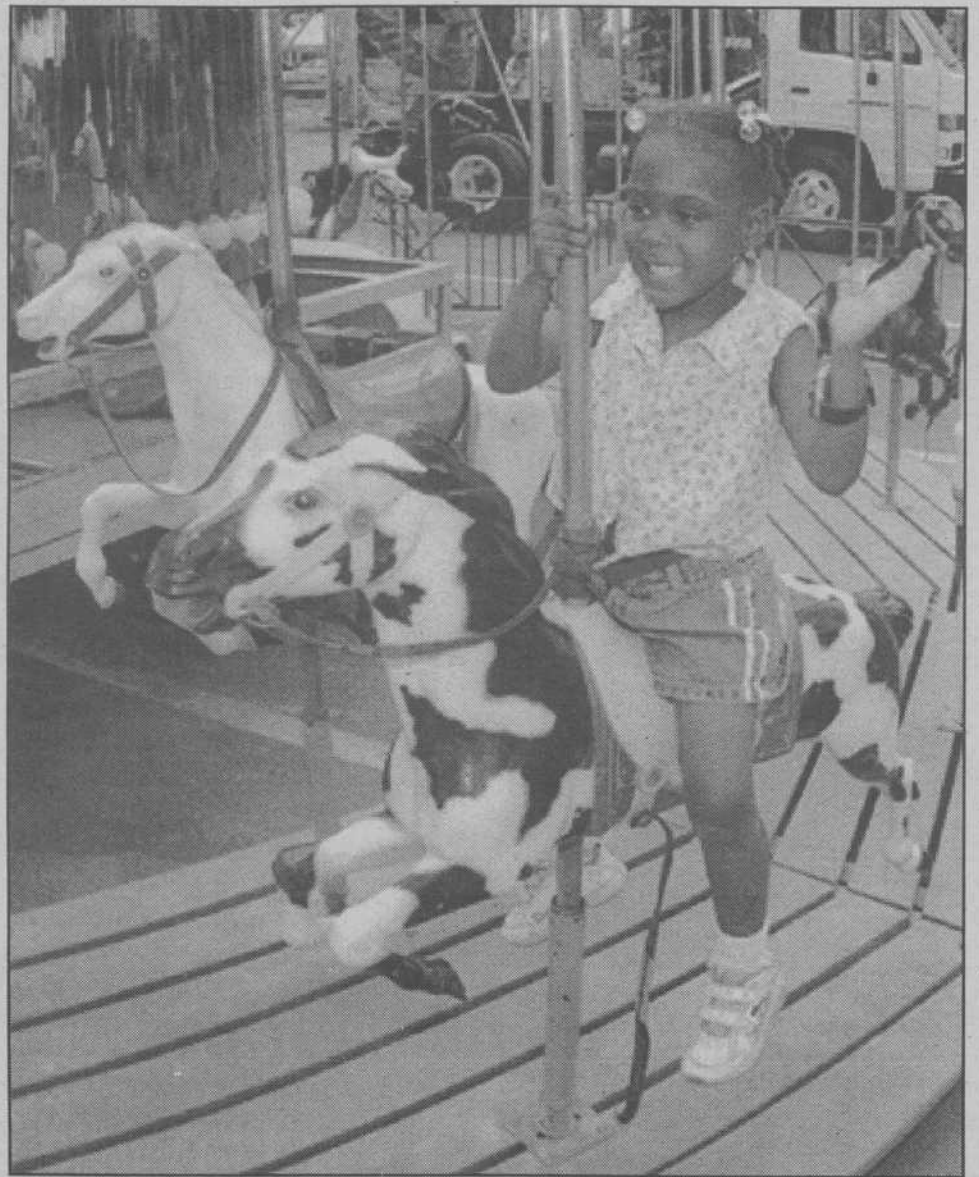




Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard

Crowds of visitors at the International Taste of North Las Vegas dance a jig in the street. Three-year-old Rachel Burns (right) breezes around on a merry go-round. A young Ski Dog All Stars vocalist (below) rhymes as his supporters pump their fists in approbation.



# Taste excites North Las Vegas

## Thousands attend international food, music festival

By Sonya Ruffin  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

An estimated 18,000 Valley residents, up to 13,000 at one time, withstood June weather to attend the first International Taste of North Las Vegas, only this time it wasn't heat- but wind. Despite winds that topped out at 50 mph, the International Taste of North Las Vegas was a smashing success.

"Absolutely fabulous! I'm thrilled- we all are. Saturday June 2 was beyond peaceful," said Laura Coleman, the event's chairperson. "With that many people and a diverse crowd, they all had smiles on their faces and had a great time. Where do you get that many people together and have a peaceful good time?"

