

Channel 10 to broadcast 1999 Vocal Extravaganza 'In Black'

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Dr. William H. "Bob" Bailey is pleased to announce the television premiere of The Las Vegas Vocal Extravaganza "In Black" on KLVX Channel 10, Las Vegas, Sunday night, June 27 at 7 p.m.

Tune in and enjoy music from some of the best choirs in America as they perform jazz, spirituals, opera and well-known Broadway show tunes.

This year's participants included Morgan State University, Howard University, Langston University, and Oakwood College.

Vocal Extravaganza "In Black" features some of the most talented young adults from America's

Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The television special is hosted by celebrated television stars Tommy Ford and Wendy Robinson and includes a special guest appearance by Nancy Jackson performing her newest hit "My Secret Place."

The program is sponsored by the Las Vegas Visitors and Convention Authority, The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County and the following sponsors: Power 88- KCEP Radio, United States Post Office, Pro-Line, Pepsi, KLVX - Las Vegas Channel 10. The Las Vegas Vocal Extravaganza "In Black" 1999 is a television event to be enjoyed by the entire family.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Oakwood College Choir performs during the choir portion of the show.

Two officers indicted in torture against Abner Louima

NEW YORK (AP) — Two plainclothes police officers were indicted Monday on federal charges of lying to authorities investigating the torture of a Haitian immigrant in a police station bathroom.

Rolando Aleman, 28, and Francisco Rosario, 34, were decorated members of the roving Street Crime Unit who were booking a gun suspect at the precinct at the time of the assault on Abner Louima on Aug. 9, 1997.

During questioning, they "repeatedly lied and misled the federal government about what they saw in the stationhouse that morning," said prosecutor Alan Vinograd.

The indictments came two weeks after a jury convicted a patrolman, Charles Schwarz, of holding down Louima while another officer, Justin Volpe — who pleaded guilty — sodomized the prisoner with a broken broomstick.

The indictments "come as no surprise," said Aleman's attorney, Edward "It was strategic: They waited to see if they could get some convictions in (the Louima case) before they made their next move. ... It's a shame because my client had nothing to do with Louima."

Rosario's attorney, Richard Levitt, said his client "will be fully vindicated." No arraignment date was set for the officers, who

have been assigned desk duty. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison.

The FBI arrested the two officers late last year, but the charges were quietly dropped because they were not indicted within the required 30 days. At the time, defense attorneys accused authorities of arresting their clients to keep them from testifying as defense witnesses for Volpe, and to pressure them into cooperating with the government.

Recent rap songs target New York City mayor Giuliani

NEW YORK (AP) — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani keeps getting mentioned in rap songs lately. But the rappers aren't singing his praises. One song is titled "Who Shot Rudy?"

The soon-to-be released song, by a group called Screwball, imagines Giuliani being gunned down at City Hall to the delight of the minority community: "Nobody cried — it was real like some Jews celebrating when the Pharaoh got killed."

Last year, the rap song "Bucktown U.S.A." by Cocoa Brovaz objected to the mayor's so-called quality of life initiatives, which have targeted such people as jaywalkers and sex shop owners. The result, the song laments, is the relative absence of "dice throwin'" and "weed blowin'."

Two other songs also ridicule the mayor, and one uses an expletive when his name is invoked.

The songs can be traced to the mayor's troubled relationship with the city's

blacks and Hispanics. Tensions have been running especially high because of recent cases in which white police officers killed or brutalized minorities.

Akiba Solomon, national affairs editor at the hip-hop magazine *The Source*, explained that rap music — like folk and rock — has a tradition of political commentary, including criticism of public figures.

"Hip-hop in general is how young, urban, mostly African American and Latino people feel," she said. "Giuliani definitely fills a role. It's not necessarily him personally, but what he represents."

The mayor, an opera aficionado, reacted to the latest song with some humor.

"The one about shooting me? I didn't like that one too much," he said, smiling. "I did not consider it one of the better songs of the year. The others I haven't heard." He added: "I stopped worrying about threats and stuff like that a long time ago when I

was U.S. attorney."

Giuliani said the violent lyrics of "Who Shot Rudy?" are troubling, particularly if children hear the song.

Kyron Jones, the 24-year-old who wrote "Who Shot Rudy?," said the song arose from his own troubles with the law, including a stint in jail. He also said that a friend was shot by police on two occasions without being arrested.

Lyons ordered to pay \$5.2 million

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Rev. Henry Lyons, former president of one of the nation's largest black church organizations, was ordered to repay \$5.2 million Friday for bank fraud and tax evasion.

Lyons, already serving 5 1/2 years in state prison for bilking companies and stealing from charities, also was sentenced by a federal judge to four years and three months behind bars. But the federal sentence will be served concurrently with the state sentence.

"I do ask for mercy today," Lyons told U.S. District Judge Henry Lee Adams Jr.

"I'm 57. I don't have a lot of time to right all the wrong I have done."

Lyons pleaded guilty March 17 to federal charges related to his business dealings as head of the National Baptist Convention USA.

He admitted failing to pay taxes on \$1.3 million in income, defrauding a bank and making false statements. Lyons was also convicted in state court in February of bilking nearly \$4 million from corporations seeking business with his group and stealing nearly \$250,000 donated to rebuild black churches in the South.

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TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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