

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Verlia Davis, left, and County Commissioner Larry Weekly heralded the Homework Help Center's opening.

## Academic aid comes to WLW

Shirley Savage-Hampton  
Sentinel-Voice

The West Las Vegas Library located at 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. is the home of the first Homework Help Center in Clark County.

The center is a dedicated area supportive of K-8 curriculum, computers and technology, and trained staff and tutors available to help students.

The center has 20 laptop computers designated for children. The users can go online to access information on the Internet. They are permitted to do word processing and use the computer to search a collection of programs for content to enhance their school reports.

There is a homework help Web page where school subjects are categorized by grade level. The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District collaborated with the Clark County School District to have textbooks for grades 1-8 and other materials available for homework assignments.

The idea for the center was a collaborative effort be-  
(See Homework, Page 3)



In this Sept. 25, 1957, file photo, troopers of the 101st Airborne Division with fixed bayonets draw giggles from Central High School students in Little Rock, Ark. Federal forces were employed to enforce integration in the face of racial tension at the school. The city is marking the 50th anniversary of Central High School's integration in September 2007 with a series of events culminating in a ceremony featuring former president Clinton and the Little Rock Nine.

## Civil rights then to now: From Little Rock to Jena

By Edmund W. Lewis  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Fifty years ago, nine African-American teenagers — Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Melba Pattillo Beals, Carlotta Walls LaNier,

Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas and Gloria Cecilia Ray — captured the world's attention as they challenged public school segregation.

The Little Rock Nine made history in their daring efforts to integrate all-White Central High School in Little

Rock, Ark., three years after the landmark Brown v. The Board of Education decision.

The bottom line is that 50 years after those nine brave teenagers in Arkansas took a stand for what they believed in, we still find ourselves fighting to secure access to

quality public education for many of the nation's children.

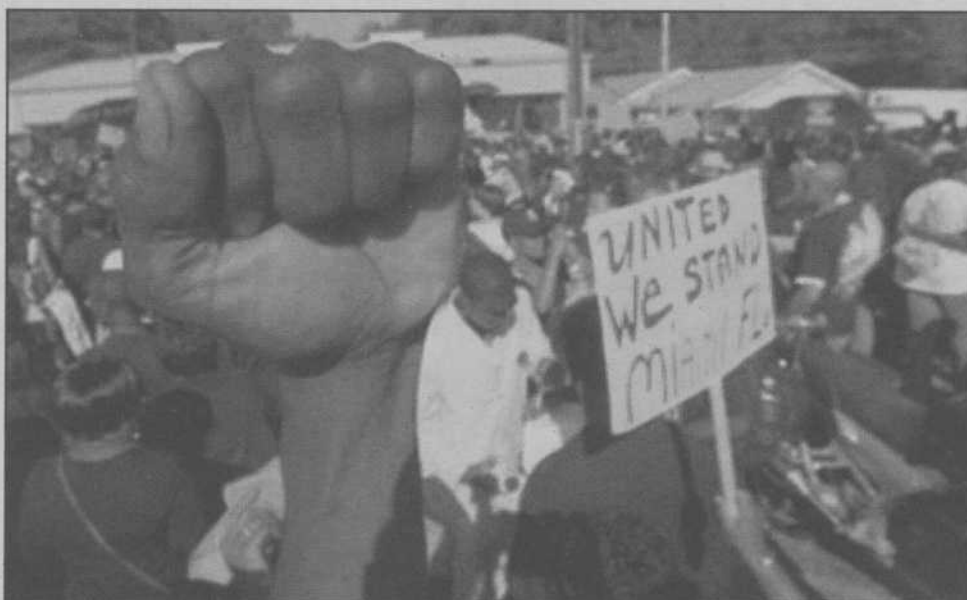
In New Orleans and other cities, far too many children still find themselves at the mercy of local and statewide school systems that have  
(See Little Rock, Page 4)

## Masses descend on Jena to support students

By Valencia Mohammed  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

When the 100,000-plus people, according to Louisiana State Police, predominantly African-Americans, swarmed on a little-known community called Jena, La., on Sept. 20 to demand justice for six Black teenagers convicted as adults for aggravated assault of a White student, many dynamics were present.

The cheers of the crowd echoed across the small town of 3,500 residents to free the teens, stop the alleged injustices against Black residents and called on African-American leaders to do more. The



Thousands of supporters from all over the country came to Jena, Louisiana, last week to support six Black high schoolers criminalized for a violent altercation with White students.

crowd also demanded the resignation of District Attorney J. Reed Walters.

"Free the Jena Six," the crowd yelled for several hours. "We are here Jena and will come back again. No justice, no peace."

The case involving the teens dubbed the Jena Six caught the attention of the masses through the Black media months ago and finally made its way to the mainstream several weeks before the march.

People are attributing Black bloggers and the Black Press, including the *Final Call*, the *Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice* and websites like

BlackAmericaWeb.com, for printing the stories months ago that started a catalyst of events which led to Black syndicated radio talk shows, cable networks and list serves picking up on the case.

Later, the involvement of Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network and syndicated radio personalities, Michael Baisden and Tom Joyner pumped the airwaves daily about the case, which led to the organized march.

Early that morning, 29 miles outside of Jena, a dozen buses from Memphis, Tenn., and several cars  
(See March, Page 3)