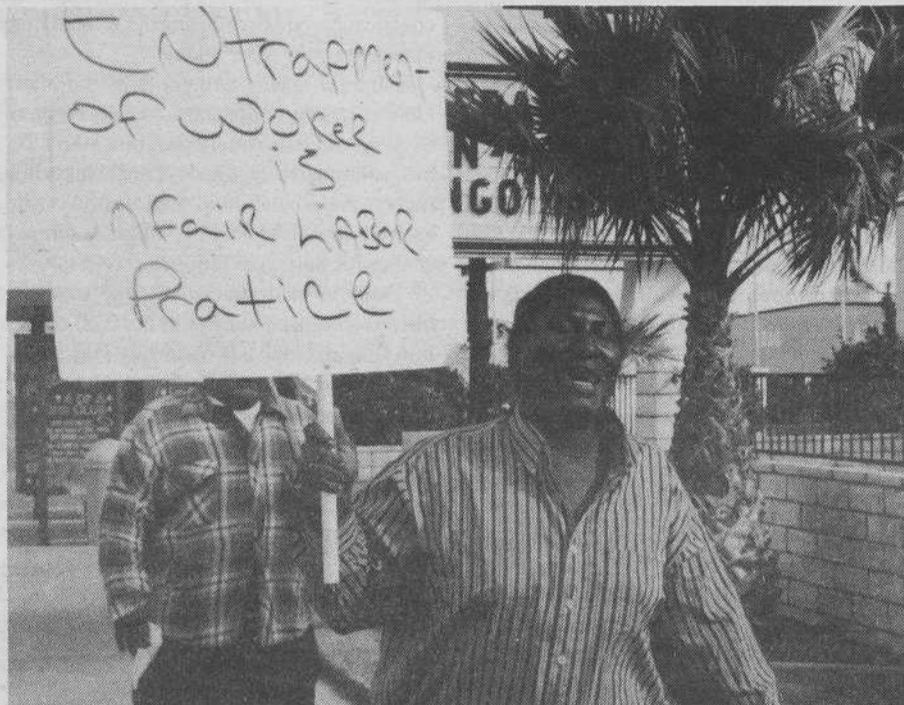




No thanks on Thanksgiving



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy
Taking her case to the street against Mahoney's Silver Nugget Casino, former employee Irene Richardson feels that the circumstances surrounding her dismissal were trumped up.

Ex-employees protest firings

By Ramon Savoy
Sentinel-Voice

After waiting weeks for management at Mahoney's Silver Nugget to have a change of heart over an incident they called unfair, employees who claim they were terminated unjustly marched Thanksgiving Day on the North Las Vegas casino.

Undaunted by the chilly weather, the workers shuffled along the casino's sidewalk, hoping to gain the ear of management and tell their side of the story.

Irene Richardson believes the firings stemmed from an incident in October where several employees took sandwiches and soft drinks from a malfunctioning vending machine in the employee breakroom.

Richardson, who had worked for the company for three years, said she walked into the breakroom and two white casino security officers encouraged her and other to get items from the machine.

When management found out, Richardson and 20 others were fired. They considered the terminations especially cruel since the holiday season was approaching.

NAACP evicted

By Ramon Savoy
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas NAACP branch needs a new home.

Locksmiths on Tuesday installed new locks at the 600 W. Owens facility the group had called home for two years, after its owners evicted the group for failing to live up to its obligations.

Georgia Jones of Operation Life, the nonprofit group which owns the building, said the group was responsible for cleaning the grounds and paying the sewer bill.

In addition to maintaining a shoddy exterior, littered with glass, bottles and trash, the group let the sewer bill climb to \$5,000 and never made good on a promise to pay it. The NAACP had a monthly lease agreement that entitled them to use part of the 10,000-square-foot structure for \$500 per month.

Operation Life notified the group in October that they sever the agreement Dec. 1.

Locksmiths arrived Tuesday afternoon, much to the disbelief of the some members. When they did arrive, they found no signs of an intent to vacate the building. The office was still in tact.

After negotiations between the two parties on Wednesday, Rogers said the group would be allowed to remain until Sunday. He also said that another location has been found.

Las Vegas chimes in on hate crimes

By John T Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

A Las Vegas was among the 361 people invited to a conference convened by the White House on hate crimes.

Schoolteacher and radio personality Bobbie Troutman traveled to Washington D.C. Nov. 10 to brainstorm with President Clinton, college professors, teachers, ministers and civil rights activists ways to quell the fires of hates.

Troutman, an educator for 31 years, has hosted topics concerning race on her weekly KCEP FM 88.1 show "For Women Only." She interviewed hate crime victims, Black Panthers, Skinheads and Klu Klux Klan members.

Troutman said that while blacks are the most likely victims of hate crimes, these crimes can affect anybody who is viewed as different.

"Hate crimes refer to using categories like race, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual preference as a basis for hatred," said Dr. Michael Clay Smith, professor of criminal justice at the University of Southern Mississippi. He also directs the first Institute for Hate Crimes Prevention, created to handle and eradicate hate

crimes.

The one-day conference at the George Washington University allowed Troutman and others a chance to use each other as a sounding board for ideas. An information resource fair helped participants learn how to spot deviate behavior.

Troutman said Attorney General Janet Reno shocked the audience when she said they would be shocked at how many hate crimes go unreported because victims are scared.

Clinton touched on the topic in a June 7 radio address.

"Hate crimes, committed solely because the victims have a different skin color or a different faith or are gays or lesbians, leave deep scars not only of the victims, but on our larger community," he said. "As

part of our preparation for the new century, it is time for us to mount an all out assault on hate crimes, to punish them swiftly and severely and to do more to prevent them from happening in the first place."

Troutman said another conference is in the works, and the attendants will write to Clinton to make sure of it. She said more young people need to be involved in the next conference.



BOBBIE TROUTMAN

NAACP grades hotels again

By Tony Jones
Special to Sentinel-Voice

NAACP president and CEO Kweisi Mfume announced the second phase of the civil rights organization's plan to study the hotel industry's treatment of African-Americans and unveiled a hot line set up to serve as a sounding board for the survey.

(See NAACP, page 7)



Thinking beauties

Fifteen young ladies participated in the 33rd Annual Debutante's Ball last month at the Flamingo Hilton. (Above) Allison Robinson earned the "Miss Deb" title, presented by Lady Dorothy Taylor. (Right) Chrystal Harris-Seastrunk, who also won academic awards, is presented by her father Anthony Seastrunk.

Photo special to Sentinel-Voice by Bob Morgan



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Report Card

Math	✓
English	✓
Art	✓
Science	✓