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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## KCEP's top man exonerated

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sherman Rutledge has done nothing wrong, according to the Economic Opportunity Board, Rutledge's boss.

The nonprofit board said an investigation into citizen complaints accusing Rutledge of mismanagement were unsubstantiated.

Rutledge feels vindicated.

"The complaints were totally untrue," the KCEP-FM 88.1 general manager said after being criticized for weeks by members of the black community. "I feel I have been assassinated. It's a sad commentary that anyone who may have a problem would resort to doing a smear campaign against an individual."

On Feb. 14, at the West Las Vegas Library Theater, the NAACP, WAAK-UP, the Martin Luther King Committee, and the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Oppression held a forum to air concerns about Rutledge's performance.

Fliers circulated in the black community saying "Do You Know? KCEP G.M. Sherman Rutledge Must Go!" and listed a slate of proposed offenses: withholding pertinent and vital information from the African-American community, limiting programming celebrating Black History Month, possible cancellation of popular community shows and the contributing to the resignation of popular on-air personalities.

The absence of popular on-air personality Bobbi Troutman, hostess for a Saturday morning show, "For Women Only," caused an uproar with listeners. But Rutledge said neither Troutman's nor Larry Weekly's Saturday morning show "Straight Talk" were ever in danger of being canceled. He said the shows were off the air to give the hosts a respite, a practice Rutledge employs, but usually in December, not January.

Further muddling matters, the



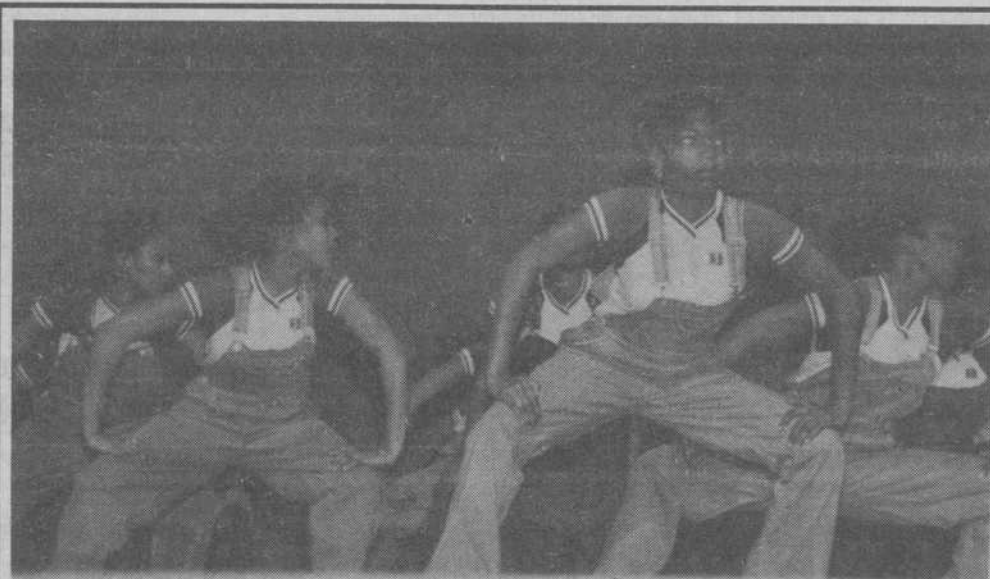
SHERMAN RUTLEDGE

station had just hired a new engineer and started renovations. Much of the work was done on the weekends at the engineer's request, leading not only to the temporary hiatus of "For Women Only" and "Straight Talk" but also Mary Jo Greenely's "Cycles of Life" show on Mondays.

Troutman's future with the station is in the hands of the Board. Rutledge says that he does not operate outside of the authority of the Board and if anyone has any questions or concerns about his management, he would like them addressed to the board.

"I have always had an open door policy at the radio station," Rutledge said. "We should agree to respect one another in our disagreement."

KCEP-FM 88.1's Saturday morning line-up begins with Larry Weekly and "Straight Talk" coming on at 10 a.m. followed by "People's Forum," hosted by Pat Cunningham at 11. From 12 to 12:30 is a new show called "Special Interest Programming" which is tailored to address educational and collegiate matters in southern Nevada.



