

# Millionaire learns wealth no shield from bias

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LAS VEGAS (NNPA) — When millionaire author and young businessman Farrah Gray sits in the first class section of an airplane, flight attendants sometimes question whether he should be in coach. And, like other Black males, police have stopped him for no justifiable reason.

Gray is not surprised.

"Number one, I'm young. Number two, I'm Black," says the 20-year-old author of "Reallionaire," a book that tells the story of the principles that enabled him to become a millionaire by the age of 14. The book is already a Barnes & Noble and Amazon best seller.

His recent acclaim hasn't shielded him from the everyday indignities that African-Americans face.

He settled out of court last year with a national drug store chain, which he prefers not to identify for legal reasons. According to Gray, an employee grabbed him and turned him over to a security officer. The

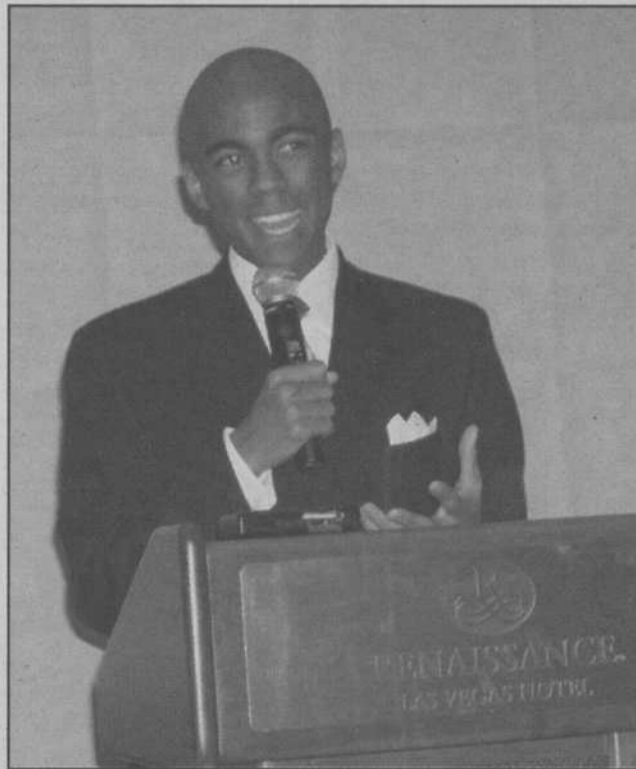
employee accused Gray of stealing cookies that had been given to him by the general manager of a radio station who was a business partner.

"They kept me for a little while, asked some questions and then realized they were Girl Scout cookies," he recalls.

"What I try to explain to people is that you're still Black. You always have to remember that. You're still Black in America," Gray says in an interview. "But you want to go in with a success consciousness, not getting caught up in who doesn't like you and who does."

That was essentially the message he conveyed here at the National Newspaper Publishers Association's mid-winter convention.

"The Black newspapers serve as a cultural transcript. It is the Black newspaper that has provided for us instead of the mainstream media where we only get 28 days out of the whole year to celebrate our history," he told the approximately 75 publishers who met



Sentinel Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Author/millionaire Farrah Gray speaks during the NNPA's annual Mid-Winter Conference last week in Las Vegas.

in Las Vegas, where Gray now lives and has one of two offices; the other is on Wall Street in New York.

"You are the icon. You have educated a nation. You have empowered a nation and

a generation, and I am here today to say that your work will be continued. I represent a generation that is looking forward to carrying the torch. Your children's children will carry the torch."

That's a big promise for the 200-member NNPA, whose readers' average age is 44 — more than twice that of Gray.

Having established a string of businesses and organizations that contribute to the lives of others, Gray appears prepared to carry the torch.

The youngest of five siblings, he watched his mother work tirelessly to make ends meet with no father in the home. Gray's first entrepreneurial endeavor was to peddle body lotion for \$1.50 from door to door at the age of 6. His parents separated when he was less than a year old, and he spent time with his father about once every six months. His father died five years ago.

But, nothing could stop young Farrah's perseverance.

At the age of 7, he carried a lunch box for a brief case and a business card that read, "21st Century CEO." At age 8, he started UNEEC, Urban Neighborhood Economic Enterprise Club, a group of 8

to 12-year-old friends in the inner city who talked about how to get out of poverty by entrepreneurship and even invited business professionals to talk to them.

After his family moved to Las Vegas from Chicago, he reached millions of people as a 10-year-old co-host of a radio show, "Backstage Live," that featured interviews with visiting celebrities. At age 13, he founded NE2W U.S.A. (New Early Entrepreneur Wonders University Student & Alumni) Capital Search Fund. Headquartered on Wall Street, he raised one million dollars for the fund and opened up his Wall Street office, from which he has helped to finance the business futures for at least 800 young entrepreneurs.

He became a millionaire at age 14 after his business, Farr-Out Foods, a specialty foods company targeting youth, hit sales of \$1 million. At age 15, he sold the business for approximately \$1.5 million. (See Racism, Page 12)

## Dems chide Bush on State of Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats hit President Bush on Wednesday for his Iraq policies and planned Social Security overhaul, hoping a vigorous response to his State of the Union speech will fuel a turnabout from their election setbacks last fall.

The prime-time address offered center stage to the president. Democrats, though, were hoping their retorts would cast them as a moderate but energetic alternative to Bush and the Republicans who control Congress.

"We all know that the United States cannot stay in Iraq indefinitely and continue to be viewed as an occupying force," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in the televised response she delivered after Bush's remarks.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, who shared the response with Pelosi, said Bush's Social Security plans sound more like "Social Security roulette" than reform.

"Democrats are all for giving Americans more of a say and more choices when it comes to their retirement savings. But that doesn't mean taking Social Security's guarantee and gambling with it. And that's coming from a senator who represents Las Vegas," said Reid, D-Nev.

Reid said Bush should join Democrats in fighting for better job training, improved education and more affordable health care. Instead, he said, Bush has offered "the

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## EOB loses its Head Start funding

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

The Economic Opportunity Board (EOB) Community Action Partnership organization was notified by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration (HHS) on January 12, 2005 that funding for their Head Start Program would be terminated. EOB has been granted a thirty-day process to file an appeal to this notification.

Currently, EOB serves approximately 1,823 children through the Head Start/Early Head Start programs at sixteen sites throughout Clark County. The program operates with a yearly budget of \$16 million; and a portion of this, \$12 million or 80 percent, comes from the HHS department. The organization is charged with raising the rest through charitable contributions and other funding avenues.

The organization experienced some problems in their accounting practices over a year ago which led to an investigation by HHS in an ef-

fort to address and resolve the matter. Members of the EOB executive staff were either let go or voluntarily resigned amidst the controversy

and alleged irregularities.

Claude E. Logan, Chairman of the EOB Board of Directors commented on the

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Sentinel Voice photo by Isaac Sawyer

### MUSICAL GUMBO

As part of its Black History Month festivities, the City of Las Vegas' Department of Leisure Services sponsored a Hip Hop Soul concert and gumbo luncheon Tuesday afternoon at Frank Wright Plaza. The event featured sumptuous food and live music. Pictured are the Daryl Williams Band and singer Toni Morgan.