

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

June 12, 2003

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Father beats issues to become man he is

By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice

Shaundell Newsome spends 10 hours, sometimes 12 at the Texas Station Casino daily where he has climbed the corporate ladder to become director of Player Development. Although he is at the top of his game today, his ascent was a struggle that landed him in a hospital fighting for his mental stability.

His breakdown came at 22, when the pressure of being mother and father to four small children while attending school and working two jobs overwhelmed him, leaving him struggling to survive each day. Newsome's first child, a boy named Shaundell Jr., was born when he was only 16. Although young, he made the decision to also adopt the 3-year-old daughter



Arlene Newsome proudly supports her husband Shanudell Newsome who represents the essence of fatherhood.

ter of his girlfriend, Stephanie. Within a year, the couple had a second child and married. By age 20 Newsome had fathered his third child.

To keep his family together, he forfeited an academic scholarship to college and enlisted in the Air Force. His assignment brought him from New York to Las Vegas where he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base. The couple scraped by, stretching pennies before moving into military housing. Throughout the eight-year marriage, Stephanie abandoned Newsome and their children many times before permanently leaving them. As the pressures of single parenthood mounted, Newsome crumbled. Just when he was ready to cave in, Newsome's

(See Father, Page 7)

Trio gives unknown talents new forum

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

West Las Vegas is a largely untapped source of entertainment talent, but that could change if three forward-thinking entertainers have their way.

Isaac Sawyer, Aksis Ajabu and Janni Jeppe are the creative force behind Urban Artists, a monthly talent showcase at the West Las Vegas Library. Through Urban Artists, the trio offer an outlet for talented performers to show their wares.

"It's a different vibe," says Sawyer, an up-and-coming emcee and self-proclaimed wordsmith. "We have a variety of people performing. Urban Artists serves as a venue for singers, rappers, poets, musicians and dancers. We want to encompass something that is urban and something that people can relate to."

Adds Ajabu, a singer and poet, in describing the monthly program:

"It's an event where poets and artists express themselves. You never know what's going to happen or what's coming up. Expect the unexpected."

There's are no preliminary sign-ups weeks in advance and no auditions. All interested individuals and groups

(See Urban Artists, Page 17)

Panel breaches future of preferences

By Monica Verley
Sentinel-Voice

One of the hot topics burning in conversation circles this summer has to do with the pending Supreme Court decision on Affirmative Action. The question on many of our minds is: "If not affirmative action, then what?"

Last week, during the National Conference of the 100 Black Men of America, NPR talk show host, Tavis Smiley, tackled

this question along with others before an audience of more than 150 conference participants and invited guests from the Las Vegas Valley.

The esteemed panel included Martin Luther King III; Rod Gillum, vice president for General Motors; Dr. Horace Mitchell, vice chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley; and Malcolm Robinson of the National Bar Association.

(See 100 Men, Page 7)

Jackson settles suit with ex-advisers

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A \$12 million lawsuit against Michael Jackson by former financial advisers that could have revealed details of his finances has been settled, his lawyer said Wednesday.

The attorney declined to discuss terms. The case had been scheduled for trial June 18.

"It just got to a point where we agreed on what we needed to do," Zia Modabber said in a phone interview, adding that Jackson "was thrilled."

Calls seeking comment from the plaintiffs' attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, were not immediately returned.

Union Investment Corp. of South Korea and its financial adviser, Myung-Ho Lee, claimed Jackson owed them \$12 million in unpaid fees and expenses for their efforts to put his financial affairs in order.

The agreement came as the judge was to rule on a request by Jackson's lawyer to dismiss the suit on grounds that Lee was not properly licensed to give investment advice in California.

Court TV was asking to televise the trial, which could have meant a public airing of records of Jackson's closely

guarded finances.

The suit claimed that Jackson, who amassed a half-billion-dollar fortune as the "King of Pop" over the past 20 years, is saddled with debt and teetering near bank-

ruptcy.

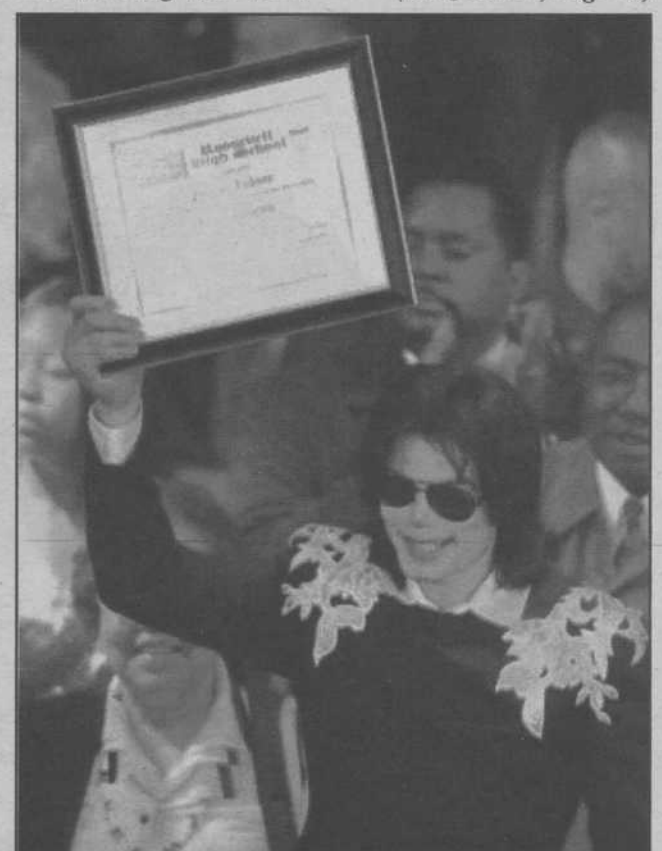
Jackson, meanwhile, was in Gary, Ind., for ceremonies honoring him in his hometown, which he had not visited for decades. Thousands

(See Jackson, Page 17)



HOT TO DEF

Def Poetry Jam co-producer Russell Simmons (3rd R) and his cast accept their Tony Award in the special theatrical event category at the 57th Annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sunday.



Michael Jackson holds up an honorary diploma given to him by Roosevelt High School administrators in Gary, Ind., on Wednesday. Jackson returned to the city for the first time in decades and was also presented with a key to the city. He recently made amends with his former advisors.