

Jazz great to perform for benefit

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Jon Faddis, jazz musician and director of the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra will perform for the general public in a concert to benefit Valley High School Jazz Ensemble. The event is being held at Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts Hall, 315 South 7th Street at 7pm on May 16.

Jon Faddis burst on the jazz scene as a teenage, observers were amazed by his technique and his ability to sound like an identical twin of Dizzy Gillespie (whose complex style had never been successfully duplicated before). After a period he was typecast as a Gillespie imitator but Faddis' remarkable range (hitting higher notes than Gillespie ever could) and the gradual development of his individual sound have helped him to overcome the early fault.

In fact Faddis can now also imitate Roy Eldridge and Louis Armstrong quite well too. Gillespie was always Faddis' idol, from the time he started playing trumpet at age eight.

After moving to New York in the early 70s Faddis played with Lionel Hampton and Charles Mingus (guesting on a recorded concert with the bassist when Roy Eldridge became ill) and then recorded two notable albums for Pablo including a duet session with Oscar Peterson.

After playing a bit with Gillespie (their best encounters in the mid-70s were



JON FADDIS

unfortunately not recorded), Faddis seemed to disappear, sticking to studio work and playing first trumpet with Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra. After re-emerging in the mid-80s Faddis recorded for Concord and Epic and in 1993 became musical director of the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra.

The Valley High School

Jazz Band has been invited to the Montreux International Jazz Festival and is fundraising for the June trip.

They currently have a CD for sale, and will be performing at the concert along with UNLV's Jazz Ensemble.

Tickets are \$12.50 at the door. Advance reservations can be made by calling 799-5142 or 282-2391.

Dee starring in sentimental Vietnam film

By Sally Stone

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The cable channel Showtime on May 24 is scheduled to air "The Wall," starring Ruby Dee.

The film tells the story of a young bright-eyed soldier sent to Vietnam.

"What makes this story so painfully special," said Dee, a distinguished star of stage, screen and television, "is that this time, this young man would not come home."

"Before her grandson leaves for Vietnam," Dee continued, "she (the grandmother) gives him a symbol of luck that had been carried into war by several generations of the family's menfolk. I tell him, this will bring you back to him, but of course it doesn't."

For Dee, the Vietnam War is more than the subject of a brilliant film. It is personal.

"I remember World War II," she said. "I was very young, but old enough to understand that the whole world was being threatened by people who wanted to rob others of their human dignity and freedom. Wars to preserve freedom and dignity can be on a grand scale or can be very personal. I have always felt that it is more important to stand up for the rights of all if you hope someday, someone will stand up for yours."

Over the years, Dee and her husband, Ossie Davis, have been engaged in many of these struggles. They have been active in the civil rights movement. Dee also fights against what she calls "perhaps

our greatest enemy, ignorance."

"Whenever I speak to young people, I tell them, don't let ignorance defeat you," she said. "I don't care what you want to do with your life. You need an education. You also need to know about the arts. You need to read books by everybody."

Dee graduated from Hunter College in New York City.

"Many people never expected a young black girl to get into Hunter, let alone keep up with the standards and do so well," she said. "But I was given an excellent high school education by people who believed it didn't matter what the color of your skin was. What mattered was your desire for learning and your willingness to work hard."

Dee recently completed a run in her own play and is busy writing her autobiography with her husband and a book for children.

"I love to write," she said. "After all, where would actors be without playwrights or screenwriters?"

Asked if she has seen the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., Dee said, "no, we had a very good representation."

Former Nevada State Assemblyman Gene Collins to run for Las Vegas NAACP President



GENE COLLINS

Gene Collins, a forty (40) year resident of Nevada, has tossed his hat into the ring for the next President of the local branch of the NAACP. Mr. Collins, a 6-year veteran of politics was elected Assemblyman of District 6 in 1981.

Mr. Collins says that he has chosen, at this juncture in his career to run for the office of President of the NAACP because, "I would like to make a serious difference in my community and throughout the State of Nevada."

A Gene Collins Administration would aggressively advocate and initiate the following:

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

Economic development throughout the Las Vegas Valley for disenfranchised classes, especially in the area deemed "West Las Vegas" would be achieved through the political acumen and astuteness of an active and qualified Political Action Committee.

2. PRESIDENTIAL RESPECTABILITY

Returning respectability to the office of Las Vegas Branch NAACP President would be one of Mr. Collins' immediate pursuits — achievably by being accessible to all members, and addressing each and every concern brought before him or the Branch Executive Committee with a timely verbal or written response. No issue, complaint, suggestion or recommendation by NAACP members would go unaddressed by President Gene Collins.

