

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## NAACP chides Target, others

By Lorinda M. Bullock  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — NAACP President and CEO Bruce Gordon issued this warning to Target and three other major retailers that earned F grades on the 2006 NAACP Economic Reciprocity Initiative Report Card Monday: "We're coming after you."

Gordon made this announcement Monday to a standing-room-only crowd during the NAACP's 97th annual convention held at the Washington Convention Center.

But Gordon didn't just take aim at Target. Other retail giants, including Sears Holdings Corporation that recently merged with K-Mart, Dillard's Inc., and Kohl's department stores were also criticized by name.

Those companies earned failing marks because they did not cooperate with the civil rights group's 10-year-old survey measuring what the report calls "corporate America's financial relationship with the African-American community."

"We have companies that haven't responded for two years," Gordon said, referring to Target. "Some folks in our community like Target because you know they have good prices and a nice product line. They don't even care to respond to our survey. Stay out of their stores," Gordon said followed by loud applause.

Target issued a statement Monday afternoon saying, "Target did not participate in the 2006 NAACP General Merchandising survey because Target views diversity as being inclusive of all people from all different backgrounds, not just one group. The information requested in the NAACP survey was about African-American team members only. In addition, the NAACP asked for specific information on minority populations and other company initiatives that Target considers to be proprietary. Therefore, while our company has a genuine and extensive commitment to diversity, our grade reflects the fact that we did not participate in this particular survey."

In a speech to delegates earlier in the day, Gordon pledged to move beyond simply issuing reports each year.

"We have companies that get D's and F's and no consequences," he said. "Why take the time to do the survey and then do nothing about it? We're going to start a consequence system, and it's real simple. If corporations spend their money on us, we'll spend our money with those corporations. Real simple. And if they don't, we won't."

A total of 50 companies in industries such as automotive, telecommunications, lodging, financial services and retail were graded in the annual report.

Of all categories, no company was given a grade of A. In fact, Gordon said an A has never been given in the 10-year history of the report. BellSouth was the closest, earning a B-plus. The telecommunications company scored high in areas such as charitable giving to African-American programs and organizations and their willingness to launch new services in African-American markets.

BellSouth improved on last year's B-minus grade. The company's chief diversity officer, Valencia Adams, attended Gordon's press conference.

In a statement, she explained, "It was our goal to better our 2005 score and I'm pleased that our efforts made a difference and that the NAACP is also acknowledging our progress."

Excel has an even worse record than Target. It earned an F and has refused to complete the survey for five  
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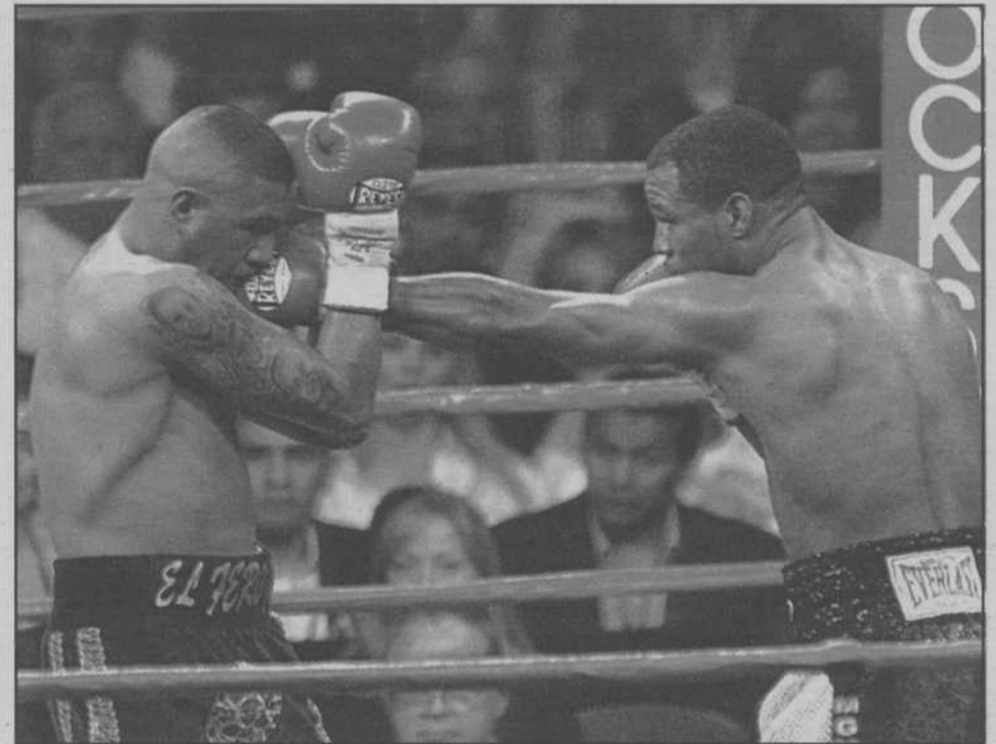
## Mosley wants big fights

