

Gov. Hodges signs S.C. Confederate Flag Act

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—With the stroke of a pen, Gov. Jim Hodges started a countdown to July 1, when the Confederate flag will be lowered from atop the state Capitol.

"This debate is over," Hodges said after signing legislation Tuesday that removes the flag from above the Statehouse along with Confederate banners now hanging in the House and Senate chambers.

"Let us move forward together and united." That may take time.

Though the flags will come down — they will be moved to a museum — a square battle flag will rise on a 30-foot bronze pole at the Confederate Soldier Monument outside the Statehouse.

That's still too prominent for critics who contend the flag is a racist symbol.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People vows to continue and expand the tourism boycott of the state that it began Jan. 1.

The civil rights group says the monument, where the flag will fly, is still too prominent.

"In our opinion there really is no resolution," state NAACP president James Gallman said after watching the bill signing ceremony.

South Carolina alone flies the flag above the Statehouse, where it was raised in 1962 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. Supporters say it represents the state's heritage.

Opponents say it was put up in symbolic defiance of the civil rights movement.

Hodges noted struggles of slaves and Confederates alike in his speech as he signed the bill.

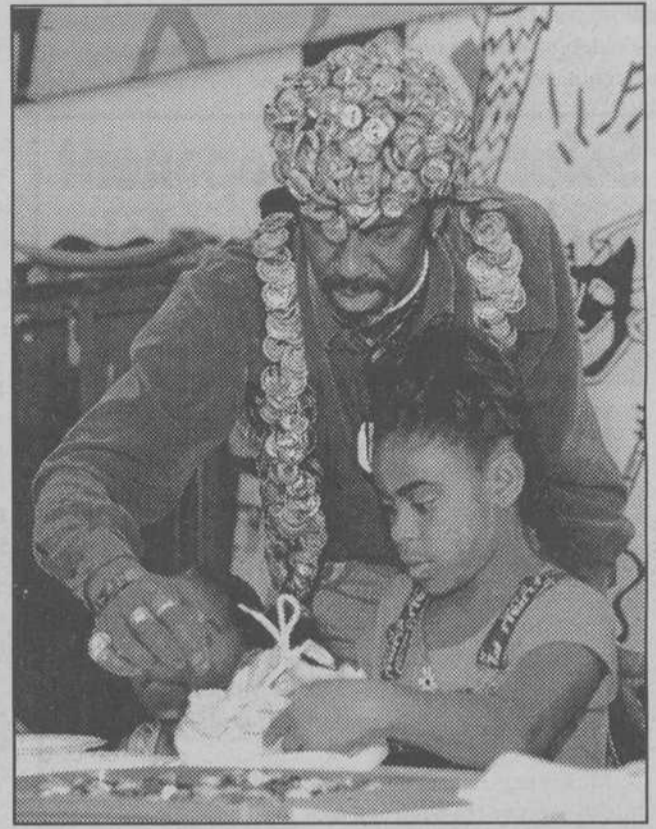
"Today, we bring this debate to an honorable end. Today, the descendants of slaves and the descendants of Confederate soldiers join together in the spirit of mutual respect," Hodges said in one of the most politically important speeches of his first term in office.

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IMAGINE EMPOWERMENT

Mr. Imagination and a Matt Kelly Elementary pupil were part of Knowledge is Power, an empowering parent-teacher-student program sponsored by the International House of Blues, The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County and its nonprofit public radio station, KCEP 88.1 FM, hosted the event, and various other activities, as part of Community Empowerment Month.

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard



African culture experienced through drums

Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Looking back, Ulysses Palrose had no idea that after nearly ten years in Las Vegas, he would become this culturally engrossed here. After all, he originally came here to attend UNLV and had no intention on making Las Vegas his home. It has turned into a long road from student, to college graduate, to community activist, to Las Vegas resident.

Well, in furthering his commitment to the community, Palrose has now added teacher to his long list of accomplishments as he is currently hosting a series of African drum classes to all who are interested.

Held Saturdays at the West Las Vegas Arts Center (947 West Lake Mead Blvd.), the classes are simply the next phase in a long list of community involvement for Palrose which has included everything from tutoring to mentoring to volunteering his time and efforts for numerous cultural events held throughout the community.

"It's been a gradual thing for me stemming from my days in college," Palrose says of his community involvement. "The brothers on cam-



(Above) Ulysses Palrose teaches drumming techniques to a group of students at the West Las Vegas Arts Center. Rachel Moten (left) gets into the roots of African music and dance.

Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard



pus, we would be involved with the campus community, trying to inspire brothers and sisters to get involved in some type of organization. That just expanded into the community at large over time."

For Palrose, the ongoing series of drum classes, with each session lasting eight weeks, are an outlet to express his afrocentricism — which he proudly boasts is a very big part of his personality.

"For me, part of my expression of afrocentricity is

getting into the roots of African culture, which of course drums, music and dance is an intricate part of that," said Palrose. "So, it was just a natural progression for me personally to get involved in African culture to that extent."

Currently, the class consists of 20 students — his largest class to date — ranging in age from five to over 50. The drums being played are the conga and the lesser known African Djembe (jem-
(See Drums, Page 9)

House passes Ali Boxing Reform Act

WASHINGTON (AP) — The proposed Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, a first step in Congress' attempt to bring financial reform to the sport, passed the House by voice vote Monday.

If President Clinton signs the bill, which passed the Senate last month and is not considered controversial, it would become the second piece of boxing reform legislation in four years to become law.

"What was once a great sport has been taken over by greed and abuse," said Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, one of the bill's sponsors. "Boxing fans ought to be able to watch a fair fight, and boxers deserve a fair reward for their sport."



MUHAMMAD ALI

The bill targets promoters and sanctioning bodies, placing limits on one-sided contracts that often favor the promoter, and on the complex, conflict-of-interest-marred money trail that often accompanies big-time fights.

The bill's key reforms would:

- place a one-year limit on the length of a contract between a promoter and boxer;
- prohibit a promoter from having a financial interest in the management of a boxer, and prohibit the manager from having a financial relationship with a promoter;
- prohibit improper payments from promoters or managers to sanctioning bodies, such as the WBA, WBC and IBF;
- require the sanctioning bodies to establish objective and consistent criteria for ranking boxers.

The bill was introduced three years ago by Oxley, and Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Richard Bryan, D-Nev. The Senate passed the bill in 1998, but the House didn't
(Boxing reform, Page 16)