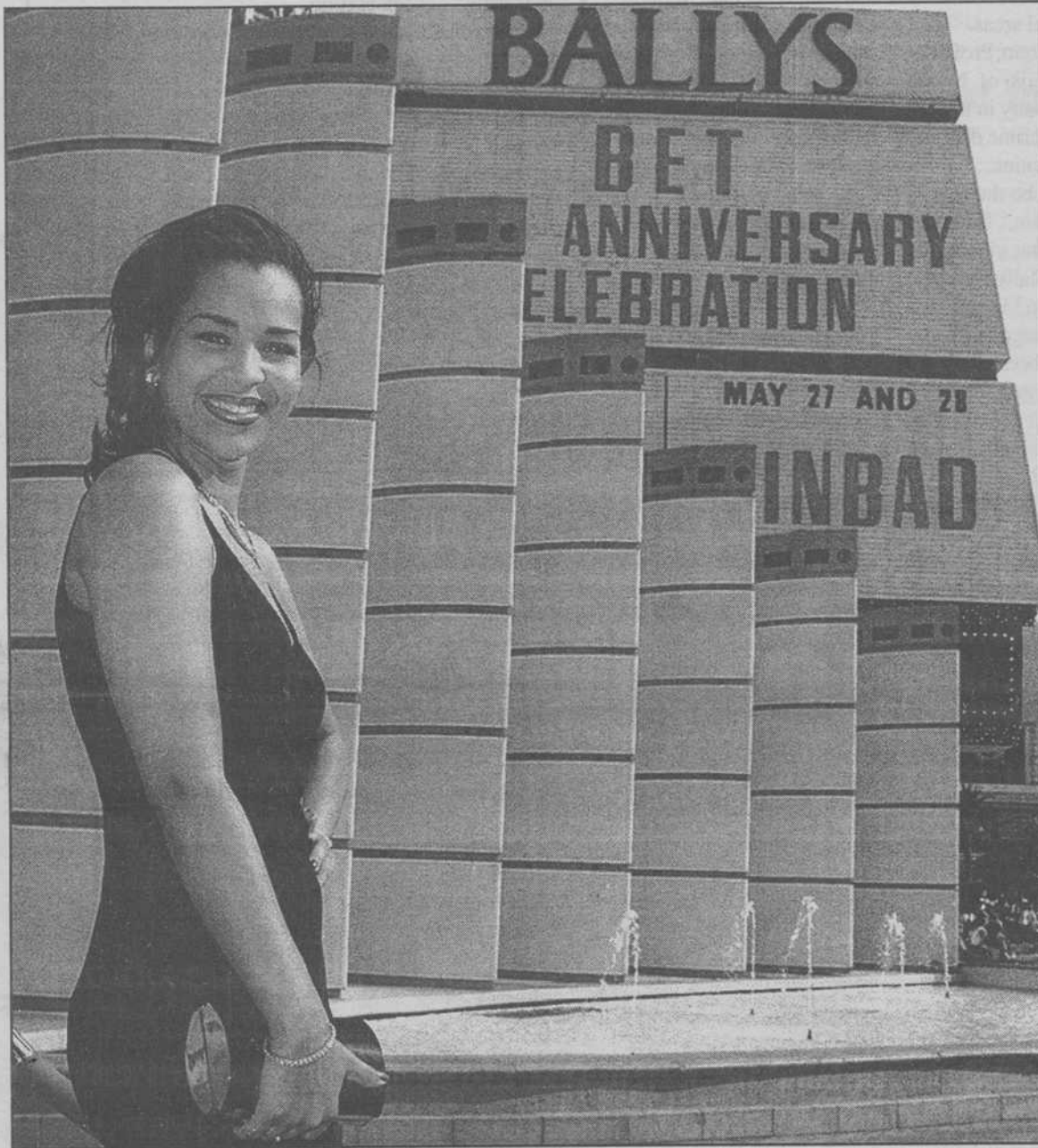


# BET's BIRTHDAY BASH



(Left photo) Actress Lisa Raye was among a bevy of stars offering BET 20th birthday wishes during an all-star gala last weekend at Bally's. (Adjacent photo) Rapper Lil' Kim was a crowd favorite. Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard

## Gala draws crowd

Tammy D. McMahan  
Sentinel-Voice

Black Entertainment Television, the nation's first and only black-owned cable network, celebrated 20 years of achievement in Las Vegas on May 6 with a star-studded telecast on the network and a private gala.

The program, broadcasted from the Jubilee Theater inside Bally's, featured a host of A-list performers.

During the telecast, which was hosted by Jamie Foxx, celebrities showcased their talents and talked about the explosive growth of the once-fledgling network. Some stars shared stories about how BET's promotion was essential to their rise

to the top.

After the show, celebrities and guests enjoyed a private pool party at the Paris.

The event was a rousing success, with BET officials, performers and guests joyously proclaiming the network had not only survived, but thrived.

The multitasking L.L. Cool J started the show with his classic battle-rap "Mama Said Knock You Out." The rapper-actor's command of the stage and the song's driving beat filled the theater with high-energy excitement.

When asked about BET's impact on his career he said, "BET has

(See BET, Page 8)

## Rhodes eager to fight insurance fraud charge

Sentinel-Voice

Two-term North Las Vegas Councilman John Rhodes, indicted by state attorney general's office for insurance fraud, will be arraigned June 1.

The 35 year-old councilman is free on his own recognizance. He has been ordered to turn himself in on May 18.

Rhodes faces one count of insurance fraud and one count of trying to receive money under false pretenses. The first count carries one to four years in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine. The second count carries up to six years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

"I can't say that I agree with it, I don't," said Rhodes when asked about the indictment. "We'll have our day in court. I'm not guilty."

The attorney general's investigation centers around a claim filed by Rhodes. Rhodes said his 3028 Diana Drive home was burglar on three occasions. Taken were a sofa, computer, washer and dryer and set of Callaway golf clubs

(See Rhodes, Page 2)

## NAACP protests contracts

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel Voice

The Las Vegas NAACP protested the bidding process for cleaning contracts at the Foley Federal Building during a Friday press conference at the Foley Federal Building. The civil rights organization claims the bidding process was closed.

"The purpose of this press conference is to inform the public of the most blatant and malicious acts of racial discrimination ...



Las Vegas NAACP president Gene Collins, middle, and NAACP board member David Peacock (left) were part of a small group protesting the process of soliciting bids for cleaning services at the Foley Federal Building.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

as well as civil rights violations," Las Vegas NAACP President Gene Collins said,

reading from a prepared statement. "Nothing more blatant (has occurred) since the

Denny's and Texaco incidents."

(See NAACP, Page 2)