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GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Gates Bar-B-Q Closed Until Further Notice

 By Nichole Davis
 Sentinel-Voice

Gates Bar-B-Que, the popular restaurant owned by George Gates II, closed its doors Nov. 21 due to tax problems.

According to the posted notice, the business failed to meet back sales and use taxes to the State of Nevada Department of Taxation.

"He was notified of the pending closure several time," said Sandra Busby, a revenue officer at the state Department of Taxation. "He was in our office on the 20th and was told. He was also told several times prior to that."

Busby, who currently holds the keys to the business, said that there is a possibility that it could reopen. Due to the Federal Privacy Act, she could not comment on the likelihood of that prospect.

"We would release the keys back to him if he would meet the requirements of the state," said Busby. "I don't know if he will come forward with the money or not."

One source close to the family indicated the business owes in excess of \$50,000 in back sales and use taxes to the state. It's not clear why the business was unable to pay its back

taxes. It reportedly earned between \$1000-2000 a day on weekdays and close to twice that on the weekends with inclusion of profits from George G O's Lounge. The two businesses employed about 20 people. Gates Management Corp. based in Kansas City owns the building at 2710 E. Desert Inn, but the local businesses were owned by Gates Bar-B-Que, Inc. (Gates, Inc.) based in Las Vegas.

Gates Bar-B-Que, Inc. also owes money to the County Business License Office, to the Secretary of State's office, and to the state Employment, Training and Rehabilitation Office.

Records at the county Business License office indicate that Gates Bar-B-Que, Inc. is currently delinquent on two fees: liquor and food. The liquor fees were due Sep. 30, and the food fees were due Oct. 31.

"They have a Supper Club License that was current," said Ardel Jorgensen, assistant director of the Clark County Business License office. "We have not been able to reach the owner to advise him of the delinquency of the fees. As of Nov. 30th, he will no have a liquor license, because it will expire."

Records at the Secretary of State's office indicate the incorporation status



Doors remain sealed at Gates Bar-B-Q pending litigation to relieve tax debt.

for Gates Bar-B-Que, Inc. had been revoked in April.

Chief Deputy Secretary of State Dale Erquiaga said, "The corporation status was revoked Apr. 1, 1995. The reason for the revocation was that they failed to file an annual list (of corporate officers). We revoke nine months after they fail to file their annual list."

Surprisingly, there are only a limited

consequences for losing incorporation status.

"As far as the state is concerned," said Erquiaga, "the only effect is that there are tax ramifications. They are individually liable for debts."

Jeff Jaeger, assistant Recorder, verified that the state Department of Employment, Training and

Photo by Savoy/L VS-Voice

Rehabilitation has two judgement on file against Gates Bar-B-Que, Inc.

The Sentinel-Voice contacted the corporate offices of Gates Management Corporation to discuss the financial problems Gates, Inc.

Promotions and Marketing Director Arzelia Gates, "I don't know what's was
 (See GATES, Page 3)

WAAK-UP To Protest First Durango High Home Game

By Nichole Davis

WAAK-UP is planning to protest the first home game of the Durango High School Mens Varsity Basketball Team game to be held Dec. 5th starting at 6 p.m.

The protest is being held in response to the recent final cuts to the squad of the reigning state championship team. Four players from last year's squad, Keenan Gordan, Otis Alexander, Curt Connor and Mark Riechartz, were cut from this year's roster.

"We're going to picket the game, because of blatant racism from Coach LaRocque and other members of Durango's staff," said WAAK-UP organizer Marzette Lewis. "A recent meeting that took place at Durango High School gave us no satisfaction as to why Keenan Gordan was cut from the basketball squad. The bottom line was that there was no reason to cut Keenan from the team during his senior year. Especially when the principal, Dr. (Alan) Coles, stated to us at the meeting that he was very suprized that Coach LaRocque cut Keenan. Why was he so suprized if Keenan wasn't a good player when LaRocque cut him from the team?"

According to LaRocque, Keenan is "a fine young man and an excellent citizen on our campus, but he is not as good as the players we kept."

