

City could get BET Awards again

By Nyla Pickett
Sentinel-Voice

According to Michael Lewellen, Vice President-Corporate Communications for Black Entertainment Network, a melodious merger has been formed between BET and Las Vegas, otherwise known as the Entertainment Capital of the world.

Having held their most recent star studded events here in Sin City, both the awards show, and the Networks 20th Anniversary last year, the network executives seem convinced that this is only the beginning of a long running relationship that should shed some light on the status of Black star power in the entertainment world.

"Once again, Las Vegas was very good to BET and Cossette Productions (co-producers of the awards show) starting with the red carpet arrivals, through the actual telecast and all the way



ROBERT JOHNSON

to the parties afterwards. This positive track record goes back to our 20th Anniversary telecast last May.

While no decision has been made yet about next year's site for the BET Awards, we clearly have nothing but reasons to smile about how well things went in Las Vegas at the Paris Hotel."

The First Annual BET Awards Ceremony apparently stacked viewership rat-

ings on the studded side in a stellar sweep as the "second highest rated show ever on the network."

Telecast live from the Paris Hotel on June 19, the "BET Awards landed a 4.26 rating."

In layman's terms — 2.83 million households across the country tuned into the show making it "the most watched entertainment special in BET's 21-year existence." Confidently expecting this sweep the network also chose to re-telecast the ceremony on June 30 at 9 pm.

"Because the BET Awards show was such a highly-anticipated event with so much star power, even viewers who watched every minute of the premiere telecast will want another taste of what was clearly an historic night for our network."

With entertainers and sports figures stacking the categories, viewers were asked

to vote for the "best of" out of each. Subsequently, the nation's leading African-American target audience based network was able "to give the viewers exactly what they wanted."

BET President Debra L. Lee gives her crew an "A" for effort, and the viewers a thumbs up for support. Lee proudly reiterates a favorite saying in describing BET's chart climbing numbers as of late in saying "We're certainly proving that there is truth to the saying that 'if you build it, they will come.' What is also important for us is that the quality of production and promotion around our specials has been tremendous."

As an added extra to the folks choice awards, BET made sure to pay "over due homage" to the recipient of the first ever BET Lifetime Achievement award none other than Whitney Houston.

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Former Los Angeles Lakers basketball player and entrepreneur Earvin "Magic" Johnson (L) poses with his newly unveiled star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame June 21, along with former coach Pat Riley.

Johnson gets star

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was "ShowTime" in Hollywood when Magic Johnson got his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Johnson, who led the Los Angeles Lakers to five National Basketball Association titles in the 1980s, was honored Thursday. Among those on hand to congratulate him was Miami Heat coach Pat Riley, who was his coach for most of his career. Also there was Johnson's longtime friend, comedian Arsenio Hall.

Johnson thanked the fans on hand and spoke of the days of "ShowTime," the 1980s' Lakers' entertaining, fast-break brand of basketball.

The basketball star turned entrepreneur also weighed in on the current Lakers team, which has won two consecutive NBA titles under the leadership of Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. "Until they do it five times, don't compare," Johnson said.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Mary J. Blige received Best Female R&B award is being congratulated by renowned artist Luther Vandross.

Talented lineup gives ceremony star power

By Melinda A. Vereen
Sentinel-Voice

After more than two decades of being the primary television platform, Black Entertainment Television (BET), a subsidiary of Viacom, honored African-American performers in music, motion pictures and sports with a star-studded "live" telecast in Las Vegas at the Paris Hotel on June 19.

Actor-comedians, Steve Harvey and Cedric "The Entertainer," two of the funniest and most talented comedians working in Hollywood, were the hosts, who led the award nominees and celebrity presenters at the show.

Harvey, known for his savvy style, precision haircut and looking sharp from head to toe, helped break box-of-

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Violent crime studied: Assailants often repeat offenders

WASHINGTON — One in three Americans injured in a violent crime reported that their attacker had committed a crime against them before, according to a government study released Sunday.

About half of the reported attacks that caused injury were committed by an intimate partner, with another third committed by other family members. Just 20 percent were committed by strangers, according to the study by

the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released Sunday.

"These are not one-time problems that the victim is having," said Michael Rand, chief of victimization statistics at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. "These are ongoing or longer-term problematic relationships."

Attacks by partners and family members can be more

dangerous, added James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University in Boston.

"An intimate partner often has you cornered," he said. "An encounter with a stranger frequently happens on the street. There's room to run. Bystanders may intervene."

The report, "Injuries from Violent Crime, 1992-1998," used data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the National Center for Health Statistics. It defined

violent crimes as attempted or completed rape, sexual assault, personal robbery and assault.

Women were more likely to be injured by someone they knew, the report said, while men were more often the victims of strangers, which Fox attributed to differences in what men and women fight about.

"Men more often than women will engage in altercations with strangers over a

challenging glance, over a remark," he said. "With women, their altercations generally involve issues of loyalty, sometimes money. It's a personal conflict with people they know real well."

The report also found that a quarter of Americans who are violently attacked are injured during the incident and almost one in five of those injured seek medical attention in a hospital or emergency room. Each year from

1992 to 1998, approximately 2.6 million people were injured in violent attacks.

In addition, an average of 21,232 people were murdered each year.

Thomas Simon, a behavioral scientist with the CDC, said that even with a reduction in crime in recent years, "it's important not to become complacent about the problem of violence in the United States." One in 84 American (See Crime, Page 13)