

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 13

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

July 29, 1999

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Local NAACP has bright future

President says big things loom for chapter

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

After returning from the NAACP's recently concluded national conference, Las Vegas NAACP president Gene Collins said big things loom for the local chapter.

"Everything is going better than scheduled," Collins said. "We've had visits from several of our prominent, national representatives and for the first time in our history, to my knowledge, we sent a voting delegation to the convention."

During the New York convention, Collins was selected to serve on the Time and Place committee to decide the location of the 2004 national convention. With a rejuvenated chapter, Collins said Las Vegas will make a serious run for the convention.

"We've adhered to our goal of having a one-month turnaround time for membership and we're attracting back a lot of former members who became inactive," Collins



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

NAACP president Gene Collins said the once scandal-plagued organization is back on track and ready to work.

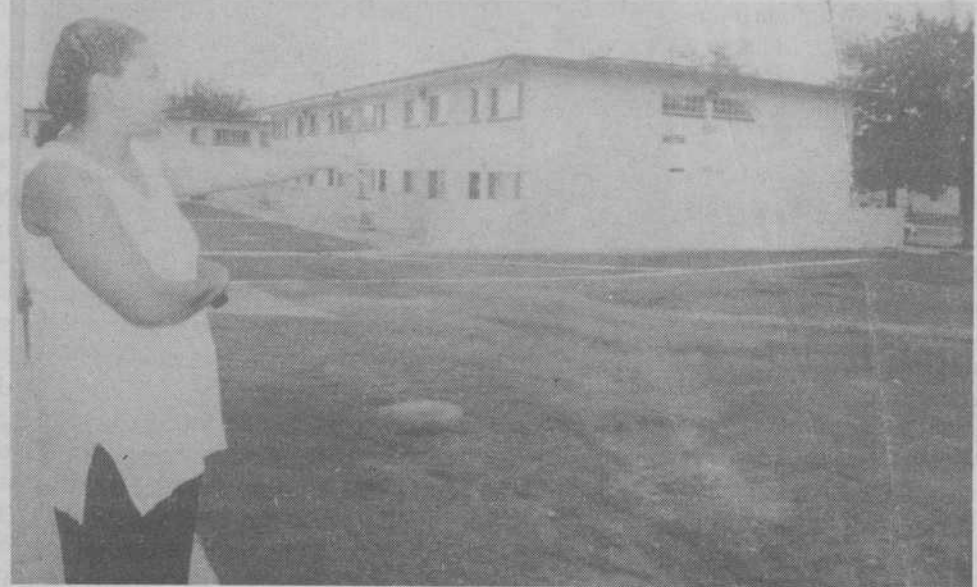
said. "We've sent national their money and our books are in order."

Collins said that Las Vegas will "follow in the footsteps of national (headquarters), coinciding with their positions" on holding gun manufacturers to higher standards and opposing the lack of non-whites in the Fall television line-up.

"When the opportunity came to do something about gun control, Congress didn't

pass safety locks on guns. Now, we must keep the gun manufacturers in check. Not only must we check the gun makers, we must also check the TV industry. There are 26 new shows on major network television and no African-Americans or other ethnicities have lead roles."

Collins said the local chapter will also support the national group's decision to boycott South (See NAACP, Page 13)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Toni Mims, executive director of Jumpstart, a food nutrition program for children, surveys land where a day care center is being proposed inside Madison Terrace apartments.

## Trouble brewing over day care center in Madison Terrace

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Madison Terrace Apartments, a federal housing project on 908 W. Monroe Ave., is in the midst of another heated controversy.

This time it's not the drive-by shootings, security lapses, sewage problems or poor resident screening. At issue is whether or not the complex needs a day care center.

"Some feel it's not a safe environment area," said one

source close to the debate who asked to remain anonymous.

"I think it will do well over here."

"I'm totally against it, until they put up a fence, fix the raw sewage, fix the electrical problems, and have security," said Beatrice Turner, who spoke against the proposal at a recent city council meeting.

Toni Mims favors the proposal. She is executive director of Jumpstart, a food nutrition program for children

primarily funded by the Department of Education.

The program has five units throughout the valley and feeds 25,000 to 30,000 youths a month. It has been in operation at Madison Terrace since October, and has established a basketball team, a computer lab, a food bank and a job bank.

"We have been here over a year now and have not had any problems with drive-bys or shooting of kids," said (See Madison, Page 2)

## Civil rights group cancels meeting over flag

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has canceled a 2,500-member convention in Charleston because the state flies the Confederate flag over its Capitol.

The move announced last Tuesday follows a vote two weeks ago by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to boycott the state for continuing to fly the controversial banner.

SCLC President Martin Luther King III said the prominent civil rights organization "will urge every organization and corporation who loves justice to join this effort to push America back from the brink of senseless tribalism."



Martin Luther King III

"We cannot, at this point in history, resurrect ghosts of the past and allow the resurgence of racism, discrimination and the politics of resentment that the Confederate flag reclaims," said King, the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The SCLC had chosen

Charleston as its national convention site for the first time in 30 years to honor the 30th anniversary of a local hospital workers' strike. The three-day convention beginning this weekend would have filled more than 600 hotel rooms and several banquet halls.

The SCLC planned a meeting this weekend to select a new site.

Lanneau Siegling, the former chairman of the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the SCLC's pullout could cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"In our business, you don't make that up," he said. "That's a real injustice to the people."

King challenged Gov. Jim

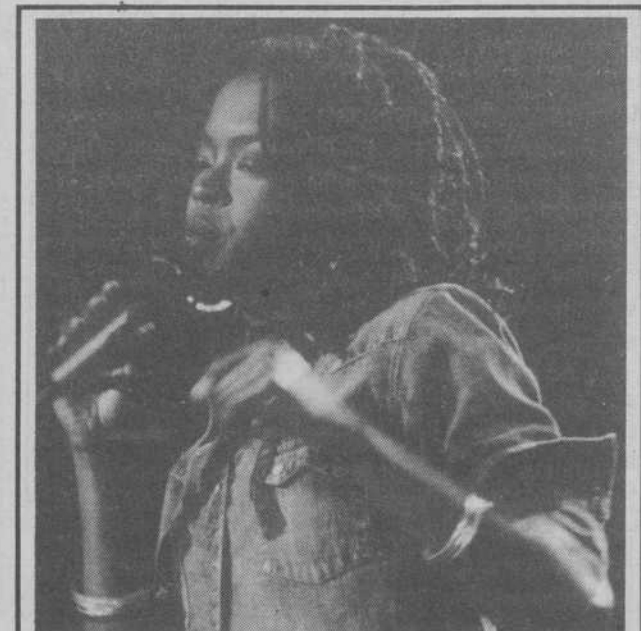
Hodges to "come forth and stand up" on removing the flag. Hodges has said he supports bringing the flag down but will not push the issue.

Hodges' spokeswoman, Nina Brook, said the governor has worked previously to move the flag from the Capitol dome to a monument on the statehouse grounds. Flag supporters in the General Assembly have blocked each move.

"The governor doesn't believe the legislators' will on that issue has changed," Brook said.

Former Gov. David Beasley encountered heavy opposition when he proposed removing the flag, and efforts to have the black liberation

(See SCLC, Page 2)



## HILL TOPS

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter-rapper-actress Lauryn Hill enchanted a nearly sold-out crowd last weekend at the MGM. Hill flowed smoothly in and out of soulful ballads, introspective songs and jazzy raps during her performance. (See story, Page 9)

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard