

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



President Clinton shares a laugh with 13-year-old Stanley Johnson during Sunday's youth forum at UNLV. Photo by LV News Bureau

## Clinton encourages local youth during visit

By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

President Bill Clinton's recent six-hour visit to Las Vegas held special significance to one local razor back.

Kirby Burgess, director of Clark County Youth and Family Services, served as tour guide for the president during his Sunday visit. He accompanied the president in his limousine along with Gov. Bob and Sandy Miller.

Clinton was on a three-day tour to highlight community-based programs and people who are working to create safer communities and stronger families using many of the tools he has supported, including victim restitution, community policing and increased discipline for young people, staff said.

While in Las Vegas, the president also toured a youth work site where offenders earn credits to pay restitution to victims, spoke at a

Democratic National Committee fundraiser and addressed the people of Las Vegas during his six-hour visit to the city.

"I was pleasantly surprised by a lot of things. He's one of the warmest and friendliest persons you could meet," said Burgess, who had spent a week preparing for the visit.

Burgess was impressed by the president's attention to detail. Youth and Family Services had sent his office a lengthy packet about their program, and "he had taken the time to briefly review that stuff. He was genuinely interested," Burgess said.

The president "reminds me of a person who is not only committed to fixing the problems of this country," Burgess said, "but he's actually concerned about the little guys, the disenfranchised."

Although he didn't take any pictures, Burgess described meeting (See Clinton, Page 6)

## Black LV ministers shut out of lucrative wedding chapel business

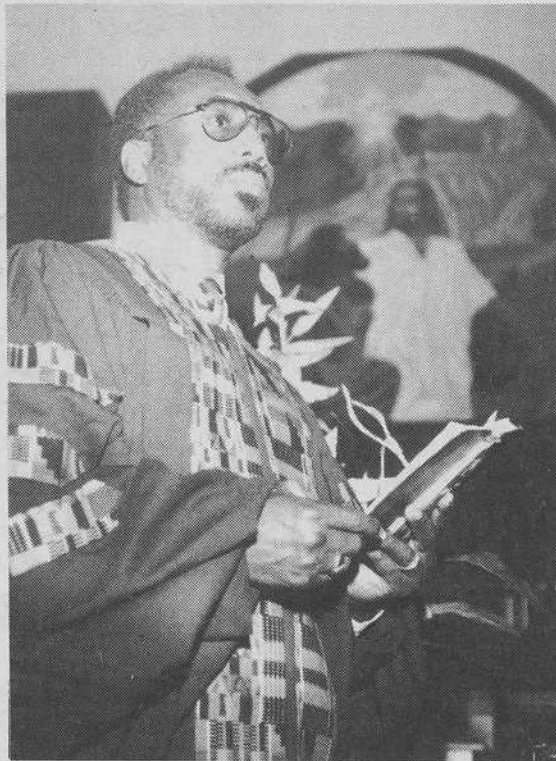
By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

For two years pastor Buddy Yates has been trying in vain to regularly perform wedding ceremonies in Las Vegas chapels.

He has persistently applied to every single wedding chapel in the area, but no one hired him full time. Although he is on-call with a couple of wedding chapels, he performs only two to three ceremonies a year where he generally earns about \$35.

As the summer wedding season begins this month, attention is again being drawn to the perceived discrimination against black ministers looking for chapel business.

Chapel ministers have a contractual arrangement with chapels. They are paid by customer donations at the end of each service, sources said. In fact, ministers and customers often pay chapels for wedding services.



Rev. James Rogers said black ministers receive few calls to perform weddings in the city's numerous chapels.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Yet a full-time minister could expect to earn as much as \$50 a service, Yates said. On their busiest days some report they perform as many as 50 ceremonies.

Yates worked full-time briefly for We've Only Just Begun, Inc., the owners of five Las Vegas wedding chapels, in November 1995. He was "on the schedule" at one of their chapels for about a week before he refused to come into work on a Sunday citing pastoral duties at his local church.

Although he was never fired per se, Yates was put on-call and has not worked there since, but he remains persistent.