Athletic Director Larry McKay agreed.

"The four players who are in Keenan's position are certainly better players than he is... That doesn't discount Keenan as a person. He is an outstanding young man."

Lewis doesn't accept that explanation and questions the timing of the cut. Keenan Gordan, by all accounts, is an outstanding football player. He had been given four awards including Scholar Athlete of the Year the night before he was notified that he was cut from the basketball team.

Said Lewis, "It seems to me that the coach timed this on purpose. Why did he cut Keenan when he was on such a high after winning all those awards? The coach knew that Keenan had just gotten all those awards. The following morning the coach tells him he's no longer part of the team. It's as if he timed it just to hurt Keenan, just to cut down his self-esteem."

The Gordan family doesn't accept that answer citing a long, well-documented history of problems with the head coach. They believe that Gordan was cut from the team as retaliation for complaints which began in January of this year.

"I guess he feels that if he gets rid of me, he wouldn't have to deal with them anymore," said Keenan.

The complaints began during a holiday tournament during which Keenan and two other African-American

players, Chas "Son" Cochrane III and Curt Connor, were left unsupervised at a hotel in San Diego on Dec. 26, 1994 for three hours while the rest of the team played a game.

Coach LaRocque doesn't deny the incident occurred calling it "a lapse in judgement." He is quick to point out that he apologized to the families involved, and he was reprimanded by his boss. He also added.

"I had intended to come back and get them from the hotel, but the traffic on the interstate got heavy."

Keenan Gordan, who hadn't seen his coach that morning, called his parents from the hotel to explain what had happened. His parents immediately made arrangement for him and Son Cochrane to be driven home by a family friend. His mother, LaDonna works for the School District.

"I work for the School District, so that's how I approached it," she said. "I know the field trip policy. You cannot even take a kid on a (local) field trip and leave them unsupervised."

Son's father, Chas, is still angry about the incident even though his teen left the team within weeks of returning home. Cochrane said he doesn't believe LaRocque had any intention of returning to the hotel that day.

"How could he leave them with the intention of coming to pick them back
 (See PROTEST, Page 3)

Kappa League Sponsors Fifth Annual Black College Seminar

 By Nichole Davis
 Sentinel-Voice

The Kappa League will host its fifth annual Black College Seminar Wednesday at the West Las Vegas Library Auditorium.

"The doors will open at 6:00 p.m.," said organizer and Grambling alum Michael Garrett. "People can go around and pick up information and talk to the representatives. The program will start at 7:00. There will be a 40 minute question and answer session. The Keynote Speaker is Larry Weekly. He is talking about being excellent without excuse."

Garret recruited local black college graduates to answer questions for the participants.

"I attended Grambling," said Garrett. "My alma mater will be represented by my nephew, Allen Shelton from Dynamic Balloons. He's a dynamic entrepreneur in the community. Jackson State will be represented by Ray Washington, a 1994 graduate. Southern University will be represented by Vanessa Thompson. She's currently the youth advisor for the M.L.K. Committee. Spellman will be represented by Kim Bailey, and Fort Valley State College will be represented by Bryan Hopkins."

All together, Garrett said that about 20 schools will be represented at the seminar, and every one, except Grambling and Spellman, have sent application materials and brochures.

Said Garrett, "Some of the schools did send financial aid information, and SAT and ACT packets. We also have all the fraternity and sorority greek tables."

In Garrett's opinion, the more information the better the seminar.

"The purpose of this seminar is to educate students about the importance of education and showing them the other side of colleges and universities across the nation," said Garrett. "The majority of schools that black students attend now are white schools. Going to a black school enhances the ability excell."

There will be several door prizes for the event: a floral arrangement from Rancho Florist and Gift, balloon arrangements form Dynamic Balloons, a free haircut from Upper Cut Barber Shop, CDs and cassettes from KCEP and a \$20 gift certificate Russell's Beauty and Barber Supply.

Garrett estimates that 250-300 people will attend the event that "took about six weeks to fine tune everything."