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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Senate OKs Brown, ends Pryor filibuster

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Senate on Wednesday confirmed California judge Janice Rogers Brown for the federal appeals court, ending a two-year battle filled with accusations of racism and sexism and shadowed by a dispute over Democratic blocking tactics.

Senators quickly followed by ending another long-term filibuster, clearing the way for a vote Thursday on former Alabama Attorney General William Pryor as outlined in an agreement last month that averted a showdown that could have brought Senate action to a halt.

After giving Pryor a final vote and confirming two Michigan nominees to other appeals court posts, senators plan to leave President Bush's other controversial nominees dangling, moving on to other matters after devoting a month to historic but exhausting debate over judges.

The Senate voted 56-43 to



"We've spent endless hours, endless days, too many weeks debating radical judges and Republican attempts to abuse power."

— Harry Reid of Nevada Senate Democratic leader

confirm Brown to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and 67-32 to end the filibuster of Pryor's nomination to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals — the last of the three nominees Democrats agreed to clear in exchange for Republicans not banning judicial filibusters.

As a bonus, the Senate will confirm on Thursday Michigan nominees David McKeague and Richard Griffin, nominated to the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati, said Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

While those two weren't part of the deal to avoid a fight over judicial filibusters, Democrats withdrew their objections to their confirmation during the back-and-forth negotiations.

By clearing the filibusters of Brown, Pryor and the now-confirmed U.S. Appeals Court Judge Priscilla Owen, the Senate has taken care of the first part of the Senate agreement.

Seven Democrats and seven Republicans signed the pact last month pledging not to filibuster judicial nomi-
(See *Filibuster*, Page 4)

Father comes to Vegas seeking justice for son

On Monday evening, about a dozen members of the local community, heads of civil rights organizations and family friends and advisors met at an "emergency meeting" to hear the concerns of a man grieving over his slain son, who lived in Las Vegas, and the father was trying desperately to "just get some answers" and "get justice."

Dannet Johnson Jr. of Pasadena, Calif., is the father whose son, Dannet DeWinter Johnson III, of Las Vegas, was fatally stabbed with a knife in an attack on May 14 in North Las Vegas allegedly by a contract worker, Christopher Lipscomb, reportedly from California.

Witnesses reportedly said a verbal altercation started between Lipscomb, a White male, who was accompanied by two White male companions, and the victim, a 26-year-old African-American who was reportedly unarmed.

The incident occurred on a parking lot of a pharmacy near the intersection of West Craig and North Decatur roads. The victim died at the scene. Lipscomb was arrested by the North Las Vegas Police Department at or near the scene shortly after the incident, but was released within a few days, according to Johnson.

Since the stabbing, as of the time of the meeting, no charges had been filed by the

Clark County District Attorney's office, according to a public relations spokesperson, identified only as Lisa, who said that the case was in the "screening division" and said that the District Attorney David Roger had made "no decision one way or the other" at that time. That was late Monday afternoon.

"I haven't been able to get any information, and I feel like they are disrespecting me" Johnson told the members in the meeting, and further said, "They were characterizing my son as something that he was not."

Johnson was referring to what seemed to be racially biased comments he considered assumptive and unfair that were made to him and his family members by detectives and other law enforcement officials about his son having a "gang" affiliation — which Johnson said is totally false.

"Just because of the way he dressed — in a red hat and red shirt," Johnson said.

"My son had just started his new job as a corrections officer on May 10, right before he was killed. He had applied to be a police officer twice, and finally was accepted, so you know he had to pass a background check."

Johnson believed that his son's death was "not being investigated fully," and said
(See *Father*, Page 5)

Black pre-K students expelled at alarming rates

By Makebra M. Anderson Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — The number of African-American women enrolling in college between 2000 and 2001 was more than double that of Black men, according to a study released by the American Council on Education.

Black men increased by 30,000. The number of Black women in college rose by 73,000 during that same period.

Many experts think the gap between Black men and women can be attributed to the way Black children are treated as early as pre-school.

According to researches at Yale University, African-American children in kindergarten are twice as likely to be expelled as Hispanic and White children and more

than five times as likely to be expelled as Asian children. According to most, a lack of support in the classroom is to blame.

"These 3- and 4- year olds are barely out of diapers. No one wants to think about children this young being kicked out of school, especially not their parents and teachers. All teachers in state-funded prekindergarten programs should have access to the support staff they need to effectively manage classroom behavior. When they do, expulsion rates are cut nearly in half," said Walter Gilliam, author of the Yale University study "Prekindergartners Left Behind."

According to the study, state expulsion rates for prekindergartners exceed those in K-12 classes. Gilliam found that expulsion rates are

lowest in classrooms located in public schools and Head Start and highest in faith-affiliated centers, for-profit childcare and other community-based settings. In classrooms where the teacher had no access to a psychologist or psychiatrist, students were expelled twice as often.

Nationally, 10.4 percent of teachers reported expelling at least one pre-kindergartener during the past year, for an expulsion rate of 6.7 per 1,000 compared to 2.1 per 1,000 for student in K-12. The lowest rates of expulsion were reported by teachers who had an ongoing, regular relationship with a behavioral consultant. In classrooms where the teacher had no access to a behavioral consultant, students were expelled about twice as often.

Gilliam, who is also assistant professor of child psychiatry and psychology at the Yale University Child Study Center, believes that access to support programs would

make the difference regardless of whether a child is expelled or remains in the classroom.

"After decades of research in early education, we

know that these programs can significantly improve children's school readiness and help put them on a path toward continued education."
(See *Expulsion*, Page 6)



SMOOTH GROOVES AND MOVES

The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards performed at the Fremont Street Experience on Saturday. The show was part of the Rocks Downtown Vegas Series.