

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Actress Angela Bassett accepts the award for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture for her role in 'Sunshine State,' at the NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday.

## Parks' story wins two NAACP Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The story of Rosa Parks won two NAACP Image Awards on Saturday, although the civil rights pioneer shunned the event over its nominations for the film "Barbershop," which features a character making unflattering jokes about her and other black leaders.

CBS' "The Rosa Parks Story" won both its nominations: best TV movie and best TV movie actress for Angela Bassett, who starred as Parks.

"(Parks) wants to thank the NAACP for lifting her up. She wants to thank all of you for loving her," executive producer Willis Edwards, a friend of Parks, said onstage on her behalf.

"She was not happy with what was said about her and she has a right to do that. She has the right not to come," he said backstage, adding he believes she will stay committed to the NAACP despite the rift.

Meanwhile, "Barbershop" lost all five nominations, including a supporting actor bid

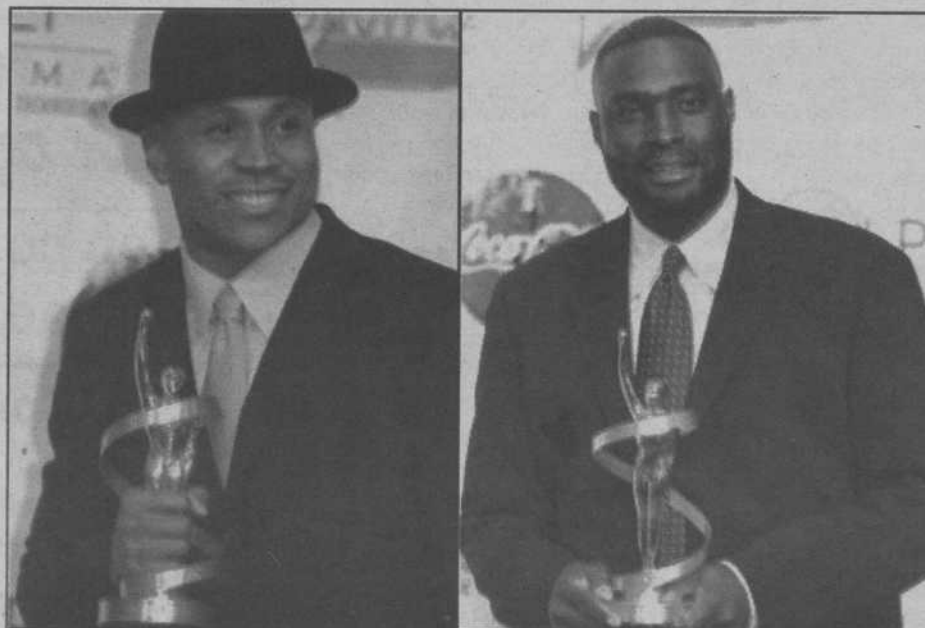
for Cedric the Entertainer, who hosted the Image Awards and played the character whose remarks started the uproar. Its other nominations included best picture and best lead actor for star Ice Cube.

Parks, now 90, made history in December 1955 when she was arrested for refusing

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## ShoWest Young Men

L.L. Cool J (left) holds his award for male star of tomorrow backstage last Thursday during the ShoWest awards at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas. Antwon Fisher was recognized as screenwriter of the year at ShoWest.



## Hoggard fountain of wisdom

County employee's career distinguished by service

By Tanya Flanagan  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Verlia G. Davis Hoggard has watched Las Vegas change for nearly 35 years from a place of cheap buffets into a "family vacation destination" with resort casinos boasting gourmet dining and upscale adult entertainment.

The lights, glamour and glitter that make Las Vegas famous and attract millions each year never lured her. Instead, she immersed herself in the Las Vegas beyond the Strip and dedicated herself to improving the lives of the people who call this city home. For the past 30 years, she has worked for Clark County Government, currently as executive director of the Social Service Department. Her challenge is managing 174 staff members and overseeing a \$32 million annual budget for a depart-

ment striving to service thousands. Her service includes a population that makes up the city's working poor, homeless, AIDS victims, disabled and the list grows. On March 31st, she will retire.

"There have been a lot of highs and lows," Hoggard, said last week seated behind the mahogany desk in her Pinto Lane office near Martin Luther King Boulevard. "Highs come in seeing people get a job and become self sufficient. Highs come in seeing some of the staff who started as eligibility workers complete degrees in social work."

Shannon West, assistant director of Clark County Parks and Community Services, rose through the ranks under Hoggard's tutelage and is grateful for the wisdom Hoggard passed down.

"She is very direct and she says what she means and she means what she says. You



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Democratic Assemblyman Wendell Williams shares a light moment with Verlia Hoggard during the 2003 Martin Luther King Jr. banquet in January.

never have to wonder where you stand. I like that," West said. "She is an educator first and she takes a very strong interest in young professionals and she is willing to take a risk on developing them. I owe my opportunities to be

promoted to her because she took a risk on me."

Hoggard's service career began in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California assisting migrant farm workers and Cuban

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## Former Compton mayor, officials arrested

Council members, City Manager face embezzlement charges

By Cynthia E. Griffin  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

COMPTON, Calif. (NNPA)—Former Mayor Omar Bradley and four current city officials—including

three city council members—have been arrested on felony embezzlement charges.

Council members Yvonne Arceneaux, Amen Rahh and Delores Zurita, along with

City Manager John Johnson, were arrested after they were indicted by a county grand jury. The exact allegations against the five will not be revealed until the grand jury

indictment is unsealed in court.

The charges were filed by the county District Attorney's Office, which reportedly has been investigating the alleged misuse of city credit cards for the past three years. The officials were released after posting \$25,000 bail, and ordered to return to Superior Court for a March 24 arraignment, according to Sheriff's Department officials.

Milton Grimes, attorney for Bradley, and Marie F. Alex, the lawyer for Rahh, both declared their clients' innocence at a late-evening press conference last Monday and said they intended to file a motion seeking to recuse the district attorney from the case based on personal involvement. Compton's current Mayor Eric Perrodin is a deputy district attorney.

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