political action committee, CAAN, the Caucus of African American Nevadans, for a question and answer session.

The purpose of the meeting with CAAN was to dis-



Sentinel-Voice by Ramon Savoy
Clark County Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald listens to the reply of Karl Rove, deputy White House chief of staff, during his meeting with CAAN on Saturday at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino.

cuss the administration's position on a few major topics. About 20 members of the organization queried Rove and heard his feedback on several issues: social security; education funding; proposed program budget cuts harmful to many African-American households; the

need for strengthening business development agency programs and appointment of African-Americans to head those agencies.

County Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald facilitated the meeting between Rove and CAAN. The organization's written state-

ment praised her work on issues "important to the African-American community" and called her "a very upstanding individual who represents her constituents extremely well."

In her remarks about Rove, she recognized his recent appointment to deputy White House chief of staff and his role in the administration. Boggs McDonald said she was very pleased with the meeting for several reasons:

"This is the man who is helping shape the domestic policy of our country, who, every day, has briefings with the president... [Rove] is his most trusted advisor," she pointed out.

Boggs McDonald was the 2002 Republican candidate for U.S. Congress from District 1 and speaks with commitment when she urges the community to take part in the political process.

"Regardless of who is sitting in the White House, regardless of which party is in power, African-Americans (See Rove, Page 15)

Sisters event pushes health

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

"Living My Life Like It's Golden" would have been a befitting theme surrounding the third annual Gift of Life Block Walk sponsored by the local chapter of Sisters Network Inc. held Saturday morning at Doolittle Park.

Sisters is a national breast cancer survivor organization founded in 1994 and it is focused on African-Americans. The organization has 44 chapters nationwide and over 4,000 members who are committed to increasing local and national awareness to the devastating impact that breast cancer has within Black communities.

The Las Vegas chapter provides local support to educate women about the effects of breast cancer, offers outreach and advocacy training, and assists with resources to combat this disease. The walk-a-thon is one of many events sponsored by the Sisters to raise funds to support their organization locally.

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among African-American women and ranks as the second leading cause of cancer after lung cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, in its report, Cancer Facts & Figures for African-American Women, during 2004, it is estimated that there were over 20,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed and approximately 5,700 resulted in death. That same report stated that the five-year survival rate for African-American women averages 74 percent in comparison to Caucasians whose five-year survival rate is 88 percent.

Jeannie Beatty, Las Vegas chapter president, and a 15-year breast cancer survivor, spoke about the walk-a-thon (See Walk, Page 14)

Mfume's personal life under scrutiny

Chief, staffer had relationship

By Makebra Anderson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — When the NAACP's Board of Directors declined to renew the contract of President and CEO Kweisi Mfume last fall, some speculated that it was because of the internal conflicts between Mfume and Board Chairman Julian Bond. However, published reports have now disclosed that there were also concerns over Mfume's personal relationship with one female staff member, possibly more.

"I don't think this has anything to do with personality conflicts. What people have been talking about is why Mfume left and in that con-

text they were talking about the problems with Bond, but as it turns out, that might not have been the issue at all. This may have been the issue," said University of Maryland professor Ron Walters.

It was recently disclosed that last summer, a female employee of the NAACP, Michele Speaks, accused Mfume of unfair treatment. The NAACP's executive committee requested that an outside lawyer review her allegations and assess the organization's liability. One month after the lawyer presented the memo to the committee, Mfume resigned.

(See Mfume, Page 2)



TAKING BACK OUR STREETS

Las Vegas City Councilman Larry Weekly, third from right, and downtown business activist Earl White, front and second from left, walk through downtown Las Vegas on Saturday. Downtown-area business owners and residents, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and city officials periodically conduct these Take Back Our Streets Marches in an attempt to let criminals know they're being watched. Reducing crime is key to downtown's revival.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson