

NEWS CLIPS



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Members of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, left to right, Sgt. Victor Dunn (NLVPD), Lt. Greg McCurdy (LVMPD), Lt. Cliff Davis (LVMPD), Chief Joe Tillman (NLVPD), and Sgt. Chuck Mangrum (LVMPD) came together last Thursday at the Variety Day Home in Las Vegas to present Linda Manor a turkey and the fixings for the Thanksgiving holiday.

CBC URGES BURGER KING TO SETTLE DISCRIMINATION DISPUTE

Four members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) on Nov. 14 urged Burger King officials to end discriminatory practices against minority franchisees. The Burger King Corporation is accused of charging minority franchisees exorbitant prices and rental fees for restaurants, removing good equipment and replacing it with equipment that is either old or inoperative and refusing to sell franchises to minorities in predominantly white areas. In a letter to Dennis Malamapinas, chief executive officer for Burger King Corporation in Miami, Fla., Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.), Eva Clayton (D-N.C.) and Carrie Meeks (D-Fla.), urged the fast food giant "to make a concerted effort to resolve these issues of contention and change the manner in which you treat your minority franchisees." Said McKinney: "This is not the first time that Burger King's discriminatory practices have been brought to my attention. However, I hope this can be resolved before minority communities consider turning away from Burger King altogether."

RELIGIOUS, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS SUPPORT LEE'S NOMINATION

National religious leaders, in a rare statement about a nominee to public office, have called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to end the "inordinate politicizing" that has deadlocked Bill Lann Lee's nomination to assistant attorney general for civil rights, and to forward his name to the full U.S. Senate for confirmation. A panel of Christian and Jewish leaders blasted the committee for turning fair hearings into a policy debate on affirmative action, which, they said, does not belong in that forum. "It is not usually our practice to advocate for specific legislation, but on this nomination we see no glaring or disqualifying reason for Mr. Lee's nomination not to move forward appropriately," said Rev. Dr. Joan B. Campbell, general secretary for the National Council of Churches. Additionally, members of Congress and leaders of civil rights and women's groups held a rally on Nov. 12 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in support of Lee. They too proclaim that Lee is not being judged by his abilities but is the victim of partisan politics.

DIABETES AT HIGHEST LEVELS EVER, ACCORDING TO THE CDC

More Americans than ever before are suffering from diabetes, with the number of new cases averaging 798,000 each year, the Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported. In 1997, 15.7 million people in the United States have diabetes, nearly six percent of the U.S. population. Hardest hit by the increase is the African-American population. The CDC reports that the prevalence of diabetes among African-Americans rose 33 percent from 1980 to 1994, compared with 11 percent for white Americans. Other minority populations also suffer disproportionately from the disease, especially American Indians. The statistics for ethnic groups are as follows: whites, 11.3 million (7.8 percent for those aged 20 and older); African-Americans, 2.3 million (10.8 percent); Mexican Americans, 1.2 million (10.6 percent). Among American Indians, rates vary among tribes and communities, ranging from five percent to 50 percent for diagnosed diabetes. The Clinton Administration and Congress launched new efforts earlier this year to bolster research and prevention of diabetes, committing \$2.4 billion over five years for Medicare and health agencies.

Lyons calls NAACP's recommendation 'ill-advised'

The civil rights group is calling for Henry Lyons resignation

Special to Sentinel-Voice

A national church leader called "ill-advised" the decision by NAACP leadership to ask for his resignation from its national board.

"I have always believed that the NAACP stood for justice and fought against injustice at any cost," said the Rev. Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. "To ask me to step aside because of verbal allegations is certainly ill-advised."

Lyons was one of four prominent board members asked to tender their resignation by NAACP Chairwoman Myrlie Evers-Williams. Others are Hazel Dukes, who pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$13,000 from a cancer-stricken woman;

Bobby Bivens, who was arrested in October on charges that he owed more than \$20,000 in child support payments; and James McGhee, who was jailed for six months last year for pleading guilty to embezzling \$38,517 from the estate of one of his clients.

"Though three of the other board members were people either charged or who admitted to a crime, I am still operating under allegations that have been continuously sparked on by local media," Lyons said.

Members of the interdenominational National Concerned Pastors of America agreed that Lyons has been unfairly singled out.

"The NAACP is yielding to the pressure of white America and is joining the bandwagon to destroy a great leader," said a press release from the organization.

The group, which is headed by Dr. Samuel Austin, pastor of Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., said it will call for "church members to stop supporting the NAACP if the NAACP does not recant."

