

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY
"1993...HOW THINGS WILL BE"

BY R. K. BROWN

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Staff of the
SENTINEL-VOICE

Martin Luther King Jr. Committee
"THE KING REPORT"

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

1992 KWANZAA CELEBRATION

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION OBSERVED

By Bonita H. Armstrong

"Our people will be lost if we cannot identify with our ancestral cultural. We are the only race of people in America that has been so completely cut off from our culture. Kwanzaa is a godsend. It helps us to remember - even relearn - who we are," said Betty Ware, a Las Vegas resident and participant in last Saturday's Kwanzaa celebration at Doolittle Community Center.

Ware was one of 250 to 300 people at Saturday's program, the seventh to take place at the West Las Vegas facility. The annual observance, sponsored by the Kwanzaa Committee, featured cultural readings, speakers, poetry, singing, rappers, food, and a variety of booths.

Kwanzaa Committee chairman Talib Hall said the goal of the regular event is to raise the awareness of Kwanzaa in the black community and bring a sense of culture and pride in the African heritage.

"The African American community

has been searching for its identity since we've been here," Hall said. Kwanzaa, he added, is a progressive move toward reclaiming pride in African culture.

Brother Ron Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa, said "We are as we are, therefore I am." The concept is a community concept, whereas the Western civilization is more built on individualism. The black American really needs to establish a strong cultural tradition. I think it will help to save our families and restructure them," Hall said.

Ware and her family have celebrated Kwanzaa for seven years. This year she invited friends and family to share in a Kwanzaa feast in her home Saturday recognizing the first principle, Umoja or unity.

"Kwanzaa is really about the children. The children are our future and without first realizing where they came from ... where their forefathers came from ... they will never be able to realize their true potential," Ware said.

"Kwanzaa helps the children ... and

parents ... to realize that our ancestors were people of value, people of worth and substance. With all the politicians talking about family values, its important to know that we come from a background of the strongest of family values. We need to realize that morals and standards are nothing new to our people. We just need to relearn it and reincorporate it into our lives."

Fifteen-year-old LaTasha Oats was a guest in Ware's home during the Kwanzaa observance. LaTasha sang "The Greatest Love Of All" for the gathering of about 20 people.

"I like Kwanzaa," LaTasha said. "I think it's sad that more people don't participate in the holiday. I think some people think it's got something to do with religion, but it doesn't. Every other non-religious holiday is accepted with no problem ... the Forth of July, Memorial Day ... but when black people have a holiday all their own, society has a problem with it. I think that's sad."

(See KWANZAA 1992, Page 5)



Keemya Bonner pours from the Kikombe Cha Umojo (communal unity cup) during annual Kwanzaa celebration. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

"ROLLIE CLAUS" AND HIS TWELVE ELVES VISIT UMC

Sentinel-Voice

Every year, during the holiday season, there are several youngsters that need a little bit more yuletide spirit than others. They are most likely found at the pediatric wards in hospitals across the valley.

Last Thursday, Christmas Eve, Runnin' Rebel Head Coach Rollie Massimino, his staff of assistants and his Runnin' Rebels made a special visit to University Medical Center's pediatric ward in hopes of lifting some of the patients' Christmas spirit.



Runnin' Rebels Ken Gibson, Jason Brooks, Damian Smith, Dexter Boney, Sean Loughran and Dedan Thomas visit with UMC patient Jason Pratt. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Sports Editor Willie Ramirez discussed the possibility of Massimino and "just a few" of the Rebels making an appearance,

with Runnin' Rebel Administrative Assistant Tom Pecora.

"There was a special Christmas (See Runnin' Rebels, Page 4)

TICKET CONTROVERSY, SURROUNDS 'MALCOLM X'

Spike Lee says people who want to see his film "Malcolm X" are instead being given tickets to other movies.

The director said his office has received 45 phone calls from people who said they received tickets for "Home Alone 2" or "Aladdin" when they paid for tickets to "Malcolm X." No single theatre chain was involved, he said.

"I'm not here trying to spin some great conspiracy tale," Lee said. "It's the first time I've ever heard of this. That's why it's hard to find that it's a coincidence."

The film's distributor, Warner Bros., said part-time employees hired for the holiday rush were one possible explanation for the problem.

nation for the problem.

The mix-up was "a random event that is probably attributable to human error," said D. Barry Reardon, president of the Warner's domestic theatre distribution.

Locally, one man recently told the Sentinel-Voice that the same thing had happened to him.

He said it was not until the day after seeing 'Malcolm X' that he noticed he had been given a ticket to see the movie 'Under Siege.'

As of December 30, reports show that 'Malcolm X' has grossed \$40.9 million in the six weeks since its release.

CAT offers New Year's rides

Las Vegas' new bus system will offer free rides to revelers on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day on all 21 of its routes, transit officials announced Tuesday.

Citizens Area Transit will participate in the "Red Ribbon Campaign" in con-

junction with Mother's Against Drunk Driving and local law enforcement agencies. The complimentary service will run from 6 p.m. Thursday through 1:30 a.m. Friday and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. The buses do not run from 1:30 a.m. to 6 a.m.