



# Measure passes reporting of child crimes

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

A proposal making it a misdemeanor for anyone to fail to report a crime against children 12 or younger and adults 60 or older within 24 hours of learning about it was unanimously approved last week in the Senate.

Known as the Sherrice Iverson Bill, the legislation would allow for prosecution of innocent bystanders while making several exclusions: for

people younger than 16, those who think reporting a crime endangers themselves or their families, those whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to file a report, relatives of the victim and people who gather privileged information, such as physicians, clergymen and lawyers.

Assembly members now have to vote on the amended version which adds exemption for blood relatives

of the victim and also a provision that protects people who report crimes from any subsequent civil or criminal action.

The bill was introduced by Assembly Majority Leader Richard Perkins, D-Henderson, in response to May 1997 rape and murder of 7-year-old Iverson by Jeremy Strohmeyer, who was convicted of murder and is serving a life sentence in prison.

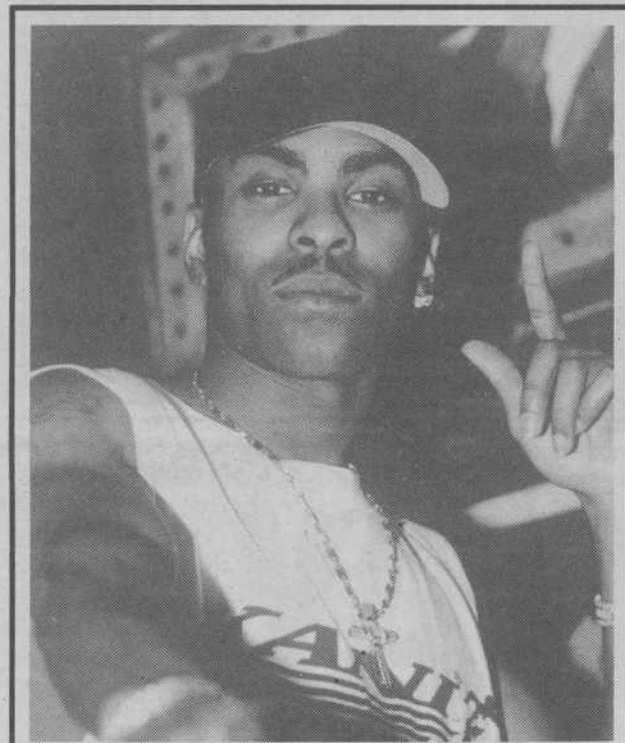
The 19-year-old Long Beach, Calif. man chased the Los Angeles second-grader into a bathroom at the Primm Valley hotel, 45 miles south of Las Vegas.

Strohmeyer's best friend, David Cash, witnessed part of the attack but never alerted authorities.

Despite calls for Cash's prosecution, Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell refused, saying Cash acted within the law.



**SHERRICE IVERSON**



## 100% GINUWINE

R&B sensation Ginuwine performed a spirited song-and-dance routine Tuesday at the House of Blues.

(See story page 8) Sentinel-Voice photo by Kimberly Howard

# Radio personality plans court challenge for exam

*John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice*

Patricia Cunningham, host of 'The People's Forum' on KCEP FM-88.1, plans to file a lawsuit against the state in an effort to revamp the high school proficiency exam.

Approximately 2,000 Clark County seniors will not graduate because they failed some part of the test. Of the school district's 9,375 seniors, more than 90 percent passed the exam.

"The test is a fair test," Bill Hanlon, a teacher and member of the state board of education, said at a recent town hall meeting. "It has on it information that a high school graduate should know. The implementation of it is not fair."

Students complained mostly about the math portion

which contains algebra, geometry and trigonometry and will soon feature quadratic functions and polynomial equations. Many seniors failed the math portion. They said they didn't know that complicated math problems were on the test. Moreover, they said they take any college preparatory math courses and that counselors discouraged them from the harder math classes.

To receive a passing mark a student must garnish a 61 or better score.

"Every child should have equal access to education," Cunningham said. "And every student should have an opportunity to pass the exam."

"They raised the bar on the kids while they were in mid-air," said Clark High

*"Every child should have equal access to education, and every student should have an opportunity to pass the exam."*

— Patricia Cunningham

principal Wayne Tanaka said at the meeting. Twelve percent of his school's seniors will not graduate. "Students who failed this test are told that it's just going to get harder."

