

MLK parade committee sets theme, marshals

By *Lés Pierres Streater*
Sentinel-Voice

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade committee announced its theme and grand marshals for their 25th Annual King Day Parade scheduled for Saturday, January 14, in downtown Las Vegas. The parade theme is "Living the Dream: By Shaping Minds for Tomorrow."

Reverend Jesse Scott and Marcia Washington were selected to be the parade grand marshals.

The committee also announced a significant change for the 2006 event. A request by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department has prompted the group to limit the number of participants to only 100. Last year, the parade featured more than 155 entrants and lasted over four hours.

According to Tiffany Wedlow, a spokesperson for the parade committee, "Names of individuals were submitted to the committee...



"I felt very good about being selected as a Grand Marshall to this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Parade."
— Rev. Jesse Scott

It was decided to select Reverend Scott and Marcia Washington for their hard work and tireless effort in the community."

Scott, an assistant Pastor at Second Baptist Church, spearheaded local civil rights initiatives among his other accomplishments. He participated in many activities during the 1960's dealing with the Civil Rights Movement where he worked with Dr. King.

"I felt very good about being selected as a Grand Marshall to this year's Mar-

tin Luther King Jr. Parade. I am a 35-year resident of Las Vegas, coming here ...at the invitation of attorney Charles Keller, who was the President of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP (in 1970)."

Scott became executive director of the local NAACP branch, and he was later elected as its President. He was appointed executive director of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission by former Governor O'Callaghan and served for over eight years. Former Governor Miller appointed

Scott to serve on the Parole Board for four years. A widower, Scott has two children and five grandchildren.

Washington, a longtime local resident and elected official, has worked as an advocate for early education and was elected to the Nevada State Board of Education in 2000 and re-elected to the same board in 2004.

Washington said, "I was both shocked and honored to be recognized as being worthy enough to be consid-

Among other community-focused positions, she has served as a taskforce member on the Las Vegas Community Development Block Grant committee. She said she is currently training for a position as an inspector with the Clark County Fire Department.

Washington spoke of her husband, Las Vegas Fire Chief David Washington, and their four children and grandchildren.

Speaking on the theme of

parade's importance, "It means a lot to me that we continue to honor those individuals like Dr. King, Rosa Parks, [and many others] because they laid the groundwork for the movement, and all of us now are standing on their shoulders making it possible for us now to live a better life."

Wendell Williams, president and founder of the parade committee said he welcomes the community to take part in the parade.

"As we all strive for a better world, the King parade is an excellent way to demonstrate our unified commitment to peace and brotherhood. We look forward to celebrating the life of this great American with you," Williams said.

The parade route will start at Fourth Street at Hoover, heading north to Ogden, where it concludes. Applications are now being accepted and will be on a first-come, first-served basis, according to organizers. Applications are available at the West Las Vegas Library, KCEP radio station and the Urban Chamber of Commerce.



"I was both shocked and honored to be recognized as being worthy enough to be considered."

— Marcia Washington

ered... because of the work that I do in the community... I was surprised and humbly grateful. I have volunteered for the Dr. Martin Luther King Parade committee for several years."

this year's parade, Washington said, "As African-Americans, I think that we need to get involved more with our children and try to prepare."

Paying tribute to Dr. King, Scott commented about the

Board of Regents poised to raise GPA requirement

By *Asmeret Asghedom*
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Nevada Board of Regents said they would make their decision in January on whether to raise the GPA admission requirement to 3.0 in 2007 for the two state universities, or stick to their original plan and wait until 2010. In the meantime, they will raise the current 2.5 GPA level to 2.75 in 2006.

The meeting was held in the Foundation Building on campus at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The building is used to headquarter university fundraising usually, but recently the building was the eyes and ears to a debate that left many students and faculty upset.

"It's unethical. You just can't slam the door right now," said Cisco Gonzales, a senior criminal justice and sociology major at UNLV.

Many believe that if the GPA is raised many high school students, particularly students of color, will be excluded from attending either one of the universities, UNLV or the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

"Two GPA increases two years in a row, one for fall of 2006 and another in 2007, would be the most radical jumps," said Lee Rowland, the public advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern Nevada.

Rowland, a graduate of Harvard Law School, said rushing to raise the GPA will produce complex issues for people of color, people living in low-income areas and people for whom English is their second language.

She said there are several factors that the Regents have to take into consideration before they raise the GPA two times in a row.

"There is a direct relation between GPA points and low-income families," Rowland said.

She also said that high school teachers are going to feel the pressure immediately. K-12 schools need more time to prepare for the GPA adjustment.

Anita Revilla, a professor of Women Studies at UNLV, said, "A rapid change would have detrimental consequences." She said there need to be more outreach programs for high schools in low-income areas.

Following Revilla, several students and professors spoke against raising the GPA in 2007.

One student said, "It was discrimination against low-income students." Another student called it elitist.

Student Senator of the Liberal Arts College Henry Jimenez told the regents that he did not have a 3.0 when he graduated from high school. "I wouldn't have made it in," he said.

Chancellor Jim Rogers, UNLV President Carol Harter, and UNR President John Lilley were the main advocates for raising the GPA requirement.

According to the December 1 agenda, Title 4, Chapter 16, they believe raising the GPA would reverse a rapid increase in enrollment resulting in more resources per capita for current and prospective students.

The GPA increase would also decrease the amount of students who are not ready for college, which would lower the dropout rates.

"We have too many students that are not competent to go to school," Rogers said. "We're spending too much time with students that are freshmen that don't become sophomores."

Rogers said about 40 percent of students accepted into UNLV with a 2.5 GPA or lower don't go on to become sophomores. He said these students should consider going to a

(See Regents, Page 5)

Follow the Rainbow to...
Good Health!

When your family counts on you to stay healthy, you can count on Rainbow Medical Centers' board certified family physicians to provide the highest quality of primary and urgent care services. Our facilities offer lab, x-ray, and are open evenings and weekends for your convenience. Rainbow Medical Centers has also been awarded Joint Commission Accreditation (JCAHO) for maintaining national standards of quality healthcare.

Track your health at
My Health Zone
You'll find it at...
www.rainbowmedical.com

RAINBOW Medical Centers

PRIMARY & URGENT CARE

Board Certified Physicians
Most Insurances Accepted

West 255-6657 1341 S. Rainbow Blvd.	East 438-4003 821 N. Nellis Blvd.	North 655-0550 4920 Lone Mtn. Rd.	Rampart 254-9192 8522 Del Webb Blvd.	Galleria 436-5800 1397 Galleria Dr.	Golden Triangle 657-9555 1302 W. Craig Rd.	Boulder Hwy 898-1405 4241 S. Nellis Blvd.
--	--	--	---	--	---	--