

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

B.I.G. rides home

Popular rapper eulogized in New York City funeral

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

Amid cheers and tears, dressed in a double-breasted white suit and hat, Notorious B.I.G. took his last ride through his hometown of Brooklyn Tuesday.

B.I.G., whose real name was Chris Wallace, was driven from his funeral service in a Madison Avenue funeral parlor in Manhattan to Bedford Stuyvesant where he had lived and dealt crack prior to becoming a rap star.

Former New York City Mayor David Dinkins joined with rap industry stars, Dr. Dre, Flavor Flav, Treach, Spinderella, Pepa, Queen Latifah, Mary J. Blige and L'll Kim (B.I.G.'s girlfriend) to honor the 24-year-old.

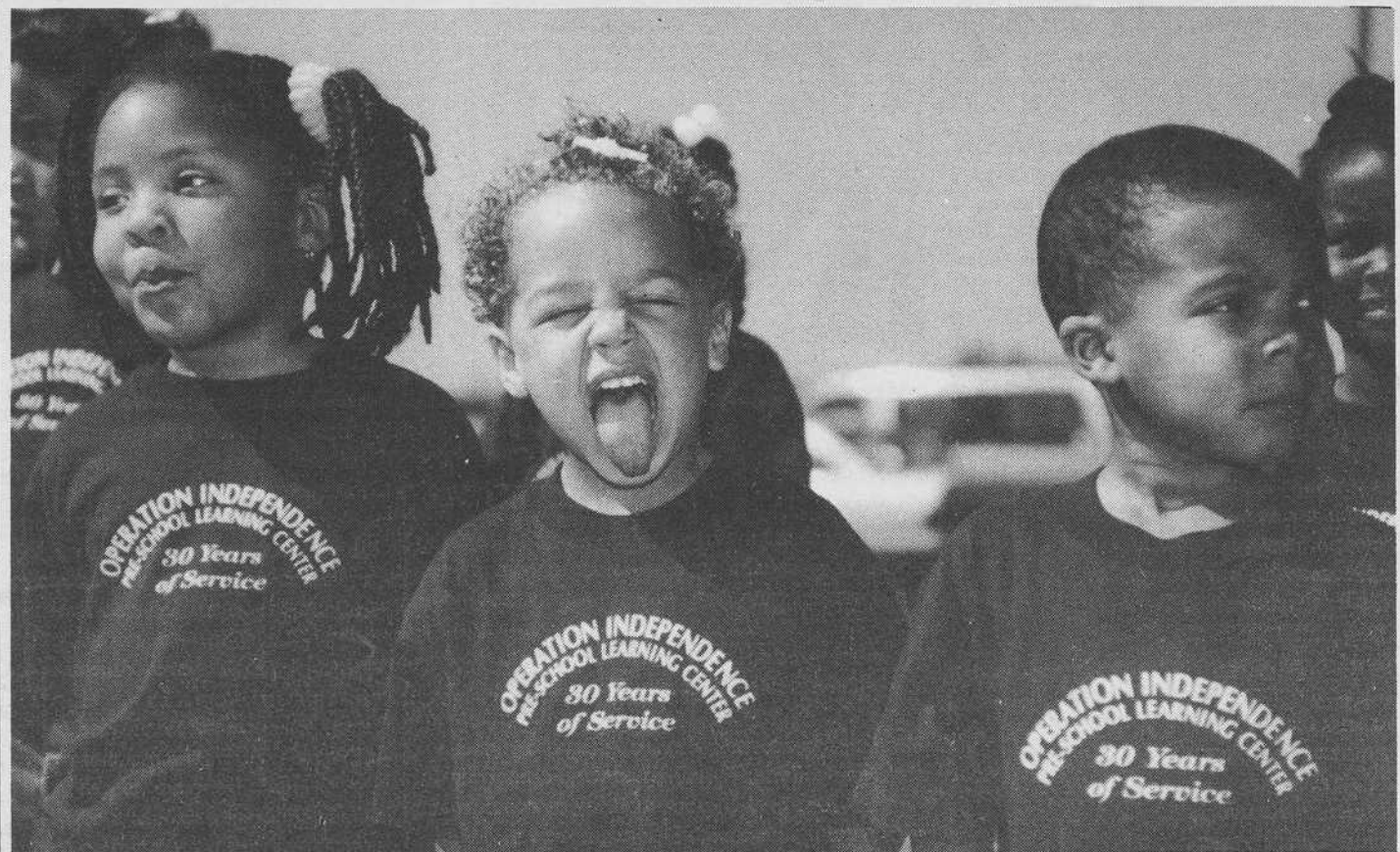
His estranged wife, Faith Evans, rumored to be pregnant with twins by B.I.G., sang at the funeral and Sean "Puffy" Combs delivered the eulogy. Dozens of fans stood outside the posh Frank E. Campbell Funeral Chapel where they listened to B.I.G.'s music.