Lyons said his organization has stood by the NAACP time and time again, helping the civil rights organization raise money and recruit new members.

"I will continue to support the NAACP. But hope that the NAACP will remember in this country we're still innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Tucker testifies before senate subcommittee on music violence

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, DC — "No corporation should be allowed to exist if engaged in activities that contaminates, poisons and infects the minds of children," charged Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, founder/chair of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

Testifying on "The Social Impact of Music Violence" before the senate subcommittee which oversees the District of Columbia, Tucker said action must be taken to curb and control the proliferation of vile, degrading pornographic and misogynistic music.

"Those malicious lyrics grossly malign black women, degrade the unthinking young black artists who create it, pander pornography to our innocent young children, hold black people (especially young black males) up to ridicule and contempt, and corrupt its vast audience of listeners, white and black, throughout the world," said Tucker in the presence of Senators Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Recording Industry Association of America President and CEO, Hillary Rosen, medical experts, scholars, lobbyists, parents and shock rock fans.

Brownback, chairman of the senate governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Government Management, restructuring and the District of Columbia, said, "Over the last 30 years, violent juvenile crime has jumped more than 500 percent. Such trends are especially dramatic in Washington, DC, where juvenile crime, teen death and teen drug use rates lead the nation."

Tucker says that all America should take note, however, as "the poison exists not just in the inner cities, but is spreading to the more affluent suburbs as well."

North Dakota parent Raymond Kuntz told of his 15 year-old son's suicide after listening to shock rocker Marilyn Manson. Kuntz read lyrics to "Antichrist Superstar" found in Richard's CD, which

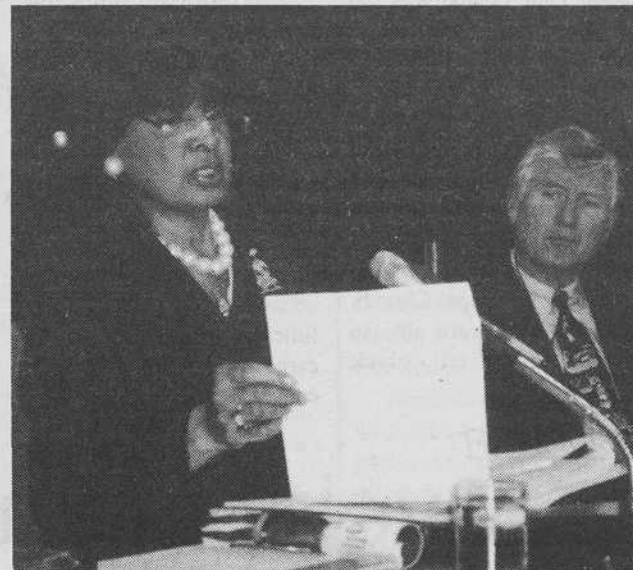


Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, Chair National Political Congress of Black Women, testifies before the Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Impact of Violent Music Lyrics. Next to her is Stanford University Communications Professor, Dr. Donald F. Roberts.

he claims encourages suicide. "One shot and the world gets smaller. Let's jump upon the sharp swords. And cut away our smiles. Without the threat of death. There's no reason to live at all."

At the heart of violence in music is the debate over first amendment rights. While legislators urge record companies to control explicit and offensive music, Rosen defended the rights of artists to freely express themselves. She also insisted guidelines already exist to restrict minors from purchasing music that displays "parental advisory" stickers.

While laws already exist to prevent this music genre being sold to children, Tucker countered labeling is worthless because they purchase those CDs everyday.

To validate her point, Chad Sisk, a 15-year-old from Philadelphia, said he purchased parental advisory CDs from merchants such as Sam Goody, Tower Records and the Wall. "Children learn where they can buy CDs with parental labels by word of mouth," said Chad.

"There are already laws in existence that protect children from pornography and exploitation. We want to bring a return of civilized discourse in our musical art," Tucker said.

Tucker distributed lyrics


Let's just kill everyone and let your God sort them out/F_ck it F_ck it F_ck it/Everybody's someone else's nigger.../I wasn't born with enough middle fingers..."

Despite those vulgar, hateful lyrics, Tucker emphasized that NPCBW is not talking about censorship. "Instead we are talking about establishing guidelines for more responsive and responsible corporate citizenship. We are not trying to tell the record industry how to conduct their business, we only want them to transform it," Tucker clarified.


The hearing was carried live by C-SPAN.

The National Political Congress of Black women is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1984 to empower African-American women in government and politics.

Through mentoring and training, its mission is to encourage African-American women's full participation in the national political process.



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