

# Music

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 the music industry community to really think about business and to understand business, and to understand the power of knowing your business," said Kimberly Bailey, coordinator of the EOB Micro Business Program, and developer and hostess of the conference. "So, who better than the experts in the field, themselves, to inform people properly."

Bailey said the career opportunities, not just on music stages, but behind the scenes — producing entertainment law and entertainment accounting — will be highlighted. Opportunities abound for owning a business that revolves around the billion-dollar plus music industry, she said.

More than 50 executives and celebrities are expected to attend, according to Bailey who said the conference's industry participation far outdistances last year's tally.

"We have more than five record company presidents coming," Bailey said.

Ray Harris, president of black music for Epic Records; Gary Reese, president of Magic Johnson's new record label and Ernie Singleton, the president of Fully Loaded Records will be here scouting local talent, Bailey said.

Also scheduled is a special tribute to music industry legend Jack "The Rapper" Gibson Saturday at 5:45 p.m.

"Jack is an icon for us in the music industry as it relates to radio," Bailey said. "He has paid his dues and has paved the way for so many people to have opportunities. So, I just think that it's time for us to give something back to Jack. We have to all let Jack know that we appreciate him."

In addition to the workshops and tribute to the 77-year-Gibson, now a Las Vegas resident, local performers will get the chance to strut their stuff.

Panelists include Harris (Epic Records), Aja Kimura (A&R/LaFace Records), Alonzo Robinson (ASCAP), Rory McAlister (Record System), writer/director John Singleton, singing group Mtume, attorney Gary Watson, as well as Las Vegas' own recording artists 702, crooner Howard Hewitt, rapper Craig Mack and R&B group Atlantic Starr.

Bailey said moderators are coming from Black Enterprise magazine and *Urban Network* magazine, a popular music magazine.

"I really believe this is going to be an exciting and informative event that everyone in the Las Vegas area should attend, especially if you're interested in music," said Garber, who before forming his own consulting

company, worked for both Motown and A&M Records. "I'm excited that the people of Las Vegas are going to get the opportunity to come and sit down, witness and ask questions of the experts in the music business."

"The first opportunity I see at a conference like this is the networking," said David Bowie, a local musician and entertainment consultant who will be participating in the conference. "Also the education. I think that you can listen to the conference speakers, and what they are saying may not be there with you today, but later on down



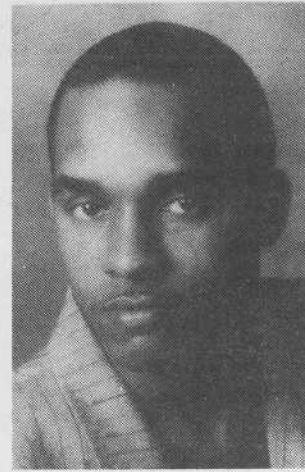
**JOHN SINGLETON**

the road you'll really be grabbing what they were speaking about. You'll just be

beginning to comprehend it."

Last year's conference sold out, with 300 attendants. The conference is limited to the first 300 participants who sign up. Thus far there have been more than 500 inquiries regarding registration and attendance.

"The concept of the conference is very important, especially where we are right now with black music," said Barbara Davis, who will be traveling from Atlanta to assist Bailey with the conference. "So many young people are interested in getting involved with music, but there is another side to music and talent today. This conference is an



**RORY McALISTER**

opportunity for those interested to come out and meet those people who, on a day-to-day

basis, are in the trenches and know what's going on."

"This industry is ever changing," Davis said. "Today it's about understanding the business side of what you do. It's a blessing to have this conference here."

"We hear so many people say, 'I want to get into the music business,' but when they get an opportunity, sometimes I don't know if they realize what actually goes on," Bailey said. "People have to understand that the business is something they must grasp, because if they don't...it's treacherous, and it's not getting any better."



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