

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Jackson: Wal-Mart tries to buy critics

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Wal-Mart, the giant retailer under criticism for some of its employment practices, appears to be trying to buy the silence of its civil rights critics, charges Jesse Jackson Sr., president and chief executive of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, based in Chicago.

"Rainbow/PUSH has criticized Wal-Mart openly and publicly and consistently, and they've tried to virtually throw money at us," said Jackson, who has declined



*"I think they want to leverage our organization. I think they want to leverage us into silence."*

— Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

donations from Wal-Mart. "I think they want to leverage our organization. I think they want to leverage us into silence. And, I'm not being self-righteous, but we feel that we ought to be the last one to stand if it comes to that."

Wal-Mart denies they are trying to buy anyone.

"There are two ways to do this. You can give money to organizations to give them the resources that they need to go out and be advocates for economic development and self-improvement," says Fenimore

Fisher, Wal-Mart's national director of diversity relations. "But there's a whole other side of this that's missing if you don't pay attention to it. That is doing business with those organizations that are run by women and minorities. We take that very seriously."

An NNPA examination of the company's federal tax 990 forms listing charitable contributions for the past five

years shows contributions to Black organizations remained about steady between \$325,000 in 2001 and \$322,336 in 2002, rising slightly to \$402,400 in 2003, increasing to more than \$689,227 in 2004 and then more than doubling to \$1,702,500 in 2005.

Wal-Mart's giving to Black organizations increased by 424 percent over the past five years while Wal-Mart's overall public contributions increased by only 105 percent, from 75,301,122 in 2001 to \$154,537,406 in 2005. The largest increase in Black spending came in 2004, when Wal-Mart was hit with the largest workplace bias lawsuit in U.S. history. That was the same year the company formed an office of di- (See Wal-Mart, Page 6)

## Lewis will deliver keynote to NAACP

By Debbie Hall  
and Parker Philpot  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

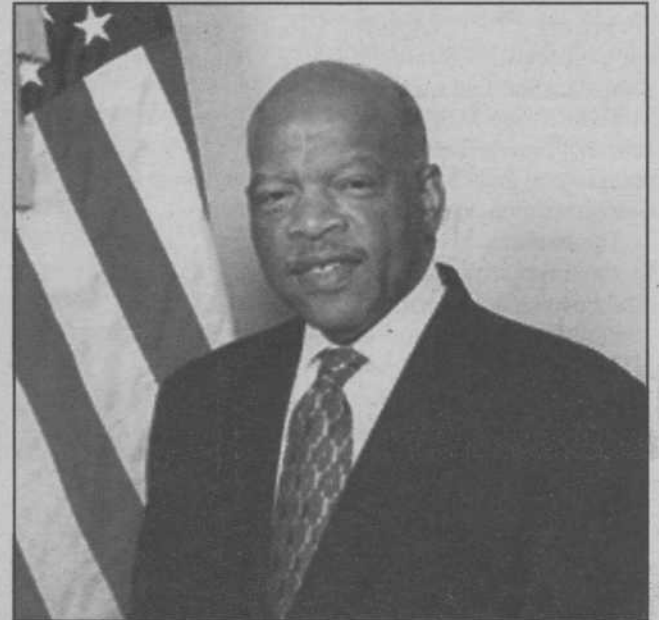
The NAACP's third annual Freedom Fund Banquet takes place on Saturday, October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Brasilia Rooms 4-7 at the Rio All Suites Hotel and Casino located at 3700 W. Flamingo.

"Voting our Values... Valuing our Votes" is the theme of the fundraising awards event.

Democratic Representative John Lewis is the guest speaker. Since his election to Congress 1985, Lewis has represented Georgia's 5th District, which covers Atlanta and sections of Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton counties. He has been a powerhouse in civil rights for more than 40 years.

W. Dean Ishman, president of the NAACP local branch, emphasized the significance of the invited speaker and the event's title.

"Our theme is a national theme. Each year, coming out of convention there is a theme that carries us [branches] through the year...



Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., will deliver the keynote address at the Las Vegas NAACP branch's Freedom Fund Banquet.

It couldn't be more appropriate for us at this time because of the elections."

Ishman explained that in addition to national Election Day, Nov. 7, the NAACP is holding its members' election for officers on the third Saturday in November.

During the banquet, three people will receive category awards for service to the community: Shirley Barber,

education; Rev. Jesse Scott, civil rights; and Dr. Anthony Pollard, humanitarian.

The master of ceremonies, Michael Colyar, is a comic entertainer, actor, talk show host and humanitarian. Singer, writer and actor mZuri will perform her one-woman tribute to civil rights fighter Fannie Lou Hamer in word and song. The Woody

(See Banquet, Page 2)

## Reno NAACP views Walgreens' policy

RENO, Nev. (AP) - The Reno-Sparks chapter of the NAACP says it will conduct a review of Walgreens' local business practices affecting minorities after four Black men filed a discrimination lawsuit against the drugstore chain.

Leaders of the local advocacy group said the action approved by its membership last week is the first step toward determining whether they will ask the national NAACP to consider a nationwide boycott of Walgreen Co.

The review will involve submitting a questionnaire to the local store just north of the downtown Reno casino district where the alleged discrimination occurred in 2003.

It is not specifically related to that incident but was launched at the request of one of the plaintiff's in that pending lawsuit set to go to trial Feb. 5 in Washoe County District Court, NAACP leaders said. It will be similar to the inquiry the NAACP makes of businesses in compiling an annual consumer choice guide.

"We're looking at local practices as they relate to race-related issues. We are going to investigate Walgreens' treatment of Blacks and minority shoppers, employees and policies and practices with vendors," said Lonnie Feemster, a longtime civil rights activist and past president of the local (See NAACP, Page 4)



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

## HERE COME THE JUDGES

The honorable Mablean Ephriam, second from right, formerly of the television show "Divorce Court," delivered the keynote address for the Las Vegas chapter of the National Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Banquet on Saturday at the Rio All Suites Hotel-Casino. From left to right: Attorney and Las Vegas NBA president Jason Frierson, Nevada Supreme Court justices Michael Douglas and Nancy Becker, plus District Judge Timothy Williams.