

LAS VEGAS

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

New magazine premieres in Las Vegas

By Shawn Ingram
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A magazine that exclusively appeals to the upscale African-American male catering to his social and intellectual interests, and needs for personal style and identity? One look at your local newsstand and you'll discover such a publication does not exist yet.

Johnson Publishing's monopoly over black publications, namely, *Ebony* and *Jet* Magazines have for years had an almost exclusive appeal to blacks, but there is a coming in the midst. The coming is as nebulous and mysterious as its signature title. That coming is *Code Magazine*.



In a gala reception at the Las Vegas Hilton last week during the fashion industry's

MAGIC (Men's Apparel Guide in California) convention, *Code Magazine*

announced its foray into the publishing business. Not choosing to be outdone by

any existing publication, *Code* introduced its product in a luxury suite with a live jazz band in the background plus a handful of young, brash executives touting their revolutionary product.

With a concrete plan inclusive of a labor intensive prospectus, national demographics and marketing strategy, and a detail oriented philosophy, *Code* executives promise high residuals on a no risk, high-yield monthly investment for its potential readership.

Suffice it to mention that a well known and sometimes notoriously recalled *Hustler Magazine* publisher Larry Flynt lends his name and venture capital to the project.

As publisher of *Code Magazine*, Flynt will, according to *Code* staffers, be in a very unfamiliar position — that of total silence in the day-to-day operations of the magazine.

With a premier issue slated for July 1999, *Code* bases its potential appeal to the masses on a collection of inner and outer reflections of the African-American professional male.

Geared toward men of color ages 25 and up with disposable incomes, *Code* packages itself as the monthly style bible for its select clientele.

"A *Code* man is a man who knows what he wants, (See *Code*, Page 16)

Protest targets conduct

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

Vanessa Williams, founder of the community-action organization, We Rise, moderated a March 4th meeting to protest police brutality at the West Las Vegas Library.

We Rise co-sponsored the rally with the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the Nation of Islam's Muhammad's Mosque No. 75, drawing a crowd of approximately 50.

The gathering came on the heels of the recent situation in which police allegedly broke the arm of 12-year-old Parrish Young and used racial slurs, after the youngster and a friend ran out into the street, play-fighting over a can of Pringles.

Daniel Brown, member of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression set off the event, listing names of victims of police violence from all over the country.

"Terry Jones," he said, "Parrish Young, Gregory Dalor, Anthony Tappy, Charles Bush, Eric Payton, Tyisha Miller. Do any of you recognize these names?"

Brown described the debacle of police brutality, giving detailed descriptions of the situations in which usually innocent people were hurt and, in some cases, murdered by officers of the law.

Williams then took the podium and said that most people are "still slaves."

"What do you call it when you spend at



RON CURRENT

least forty hours a week using your brain and your intellect to make someone else rich?" she said, "and you can't go to your child's basketball game because you have to work?"

The audience whooped, hollered and clapped as she tried to remember her original point, which was that people must think, analyze and fight for what is right.

Ron Current, of the Las Vegas branch of the Black Panther Party stressed that action was needed, not talk.

"We need to go down on that Strip and hit their purse strings," he said, "When tourists don't want to come to Las Vegas anymore because they see a mob of us... and don't know what we're going to do next, then, we'll see things change."

Local Nation of Islam leader, Minister Duke Muhammad, was the last to give his call to action. He deemed police brutality part of a "sickness" in this country, rooted in the "diseased mentality" of "white supremacy".

(See Protest, Page 16)

Director: Music show bigger, better

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

William H. "Bob" Bailey, director of the 3-year-old Vocal Extravaganza in Black, said rumors of the program's demise are unfounded.

"Absolutely not," Bailey said when asked if the show's future was in danger. "We may have new sponsors — the EOB and the Las Vegas Convention Authority are doing the very best that they can to support us — but in the event that they cannot, we do have others waiting in line."

The Vocal Extravaganza

is set for March 21-22 at UNLV's Artemus Ham Hall, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway.

The festival will feature top talent from six historically black colleges and universities: Howard University, Morgan State University, Spelman College, Florida Memorial College, Oakwood College and Langston University.

"These are international stars," Bailey said of the performers. "They've played all over Europe and all have done command performances at the White House."

The concerts will feature

gospel, spiritual and folk music, a classical category with opera, operetta and oratorio and jazz, contemporary, theatrical and blues songs.

This year, the choirs won't compete. Instead, they will participate in choral clinics. Specialists in areas such as elocution and presentation will analyze each groups' skill level and offer constructive criticism and advice. Six soloists will vie for \$500 apiece.

Bailey expects the show to continue and grow. He said (See VEIB, Page 16)



Sentinel-Voice file photo

The 50-member choir of Tuskegee University earned second place honors at last year's Vocal Extravaganza In Black at Artemus Ham Hall.