

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel



Voice

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 29

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

November 21, 1996

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Texaco settles race suit for \$176.1 million

*Company averts national boycott*

*Special to the Sentinel-Voice*

Less than two weeks after its officers were caught on tape calling black employees "niggers", Texaco has agreed to settle a class action discrimination suit with its black employees for \$176.1 million.

Some 1,400 employees will split the monetary settlement and current Texaco employees, who were part of the 1994 suit, will receive a one-time salary increase of 11 percent.

The company will also create an equality and tolerance task force which will help the firm adopt and implement a company-wide diversity and sensitivity program.

The pressure on the company increased in recent weeks when tape recordings of top company officials were released by a former executive, who'd been laid off.

The executives used the word "niggers" and "black jelly beans" and mocked the black holiday festival Kwanzaa. They were also heard scheming to destroy paperwork that could have been used against the company in the lawsuit.

According to news accounts, the employees filed the suit after several had continually been passed over for promotions and or subjected to racial slurs by whites in the company. Blacks were called "porch monkeys" and "orangutans" to their faces, they said.

One employee said he was invited to join in a round of golf, as a caddy.

The company chairman was happy to settle the suit.

"This agreement affords us a renewed opportunity to join in common purpose and unified action to achieve shared goals of greater inclusion and opportunity at Texaco, and in America," Chairman Peter Bijur said.

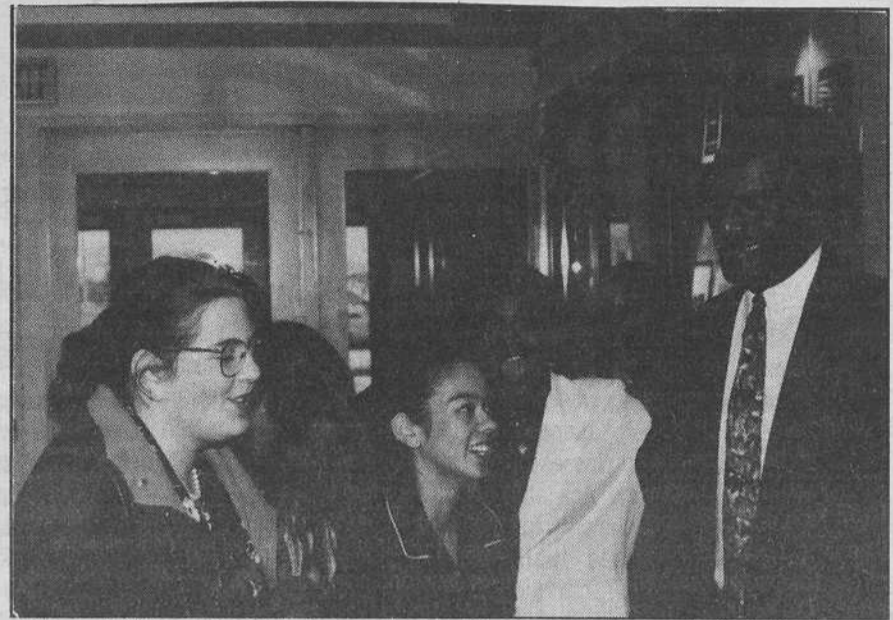
Before the settlement, Texaco suspended two executives, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson had called for a national boycott and NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said his the civil rights organization was ready to lobby stockholders to divest.

"There were compelling reasons for us to reach this agreement. It moves this matter from the realm of adversarial confrontation in the courts into the arena of active cooperation and joint action.

"Most importantly, with this litigation behind us, we can now move forward on our broader, urgent mission to make Texaco a model of workplace opportunity for all men and women," Bijur said.

"And let no one mistake our intention: Texaco is committed to developing and instituting specific, effective policies that will ensure discrimination is wiped out wherever it may be; policies that will expand the positive economic impact we can have in the minority community," Bijur said in a prepared statement released from company headquarters.

## EDUCATOR NAMED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



Principal Michael Kinnaird shares a laugh with one of his high school students.

