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GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Effort to dismiss Gates resurrected

By John Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

The secretary of state revived a citizen group's bid to oust a county commissioner embroiled in ethics controversies by ordering each signature on a recall petition verified.

Dean Heller decided earlier this week to have the Clark County election department to verify all 7,474 signatures collected on a petition to force commission chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates to into a special election.

Verifying each signature, Heller contends, will prove the validity of the random sampling of 503 signatures that revealed several voting irregularities and doused the effort by Citizens for Honest and Responsible Government to recall Gates, who was accused of violating ethics laws by inquiring about opening a daiquiri shop in casinos she regulates. Gates also awaits a June ethics hearing into whether she awarded airport concessions to friends.

"We felt he (Heller) stood up and made a good choice," said Delores Bennion, mother of Charles Bennion, president of the citizen group. "This needs to be verified and we are really thrilled."

Charles Bennion was unavailable for comment.

"I think what he is doing is unfair," Gates said of Heller's move which will cost taxpayers more than \$60,000; fifteen county employees will plow through the pages checking the validity of the signatures. "I'm not pleased with it, and I'm ready for it to be over."

Aviva Gordon, Gates attorney, had won a temporary stay on Heller's action, arguing that a verification of each signature was not applicable in her client's case since there has to be at least a 90 percent validity of the signatures to order a full count on the petition. District Court Judge Michael Fondi removed the stay the petition falling 49 signatures short of the 293 needed to order a special election.

The group appealed the results of the random sampling, calling it unconstitutional and contending that since Registrar of Voters Kathryn Ferguson works for Gates, there was a conflict of interest. The group also moaned about being excluded from the verification process.

"They (Heller and the election department) are out to prove that it (the random sampling) is right rather than, seeing what happens," Delores Bennion said. "This will honestly prove that the people want her (Gates) recalled," she said, adding that the group will start over again if the full count fails.

Said Gates: "If they cared about the community they would let me do my job."



Individuals representing several civil rights organizations join Kwame Coleman and his mother Kamaria Osayande, above, to voice their displeasure

following a statement by university brass absolving athletic administrator Charles Cavagnaro of racist and homophobic comments. The group said the results of an independent probe should be made public. Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy



Tight-lipped administration irks activists

By John Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Upset at the university, community activists say they were duped into believing they would get to review the results of an inquiry into alleged racist and sexist remarks by UNLV athletic administrator Charles Cavagnaro.

"This is not a Black issue; this is an issue of racial justice," ACLU Director Gregory Peck said in front the Humanities Building on Monday at UNLV. "I would like to see these findings released."

President Carol Harter on Friday released a statement giving tacit credence to missteps by Cavagnaro but exonerating him of the racist and homophobic statements attributed to him by anonymous sources.

"I have concluded that there is insufficient evidence to support the most serious of these allegations," Harter said after Cavagnaro came under fire for using terms such as "Magilla the Gorilla," "Go back to the jungle" and

"dykes in spikes" referring to female Black athletes.

Community activists are fuming over Harter's refusal to release the findings of a 24-day probe by Board of Regents counsel Kweisi Nyameke. The results have been categorized a "personnel matter."

"We should have known that this was going to be a personnel matter," Assemblyman Wendell Williams said of his last meeting with Harter.

"We were intentionally misled," said Pat Cunningham, host of KCEP-FM 88.1's "People's Forum." "We need and deserve public disclosure."

According to Harter spokeswoman Lynette Boggs McDonald there was never any agreement to disclose all the information gathered by Nyameke about the allegations.

"These types of allegations would be a clear violation of the university code," McDonald said. "There was never a cover up because we (UNLV) stepped aside and let a third independent party conduct the inquiry."

Harter was out of town and unavailable for comment.

The chancellor's office prompted the investigation of Nyameke and Harter urged anyone with evidence implicating Cavagnaro to come forward. They wouldn't suffer repercussions, school officials said. Activists questioned the depth of the probe.

Ex-UNLV wide receiver Kwame Coleman's name surfaced in the allegations. An unnamed source contends Cavagnaro used disparaging remarks about Coleman, who quit the football team in October 1995 after head coach Jeff Horton made "inappropriate" comments during a practice drill. Coleman surrendered his full scholarship.

Coleman's name and that of former UNLV basketball player Eric Lee were also mentioned in a *Sports Illustrated* story about the allegations.

"He had to quit the UNLV athletic department because he felt that they

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy
Radio station manager Don Fuller, KUNV-91.5 FM, checks out the latest digital equipment Tuesday at KUNV. The UNLV station recently switched to a new jazz format.

KUNV's switch to jazz has UNLV station singing

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

For the first time in nearly a decade, the earthy, soothing twang of jazz will bless Las Vegas airwaves round the clock. Who's to thank for the return of the ear candy: KUNV.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas' public radio station changed its programming recently, keeping its staple weekend curriculum but adding jazz all day throughout the week. Monday through Friday the 91.5 FM station will broadcast jazz. Blues, folk, bluegrass, reggae and Latin and other signature programs will remain on weekends.

The program change began May 18 when the station, which broadcasts live from the university's Moyer Student Union, kicked off its annual fundraising drive. This year's 10-day event aimed to net \$75,000 in listener donations.

The final tally was not available at press time.

The move to an all-jazz format meant the elimination of KUNV's long-running alternative rock program, "Rock Ave." The change has soured many of the show's fans and DJs.

"KUNV is a valuable resource to the university and the community, and we believe it is important to use this resource to benefit as many people as possible," said Don Fuller, the station's general manager, explaining the reason for the change. "We are maximizing this asset by finding a niche and filling it. In this community, that niche is jazz."

Fuller said over the past few years several local commercial stations have eaten into the market once dominated by "Rock Ave.," adding that listening audience and funding support for alternative rock programming on the station, which was voted the No. 1 university station in

the nation in 1992, has been dropping steadily.

"That is very important to a station that depends almost entirely on listener support," Fuller said.

"The change isn't something that took place overnight," he said. "There was almost two years of dialogue going on between student government at the university and the administration, and analysis and financial data and everything else involved with trying to keep the station alive and growing."

The new programming will consist of live on-air radio personalities during the morning, afternoon and early evening hours (6 a.m. - 9 p.m.) and, new to the station, a National Public Radio jazz-themed satellite broadcast from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. The national, late-night broadcast is titled "Jazz Over Nite," with Bob Parlocha.

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