

Troutman still in limbo, while NAACP backs out

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The local NAACP appears to be hedging its support for radio personality Bobbie Troutman's show despite throwing its weight behind a forum last month questioning the station's management for putting the show on hiatus.

At the April 29 meeting of the Economic Opportunity Board, the nonprofit entity that runs KCEP FM 88.1, the Clark County educator learned that the Las Vegas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People withdrew its support for returning to the air "For Women Only." The show was cancelled five months ago to allow for studio renovations, station officials said.

Claude Logan, EOB vice chairman, said someone forged the signature of local NAACP president the Rev. James Rogers on a letter backing Troutman's complaint. Troutman's supporters were ambivalent.

The NAACP's about-face is baffling considering that on Easter, fliers were posted on vehicles touting Troutman and asking supporters to sign a petition to get her back on the air. The NAACP's number was listed for people who wanted to sign the petition. In February, the group and other community organizations sponsored a fact-finding meeting where they levied charges against station general manager Sherman Rutledge and questioned why Troutman's show was not on the air.

At the meeting, Logan's



CLAUDE LOGAN

refusal to let Troutman speak upset many. A motion by Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese allowed her to speak.

"You want to talk about honesty and fair play," Troutman said, then "I have to tell my side of the story."

Troutman said programming director Louis Conners told her "For Women Only" and "Straight Talk," hosted by City of Las Vegas management analyst Larry Weekly, were going off the air temporarily so that their Studio B facility could be refurbished. Weekly has said he supports Troutman's efforts.

Assemblyman Wendell Williams, D-Nev., said Studio B was up and running when he participated in a talk show last December.

"We were not in Studio A, we were in Studio B," said Williams, who learned about the renovations from Troutman. "That's kind of strange. I was in there last night."



REV. JAMES ROGERS

Also in Troutman's complaint were allegations that previous general manager Al Johnson abused employees and threatened them with violence.

Troutman said a host of the station's on-air personalities, like DB 2 Short, Kim Bailey, Jack the Rapper, Special K, Galaxy Glen, Regina D and more, were subjected to Rutledge's intimidation tactics.

"A systematic pattern of abuse, neglect and hostile working conditions has occurred at that radio station," Troutman said. "I feel like I'm a scapegoat for many of the ills and problems of KCEP."

Rutledge disagreed, saying, "I think that Bobbie is bitter. She is bitter because she elected to do a character assassination to slander me without any cause or reason."

Rutledge is referring to the community forum on Valentine's Day where he was charged with neglecting his job duties. The situation escalated from there.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Here comes the judge...

Giving a sigh of relief newly appointed federal judge Johnnie Rawlinson thanks United States Senator Harry Reid for his support at her recent reception held for her family, friends and supporters on the University of Nevada Las Vegas campus.

Block party to promote unity

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Doolittle Community Center will host its sixth annual Community Block Party Unity Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 23.

The event will feature games, sports and entertainment. The center is located at 1950 N. "J" St. on the corner of W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Sponsored by the Community Baseball League, the City of Las Vegas Sports Unit and the Doolittle Youth Council, sports activities will include softball tournaments for men and women, a Little League baseball tournament and a 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

Black, greek-lettered fraternities and sororities and their high school youth group will

perform in step competitions and drill teams will vie for top honors. A dominoes tournament and fun games for children are also slated.

Organized by KCEP and the West Las Vegas Arts Center, the talent showcase will feature local music groups.

Initiated in response to the 1992 Rodney King riots, the annual block party aims to unite the community and kick off what organizers hope to be a violence-free summer.

Food will not be provided, so pack your own goodies.

For more information, contact Phil Thompson, Doolittle Community Center coordinator, at 229-6374.

Millionaire entrepreneur to speak at Micro Business awards banquet

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Michele Hoskins, President and CEO of her company Michele Foods, will be the keynote speaker at the first annual EOB Micro Business Award and Fundraising Banquet this Saturday, May 16, at the MGM Hotel from 7 pm to 1 am.

Hoskins, who recently appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show, is an inspiring example of the power to succeed against the odds; once a single mother on Welfare, she now presides over a company that grosses over \$7 million annually and is expanding its market along with its offerings.

Michele Foods produces breakfast syrups to grocery chains and foodservice distributors. Currently, the syrups are being sold in 7 of the top 20 grocery chains in the U.S., and the company is developing an expanded array of products.

Micro Business coordinator Kimberly Bailey says of Hoskins, "I had the pleasure of hearing Michele speak at the Black Enterprise Conference in 1997 and she reminded me what our local Micro Businesses are and aspire to be. It is truly an honor to have Ms. Hoskins as our keynote speaker and I encourage everyone to come out and hear her motivational words."

Created in 1992, the Micro Business Development Program is designed to assist would-be entrepreneurs to secure start-up

business loans, develop business plans, obtain all the required licensing and permits, and start operating their business.

The fifteen EOB Micro Businesses being honored at the banquet include: Heritage Sisters



MICHELE HOSKINS

(owner Delisa Macklin), Cultural Diversity Gifts (owner Ken Collins), TLC Health Care (owner Debra Toney), B.A.M.N. Inc. - The Body Bag for Life (owner James Dixon), Karen's Cakes (owner Karen Edwards), House of Flava (owners Kyle Heckard and Terry Wade), M&M Office Supplies (owner Mary McDowell), Nudian Queen (owner Michele Hatter), Sugar Shack

Gifts (owner Rose Turner), R&D Security Group (owner Marc Jackson), Abdullah's Catering (owner Abdullah Hassen), Mel Green Architect Ltd. (owner Mel Green), N&N House Cleaning Service (owner Nina Griffin), International College Funding (owner Basil Clay), and Lavarice By Design (owner Lavarice Plair).

For ticket information, call 647-7735.

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