

S.C. 'emergency conference on racism' brings activists, pastors together

By Todd Burroughs
Special to Sentinel-Voice

An "emergency conference" on racism here ended recently with a commitment to continue to dialogue about the more than 40 burned churches in the state, with the idea of a march early next year still being discussed as an option.

The meeting was convened as a result of the more than 70 churches, the majority of them black, that have been burned throughout the South since 1991. Many of the burnings have been linked to white supremacy groups.

The conference brought together local and national activists with many of the pastors of the burned churches, for the first time in a public forum.

The Oct. 26-28 conference, which had an estimated total of 150 to 200 participants, was sponsored by the National Council of Churches, the Center for Democratic Renewal, the Center for Constitutional Rights and local organizers.

"The climate of this country right now is poison," said the Rev. Mac Charles Jones, director of the NCC's Burned Churches project, at the meeting's opening plenary session. "What we see here is what is happening all across the country."

Jones called for America to do four things: Confess that racism exists, repent from "the politics of division," provide restitution to the victims of racism, and make a serious effort to reconcile itself with those

victims.

America can't just say "I'm sorry," said Jones. "It's got to do something to repair the damage."

The Rev. E. Gail Anderson Holness, chair of the conference's local organizing committee, was among many who told those gathered that the

community refused to be deterred by acts of racist terrorism.

"They can burn our churches, but they can't burn our spirits," she said. "[In fact], they have put our spirits on fire."

The conference, which featured speakers such as CCR

head Ron Daniels and the Rev. Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, included a breakfast meeting with Gov. David Beasley, a Republican who has been accused by many blacks here of being slow to respond to the situation.

Organizers said South Carolina was chosen for the conference because it has the most burned churches of any state in the South and a racial climate that allows Ku Klux Klan rallies near sites of several of the black, rural churches that were

(See Conference, Page 5)

Thousands turn out for job fair

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

More than 4,000 potential employees turned out for one of Las Vegas' top job fairs Wednesday at the Cashman Field Convention Center. More than 50 employers and literally hundreds of jobs were up for grabs at the one-day JobsAmerica Career Fair, which returned to Las Vegas for the second time this year.

JobsAmerica is a Santa Clara, Calif.-based professional career fair company with a proven track record of success in putting on trade shows for hiring nationwide.

Co-sponsored by the Nevada Broadcaster's Association and the Las Vegas Employment News, the job fair, which was open free to the public, was conducted in an open-booth format, with each employer accepting resumes and some

interviewing applicants on the spot. In addition, free seminars on "Diversity in the Workforce" and "Turning Interviews into Job Offers" were offered to attendees.

"Next to employer referrals, job fairs are the most cost effective way of finding employees," said Jim Stoch, president of JobsAmerica. "We want to make this (Las Vegas) one of our regular stops."

"We want to do at least two shows here a year, possibly more depending on the needs of the market," Stoch said. We believe we have a superior career fair product compared to the other commercial ones that come through town."

Stoch said that possible dates for JobsAmerica career fairs returning to Las Vegas are during the months of May and

November of next year.

Companies participating in the job fair included: Household Credit Services, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Station Casinos, Starbucks Coffee, McDonalds, The Good Guys, Wendys, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Allstate Insurance, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Orleans Hotel, NOS Communications, The Southland Corporation, MGM Grand Hotel, Casino & Theme Park, PEC/Ramada, U.S. Army/Army Reserve Recruiting and Nevada Partners, to name a few.

"By Nevada Partners being a community-based organization, this is an outstanding opportunity for us to recruit individuals, plus the employers that are here, because most of them are clients of the Nevada Partners Life Skills Program," said Glenn Alexander, a job placement counselor for

the comprehensive job training program which targets the at-risk and disadvantaged unemployed population of the Las Vegas valley. "So, it's definitely an opportunity for us to recruit individuals that have relocated to Las Vegas, individuals that do not understand some of these employers' hiring mechanisms, so that we can recruit them and put them through our job placement program, and refer them right back to the employers that are here and other employers that we work with."

"All of JobsAmerica's events are diverse in nature," added Stoch. "What we do is get the word out at the community level as well as through the mass media. That's how we reach a diverse audience, and we feel

(See Fair, Page 5)

"How To Do Business with Clark County"

Cashman Field • Room 101
850 Las Vegas Blvd. North
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more information call 455-2426

AFTER FIGHT CONCERT!

GEORGE CLINTON



& the P-FUNK ALL-STARS

Featuring:

PARLIAMENT • FUNKADELIC

THE BRIDES OF FUNKENSTEIN

Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts

SAT. NOVEMBER 9 12 MIDNIGHT

On Sale At the Aladdin Box Office and all Ticketmaster Outlets or charge at 474-4000.



Cee - Jay Inc.

TICKETMASTER
SMITHS / BROADBENT - BAY
TOWER RECORDS / BLACKWATER MUSIC
CALL FOR THE (702) 474-4000
ONLINE INFORMATION: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

The Aladdin
Head & Center, Las Vegas

2nd annual People of Color Conference set for Saturday

By Javoulae McGee

The second annual, People of Color Conference sponsored by the Ida H. Wells Foundation in conjunction with the Las Vegas chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. & Norwest Bank will host its think tank consortium, on Saturday, November 9th at the West Las Vegas Theater between 10 a.m. and noon.

The People of Color invited community leaders to speak on issues that can be used to unite our communities. Its purpose is to raise the consciousness of all people, through constructive dialogue.

This year's conference will look at issues that are currently affecting individuals and groups as a whole. Some of the issues that panelists will explore are: education, quality life, equal opportunity and housing.

All persons of all colors are invited to participate by sharing views which challenge, inspire and

foster an environment of understanding, knowledge and sharing of skills needed to counteract legislation and popular views that hinder individuals or collective success.

Last year's conference included views from participants representing, Clark County School District; Aids for Aids of Nevada (AFAN), Republican Party on Voter Drives, Micro Business (EOB), Indian Voice newspaper, a UMC union representative and the multicultural department at UNLV.

This year's panelists so far include, Dr. Linda Young, director of multi-cultural project for the Clark County School District, Dr. Dorothe Clark, manager of diversity management at Bechtel Nevada; Marzette Lewis, organizer and activists; Rev. James Rogers, president NAACP and a representative from the 100 Committed Men.

To participate as a panelist please call 387-1361.

INJURED FROM AN ACCIDENT? WHY HAVE TO GO DOWNTOWN?

in NORTH LAS VEGAS call

The Personal Injury Law Office
of North Las Vegas

647-7121

D. R. Ford
Attorney at Law

Admitted State Bar of Nevada 1983

Practice Limited to Personal Injury

on Martin Luther King between Cheyenne and Craig since October 1996

"The State Bar of Nevada does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert"