



Photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

Felix Trinidad profiles with his IBF and WBC welterweight titles, the latter won Saturday night in a controversial 12-round decision over former champion Oscar De La Hoya at the Mandalay Bay.

## Trinidad escapes with controversial victory

Huel Washington

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Boxing fans in Las Vegas, who were quick to criticize the boxing judges in New York in March about the results of a heavyweight title unification bout, now have a controversy of their own.

Even some of the staunchest Puerto Rican boxing fans were shocked when announcer Michael Buffin declared, "The new WBC welterweight champion, Tito Trinidad." There was a pause and then cheering. The news finally hit those who were fortunate enough to get tickets to the fight.

While Trinidad screamed for joy on the shoulders of his trainers, a disappointed Oscar De La Hoya strode around the ring with arms outstretched shaking his head.

This was a case of history repeating itself for the De La Hoya camp. Only this time, they were on



Photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

A dejected Oscar De La Hoya, who outboxed Trinidad but still lost, struggled to come to grips with the first loss of his professional career.

the losing end. Earlier this year, De La Hoya had taken a decision from Ghana's Ike Quartey by winning the last three rounds.

Against Trinidad last week, De

La Hoya's trainers told their fighter, who had been on his toes most of the bout, that by the ninth round he was so far ahead he couldn't lose

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## Conference highlights music's business side

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

The fourth annual Economic Opportunity Board's Business of Music Conference (B.O.M.) scored points with up and coming entertainment industry moguls this weekend at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre.

For two days, a smorgasbord of 200 people — young artists, established artists and producers, industry executives, and entertainment lawyers got down to the nuts and bolts of the music industry. Industry heavyweights like Kevin Black, senior vice-president of promotion at Interscope Records, recording artist and author Kashif, and artist James Mtume lectured on their areas of expertise.

Natives, as well as out-of-towners came out in force to learn how to crack into the notorious entertainment business. The conference featured a mock independent record label with the objective of "blowing the puff out of daddy!" Participants were separated into groups, depending on their areas of interest. Facilitators representing the different components of a record label, such as CEOs, Promotions, Management, and Artists, led workshops with the groups in

(See B.O.M., Page 10)



Photos special to Sentinel-Voice by Dana Scott

Music executive Jay King passes on a few pointers about the industry to local singing sensation Serena Henry and her mother-manager Gem Wiltshire, left, during this weekend's B.O.M. conference in west Las Vegas. A participant gives it her all during the talent showcase.



## White supremacist Brewer found guilty in Byrd's gruesome death

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — A white supremacist today became the second man convicted in the gruesome slaying of a black man who was chained by his ankles to a pickup truck and dragged to his death.

Lawrence Russell Brewer, 32, could get the death penalty for murdering James Byrd Jr. in the town of Jasper last year.

Brewer stood with his attorneys to hear the verdict,

delivered just four hours after deliberations began. He had no visible reaction.

The judge had admonished spectators to have no show of emotion in the courtroom. There was none.

The jury of 11 whites and one Hispanic returned to the courtroom to immediately begin hearing testimony on whether Brewer should be sentenced to death or life in

prison.

John William King, 24, has been on death row since his February conviction in Byrd's slaying.

A third man, Shawn Allen Berry, also 24, faces trial late next month.

Prosecutors said they believe the three men killed Byrd to promote their fledgling white supremacist organization — the Confederate Knights of

America — and initiate Berry into the group.

Brewer, sometimes sobbing, testified last week that he was on an old Jasper County logging road with King and Berry in the early morning hours of June 7, 1998, when Byrd was chained by his ankles to the bumper of Berry's pickup truck, then dragged for three miles.

"Clearly there is a pattern of deceit," Jasper County

District Attorney Guy James Gray said in his closing statement before the case went to the jury. "He crafted his story to try to imply James Byrd was dead before they started dragging him."

"He just admitted enough to comply with the facts ... and just staying just short of the death penalty."

Brewer's attorney, Doug Barlow, told jurors not to "be guided by dramatics and

stretches of the imagination."

"If you think Russell was up here trying to concoct a story, don't you think he would have concocted a story that would have made him much less culpable?" Barlow asked.

But the prosecutor said Brewer admitted enough to be returned to prison but avoid a death sentence. Gray described Brewer as "kind of" (See Dragging, Page 18)