

# Ebony Communiversality educates and enriches students

By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Now in its third year, Ebony Communiversality graduates over 25 people in an eight-part African-American history series. The West Las Vegas Library (WLVL) located at 951 West Lake Mead is the campus site for the course of studies beginning November 7 and ending December 26.

"The need for the Ebony Communiversality came from a lack of African-American

studies for everyone," Joyce Thomas said who is the theater manager for WLVL. "Everybody wants to continue to learn about themselves."

"I was inspired by the Communiversality to learn more about my culture," Salonge Gee said who is 17. "The knowledge of my forefathers and the circumstances that they had to live with has encouraged me about my future."

The Ebony

Communiversality is a 10-week, free of charge lecture series which offers informative talks on a wide variety of subjects. 'Civil Rights and the African-American Citizen', 'The Eye of the Visionary — The African-American Artist', 'Healing Hands — African-Americans in Medicine', and 'The Silver Screen and Television — How We Look at Ourselves' are just some of the courses offered in the Ebony Communiversality by

such notable community celebrities like Dr. Al Gourrier, Mr. Ellis Rice, Dr. James H. Tate, and Ms. Kathryn James.

"The Ebony Communiversality offers valuable much needed information about our community," Poet Keith Brantley said who taught a series in the Communiversality. "The Ebony Communiversality tries to pick subjects which are conducive to our expertise."

Graduates were treated to the enlightening words of Dr. Papa Huluhwazi who is an African-American professor that is stationed in the cooperative extension department of the University of Reno.

The 40-year-old native of Denver, Colorado received his Ed.D. in Education Administration and Leadership from USC.

"Intent, commitment, and integrity are the keys to doors in the rites of passage,"

Huluhwazi said. "No matter who you are, your potential to succeed is there."

"I enjoyed the educational portion of the series," 17-year-old Latoya Horton said who plans to compete in the upcoming African-American History Challenge.

"They (Ebony Communiversality) bring out a lot of information that we never learned." From 16 to 70, the graduates lined up to receive their much deserved certificates. Congratulations!!!

## King's Bennett College speech may be available

GREENSBORO (AP) — For the first time since the event occurred, a recording of a 1958 speech delivered by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at Bennett College will be available to the public.

The audio tape had been held under lock and key in Bennett's archives, but recently was transferred to CD.

Although it is not available to the public yet, the college plans to make copies and sell them to raise money for scholarships.

To mark the impending release, Bennett held a panel discussion to examine the events leading up to King's speech and the significance of his remarks.

Linda Brown remembers the day King came to the campus, the only place in Greensboro willing to let him speak. She was a Bennett freshman at the time, living with her aunt, Willa Player, the president of the college.

The night of the speech, she recalled, her aunt was distracted and worried. Not about what King might say, but where everybody was going to sit, Brown said.

With good reason. More than 2,000 people turned out to hear the man who led the Montgomery bus boycotts.

Player installed speakers in several buildings on the campus because the tiny chapel could not hold everyone.

For all that, Brown, now an English professor at Bennett, never bothered to go to the speech. She jokes that she's still kicking herself 40 years later.

"He was well-known but he was not the icon he is now," she said. "I just knew he was important and my parents talked about it and he was in the news."

## Elections

(Continued from Page 1) with Gene, unless he beats me in a fair election. We must establish this branch on principle before we can hope to accomplish anything principled in the community."

Alfred Wiggs, who ran unopposed for treasurer, resigned because he didn't want to serve under Collins.

In a letter to Collins, Wiggs wrote about "the highly questionable behavior I observed being engaged in at the polls" and "the negative campaign you ran against presidential candidates, the Rev. Jesse Scott and Mr. Louis Overstreet."

"I will not serve in your administration," he wrote, later saying he supports efforts to nullify the election.

Kawiim Kawee, a suspended branch officer who was initially ruled ineligible to run for office by the national NAACP, said he discovered via "word-of-mouth" that his candidacy was reinstated. He withdrew from the race, abstained from

voting and joined Overstreet's protest.

"I decided to stay out of the race based on principle," Kawee said. "They've slandered me, they never sent out any notices to members to announce the elections, they OK'd my running as part of a slate, then said I could not. This is unjust."

"Right now, we're like stagnated tadpoles, hardly swimming, sucking up the slime and can't turn into frogs," activist Marzette Lewis said. "We've got to find out who's paying who to keep us in such chaos."

Secretary-elect Tarsha Crockett said she was disappointed with the antics of the election's losers but that she hoped the failed candidates support the new administration.

"There's so much animosity (within)," she said. "Until this branch has some quantifiable successes, those feelings won't be alleviated."

She said the new executive board erected an action plan Saturday night of which



LV Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

NAACP member Tony Lee votes during Saturday's local branch elections at Matt Kelly Elementary School.

sending membership status notices to all past and present members was part. She said dues will increase from \$10 to \$30 in March, but didn't say why.

"The Las Vegas branch is a test for (the) national office," Clack said. "How do we best deal with a dysfunctional chapter, bereft of leadership and administration?"

Clack thinks the branch can be viable by using the

same pro-active strategy which restored the national group's reputation, re-ignited interest among youth and put \$2 million in the coffers.

Clack hopes the rebirth is quick. He wants the local branch to target the group's economic reciprocity program which grades industries on their records in hiring and promoting African-Americans. He wants the local branch to target the hotels industry.

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