Photo by James Simon

## Kinnaird's philosophy: "Treat them like people"

*Principal's words about students bring school success*

*By James Simons  
Sentinel-Voice*

Back in the 1960's when Michael Kinnaird was an improbably young principal at Jim Bridger Middle School, he began a pattern of facing tough challenges and achieving successful outcomes. After Bridger School he moved on to the Opportunity Schools, then known as the Advanced Technology Trade Center (ATTC). In each situation, he carefully analyzed what his school's students needed and then provided it for them to make the schools and the kids' education work.

Today, as principal at the Advanced Technologies Academy, he presides over a high school of 740 students. His school has been visited by Vice President Albert Gore. It has been hailed by Dr. Linda Roberts, who directs Technical Education for the U.S. Department of Education as "a school of the Twenty-first Century — rare in its focus and intensity, with a career focus." There are perhaps four or five schools in the entire country which have so totally integrated computer technology and high school curriculum. Las Vegas Advanced Technologies Academy is one of them.

Kinnaird was honored this year as Nevada's Principal of the Year. He is one of 50 educators so honored across the United States.

Mr. Kinnaird moves quickly through the spotless hallways of the Advanced Technologies Academy. But his movement toward his next meeting slows as he stops to greet the school's debate society as they wait for a bus to take them to a meet. "Hey, Mr.

Kinnaird!" "What's happening, Mr. Kinnaird?" There is an easy informality in the exchange. The students are respectful but comfortable with their principal. He addresses them by name.

Success in education does not come easily. Kinnaird was selected to lead this new educational venture before the building was built. "I was the principal at the ATTC (alternative schools) while they were building ATA," he comments. Wearing two hats, essentially handling two full-time assignments, took a lot of energy, but "I liked the challenge," he says.

The academy's students are drawn from across Clark County. "They reflect the diversity of the Las Vegas community. We have different ethnic groups and cultures here. But they are alike in wanting a quality education and pursuing an educational goal or career. We offer a unique experience because many of these kids would be lost in a larger, comprehensive high school. They are serious, compassionate, polite and dedicated to what they are doing. They want to achieve because their career goals are always in focus. I find them easy to communicate with. They are not shy about presenting those things that bother them or what they need, in an objective way. They know that they are privileged to be here."

The Academy opened its doors in 1994. The first graduating class will receive its diplomas in 1997. Kinnaird states, "We will have 120 students in the first graduation. They all transferred to the Academy from

(See Kinnaird, Page 2)

## BET to build casino

*Network announces Hilton partnership*

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

The popular Black Entertainment Television (BET) network has announced plans to partner with Hilton Hotels Corp. to build a new Strip casino aimed at the 2.2 million black tourists who annually visit Las Vegas.

The two companies announced their joint venture will explore the development of the BET Soundstage Casino, which will include a hotel and other related recreational facilities.

BET Holdings Inc., the parent company of the BET network, will aggressively market the property to its 47 million cable subscribers, said President Robert Johnson.



JOHNSON

## "Move may signal end to Moulin Rouge..."

The Hilton company's expertise in the Las Vegas hotel and gaming market will only enhance the partnership and the final project, he said.

A number of black entertainers will be asked to invest and help market the project. A national study of black attitudes towards gaming is now being completed, Johnson said.

"This collaboration will enable us to target a segment of the population - 2.2 million African-American visitors - who come here annually for the gaming and entertainment," Johnson said.

Many observers said BET's announcement may have helped signal the end to the historic Moulin Rouge, one of the city's first black casinos. Still unable to find financing for its rehabilitation project, the owners told local media outlets that they "are not real optimistic" that they will be able to keep its doors open.

The Moulin Rouge first opened in the mid 1950's. In recent years, the facility has struggled to rebuild itself into a fullscale gambling facility.

Co-owner Sarann Knight Preddy said there may not be enough interest to revive the hotel-casino, but maybe the site can be preserved as a museum. The idea is a last option.



DLB-96