Evans and Combs were present when the rapper was gunned down in a drive-by shooting March 9 in Los Angeles. The trio were leaving a party celebrating the 11th Annual Soul Train Music Awards.

Juannita Preudhomme, an old family friend, said the funeral was a peaceful event and wasn't all sorrow. "Everybody was hugging and kissing, just like Biggie would have wanted," she said.

Thousands, including old friends, lined the streets of Brooklyn to salute B.I.G. and cheered wildly as the hearse carrying the rap star passed, leading a motorcade that included Cadillacs filled with flowers and more than a dozen stretch limousines.

Once the cortege had passed, skirmishes (See B.I.G., Page 3)



You got the right ones baby!

September Parker (middle) does vocal exercise. Parker, Leslie Kimble (left) and Carlin Williams, members of Operation Independence Child Care, sang "America" by Ray Charles at the Rafael Rivera Community Center.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Locals share CDBG successes

Sentinel-Voice

Ulises Galvan spoke confidently, despite a case of the jitters.

Helen Jackson composed her thoughts on note cards, then struggled to compose her emotions.

Both shared stories praising nonprofit groups for assisting them, then joined City of Las Vegas officials in lauding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a federally-funded program empowering local nonprofit groups.

This year, 31 nonprofit groups will split \$4 million Community Development Block Grant funds, channeled through the City of Las Vegas.

Galvan, 18, spoke cautiously at first,

gaining confidence with each word as he recalled a nine-month span that took him from his native Mexico to Las Vegas; from English classes at the Bob Stupak Community Center to the podium during Wednesday's brunch at the Rafael Rivera Community Center.

"Learning English was challenging, but fun," he said.

Galvan learned English in the CDBG-funded Yes We Can Learn English program. Now a Community College of Southern Nevada freshman, he dreams of becoming an engineer.

Jackson's story, penned on note cards, rehashed her struggle to care for six of her 15 grandchildren and how Variety Day Home, another CDBG funded program, saved the day, (See Success, Page 3)



HELEN JACKSON

Congresswoman, comedian win press awards

By the NNPA Communications Department
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The National Newspaper Publishers Association, aka the Black Press of America, will honor California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, activist and comedian Dick Gregory and talkshow host Joe Madison as its 1996 Newsmakers of the Year at the Association's annual Black Press Week Dinner, Thursday, March 20, in Washington, D.C.

The three are being honored for their "courage and commitment in exposing the horrors of the CIA/Contra/crack cocaine scandal," said NNPA President Dorothy Leavell.

The NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, which is in its second year, recognizes African Americans who have most influenced issues of concern to

Black America and who have made significant strides in bringing about positive change.

"Black America needs champions like these honorees, who have refused to let this act of atrocity be ignored," Leavell said.

Waters, Gregory and Madison have been instrumental in helping to uncover the exact nature of the CIA's involvement in the crack cocaine/Contra link.

According to reports, first published last August in the Texas-based San Jose Mercury News, CIA-backed operatives pumped \$1 billion worth of crack cocaine into black neighborhoods, in Watts, Compton and South-Central Los Angeles during the 1980s. The profits from the sales were used to buy arms for Nicaraguan Contra rebels, according to the investigative

articles.

Waters, who represents an area of Los Angeles that has been heavily affected by the crack epidemic, has participated in congressional hearings on the issue and has led the way in calling for investigations into the issue.

Both Gregory and Madison, who were arrested trying to deliver a copy of the Mercury News' articles to CIA director John Deutch, have been on a hunger strike for more than four months in an effort to force congress to pass legislation which will declassify materials relating to the issue.

In addition to the Newsmakers' dinner, NNPA, will host its annual enshrinement program which inducts former African-

(See NNPA, Page 3)



DICK GREGORY