

Child Haven beneficiary of community drive

By Kanika Vann
Sentinel-Voice

As part of a community drive to aid Child Haven, the Mahogany Soul Motorcycle Club will collect undergarments for the children's shelter. The club is hosting an underwear drive Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Harley-Davidson dealership at 2605 S. Eastern Ave. at East Sahara Avenue.

The all-female riding club is accepting monetary donations as well as those in the form of underwear, diapers, socks and pajamas for the thousands of children that temporarily call the Child Haven facility home each year.

"We just want the kids to have their own socks and underwear," said MSMC President Judy-Ann Young.

"Sometimes they enter the Child Haven facility with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. We just want to do more and give back to them because they deserve it." While the women of the club took on the responsibility of making this clothing drive an actual community event, there was one person who took to the radio airwaves a couple of weeks ago, pleading to the public about

the need for such necessities for the children at Child Haven. Bettie Morris, who is a long-time volunteer and former employee of the children's shelter, was an early morning caller to Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly's Saturday morning show on KCEP 88.1 FM. It was during this call that members of the club heard about the need for (See Children, Page 3)

FCC

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"We cannot advocate or endorse," the station's General Manager Dr. Lester Murray told the *Sentinel-Voice*.

It all started when Washington, as stated in her letter, went to the station to run her political messages. In January, she met with James Embrey, KCEP's Underwriting Department representative, according to the station's manager. Embrey told Washington her ads could not be run.

According to Vannetta Pease, another Underwriting Department spokesperson, Washington was advised of the reason: "They were slam ads."

KCEP's attorney, Ernie Sanchez, a specialist in public broadcast law, gave more details in a phone interview

with the *Sentinel-Voice*.

"An advertiser [underwriter] on public radio can state his name and business." However, Sanchez noted, the public station is limited in what it can also say. "It can say, 'The program has been brought to you by,' for example, 'General Motors.' It was felt that Washington's ads were against other candidates and not about the candidate herself," Sanchez said.

Pease said, "She should have talked about herself."

Eventually, after Washington "cleaned up her act," Pease said, "we ran 23, 30-second spots."

Although Murray claims he did not hear Barlow's ads, which were done with voiceover, Sanchez agreed that Barlow could say his name. Pease also stated, "What Barlow said in his ads

was true."

Pease says Barlow's ads contained his name, office sought, reference to his years worked as Ward 5 liaison for former Councilman Lawrence Weekly, and his lifelong residency in Las Vegas.

Pease commented on Washington's accusation of gender bias by the station.

"I'm a woman," said Pease. "We ran ads for North Las Vegas City Council candidate Jo Cato."

Regarding Washington's complaint that the station showed bias towards her while favoring Barlow, Pease said, "We tried to appease her, by pulling some of the wording from Barlow's ads. We did it twice. Once in April and again in May."

Washington's complaint is dated May 23, a fact that

Pease finds ironic.

"Why would she file the complaint in May? She lost in the April Primary!"

She added, "Why would anybody want to hurt this station? If we go, there's nobody else. We are a community station."

Repeated calls to Washington for comment were not returned. In her letter, Washington calls on the FCC to do a complete investigation.

In the phone interview with Sanchez from his Washington, D.C., office he stated: "We are preparing a response to the complaint. There is no timeline. But we will have responded within the next two weeks. From there, it's up to the FCC."

According to Pease, KCEP has never had any FCC complaints filed against it. Murray, who said he's also

executive director for the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County (EOB holds the station's broadcast license as owner-operator), said he had "concerns." Those concerns related to Barlow's first ad.

"The first spot, we had concerns, but we cleaned it up," he said. "We are non-commercial," Murray said. "We get some funds from CPB (Corporation for Public Broadcasting)."

Pease added, "We also do fundraisers."

Murray continued, "We don't do political ads. We don't advocate or endorse."

He added, "While there is a certain amount of structure allowed in ads, they are announcements."

Sanchez said, "Public radio cannot make calls for action."

Mark Berlin of the FCC, the agency official handling the complaint, was unavailable at press time.

Sanchez commented on FCC penalties in general when asked if the station's license could be at risk.

"The punishment must fit the crime," Sanchez replied.

On a related note, Murray wants to end all speculation about whether the radio station is under a "for sale" sign.

Some time ago, questions were raised whether the station and its broadcast license would be placed on the auction block due to financial crisis at the EOB. There were earlier *Sentinel-Voice* news stories that KCEP was under consideration for sale as one of the largest and potentially lucrative assets of the agency.

"KCEP is not for sale," Murray said.

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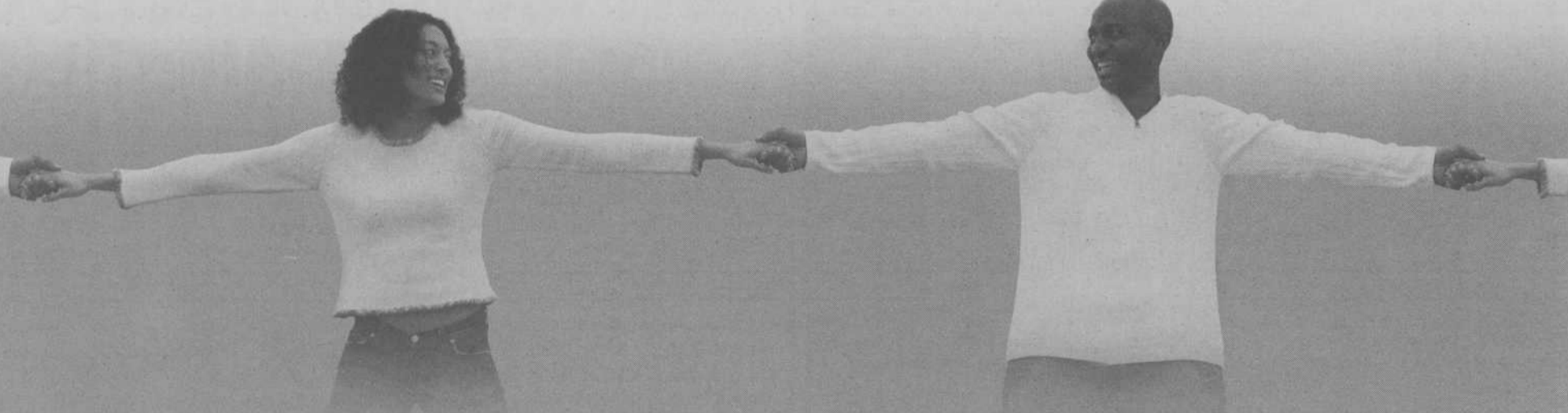
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