3. BRANCH CREDIBILITY

The restoration of the Las Vegas NAACP Branch's credibility would have the utmost priority on Mr. Collins list of immediate goals.

4. PRESIDENT EMERITUS FORUM

Mr. Collins plans to establish a President Emeritus Board, wherein all past presidents of the Las Vegas NAACP would meet monthly to critique and give notable insight as to any immediate change and direction required to stay focused on local and national NAACP initiatives.

5. CITIZENS NEW TO THE VALLEY "RECEPTIONS"

The NAACP Las Vegas Branch, under the leadership of Gene Collins, would hold quarterly "New Citizens to the Valley" Receptions, to welcome and invite the impute from area "new" citizens whom would like to become involved in Las Vegas NAACP activities and other area concerns. The Collins Administration would call it their "New Citizens Orientation."

6. CORPORATE PARTICIPATION

The Collins leadership team endeavors to establish a corporate membership committee that will actively and continually seek the membership and monthly participation of area corporations who have or now seek to become "good" corporate citizens and partners with the NAACP and its goal of true corporate diversity in the Las Vegas Valley area.

7. HOTEL AND GAMING RECIPROCITY

A Hotel and Gaming Reciprocity Committee will be established by Mr. Collins to include area businesspersons from across the valley to review and evaluate the hiring practices and contract grants being awarded by the Hotel and Gaming Industry. This National NAACP Initiative, Mr. Collins believes will play a huge factor in the success of the local branch over the next two years, due to the sheer size and number of guests this industry accommodates here in Las Vegas.

8. LEGAL REDRESS RESTORATION

Under the Collins Administration, the Las Vegas NAACP Legal Redress Process, considered to be the most vital function of the NAACP local branch committees, would be revitalized to include the involvement of a staff of local attorneys, follow-up and follow-through on all Legal Redress complaints from beginning to end.

9. COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

The Education Committee under Gene Collins' leadership will attend and report to the branch all activities, incidents and findings involving the Clark County School Board.

10. COMMUNITY POLICING

The NAACP Las Vegas Branch with Gene Collins as President will aggressively and constantly monitor the actions of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. The endeavor will include the study and review of the Citizens Police Review Board.

11. BRANCH ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Collins and his team, plan to immediately set to work on fundraising activities to accomplish the employment of at least 1 full-time and 1 part-time paid clerical staff persons to operate the branch from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. firm.

12. BRANCH COMMUNICATION

Under the Collins Administration, the Las Vegas NAACP Branch office will effectively utilize the technology available in today's information driven world. Mr. Collins and his team plan to upgrade and install state of the art computers, telephone, voice and database systems. The Collins Administration intends for the Las Vegas Branch to become disseminators of information, and thus educators via communication.

13. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Lofty, but attainable, Gene Collins endeavors to bring the total membership of the Las Vegas Branch to 50,000 persons strong by the year 2000. Additionally, under the Collins Administration, the Las Vegas Branch will restore proper status to all members, including the timely and efficient distribution of membership cards and branch information.

14. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Collins will audit the branch accounting books and finances yearly, and report to the General Membership all results. The Collins platform includes the impressive goal of raising \$3.5 million dollars by the year 2000. And, to use a great deal of those funds for scholarship awards.

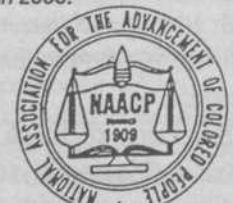
15. TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Gene Collins and his team will hold quarterly Town Hall Meetings to inform the community and its members of the preceding three-month activities of the branch and its committees. During the Town Hall sessions, Mr. Collins, the Branch Officers and Committee Chairs will take questions and suggestions from attendees and commit to definite timelines on initiating any actionable recommendations.

Gene Collins believes that it is time to mend fences and get to the work of fighting civil rights and building our communities to the full potential that we all know we are capable of accomplishing working together. Gene Collins for NAACP President 1998 through 2000.

I, Gene Collins, do attest and verify all of the above our my duly directed goals this date of May 14, 1998.

Gene Collins



Sports

(Continued from Page 3)

use their bully pulpits and put pressure on the owners in top management to interview more people of color," he said.

Many think Black players, who hold the power to change the situation, should be pressured to push for more minorities in management.

When star guard Penny Hardaway of the Orlando Magic complained about the lack of Blacks in the Magic organization, they immediately brought in former NBA great Julius "Dr. J" Erving as a vice president of sports.