

Televangelist Bishop T.D. Jakes, left, stars in "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," a play based on his best-selling book.

Film journeys through of trauma child abuse

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

In a year marked by a string of cringe-inducing blaxploitation flicks like "Soul Plane," "The Cookout" and "Barbershop 2," it's nice to find a refreshing alternative to all those insulting modern minstrel shows which appear to have become standard African-American-oriented fare.

Adapted from the play based on the bestseller of the same name by nationally syndicated televangelist Bishop T.D. Jakes, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" is a moving melodrama of tragedy, survival, faith and redemption. It retraces the unfortunate sequence of events that led a victim of child molestation down a self-destructive path leading to death row.

Kimberly Elise delivers an Oscar-quality performance in the lead role as Michelle, a fictional character author Jakes cobbled from countless souls whose stories remain untold. And the Bishop ably co-stars as a concerned minister who counsels and consoles the condemned woman. The principal cast also includes Clifton Powell

as Reggie, the pedophile who violates Michelle at the tender age of 12. Loretta Devine is a mother with a self-esteem too low to protect her daughter from the abusive predator.

Veteran director Michael Schultz (Krush Groove) shot the picture amid the grinding poverty of L.A.'s ghetto. His super-realistic cinematography makes no attempts to sanitize the hood. As a consequence, the harsh backdrop serves to compound the sense of misery conveyed by the harrowing plight of the haunted, ill-fated heroine as she turns to drugs and prostitution out of sense of despair.

Never hitting a false note, the saga unfolds as a series of flashbacks, not only from Michelle's perspective, but also from that of others who knew her intimately. These varied reflections enable the audience to reassess the convicted murderer in a new light, and rather sympathetically, given the factors which had contributed to her inexorable fall from grace.

Dead Woman Walking.
Excellent (4 stars). Unrated

Jackson

(Continued from Page 1)

cizing Republican efforts to woo black voters.

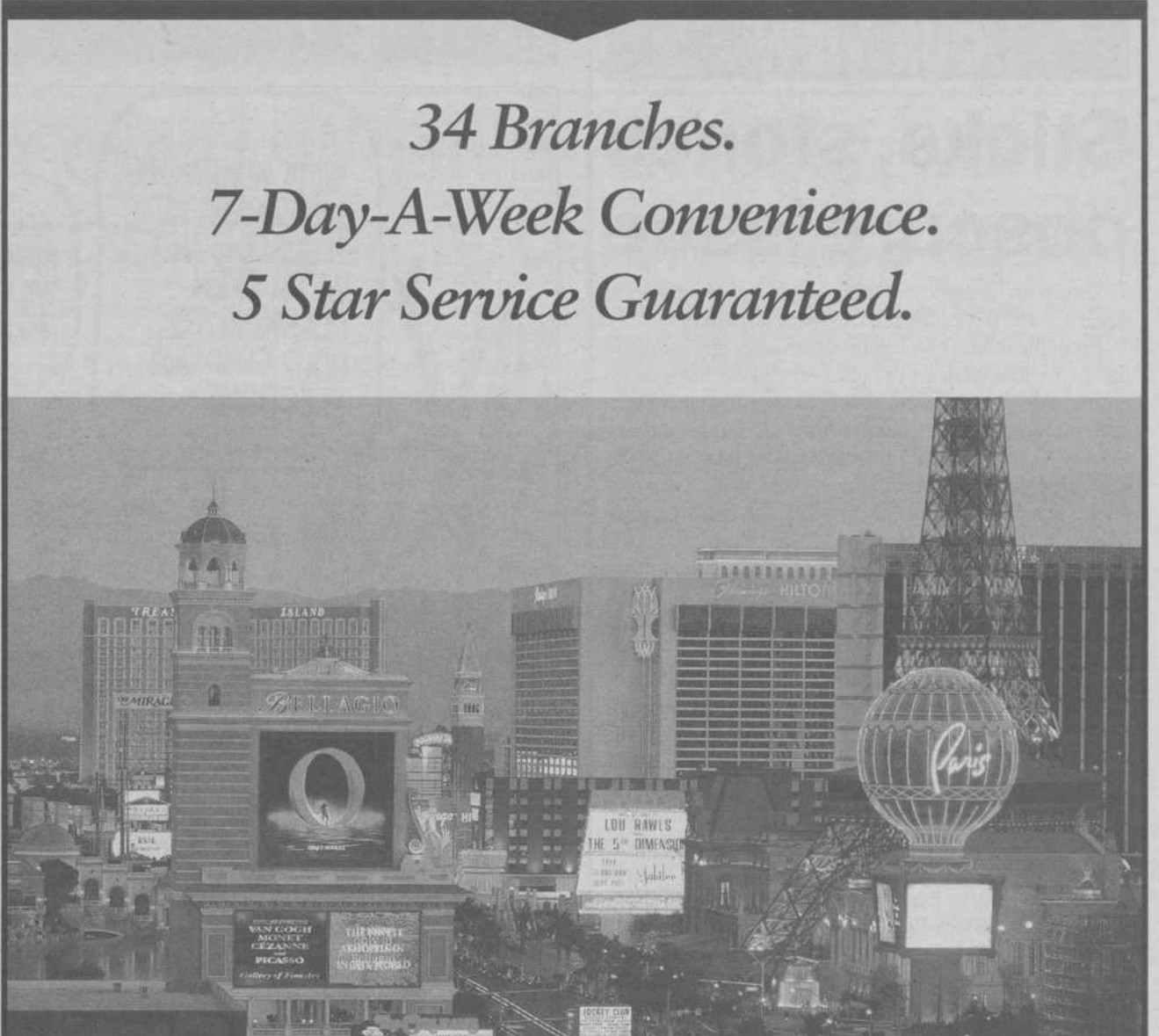
The Kerry campaign said Jackson, who will serve as a senior adviser, will travel to battleground states to energize Democratic support for Kerry and running mate John Edwards.

