

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Blacks want Obama's ear

NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama should specifically address disparities in Black unemployment, foreclosures, education and healthcare, the National Urban League says in its annual "State of Black America" report.

Despite the progress represented by the election of the first Black president, Blacks are twice as likely to be unemployed, three times as likely to live in poverty and more than six times as likely to be incarcerated, says the report, which was released Wednesday.

Obama has said that the way for government to help minorities is by improving things like education, employment and healthcare for all Americans.

But "we have to be more specific," said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the 99-year-old Urban League.

"The issue is not only (Blacks) doing better, but in closing these persistent gaps in statistics in this country," Morial told The Associated Press. "Our index shows that the gap in African-American status is about 71 percent that of White Americans. We will

not rest until that number is at 100, and there is no gap."

The 288-page report includes policy discussions and essays from academics, elected officials and average citizens. Among its 31 specific recommendations:

—Ensure that the stimulus package's green job creation includes poor urban communities.

—Increase funding for job training and placement for disadvantaged workers.

—Guarantee full-day schooling for all 3 and 4 year olds.

—Expand the school day

to account for working parents and families without nearby relatives to help with after-school care

—Fund mortgage counseling and education programs for minorities.

—Implement universal healthcare and a "comprehensive" system to provide Blacks with health education, prevention and intervention.

Morial acknowledged the role self-responsibility must play in improving the lives of Blacks.

"We have some things in our own community where we have to step up, when it comes to focusing and emphasizing the basic value of achievement and accomplishment in our children, and doing it in a very young age," he said. "We have to not be afraid to say, 'Turn off the TV, shut down the Internet. SpongeBob, Dora, all these folks need to take a little break.'"

But public policy is a crucial ingredient, he said.

"It matters if your high school biology class has a biology lab. It matters if your second-grade classroom is

(See League, Page 5)

## Scholar defined Black intellect

Special to Sentinel-Voice

RALEIGH, N.C. — John Hope Franklin, a towering scholar and pioneer of African-American studies who wrote the seminal text on the Black experience in the U.S. and worked on the landmark Supreme Court case that outlawed public school segregation, died Wednesday. He was 94.

David Jarmul, a spokesman at Duke University, where Franklin taught for a decade and was professor emeritus of history, said he died of congestive heart failure at the school's hospital in Durham.

Born and raised in an all-Black community in Oklahoma where he was often subjected to humiliating racism, Franklin was later instrumental in bringing down the legal and historical validations of such a world.

As an author, his book "From Slavery to Freedom" was a landmark integration of Black history into American history that remains relevant more than 60 years after being published. As a scholar, his research helped Thurgood Marshall and his team at the NAACP win Brown v. Board of Education, the 1954 case that barred the doctrine of "separate but equal" in the nation's public schools.

"It was evident how much the lawyers appreciated what the historians could offer," Franklin later wrote. "For me, and I suspect the same was true for the others, it was exhilarating."

(See Historian, Page 10)



John Hope Franklin

## Program offers food for needy West Las Vegans

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

Seizing the chance to get a hot meal and information about housing, healthcare and jobs, 310 people assembled at Cookie's BBQ restaurant on Tuesday to participate in the inaugural

homeless feeding project in West Las Vegas.

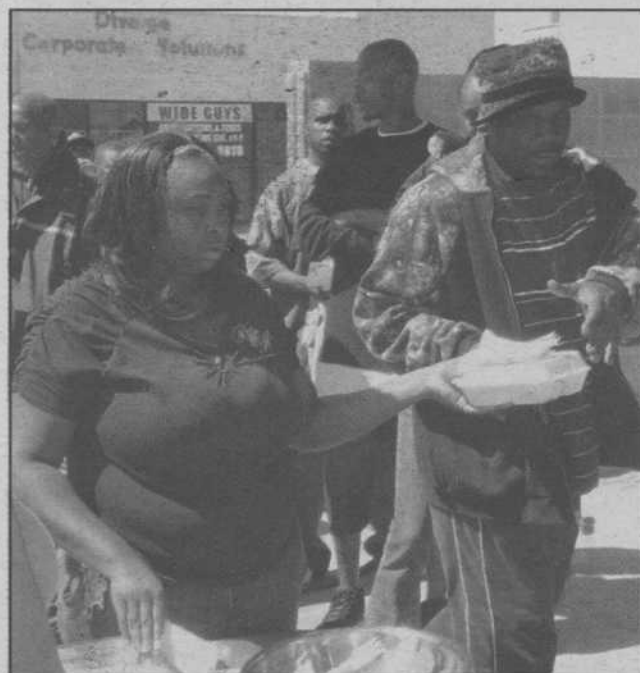
Co-sponsored by Cookie's BBQ restaurant owner James Collins and Urban Voice publisher Joseph Abraham the event initially targeted 250 homeless. A number of entities also of-

fer financial support, including Greater Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church, Wide Guy Auto Body, C.A.R.E. (Counseling and Awareness Rehabilitative Education) Transitional Services and Masterpiece Barbershop.

