

# Entertainers gather to fight cancer

Lee Brown  
Sentinel-Voice

As the music industry changes, talk abounds about the "old school" or music from "back in the day," a reference to solid R&B, funk and soul of the sixties and seventies.

While many from the golden era have come and gone, a select group of performers who have survived the trends, fads and changes of the last decade continue to make "real" music.

The Whispers, Confunkshun and the Dells, among others, thrived. These three groups recently joined to deal with something even more real than their music—cancer.

Teaming with the American Cancer Society and Power 88 KCEP-FM (88.1), they will perform in "Entertainers Against Cancer" at 8:30 p.m. July 9-10 inside the Island ballroom of the Mandalay Bay. All proceeds from the event will benefit cancer patients through services, research and educational programs.

"The American Cancer Society has always actively sought out entertainers and high profile people to promote cancer awareness, as their involvement serves as an excellent means to educate groups that would ordinarily be hard to reach," said Willette Ballard, regional executive director of the American Cancer Society. When this opportunity became apparent, our staff met to brainstorm a theme... the result was 'Entertainers Against Cancer... Singin' For



Sentinel-Voice file photo

The Whispers are among several groups performing in a cancer benefit concert.

Survival."

Ballard said the event aims to teach the public that with education on prevention, treatment and causes, cancer is not a death sentence.

Cancer survivors and cancer society officials will be speaking between the performances.

"If we take heed, many lives can be saved just by following a few simple rules on taking care of ourselves," she said. "Changing our eating habits and not smoking are two important recommendations of ACS, as well as many health agencies.

"Many people need role models they can follow. These singing groups have become positive role models for the African-American community, a community that has a long way to go in changing its lifestyle when it comes to eating, exercise and smoking," Ballard said. "There are high profile artists who care about the health of

African-Americans."

The Mighty Dells have been singing and performing for nearly 50 years, sold millions of records, and are considered one of the most enduring and endearing vocal groups in the history of R & B.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, they produced 44 chart records, including three No. 1 R&B hits — "Oh What A Night," which became a million seller in 1956 and again in 1969; "Stay In My Corner", the first million-selling single more than six minutes long, and "Give Your Baby A Standing Ovation," a 1973 million seller. The group also had seven gold singles, three gold albums and 25 top 10 hits.

The highlight of The Dells' career came when movie director Robert Townsend wrote the movie "The 5 Heartbeats," which was based on the lives and careers of the group members.

The movie produced the hit, "A Heart Is A House For Love."

Starting out as a Bay area group in the late 1960s called "Project Soul," Confunkshun (named after an instrumental in their early repertoire) has also endured the tests of time. Hits such as "Straight From the Heart," "Love's Train," and "Fun," made the group a household name during the '70s.

Though the group dissolved in the late 1980s, the band was asked to reunite to perform at a New Years Eve event a few years ago and quickly discovered that the old magic was still there.

The Whispers just get better with time. The key to their longevity: togetherness.

Recording since the late 1960s, The Whispers scored with hits like "Just Gets Better With Time," "And The Beat Goes On," "Make It With You," "Rock Steady," "Say

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## Tutoring, retake available for math proficiency

Special to Sentinel-Voice

High school seniors who have fulfilled the requirements for a standard high school diploma but have not received a passing score on the mathematics proficiency exam now have two opportunities to retake the exam.

Students needing a passing score may attend one of two sessions offered this

summer. The first session will be held June 21- July 1, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the exam held on July 2.

The second session will be held July 12-29, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the exam held on July 30.

Students may attend the session of their choice, they must attend the tutoring

session or a pre-approved tutoring program before taking the exam, and they must report to the cafeteria of their designated site to receive their room number for tutoring.

The tutoring sites are as follows: Durango High School, Cimmaron-Memorial High School, Basic High School, Eldorado High School and Rancho High School.

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# NNPA elects Oliver as president

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON, D.C. — John J. Oliver, Jr., publisher, chairman and chief executive officer of the *Afro American Newspapers*, was elected president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association at the organization's 59th annual convention held June 16-20 in New York City.

Oliver, who has been publisher of the *Afro American Newspapers* for 14 years, was elected to a two-year term as the association's president.

NNPA is the trade organization for publishers of Black-owned and operated newspapers in the United States and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

NNPA was founded in 1940 and has grown from an original group of 21 publishers to its current membership of 210 daily and weekly newspapers. The NNPA represents more than 10 million African-American readers and also operates a national foundation that provides scholarships and internships to African-American students who are studying journalism.

"From the historic newsrooms of the Black press to corporate boardrooms across America, the NNPA has served as the conscience and voice for African-American people for nearly 60 years.

When the media routinely ignored the horrific atrocities suffered by Blacks in this country, the Black press was formed to tell our story to the world. It is my desire to assist NNPA in building upon the rich legacy of our founders to better serve a changing Black community and to keep pace with an industry which is more competitive, diverse and technology-based," Oliver said.

"Although substantial advances have been made by Blacks and other minorities since the days of the Civil Rights Movement, recent events including the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas, the murder of Tyisha Miller in California and the assault of Abner Louima at the hands of New York City police officers remind us that there is still much work to be done. The Black press must be diligent in our role as champions for justice, equality and human rights. The NNPA has an important place at the table of national debate as we enter a new century."

The *Afro American Newspapers* were founded in 1892 and are the second-oldest continuously published Black newspapers in the United States. The company publishes weekly editions in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and also publishes *Every Wednesday*, a weekly arts and entertainment journal.

## The Monford Point Marines Association

*are holding their*

### 34th National Convention

at the Rio Hotel/Casino July 14-18, 1999. Representing the First Afro-American Marines. Military Guests: Lt. General (Ret.) Frank Peterson, First Black Marine Aviator & author of "Into the Tigers Jaw"; Major General Clifford L. Stanley, Commanding General, 29 Palms Air Ground Combat Center. Tickets available for all events including the National Banquet, Saturday, July 18. For further information contact Ed Hicks at 702-735-2424, Fax: 702-735-1161.