



AKA's adopt North Las Vegas nursing facility

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Welcomed by smiles, the Theta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., last week kicked-off its "Adopt-A-Grandparent" program, a community service effort aimed at brightening the lives of residents at the North Las Vegas Care Center.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

The Austin Dancers kicked up their heels during the Adopt-A-Grandparent program at the NLV Care Center.

More than 50 guests joined happy residents at the 3215 E. Cheyenne Ave., nursing facility for the Feb. 21 inauguration. The Austin Dance Company, a dance troupe for disadvantaged

youths, wowed the onlookers with an energetic dance routine.

Adopt-a-Grandparent coordinator Lisa Russell said the program continues the sorority's 90-year legacy, which started at Howard

University in Washington D.C., of caring for the poor, sick and the elderly. The sorority, founded in 1908, was the first Greek-letter sorority for black women. The Las Vegas chapter, Theta Theta Omega, was founded in 1965.

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Silas Purnell director of the Educational Services Division of Ada S. McKinley Community Services, spoke Saturday at UNLV on how future college students can finance their education. Purnell was the guest speaker at the 2nd Annual African-American Student Achievement Conference.

Conference prepares youth for college, life

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

UNLV went prep last weekend as more than 350 black students invaded the campus for the 2nd Annual African-American Student Achievement Conference '98.

Sponsored by KCEP-FM 88.1, UNLV, the Economic Opportunity Board, the FBI, and West Las Vegas Pride, the conference stressed the importance of college preparation.

"You're all winners," said keynote speaker Silas Purnell, director of the Educational Services Division of Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., in Chicago. The company, in operation for at least 27 years, is a community program housed in the basement of a public housing development on Chicago's South Side.

Silas also told the youth to "stay away from negative people and talk about positive things." His organization, it is estimated, has helped more than 40,000 black teenagers enroll in more than 200 colleges and universities across the country.

KCEP General Manager Sherman

Rutledge created the conference to take some of the guesswork out of choosing a college.

"Receiving guidance for college preparation and information regarding college scholarships will increase potential for success."

This year, the conference added a new wrinkle to help students prepare for college. Using the "Holland Module," a program universities use to present a breadth of career options when visiting high schools, the students were able to attend workshops on engineering, law, accounting, finance, education, journalism, advertising and politics, among many other disciplines.

Purnell also urged black youth to not let education separate them from their communities and their culture. He also warned against succumbing to the pitfalls of racism, in America and in the academic world.

Even the most elementary jobs require education, Purnell said. And while he rapped the merits of education, he urged the students to not be deterred by low grades and subpar

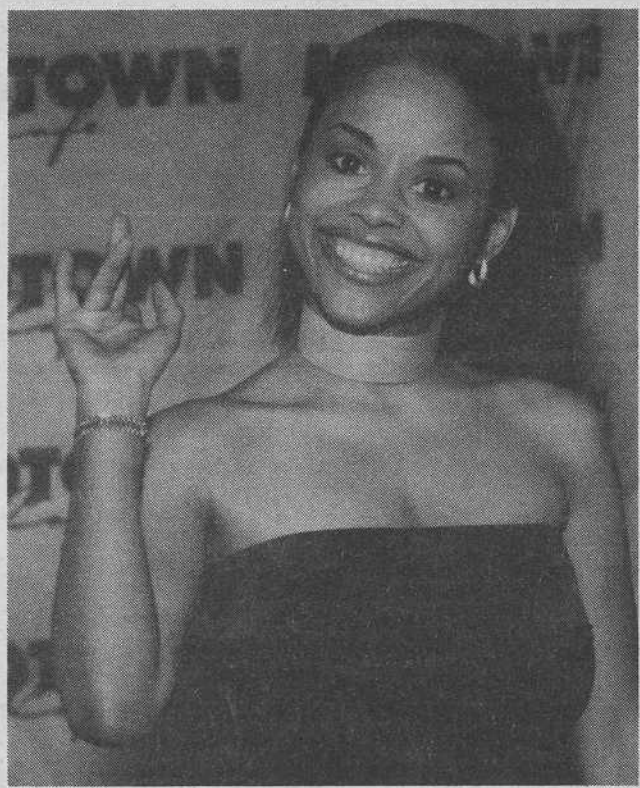
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Greetings Las Vegas....

Family Matters' star, Machell Thomas, flashes her celebrity smile last Thursday at the Motown Cafe during the unveiling of the new clothing line by Grammy Award-winning recording group Boyz II Men, Paula Abdul and the singer's husband Brad Beckerman.

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Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard



Julian Bond succeeds Evers-Williams as NAACP chair

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — Julian Bond, a civil rights pioneer, on Saturday was tabbed chairman of the NAACP, the nation's oldest, and lately, most troubled civil rights organization.

Bond, 58, also chairs the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's publication *Crisis*, along with teaching history in college in Washington and appearing on radio and television talk shows.

The former Georgia state senator, who bested the five-person field, said board members called him, urging him to run for the unpaid position.

The other candidates were Joe Madison, a Maryland radio host; Lenny Springs, a North Carolina banker; Leon Russell, a human rights official in Florida; Marc Stepp, a Detroit labor union executive; and Charles Whitehead, a utilities executive from Kentucky.

Outgoing chairman Myrlie

Evers-Williams said she was departing after fulfilling her goal of putting the group on sound financial, moral and organizational ground. The 64-year-old widow of assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Evers announced earlier this month that she would not seek a fourth one-year term.

Since 1995, when Evers-Williams became chairman, she and president and CEO Kweisi Mfume have reorganized, cut back staff and produced a budget surplus that

currently tops \$2 million. Evers-Williams will remain a member of the NAACP board.

Nearly a half-century of winning major civil rights battles for decades, the NAACP has endured crippling scandals since 1994 when then-Executive Director Benjamin Chavis Jr. was fired after a sexual harassment incident and charges of money mismanagement. He left the organization \$4.8 million in debt.

Last December, board member Hazel Dukes of New

York City was ousted after she admitted stealing more than \$13,000 from a leukemia-stricken associate who trusted Dukes with her finances.

Bond is no stranger to controversy himself. After losing a bitter congressional race to former civil rights colleague John Lewis in 1986, the next year his wife Alice charged that he and a few other prominent blacks in the city used cocaine regularly. Police and grand jury investigations produced no charges.



JULIAN BOND