"Why make it harder?" said one Clark High School senior who didn't want to be identified. "I didn't know I would need geometry or trigonometry to pass the (proficiency) test."

"Curriculum choices do matter," Hanlon said. "(Parents) make sure your

child takes classes which are appropriate."

The proficiency testing began as part of the Educational Reform Act, created in 1997 as a means to beef up academic standards for Nevada public schools. Many legislatures across the country are taking similar measures to raise the educational levels in their states, partly as a way of attracting new businesses or high-tech firms.

"We (Nevada legislature) (See Cunningham, Page 20)

# New business center caters to entrepreneurs, upstarts

*Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice*

A unique business center opening May 24 will give entrepreneurs and small business owners a helping hand.

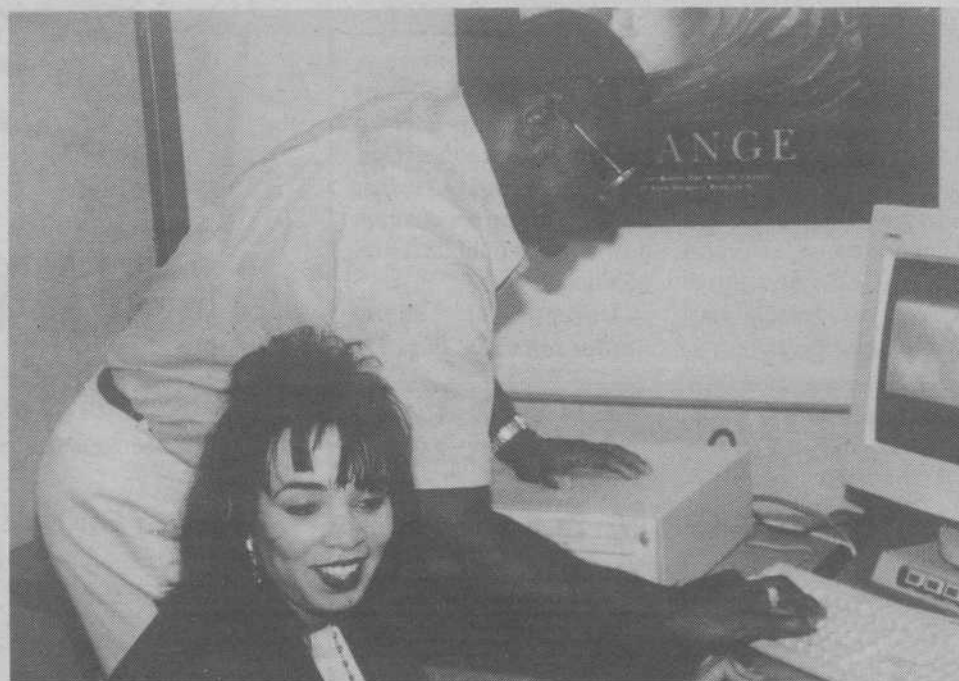
The Southern Nevada Enterprise Community, the City of Las Vegas, the Small Business Administration, Wells Fargo and The Service Corps of Retired Persons are opening a business information center at 1951 Stella Lake, Suite 5.

Services to be offered include how-to information on starting and maintaining businesses, business counseling, seminars and Internet-capable computer workstations for research.

The center's library has more than 700 business reference books and guides and more than 100 video and audio tapes. Users will also have access to a training room, snack machine, microwave and refrigerator. Most services are free to the public.

"We have the most comprehensive library of materials anywhere in Nevada," SBA District Director John Scott said. "This BIC is the 56 one in the country and they've been very successful. We've drawn interest from a broad community. All races, all creeds, men and women, utilize them extensively."

Scott said that this is the



SBA employees Nanette Randolph and Ed Brown, among others, staff the business center.

first center of its kind in the state. He estimates \$160,000 opening costs and \$1,500-a-month to run the center.

Located in the City of Las Vegas Business Center, the business center is a couple of suites away from the 9-year-old county-run Microbusiness Development Program.

"They can never compete with us," said Kim Bailey, director of the Economic Opportunity Board's Microbusiness Center. "We have education, field trips, procurement opportunities... we spearhead the music business conference... We act as an advocate, especially when things are not being

(See BIC, Page 20)