### Steppers perform for Greeks

High school students of the Delta Sigma Theta interest group, the Deluniques, opened the Greek Step Show earlier this month at the Artemus Ham Hall Theater.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

## Dorothie Clark named new leader of Urban Chamber

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Dorothie T. Clark was recently appointed president of the Urban Chamber of Commerce.

"It's an honor," said Clark who will replace outgoing president Harvey Phelps.



DOROTHIE CLARK

Clark looks forward to leading the chamber which she called "an organization of business owners and individuals who want to have an impact on the economic viability of the Las Vegas Valley."

The chamber comprises a wide range of businesses: general contractors, building contractors, restaurant owners, tax preparers, janitorial services, heavy equipment operators and more. The Chamber, which opened last year and is located at 1048 W. Owens Ave. inside the Nucleus Plaza, boasts 187 members.

"We are an organization of business people who recognize that the world is bigger than Nevada," Clark said. The newly elected administrator has a doctoral degree in educational administration and is employed at Bechtel Nevada. She is a single mother with two adult daughters.

Clark's position is a volunteer non-paid post. Volunteers provide the bulk of the chamber's manpower. Thus, the Chamber relies on charity and private contributions. Clark said the Chamber provides business coordination, partnerships and joint ventures with other companies regardless of whether they are a member or not.

But, she said, "We are trying to become as proactive as we can for our members. Our motto is 'Contracts and Contacts Building Businesses'."

The Chamber's membership fee is based on the size of the business, number of employees and revenue generated in a year's time. All proceeds paid to the Chamber go to building of the organization and its operation.

## Sullivan receives \$15 Million African aid grant

By Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Rev. Leon Sullivan, who paved the way for the end of apartheid in South Africa, was given a \$15 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to help develop master teachers, expert bankers and to continue highly successful economic and human initiatives throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The grant is the second given by USAID to the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), which Sullivan founded in 1981 to foster empowerment programs and encourage U.S. investment and resources.

This phase of the IFESH project will send 200 teachers to African countries to help improve basic education. IFESH has trained and sent 500 teachers to serve in Africa in the first phase of the project.

In addition, 250 African bankers have been trained in U.S. banking technology. Under the continuation of the program, an additional 200 mid-career bankers will be trained in credit risk

analysis and general banking skills.

Participating countries include Ghana, Gabon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Gambia, Nigeria, Malawi, Benin, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

The third component of the IFESH project is the purchasing of U.S. commercial debt and utilizing the subsequent local currency generation for development activities.

Sullivan said the debt leveraging success story by IFESH has produced \$8 million in local currency from a U.S. debt purchase of only \$1.6 million.

Before a standing-room-only audience in a large hearing room in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Sullivan said, "America has helped Poland, Israel, Bosnia, the former Soviet Union, and now it's time for America to give top priority to helping the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. And now is the time."

The grant signing ceremony was hosted by Senator Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who was described by Sullivan as a "close friend and supporter for

the past three decades."

Specter and Congress members Donald Payne, D-N.J., and Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., were instrumental in getting the grant renewed by USAID.

In his remarks, Specter called Sullivan a living legend. "I have witnessed that living legend at work in Philadelphia where Dr. Sullivan started the Opportunities Industrialization Centers. And when he decided to put the Sullivan Principles in Africa it was a great day for Africa, a great day for the world." Now, Specter added "Sullivan has signed an agreement with Congress to help Africa, and I'm glad to participate."

Pelosi said: "It is a good honor to be in the same room, anytime, anyplace with Dr. Sullivan ... This is a great effort that has the support of the Congressional leadership, the cooperation of the White House, but most of all the inspiration of Rev. Sullivan."

Payne, who sits on the Africa Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee,

also expressed pride in Sullivan's work. "It's a privilege to be part of this program and its outstanding work."

Sullivan's tireless effort to improve education, create jobs and promote self-help initiatives in Africa was praised by USAID Administrator Brian Atwood.

"Reverend Sullivan's dynamism and commitment to bringing vocational education, literacy and self-help activities to Africa is unparalleled and we are proud to continue to work with him. This public-private partnership will help strengthen Africa's education systems and improve Africans' ability to bank and save to invest in their future."

Also joining Rev. Sullivan at the ceremony were Chrysler Corporation Vice President Frank Fountain, Joseph Wilson of the National Security Council, Dunstan W. Kamana, ambassador of Zambia and chair of the African Ambassadorial planning Committee for the upcoming African-African American summit in 1999, and ambassadors from nine other African countries.