



**BODY OF SOUL**

Terry Ellis, right, of the hit group, *En Vogue* recently joined fitness diva Donna Richardson for a power walk through Southlake Mall in Atlanta during the *Essence on the Mall Tour*. The tour also stopped in Chicago at the River Oaks Mall and in New Jersey at Woodbridge Center. The free day-long event featured a gospel performance during the *Essence International Segment*, a health clinic sponsored by the American Heart Association.

*Photo special to Sentinel-Voice*

**Water to finance outreach**

L.A.C.E., Ladies Advocating Christian Entertainment, is selling cases of its bottled Natural Spring Drinking Water to raise funds for its 6-year-old feeding program "Food for Families."

Each case has 24 16-oz. bottles and costs \$17.

This year alone, L.A.C.E. has assisted 480 families with 2,400 bags of food. L.A.C.E. is an 8-year-old, nonprofit community service group working to feed hungry children. The group's success hinges on community support.

Those interested in helping can call 362-3387, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



*Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy*

A sign signals the first phase of the Van Buren project.

**Groundbreaking**

(Continued from Page 1)

is convinced new homeowners will need goods and services, thus generating new business in the community.

City Councilman Gary Reese said the neighborhood groups deserve all the credit

for the project coming to fruition.

"We have done a lot as a city for this area in the past," he said.

"These projects will bring in private moneys so we can use federal money for other things."

**Hospitality**

(Continued from Page 1) Russell-McCloud, Dick Gregory, Les Brown gave speeches and singer Gladys Knight performed.

Crump was presented a key to the city and a day was named in honor of the black planners meeting.

The group began in 1983 with six members, with meetings held at the National Urban League office in New York. Meetings were then moved from city to city. Philadelphia and

Washington, D.C., have hosted meetings.

The coalition has a 16-member directors board and 7 standing committees. Volunteers fuel the organization.

A staple of the group's meetings are educational events geared toward black youth. The coalition awards seven scholarships to university students.

Robinson and another Western High student and Erica Jackson, found out

about the program through their counselor. While Jackson doesn't plan on a hospitality-related career, she said she might minor in the field and seek internship opportunities. She appreciates the coalition's outreach efforts.

"I didn't know about this industry, but I like it," she said. "It gets African-Americans involved in their communities. You don't see a lot of opportunities for us to give back in our work."

**Myths**

(Continued from Page 13)

The NAACP has launched a crash program of AIDS education.

The Congressional Black Caucus pushed Clinton to add \$156 million more in federal funds for treatment and prevention programs.

Black health professionals say they will make AIDS prevention their top priority. And, most importantly, all major historically

Black church groups have called for a Black Church Speak-Out on AIDS on Worlds AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

This was much too long in coming, but it will do more to exorcise the old myths among Blacks about AIDS than emergency declarations by public officials.

*Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black."*

**Watts**

(Continued from Page 5) lost Nov. 3 in his bid for state labor commissioner.

"I'm not like my boy. I told him that voting for the Republican ticket is like a chicken voting for Colonel Sanders," the elder Watts said in announcing his candidacy.

In the 4th Congressional District race, Norman attorney Ben Odom brought up Watts' ties as a member of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to William Anderson, who was sent to prison on a 1994 bribery conviction. A colleague of Watts on the utility rate-making panel also was imprisoned for accepting a bribe from Anderson.

During a telephone conversation taped secretly by federal investigators, Anderson talked to Watts about giving Watts \$1,500 from three independent utility companies regulated by the state panel.

The conversation came as Watts was under pressure from creditors, including a wage garnishment filed against him by a hospital. Watts said federal investigators concluded he did nothing illegal. "The FBI has looked at it; two grand juries have looked at it and the U.S. attorney has looked at it," Watts told The AP during the 1998 campaign.

"It's ironic that I'm the attorney and former law professor and I'm talking about

right and wrong, and he's the preacher talking about legal and illegal," Odom responded.

The federal investigative tape between Anderson and Watts was featured on the Public Broadcasting Service program, "Follow the Money," in 1997.

Two years ago, Watts' Democratic opponent briefly broached the subject of Watts fathering children while a young man and not married.

Watts, a proponent of strong family values, has acknowledged in published reports that he fathered two children before he was married. Both children were born in 1976, and Watts later married the mother of one of the children. One of the children, now grown, was raised by Wade Watts and his wife.

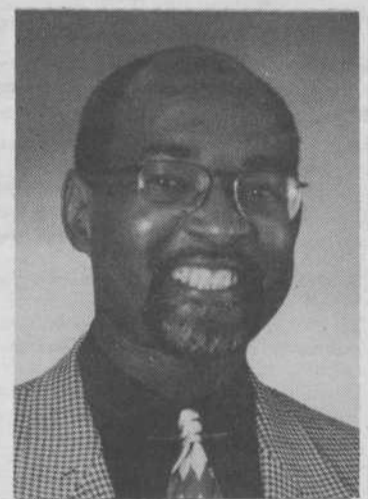
Cole accuses Democrats of going after Watts with more zeal than usual because he is a black who threatens to sway a large bloc of Democratic voters to the GOP fold.

Through all his problems, Cole said, Watts never declared bankruptcy. "He paid all his creditors back. He has confronted his problems, admitted them and taken care of them.

"This is all old stuff. People realize it is not the full story and it is not fair. If people are looking for saints, there are not very many of them, but he's a very positive role model."

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