Yates has been known to stop by weekly at chapels to see if they have work, talk with owners and on occasion confront those he felt were out of line, he said, but so far his efforts have been unsuccessful.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President James Rogers Sr. says many local black ministers have come to him with similar stories but only two black ministers are known to work regularly in chapels, he said.

Like Yates, Rogers is an on-call minister at a couple of local wedding chapels. He also averages two to three ceremonies a year where he earns about \$35 a service but has not been called in over a year.

Most chapels keep a black minister on call, but "if the people themselves don't request a black minister, they won't even suggest it," Rogers said.

Rogers estimates African Americans comprise 50 percent or more of wedding chapel consumers; while, industry officials said the figure is actually closer to 5 or 10 percent.

Either way, the branch office is preparing a letter for all Las Vegas wedding chapel owners encouraging them to hire more black ministers.

"There ought to be a higher representation of black clergy for the number of blacks who get married here," Rogers said.

It's not racism, but small staffs that have kept black ministers on call, said the Rev. Jim Hamilton of Bally's Celebration Wedding Chapel.

"There are approximately 50 ministers regularly serving the Las Vegas wedding chapel community. Of those, two are African American, and six are Spanish speaking," he

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## A FATHER'S DAY PROFILE

### Goynes epitomizes the "caring" dad

By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

While in public, North Las Vegas Mayor Pro Tempore Theron Goynes is known as a mild mannered, quiet individual.

His children use much warmer terms to describe him including brilliant, loving, sensitive, understanding and honest. Their father is the kind of man who puts other's needs before his own, they said.

"I lost a child, and he doesn't like hospitals. But he was there with tears in his eyes," said his 33-year-old daughter Pam Owens.

The greatest testament to his character is that his three adult children each used the word "caring" to characterize their father although they were interviewed separately.

Or it could be that his son, Byron, could never recall an instance where his father's advice was wrong though he frequently heard him say, "didn't I tell you."

Through anecdotes and memories, Goynes' kids said the retired Clark County School District principal exemplifies the widely unrecognized strong, black father, grandfather and leader figure in the community that has long gone unsung.

The second of five boys, Theron Goynes grew up under Jim Crow in Texarkana, Texas where he was the only one of his siblings to graduate from college, Owens said.

Although he tells stories about life in the Old South, Goynes taught them more about their history, his children said.

"He's very knowledgeable about our culture

and our history," 36-year-old daughter Kim Goynes said. "Anything we know about our history and our culture, he taught it to us."

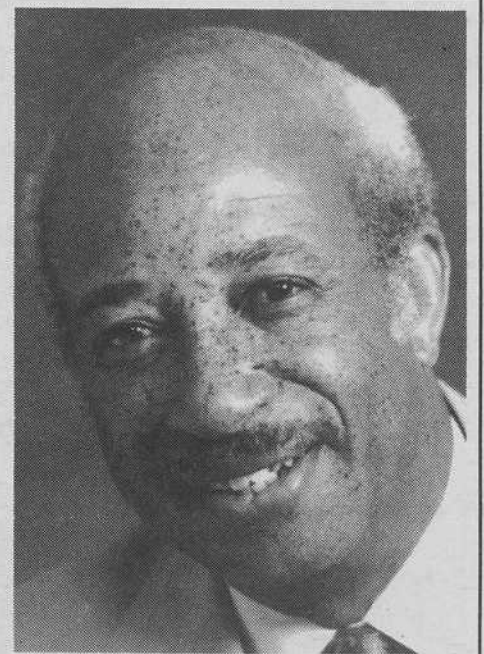
The former UNLV black history professor is a voracious reader, who frequently passes on titles and traditions to his kids.

Any book "he doesn't care what it is. The man'll read it from cover to cover," 35-year-old son Byron Goynes said.

His father "stressed education the whole way," his son continued, and all three children later graduated from their father's alma mater.

"He never blames. He would accept a C or a D from us as well as he would accept an A or B," Kim Goynes said. "We weren't punished for not doing well. He would just say that C or D was the best

(See Goynes, Page 13)



THON H. GOYNES