Among the entities providing food were L.A.C.E., a non-profit organization that operates a food pantry, Mario's Market, J.D.'s Gourmet Cheesecake.

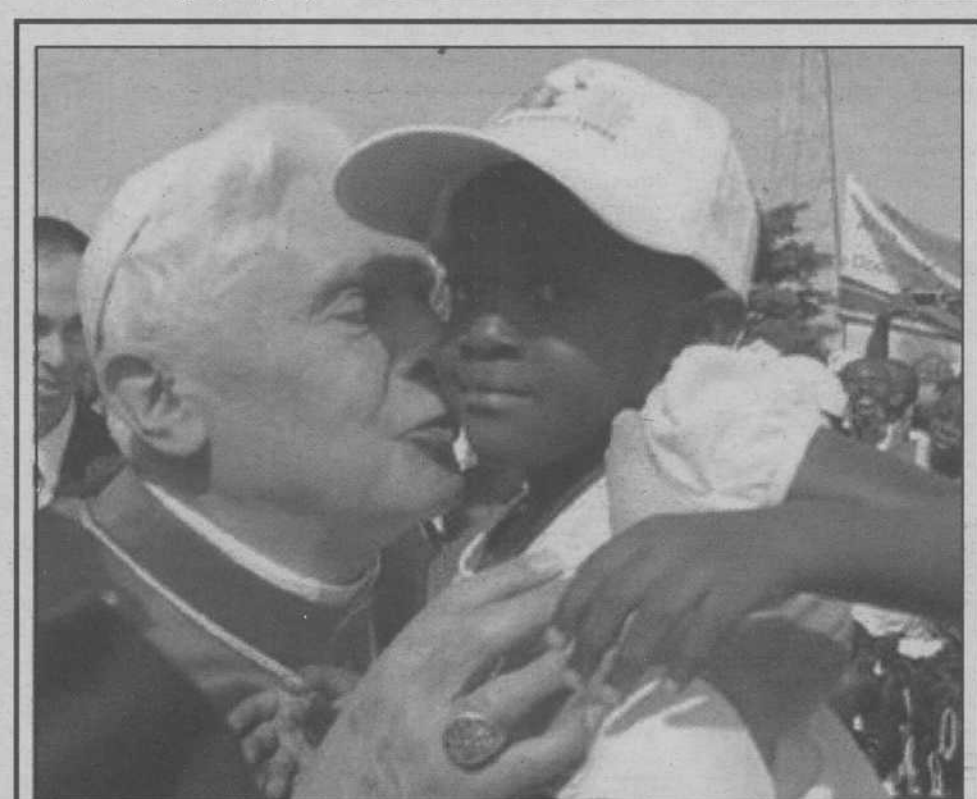
"Today's event is about bringing an awareness about the homeless problem to the community and letting them know about what we are facing every day in Ward 5," Abraham said. "As I travel up and down Owens Avenue conducting my business, I had no idea of the magnitude of the homeless until I began visiting the various shelters to promote this event. So our mission today is to feed the homeless and improve the awareness of the community about this problem."

There were 11,369 homeless people living in Clark County in 2007, according to Applied Survey Research Group's Southern Nevada Homeless Census Survey (See Homeless, Page 4)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Guests gathered around the barbecue pits waiting for something to eat. Greater Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church pastor Welton Smith, Deborah Smith, Alex Johnson of Wide Guy Auto Parts, Penny Jackson of C.A.R.E., Joyce Eatman of L.A.C.E., City Councilman Ricki Barlow, restaurateur James "Cookie" Collins and Mario Berlanga of Mario's Market sponsored a homeless feeding event.



## PAPAL PECK

Pope Benedict XVI kisses a child during his visit in Luanda, Zimbabwe on Saturday.