

King breakfast speaker: Ignore divisiveness

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

A breakfast concluding the weekend celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday was held Monday at Nevada Partners located at 710 West Lake Mead Blvd in North Las Vegas.

The event acknowledged the work of the committee hosting the event, presented awards to the participants of the 24th annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade held Saturday, and gave thanks to the many supporters and sponsors of the entire weekend celebration.

The breakfast guest speaker was Dora LaGrande, Board Chairman of the MLK parade committee. In her comments, LaGrande thanked the parade committee members; Power 88 announcer Galaxy Glenn, KCEP-FM; City of Las Vegas Councilman Lawrence Weekly, Ward 5; and Senator Steven Horsford, District 4, for their tireless efforts that helped make these events successful. She proceeded to make reference to the infamous speech by Willie Lynch and his great-grandson Willie Lynch III on slavery and entrapment of African-Americans by this society.

She read from Lynch's chilling words: "In my bag here, I have a fool-proof method of controlling your black slaves... I have outlined a number of differences among the slaves; and I take these differences and make them bigger. I use fear, distrust, and envy for control purposes. These methods have worked on my modest plantation in the West Indies and it will work throughout the South. Take this simple little list of differences, think about them. On top of my list is 'age' but it is there only because it starts with an 'a', the second is 'color' (or



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Dora LaGrande keynoted a Monday banquet/awards ceremony at Nevada Partners. The event concluded a week of activities honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

shade); there is intelligence, size, sex, size of plantation, status of plantation, attitude of owner, whether the slaves live in the valley or on a hill, east, west, north, south, have fine hair or coarse hair, or is tall or short. Now that you have a list of differences, I shall give you an outline of action, but before that, I shall assure you that distrust is stronger than trust, and envy is stronger than adulation, respect or admiration.

LaGrande continued her message reciting what "his (Lynch's) great-grandson" said in 2002: "We will focus on the current methods of containment that they (Blacks) use on themselves: ignorance, greed, and selfishness. The ignorance of blacks is the primary weapon of containment. A great man once said, 'the best way to hide something from a black is to put it in a book.' This statement is so true. We currently live in an information age... as long as we continue to publish books for our benefit and keep books, computers and the Internet out (of

their hands, we will never see the masses of them rise above the slums and projects... the masses of them are fools because they don't read. They will never figure out that we have all the information a person needs to succeed in America in the books, magazines and newspapers that we read all the time.

She concluded the provocative Lynch heir's quote: "Greed is another powerful weapon of containment. Blacks, since the abolishment of slavery, have had large amounts of money at their disposal. Last year they spent 9 billion dollars during Christmas and represent about 450 billion dollars in purchasing power. That will easily allow any of us to use them as our target market for any business venture. Being a primarily consumer people they function totally by greed. They would rather buy some new sneakers than invest in starting a business or community development organization. Some will even neglect their children to have the latest Tommy or FUBU...

King Parade

(Continued from Page 1)
immediate airing and rebroadcasting.

Commenting on the success of the parade were Wendell Williams, Lawrence Weekly, and Ricki Barlow.

Williams, the founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee that has hosted the parade since its inception in 1981, said: "Today's event went well. We had a lot of great entries, and we appreciate the community for coming out. This was a positive turnout, and we look forward to having another successful event next year."

Weekly indicated: "I thought the parade was absolutely awesome. As usual, the committee worked very hard to put on a dynamic parade, and we're so grateful to the commu-

nity that they came out and showed their love and support."

Barlow, one of the parade co-chairs stated: "We had approximately eight- to ten-thousand people out here today, and this was a successful event. We're so excited that everyone came out in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King and living his dream and carrying out the parade in a safe and successful manner. We're just really excited."

The highlight of the parade was the entertainment. The Kappa Leadership League seemed to be the crowd favorite performing by the judges, along with the Las Vegas High Steppers, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Omega Gentlemen's Club, the Sigma Beta Club and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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The audience, primarily African-Americans, listened intently and showed visible reactions. One guest described the prevailing crowd reaction to the profound reading in a word: "aghast."

As the breakfast proceeded, in celebration and reflection of Saturday's gala parade, the 2005 Annual Parade Winners were announced and awarded by the following "Best Of" categories:

- Elementary School: 1st place award to Rose Warren ES; 2nd place, Matt Kelly ES
- Middle/Junior High School Band: 1st place award to Charles I. West Middle School; 2nd place, Sedway Middle School
- High School Band: 1st place award to Mojave HS; 2nd place, Desert Pines HS
- Drill Team: 1st place award to Doolittle Elite Squad; 2nd place, Doolittle Jam Squad
- Religious Float or Entry: 1st place award to Victory Missionary Baptist Church; 2nd place, G2Z's.
- School Float: 1st place award to Booker Elementary;

2nd place, Wendell P. Williams Elementary

- Greek Float: 1st place award to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; 2nd place, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

- Greek Sorority: 1st place award to Alpha Kappa Alpha; 2nd place, Delta Sigma Theta

- Greek Fraternity: 1st place award to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; 2nd place, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

- Military ROTC unit: 1st place award to Centennial ROTC; 2nd place, Eldorado ROTC

- School Drill Team Award: 1st place award to Harney MS; 2nd place, Keller MS

- Fraternity Youth Group: 1st place award to Sigma Beta Club; 2nd place, Kappa Alpha Psi

- Sorority Youth Group: 1st place award to Del-Uniques; 2nd place, Zeta Archonettes

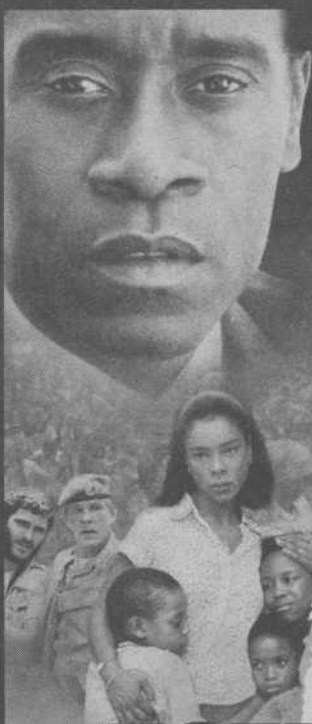
The award for the "Most Unique Float" was awarded to Booker Elementary School. Other awards included one for the parade's overall "Best Entry" that was won by Booker Elementary

School. The award for the "Best Out-of-State Drill Team" went to The Los Angeles Johnny High Steppers.

A first time entrant in the parade this year won for "Best Community Float": Falun Dafa took 1st place in the category; 2nd place award went to the Clark County Library District.

Beverly Mathis, principal at Booker Elementary commented about her school hitting the triple-crown awards for their parade entry. She said, "We are excited, the staff, children, and parents worked (so) hard on our float. It just shows how hard work can pay off. We love the participation part, because our children know about Dr. Martin Luther King [Jr.], and we were extremely excited about the theme this year 'Living the Dream-Las Vegas Celebrating 100 Years.' We have done a lot of historical stuff, we've done a lot of reading about Las Vegas, and we've done a lot of reading about Dr. King. So, therefore, now that I am taking the trophies back, well guys, it wasn't in vain, but it would (See MLK Breakfast, Pg 15)

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