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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly cuts the ribbon with owner, Gwen Braimoh of the Expertise Cosmetology Institute on Tuesday.

It is beautiful: School opens

By Frank Armand Albano
Sentinel-Voice

The Expertise Cosmetology Institute, Nevada's first Black-owned cosmetology training facility, opened its doors to the media, public, elected officials and others on Tuesday. The 11,000 sq ft building is located at 1911 Stella Lake, in the Enterprise Park business complex near the southwest corner of W. Lake Mead and Martin Luther King Blvd.

About a dozen neighborhood girls were able to get their hair done and nails manicured, on the house, as a community service by school instructors in training and their students. The community welcoming event was hosted by founder Gwen Braimoh, a 24-year veteran hairdresser and trade sales rep, who first opened Expertise School of Beauty, formerly located in Nucleus Plaza, before relocating, expanding and becoming a full-service, state certified training institute.

"The idea was mine to open the school," said Braimoh, recognizing the need and furthering her vision for helping many others join the profession and fulfill their business dreams.

After introductions by Hannah Brown, president of the Urban Black Chamber of Commerce, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Ward 5 Councilman Larry Weekly, soon to become county commissioner, and Braimoh.

Inside the institute's operations, students were busy cutting the hair of those who came to take advantage of the free services offered for that day only. Overseeing the stylists were trainers in black smocks, completing the required hours for advanced trainer state certification. Students were clad in red smocks, training to become state licensed cosmetologists proficient in performing a variety of hairstyles from cuts to braids and other client services.

"Yes," said Braimoh, the director of instruction, "giving up 24 years of full-time hairstyling, it was a sacrifice, but I recognized the need for a cosmetology school, and I got together with my mother Willia Chaney, my business partner."

She added, "We just don't teach cosmetology — which covers hair cutting, manicures and facials — but we teach
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Obama visits Vegas

By Kanika Vann
Special to Sentinel-Voice

On Sunday, Illinois Senator and Presidential hopeful, Barack Obama made a visit to the Clark County Government Building in Las Vegas to speak to voters, future voters, avid supporters of his 2008 campaign for the U.S. Presidency and some skeptics.

Approximately 3,000 on-lookers attended the Obama '08 presidential rally held on the lush lawn of the amphitheater, where children and adults alike simultaneously chanted "O-bam-a" for several minutes before his ascent to the stage.

Before he took the podium, a UNLV freshman, Maureen Gregory, a member of the Young Democrats Organization said, "We all know that Bush's politics are



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Sen. Barack Obama spoke to hundreds of people about his campaign Sunday at the Clark County Government Center. Obama recently announced his U.S. presidential candidacy.

not working. We know that changes must be made. Nancy Pelosi just became the

first female Speaker of the House, Congress is being run by the Democrats, and we are

standing at a rally hoping to gain support for the first African-American president.
(See Obama, Page 4)

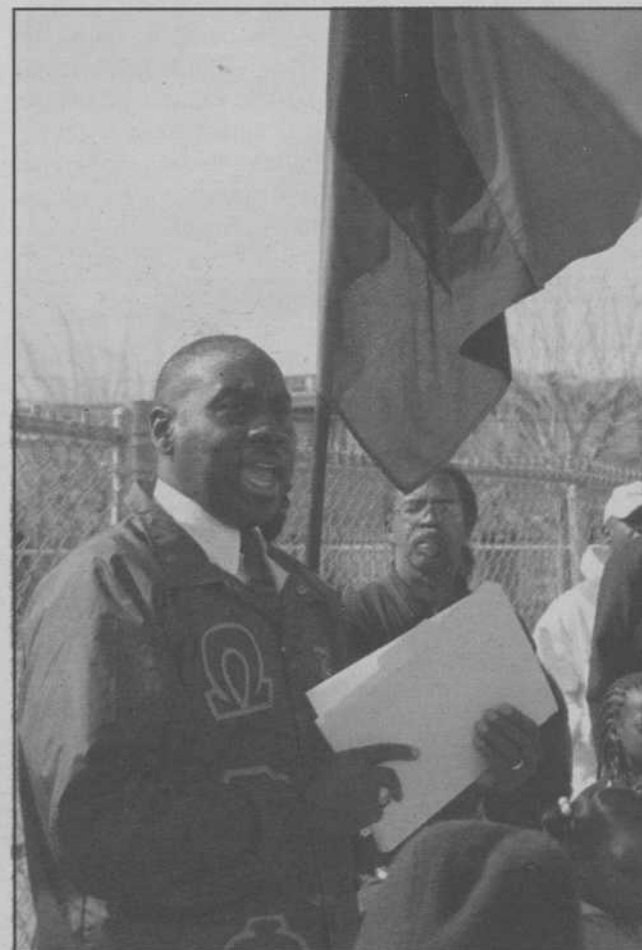
March stirs pride in Blacks

Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Dozens of residents braved the cold and intermittent rain on President's Day to celebrate the second Annual African American Pride March/Rally in West Las Vegas. The participants assembled at the southwest corner of H Street and Owens and proceeded south for the two-mile march throughout the community to raise the awareness about the importance of celebrating Black History Month and honoring the accomplishments of African-Americans.

The group is made up of members of the Ministerial Alliance, local fraternities, social service agencies, educators and others who feel that unity and pride are the components needed to make change in the community.

Leon Pearson, who coordinated the pride march/rally, welcomed the audience and gave an overview about the reasons why they were assembled.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Leon Pearson, organizer of the second annual African-American Pride March, speaks to dozens of participants.

"Thank you for coming out and giving a voice to Black History month with your presence. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week said 'Those who have no record of what their founders have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.'"

He continued, "It is time for us to bring the dreams of Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, Percy Julian, Shirley Chisholm, Marian Anderson, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Fred Shuttlesworth, Vernon Johns, Nat Turner, Tony Dungy, Lovie Smith, Mary McLeod, and many others, into reality. The difference between a dream and a goal is a deadline with action. Today is about action."

Pearson added, "So often we think African-American history is not significant or not important. In fact, we've had more talk about celebrities than anything about African-American history.
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