

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice



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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Dems set to stall Rice confirmation

WASHINGTON (AP)— Senate Democrats intend to delay Condoleezza Rice's confirmation as secretary of state at least until next week rather than grant her Inauguration Day approval, a spokesman said Wednesday.

"There are a number of Democrats not on the committee that want to have a chance to debate her nomination a couple of hours," said Jim Manley, a spokesman for Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

He said Democrats would not seek to prevent Rice's confirmation as the nation's top diplomat, and he predicted her approval within a matter of days. Rice cleared the Foreign Relations Committee earlier in the day, 16-2, a lopsided vote that belied hours of skeptical questioning by Democrats critical of President Bush's foreign policy and his conduct of the war in Iraq.

By contrast, Manley said he expected that Democrats would assent to confirmation on Thursday just after the inauguration of two members of Bush's second-term Cabinet. They are Mike Johanns, nominated as secretary of agriculture, and Margaret Spellings, named to take over as education secretary.

The Senate developments unfolded as the nation's outgoing top diplomat, Secretary of State Colin Powell, bid farewell to the workers he called his "family" at the State Department. Powell has not yet formally resigned his post, and isn't expected to do so until Rice is formally sworn in.

"You were my troops, you were America's troops," the former Army general told the workers. "You are the carriers of America's values."

He called Rice "a dear friend" and said she would bring "gifted leadership" to the department.

Rice surmounted two days of sometimes contentious questioning — mostly by Democrats — on the administration's prosecution of the war.

Pending approval by the full Senate, Rice would be the first Black woman to hold the job. The committee supported her with Democrats John Kerry of Massachusetts and Barbara Boxer of California voting no.

Other Democrats, including ranking member Joseph Biden of Delaware, had said they were reluctantly voting

(See Confirmation, Page 16)



Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice testifies Tuesday on Capitol Hill during her Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Attired in yellow garb, officials with Falun Dafa wave to some of the thousands of attendees assembled Saturday morning on 4th Street to celebrate the 25th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. (See additional photos on Pages 8 and 9)

## King parade unites city

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

Approximately eight to ten thousand people lined the march route at the 24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade held Saturday in downtown Las Vegas along 4th Street.

This year's parade started on time, in contrast to last year's event, and lasted over four hours, much to the delight of the audience.

The theme of this year's parade was "Living the

Dream: Las Vegas Celebrating 100 Years."

There were over 140 entrants participating in the parade by riding in decorated cars, or marching in formation, or riding on large, creative, colorful floats.

Others, like the entrants honoring the Buffalo Soldiers, were mounted on horseback.

Participants included: 14 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 15 high schools, politicians and gov-

ernment representatives, dance/band/drum units, churches, businesses, community and civic organizations, radio stations, fraternities and sororities, car and motorcycle clubs, and a host of others.

The Grand Marshals of the parade were Hannah Brown, President of the Urban Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas, and Ramon Savoy, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of this, Nevada's only African-American community news-

paper, the "Las Vegas Sentinel Voice."

Parade judges were Reba Labat, Craig Knight, Bubba Knight, Vera Sampson and Punam Mathur. Parade announcers included: Gary Waddell from KLAS-TV Channel 8; Galaxy Glenn from Power 88 radio station KCEP; and Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly, Ward 5. Cox Communications covered the parade for cable television for

(See King Parade, Page 2)

## Groups seek change in wake of gaffe

By Kathi Overstreet  
Sentinel-Voice

Top leaders of the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, along with heads from local chapters of the NAACP, ACLU and the National Action Network, held a press conference yesterday to discuss comments made Saturday on KTNV-TV, Channel 13, by weekend weather anchor Rob Blair while delivering the extended forecast for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday — comments which cost him his job: Blair's job

terminated the same weekend.

During his extended forecast Blair said, "For tomorrow, 60 degrees, Martin Luther Coon King Jr. Day, gonna see some temperatures in the mid-60s."

Within a half-hour, Blair went back on the air and told viewers, "Apparently I accidentally said Martin Luther Kong Jr., which I apologize about — slip of the tongue."

Wendell P. Williams, founder of the MLK committee, perturbed about Blair's



"...In all fairness to this young man, we need to keep in sight the goals and dreams of Dr. King..."

— Patricia Cunningham  
Chairperson of the MLK  
Civil Right Committee

comments said that as Las Vegas prepares to celebrate its 100-year anniversary, we do not want to go back to the

way things were the last 100 years.

"Back then, Black's were

(See Press Conference, Pg. 12)