

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Health report targets Blacks

By Frank Armand Albano  
Sentinel-Voice

Community leaders, academicians, medical practitioners, heads of churches and others gathered at the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League's office to hear some of the reasons why Nevada's Black population is disproportionately affected by higher rates of disease and disparities in healthcare.

The presentation was delivered last week by Nevada Office of Minority Health Manager Dr. Larry Gamell, who delivered the report prepared by the State's Bureau of Community Health. Entitled "Minority Health in Nevada," using bar graphs and charts, Gamell delivered its startling statistics followed by proposed solutions.

The 29-page report compares poverty rates, per capita incomes, and education levels for Blacks, Whites and Hispanics, primarily, in terms of how those factors negatively affect healthcare, disease and mortality rates, with Blacks consistently faring the worst.

Blacks experience higher rates of serious diseases and receive a lower level of healthcare. The report lists higher rates in the leading causes of death in the Black population compared to other ethnic groups.

The report noted higher rates for Blacks in these health areas: broad range of cancers, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes, septicemia and nephritis, suicide and homicide, influenza and pneumonia, and HIV/AIDS.

The primary causes of the problem are linked to these factors: disparities in healthcare access, lower education attainment, lower income levels, occupational risks, unhealthy living conditions, cultural beliefs, discrimination. (See Health, Page 4)

## Hip-hop show hits UNLV

By Chelsi Cheatom  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Rebelpalooza, a yearly concert produced by the UNLV student government, was held on Friday at UNLV Intramural Field on the UNLV campus. This year's show featured veteran performers Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Ghostface Killah and Three-6-Mafia, among others. The event was free for UNLV students and the general public paid admission.

The event kicked off with local performers Verbal Ase/Shadow/DJ Toast and reggae band 420 Daze each performing a set. The event continued with local hip-hop group, The Chapter featuring Dee-1, performing songs from their new CD, "Advanced Studies."

The show was billed for all ages, and some very young children were in attendance, but it may have been better if restricted to an adult audience, especially with the trouble that broke out.

Unfortunately, for some of the adults and families who came out to enjoy a great show it was marred by a small number of attendees

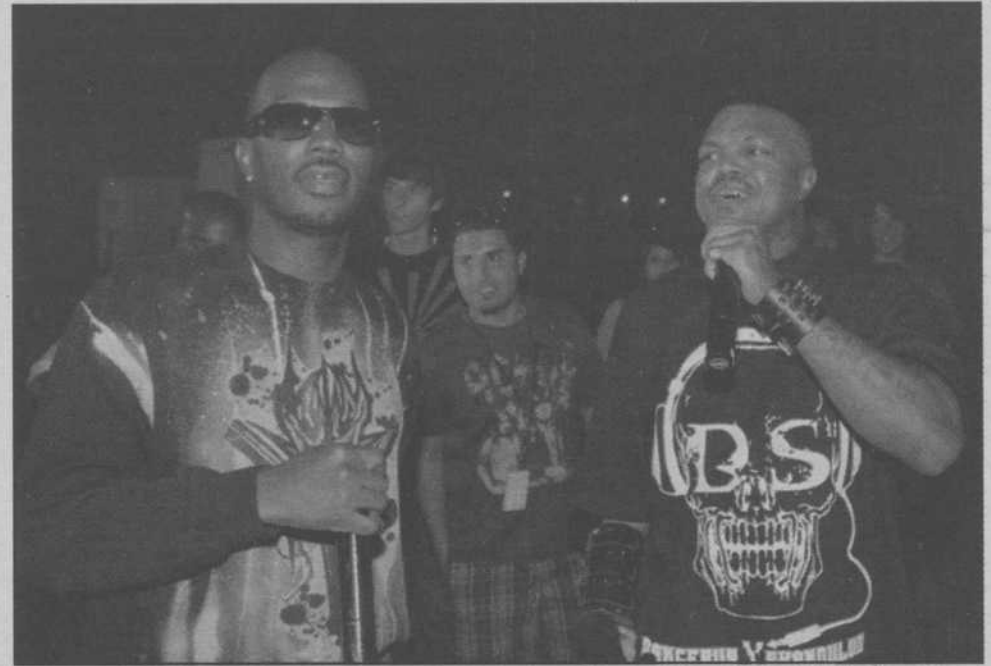


Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Marty Frierson

Members of the Grammy Award-winning rap group Three-6-Mafia performed Friday during Rebelpalooza. The hyped concert featured other hip-hop stars including Ghostface.

who began smoking marijuana although there were plenty of security officers and police present.

"I thought security was rather lackadaisical in their approach," said UNLV student Raul Juarez.

The weather was warm for an outdoor festival; the temperature at its highest was over 90 degrees. The show began at 3 p.m. and lasted

until well after 11 p.m. There was no great variety in vendor booths of the kind you usually find at a music festival, noted UNLV student Josh Summers.

"They lacked in different vendors. It was very cool that the burritos were free from Chipotle. All in all, I had a great time. But, with the sun beating down on me it drained a lot of energy,"

Summers said.

After the opening acts, a poorly put together rap battle and dance contest was held to jeers and taunts from the audience. The battle just served as proof that security wasn't as good as it could have been when a fight broke out involving one of the battle rappers, a White male, and two Black men from the (See Concert, Page 2)

Do you know what your child is breathing?

## Cigarette smoke a chemical stew

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
Part five of a series

More than a half million African-Americans have died from smoking-related diseases over the past decade. That's enough people to fill the cities of Atlanta, New Orleans, Kansas City, Mo., or Cleveland, Ohio. Yet, cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Then why are so many Black people dying from cigarettes and why is it so difficult to quit? This eight-part series — "Nicotine Addiction" — seeks to explore

these questions by featuring real people, real circumstances, and real answers.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Terry places her sleeping toddler in the crib, then leaves the room for a break. With her baby daughter sound asleep, it's a good time for a smoke.

The 33-year-old nurses' assistant is well aware of health threats; therefore, she is careful not to smoke around the little one.

"She was a premature baby. And so, you have to watch what you do around her — period," said Terry, who asked that her married name not be used in order to protect the privacy of her

family.

Relaxing in the next room with her three teenage stepchildren, she enjoys her Newport Lights. This mother of four thinks she's being responsible as she protects her 18-month-old from cigarette smoke.

But, even with nurse's training, she is unaware that all of the children — including her sleeping baby — are in extreme danger, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Persistent smoking from someone inside the home is a threat to the entire household — even if others are not in direct contact, says the Atlanta-based government

research agency.

The CDC reports that harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke, including arsenic — the dominant ingredient of rat poison — not only seeps through cracks in walls and remains in the air where people have been smoking, but it takes up to two weeks for the nicotine in tobacco smoke to dissipate in a room.

"That is why it is so important for smokers to go all the way outside if they want a cigarette," says a CDC report, Pathways to Freedom, Winning the Fight Against Tobacco.

"Children who are around tobacco smoke in their (See Nicotine, Page 10)



Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Marty Frierson

### HONORED

Rep. Shelly Berkley, D-Nev., right, was honored by Christine Clark, president of LINKS of Las Vegas on Saturday, with a keepsake for her lifetime commitment improving the quality of life for Nevada residents.