

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

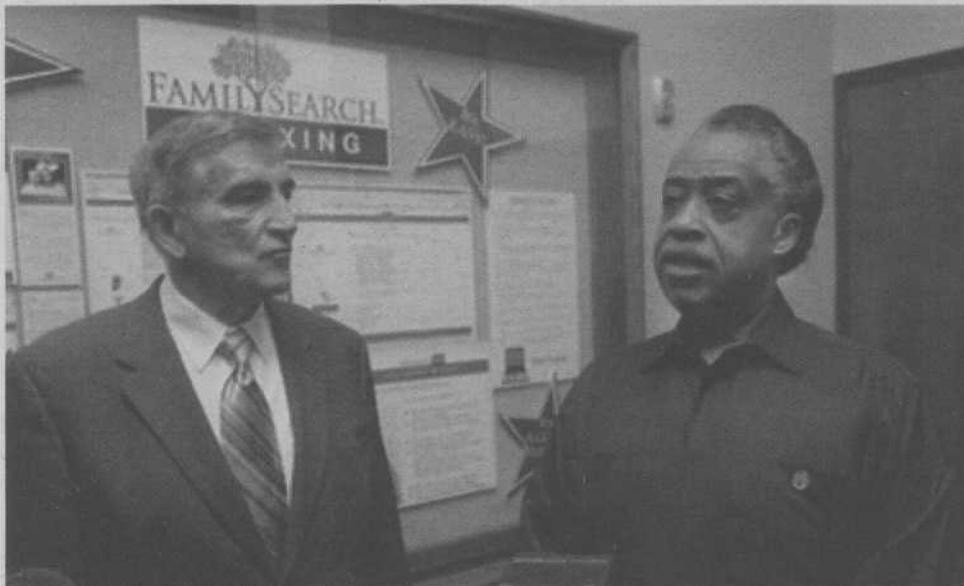
## Sharpton dines with Mormon elder

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Rev. Al Sharpton toured Mormon facilities recently and dined privately with a church elder after drawing criticism two weeks ago for remarks about Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

"He's simply here to learn more about us," church spokesman Mike Otterson said of Sharpton's visit. "We want him to know what the church does, what its work is."

Sharpton made the trip after generating criticism during a debate with an atheist author when he said: "As for the one Mormon running for office, those who really believe in God will defeat him anyways, so don't worry about that; that's a temporary situation."

Sharpton, a Pentecostal minister who urged the firing of Don Imus after the radio host's racially insensitive re-



Rev. Al Sharpton, right, makes a statement at the Mormon church's history library with Robert C. Oaks of the church's Presidency of the Seventy in Salt Lake City.

marks, said his words were taken out of context. But he immediately called elders of the 12.5 million-member church to apologize.

On a live broadcast of his radio show from a church-owned broadcast center in Salt Lake City last Monday,

Sharpton said he respects Mormons as Christians and believers. He called any perceived friction between himself and the church a "fabricated controversy."

"Whatever differences I have with their denomination or religion had nothing to do

with my respect of their faith," Sharpton said.

He has not apologized to Romney but called for a "dialogue of reconciliation." Romney has said Sharpton's comment could be construed as bigoted. Officially, the  
(See Sharpton, Page 3)

## Ted Shaw will step down from NAACP LDF

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Four years ago, Ted Shaw, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, was on top of his game.

He was standing before the U.S. Supreme Court, applauding the reaffirmation of affirmative action and preparing to lead the LDF that helped to champion the case.

Last week, in an NNPA interview, he was still the same determined civil rights warrior. But, he appeared pensive, almost solemn as he fiddled with the empty wrapper from the crackers he'd just crumbled over his clam chowder. It was a moment indicative of a man reflecting on the last 25 years of his life.

"I'm not saying I'm old, but I'm saying I've been at the Legal Defense Fund for a long time. That's a long time in any institution," he told the NNPA News Service in an exclusive interview. "And the reason that I think that it's important — at least for me — and I think it's important for people not to stay in these positions for too long is that change is growth for individuals and institutions."

With that explanation and the fact that he has a family, including a wife, a 14-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son, that needs more of his focus, time and attention, Ted Shaw, 53, has told NNPA that he has resigned from  
(See Shaw, Page 2)

## Top Black doctor, other experts tell how to quit smoking

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

Editor's Note: 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) - Black communities receive such an onslaught of tobacco promotions and mentholated cigarettes that most African-

American smokers should use over-the-counter medications to help them to quit, says National Medical Association President Dr. Albert W. Morris Jr.

"People don't really realize just how addicted they are... My number one recommendation is that there be some kind of aid instead of just trying to quit cold turkey," said Morris, whose NMA represents 30,000 Black medical doctors across the country.

"What happens is, you are actually forced to learn a new behavior. Just to put it in perspective, only 5 percent of people who attempt to stop smoking are successful at any given time. The average number of quit attempts before somebody is actually able to stop is between eight and 11 times."

Part of the problem is that African-Americans have been so susceptible to mentholated cigarettes. As many as 75 percent of Black smok-

ers smoke mentholated brands, Morris says.

"Menthol reduces the irritation of smoke; therefore, when they smoke menthol cigarettes, which are primarily targeted to our community, you inhale deeper, you take in more smoke," he said.

"The potential is there for you to not only inhale more nicotine, but the contaminants that are in smoke... therefore you get more addicted, and then you end up with more lung damage; so we have higher rates of cancer, higher rates of all kinds of obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema and those types of things that suggest that it's the menthol because it has not been targeted to other communities."

A diagnostic radiologist, Morris said, "I've seen lots of lung cancer."

The American Lung Association states: "African-Americans are more likely to develop and die from lung cancer than persons of any

other racial or ethnic group. The lung cancer incidence rate among African-Ameri-

can men is more than 50 percent higher than for White men... Equally disturbing is

the fact that the lung cancer incidence rate for African-  
(See Nicotine, Page 10)



### ELBOW GREASE

Fourth grade students Cleopatra Lee and Derodni Williams of Jo Mackey Magnet School along with their teacher Jerry Hedrick put the finishing touches on a car during their community service project to wash cars at the school on Saturday. The money raised during the car wash will go to disabled veterans in the area.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy