

ENTERTAINMENT

AKAs bringing the Mardi Gras to Vegas again

Special to Sentinel-Voice
The most gracious ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Theta Theta Omega Chapter, will host their 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Ball at the Rio Hotel and Casino on Saturday, January 30, 1999 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
The 52 alumni chapter members will entertain a formally-attired crowd with rousing New Orleans-themed celebration complete with etouffee and zydeco.
Guests will enjoy the

music of local band "Gene Howard, featuring Platinum Soul" that offers up a little blues, jazz and R&B to stir-up some rump-shakin' at every table.
"I would like to ask the community for their support," said Soror Patti Hester, the Mardi Gras Coordinator. "We're planning to make this year's event more exciting and entertaining than last year."
Local educator and griot Dr. Al Gourrier will be the programs MC, and will help

crown this year's King and Queen of the AKA Mardi Gras Ball. In addition, the Sorority members will lead the crowd, with beads and masks during the famous second-line dance.
Besides the good music and dancing, the Rio's famous chefs will serve an authentic Cajun menu that will include catfish, shrimp etouffee, red beans and rice, sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, and hush puppies. Those with room for desert will be offered their choice of pecan

tarts, key lime pie or both!
"We hope for this to be even bigger this year so that we may be able to award more for our annual scholarship program for our community's graduating seniors," said President Hall.
Tickets are available through January 15, 1999 at Larry's Sight & Sound, located at 811 W. Owens Street; the Pink Door Floral & Gift Shoppe, located at 2071 Las Vegas Blvd.; or by calling the AKA Hotline at (702) 594-5053.

Bill Cosby receives Kennedy Center honor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Awards that recognize the year's best can be uneven — sometimes the field is superb, sometimes subpar.
But when recognition is given to those who have a lifetime of accomplishment in the arts, the ceremony is more than an empty excuse for stargazing. The standing ovations are deserved.



BILL COSBY

"The Kennedy Center Honors: A Celebration of the Performing Arts," which aired Wednesday on CBS, marked its 21st year by paying tribute to another worthy group of honorees.
Comedian Bill Cosby; the Broadway composer-lyricist team of John Kander and Fred Ebb; country singer-songwriter Willie Nelson; composer and conductor Andre Previn, and actress and

stateswoman Shirley Temple Black took their bows in a show that was both classy and lively.
No democratic People's Choice awards these; the selection was made by a national committee of 132 members including such accomplished artists as playwright Arthur Miller and actress Meryl Streep.

Those chosen reflect not only the best of America but its diversity as well. Variety also marks those paying tribute, with Dwight Yoakam, Liza Minnelli, Henry Kissinger, Sinbad and the U.S. Air Force Band among them.
All the honorees share one thing: They are originals.
Kander and Ebb, whose award-winning musicals include "Cabaret," "Chicago" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman," were saluted by actor Alec Baldwin for having created "their own kind of opera, a new kind of musical theater."
"The lyrics and the music are part of our cultural nervous system," he told the audience at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where the ceremony was taped earlier this month.
Cosby was lauded for his comic brilliance and social

responsibility. He and his wife, Camille, seen smiling proudly at his side, have made notable donations to colleges and educational programs.
Phylicia Rashad, Cosby's on-screen wife on the current "Cosby" and on "The Cosby Show," compares working with him to taking a wild train trip.
"You know what the destination is supposed to be because you read the script, but what you don't know are the twists and the turns in the tracks along the way," she said.
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, seated near Cosby, was seen firmly nodding her head when Rashad said, "It doesn't take a lot of intelligence to put people down."
"But it takes Bill's intelligence to uplift with laughter," the actress concluded.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



JAMES BROWN SAYS HE STILL HAS IT

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The Godfather of Soul is feeling more like a grandfather these days. "I got an upper plate put in," James Brown said during his sixth annual Christmas Party. "I used to have a gap between my front teeth. Now that that's gone, I can't hit the high notes. I lost two octaves." However, the 65-year-old singer claimed at his midweek party in Augusta that he can still do on-stage splits. "But I don't have to," he said.

EX-TEMPTATION LOSES COURT BATTLE

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dennis Edwards, a former member of the Temptations, has been permanently barred by a federal judge from performing under the band's name. Edwards also was ordered to pay \$50,000 to group leader Otis Williams and the estate of the late David English, who performed with the band under the name Melvin Franklin. Williams sued in 1996 after Edwards called his new act "The New Temptations," "The Knew Temptations" and "Dennis Edwards, Lead Singer for the Legendary Temptations." Edwards may use only variations featuring his name prominently so fans won't confuse his group with the original Temptations, Williams lawyer Howard King said last week, four days after U.S. District Judge George King's ruling. The 1960s Grammy-winning group, known for such hits as "My Girl," recorded 43 top 10 singles in over 25 years and sold more than 22 million records. The original Motown band — which featured Williams, English, David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks — went on tour with various combinations of members for 38 years. Edwards briefly performed with the band after its heyday.

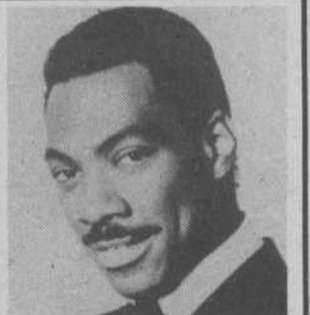
BUSTA LIKES WRITING AS MUCH AS RHYMING

NEW YORK (AP) — Busta Rhymes nearly got busted for writing his name too much. The dreadlocked rapper was signing autographs at a music store in Jersey City, N.J., last week when police moved in to shut down the event because of overcrowding. Officers threatened to arrest Rhymes if he didn't put his pen down, according to Wednesday's *Daily News*. "I hate to disappoint my fans," Rhymes said.



RHYMES

Murphy to hit prime time television



Eddie Murphy, comedian, movie star and one-time recording artist is breaking back into the world of television. This time he's going into prime-time animation. He will be the voice of an illiterate landlord in the projects on a new cartoon called "The PJs" on Fox.
The company that created the California Raisins will animate "The PJs". The show will make its debut after the Simpsons on Sunday, January 10. It will air regularly on Tuesdays, beginning January 12 at 8:30 p.m.

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
Theta Theta Omega Chapter
presents

Second Annual Mardi Gras Ball

Saturday, January 30th
at the

Rio Hotel & Casino
3700 W. Flamingo Rd.
8:00 p.m to 1:00 a.m.

New Orleans Style Dinner
Entertainment provided by Gene Howard,
featuring Platinum Soul

Tickets Now Available
AKA Hotline 594-5053