

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel



Voice

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 15

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

August 13, 1998

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Media managers, reporters debate press on Gates

By John T. Stephens III
Special to Sentinel-Voice

What was meant to be a discussion between news managers, reporters and columnists on race in reporting degenerated, at times, into snipes and name-calling, interruptions and innuendo.

But that's not what the Las Vegas Association of Black Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists envisioned when they convened a panel to discuss race in reporting, particularly the coverage surrounding the ethics violations of Clark County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates.

What the meeting was supposed to do was generate dialogue among journalists, said Tanya Flanagan, president of the black journalists' association and a Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter.

"This is still a strong and heated debate among journalists," she said.

On the panel were: retired lawyer Barbara Robinson, now a Review-Journal columnist and TV and radio show host; Jon Ralston, a Review-Journal columnist and owner of the Ralston Report; Review-Journal editor Thomas Mitchell; Denver Post reporter Susan Greene, a former Review-Journal reporter; Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice editor and publisher Ramon Savoy; Emily Nielson, a producer at KLAS-TV Channel 8; Juanna Hart, KLAS-TV anchorwoman; and Sandra Thompson, vice-president and editor for the Las Vegas Sun.

Panelists were asked five questions: Were news organizations one-sided against Gates? Does race or reaction from an ethnic group determine how a story is covered? Were the

(See Media, Page 14)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

KLAS-TV Channel 8 anchorwoman Juanna Hart contended the media harangued Clark County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates for her ethical lapses. Sitting next to Hart was her producer Emily Nielson for Saturday's forum at the Las Vegas library.



Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard

Dancing legend Norma Miller gets into the "swing" of things at the Gold Coast Hotel. (Right) Mario Robau and Debbie Bernard display fancy footwork during their performance last month.

Norma Miller swings into Vegas to rekindle Harlem

By Deborah Kohen
Sentinel-Voice

It's the Roaring 20's all over again. Almost.

Throughout the nation, swing and other ballroom dances are enjoying a resurgence that's reacquainting Americans with high-energy, foot-stomping big band sound.

Last month Las Vegas jumped on the bandwagon when the Gold Coast Hotel hosted "Swingin' at the Savoy," a four-day event filled with workshops, performances, and opportunities to mingle with many of swing dancing's biggest stars.

Swing dancing legend Norma Miller organized the event, which was filmed for a documentary. Revered as the mother of the swing genre, Miller began her dancing career as a teenager

in Harlem's Savoy Ballroom.

Opened in 1926, the Savoy was home to top entertainment until its 1958 close. Miller said swing dancing developed spontaneously at the Savoy in the 20s and is the only dance form that's uniquely American.

A hotspot of the Harlem Renaissance, the Savoy drew white dancers, artists and intellectuals "uptown" to experience the new dances and the new musical styles of the jazz orchestras adapting themselves to accompany swing dancers.

When it opened, the Savoy was the only racially integrated ballroom in New York; there were no separate entrances, seating areas

(See Swing, Page 8)



JEREMY STROHMEYER

Computer evidence admitted

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The jury in the murder trial of a California man accused of killing a Los Angeles elementary school student will be allowed to see the contents of the suspect's personal computer.

Jeremy Strohmeyer, 19, is scheduled to stand trial Aug. 17 on charges he raped and murdered 7-year-old Sherrice Iverson May 25, 1997 in a hotel restroom in Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas. He was 18 at the time of the crime.

In a 3-2 decision, the Nevada Supreme Court reversed a decision by original trial judge Don Chairez that the computer's contents were legally inadmissible.

Chairez's March 4 ruling concluded that Long Beach police didn't justify a May 29, 1997, search of Strohmeyer's home during which

(See Strohmeyer, Page 14)