Meanwhile, Alphonso Jackson, the Housing and Urban Development secretary for the Bush administration, charged today that Jackson and other Black political leaders spread a message of victimization that leads most Blacks to vote Democratic.

The HUD secretary said he has advised President Bush's campaign to focus its efforts on younger Blacks who did not grow up during the civil rights era because older Blacks who did "have been conditioned" to vote Democratic by Jackson, NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and others.

"They have made a living telling Black people they are victims," the HUD secretary, who like Jackson is Black, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The HUD secretary, who said he has been consulting with Bush strategist Karl Rove and other campaign officials, said Republicans are targeting Blacks who are under 40 with a message that Bush's economic policies are better for them.



34 Branches.
7-Day-A-Week Convenience.
5 Star Service Guaranteed.

7-Day-A-Week Branches

U.S. Bank Branches Inside Albertsons
7075 West Ann Road, Las Vegas
5881 East Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas
10140 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
4015 South Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas
4821 West Craig Road, Las Vegas
3160 North Rainbow Boulevard, Las Vegas
2885 East Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas
8410 Farm Road, Las Vegas
55 South Valle Verde Drive, Henderson

U.S. Bank Branches Inside Vons
2511 Anthem Village Drive, Henderson
6450 Sky Pointe Drive, Las Vegas
1155 East Twain Avenue, Las Vegas
820 South Rampart Boulevard, Las Vegas
625 Stephanie Street, Henderson
7405 South Durango Street, Las Vegas
6000 West Cheyenne Avenue, Las Vegas
8540 West Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas
3325 East Russell Road, Las Vegas

U.S. Bank Branches Inside Food 4 Less
260 East Lake Mead, Henderson

Convenient Neighborhood Offices

10140 South Eastern Avenue, Henderson
9004 West Sahara, Las Vegas
801 East Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas
261 North Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas
2135 Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas
4320 East Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas
400 North Stephanie Street-Suite 100, Henderson
5940 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
4550 Sunset Road East, Henderson
600 East Warm Springs Road-Suite 150, Las Vegas
2300 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas
2200 East Lake Mead Boulevard, North Las Vegas
9801 West Charleston, Las Vegas
1916 Village Center Circle, Las Vegas
280 East Flamingo Road-Suite A, Las Vegas

U.S. Bank Is Growing
To Serve You Better
Throughout Las Vegas.

U.S. Bank is proud to announce the addition of 10 new 7-Day-A-Week offices throughout the Las Vegas area. We know that convenient locations, extended hours and Five Star Service are important to you. That's why we have opened new offices inside supermarket locations to make banking with us more convenient than ever!

Plus, with free Internet Banking, free Internet Bill Pay, 24-hour staffed customer service and ATMs all across the Las Vegas area—you can truly bank when you want, the way you want. So stop by, log on or call us today—we're excited to be growing in the Las Vegas area and we want to be your bank!

usbank
Five Star Service Guaranteed