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Shane Mosley landed the crushing left hook, then turned and climbed the ropes in one elegant motion. Behind him, Fernando Vargas crumpled gracelessly to the canvas. This rematch wasn't much of a match at all, and Sugar Shane was back on top.

Mosley stopped Vargas in the sixth round of their 154-pound rematch Saturday night, flattening Vargas with a walloping left hand for his second victory in the rivalry in five months.

A grotesque swelling that closed Vargas' left eye caused the fighters' first match in February to be stopped in the 10th round. But even with two good eyes, Vargas never saw that hook — and the smaller Mosley hit him with a near-perfect punch.

"It does boost my confidence knowing that I can knock out bigger guys," Mosley said. "My power is



"Sugar" Shane Mosley, right, shoots a jab into the mug of Fernando Vargas. Mosley knocked Vargas out in the sixth-round of their 154-pound rematch on Saturday night.

increasing from fight to fight. I've noticed more of a snap to my punches. I've noticed that I can knock people out. I've hurt people very well."

The charismatic four-time world champion is back in form after four losses from 2002-04, and he might get a matchup with Floyd

Mayweather Jr. or Antonio Margarito if he drops to 147 pounds. But nothing will happen until 200. After beat-  
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## Black women leaders await

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
SPECIAL REPORT:

The renewal of key sections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act was named in honor of three Black women. The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives 390-33 last week and is expected to pass the Senate before the August recess. Even though the legislation is named after three Black heroines, Black women have yet to be elected president of the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or any other national grassroots civil rights organization. This report examines the plight — and frustrations — of Black women leaders.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Despite the historic contributions made by civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks, Vivian



Malone Jones, C. DeLores Tucker, Judge Constance Baker Motley and Coretta Scott King — all of whom died during the past year — Black women say they struggle for opportunities to demonstrate their leadership, largely because of deep-seated sexist attitudes in the Black community.

"There are still men who have not accepted women's determination to have equality," says Dorothy Height, president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women. "They interpret it as being anti-men when women

"Frankly, I really did feel very put down by men that participated in that. That's all the top Black leadership. There are still a large number of men who are intimidated and not supportive of women in leadership positions. It is just a fact of life."

— Dorothy Leavell  
President NNPA Foundation

are even speaking for themselves. Also, there are still men who feel that women should only talk about 'women's issues.' Well, all issues are women's issues."

Even when women discuss certain issues, they are expected to be diplomatic.

"Women have to do like Rosa Parks," Height says. "They have to be willing to speak their mind, but do it in a respectful way, and we have to continue doing it."

That is, if they get to speak at all. Although there was plenty of talk about the Big Six civil rights leaders —

A. Philip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, James Farmer, and John Lewis — Dorothy Height was the only peer not allowed to speak during the 1963 March on Washington.

Today, Height is treated as civil rights royalty, enthusiastically applauded at public events and respected for her many years of service. Such adoration, however, masks a deeper issue of Black women not being accepted as equals on the civil rights battlefield.

"If you look at the major civil rights organizations, there's never been one executive director or president of the NAACP, for example, who was a woman," says Mary Frances Berry, immediate past chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

"The only female head of a civil rights organization that's not a woman's group was when Elaine Jones was head of the NAACP Legal  
(See Women, Page 4)