North Las Vegas, all too often playing second to its "fabulous" counterpart, has shown itself more than capable of showcasing its obviously rich resources of community support groups; visual, culinary and performing artists, and athletes.

The event had the flavor of an upbeat block party mixed with the community charm of a county fair. A group of volunteers, the North Las Vegas Steering Committee, is responsible for the hard work that went into planning the event, with all proceeds going to the Children's Miracle Network.

As the event's title suggests, there was a variety of foods. From barbecued ribs and nachos to snow cones and ice cream, restaurants from around the city were well represented. Culinary delights were available from the likes of the Harley Davidson Café, Laura's Vineyard, Jerry's Nugget and Seven Seas.

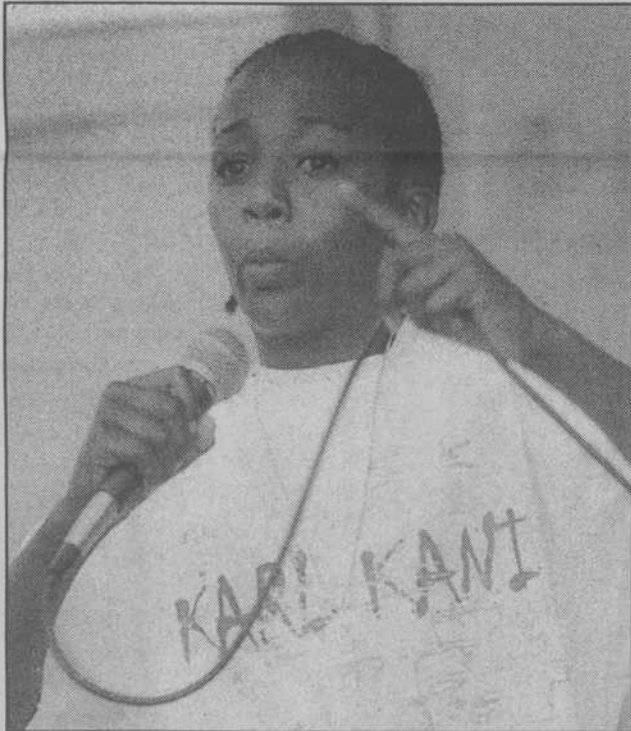
"It's a nice turnout, we're

looking forward to next year. It's a good thing for North Las Vegas and it's all for a good cause," says Mark Palmore, supervisor at JV Espresso.

North Las Vegas artists were out in full force, more than dispelling the myth that there is no culture in the city. The far end of the festival

at the Art Gallery and Studio, served as Chairman of the Art Committee.

"We want to let people know there is an art community here. We try to get artists involved in the community and exhibiting their work, especially from the North Las Vegas area," said Richardson. "Our theme is multicultural.



was alive with vibrant works of art celebrating the cultural diversity of their creators and their community. Talented artists conducted art demonstrations, gave talks about their work and displayed pieces for sale.

Vicki Richardson, Executive Director of Left of Cen-

We want to celebrate the diversity and unique artistic style of each artist. The artists come from different backgrounds both artistically and culturally," she said.

North Las Vegas is a city with a heart. Many of its community resource organizations were happy to sup-

port the event that brought the community together. Community organizations included Nevada Partners, Ladies Advocating Christian Entertainment (L.A.C.E.) and Kids of Tomorrow, an organization working to build a community resource center in North Las Vegas.

Alonzo Jones, Job Developer for Nevada Partners, was one of the exhibitors who understands the importance of community participation. "All community agencies need to work in concert to resolve many of the problems we have in southern Nevada," said Jones.

Other direct services to the community included on-the-spot HIV testing by the Clark County Health District, adoption information, osteoporosis testing and domestic violence information.

Just around the bend was the Kids Carnival, complete with rides, games, face painting and art projects. Life-

sized paintings, created by children of Clark County and UNLV art methods students representing many different countries, formed the "Cities of the World Installation."

Entertainment in the children's area included the culturally diverse Hip Hop dance troupe, Special EFX, whose synchronized movements ignited the crowd. "We're just excited to be here," said Special EFX dancer, Dana Fox.

Community heroes included Christine Johnson,

who worked tirelessly for weeks to make the event a success, and David Cross, new manager for the North Las Vegas Kmart, who donated his time and efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

The evening concert performances included Malo & Jorge Santana, Bill Acosta, Cameo and WAR.

Cameo took the stage to an excited crowd- dancing, sitting under trees in the grassy areas around the City (See Taste, Page 14)



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