



Top Black chefs cook for a cause

By Tanya Flanagan
Special to Sentinel-Voice

T.E. Williams founded the Las Vegas Alliance of Black Culinaricians 14 years ago to spotlight Black chefs in Las Vegas who were below the radar and not advancing beyond the position of sous chef.

Since its inception, the alliance has grown as an organization, becoming a staple in the Black community and giving the entire city an event to look forward to each year — The Grazer. The Grazer is a showcasing of African-American chefs and their best culinary creations in an atmosphere of rich Black art and culture.

This year's signature event happens Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in the Grand Ballroom from 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

"From a culinary standpoint, the event is very exciting and interesting," said Rodney Lister, a senior development officer with the city of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department, who has attended the event for the past two years.

"To see Black chefs prepare food that you would normally only find in the best restaurants and with a level of quality that is just awe inspiring is wonderful. I felt like I was eating food that I would only come across on a special occasion."

But The Grazer is a more than a special occasion, it's a legacy, said Albert Washington, who has been president of

(See The Grazer, Page 2)

Black man: Southern Highlands Golf Club targets him with bias

By Ramon Savoy
Sentinel-Voice

In what appears to be a revived branch of the local NAACP, President Dean Ishman presided over a joint press conference Friday afternoon concerning allegations of discrimination and prejudice at a prestigious gated community in Las Vegas.

Steven Ferguson has accused the management at the Southern Highlands Golf Club of denying him the use of the facility at which he had been a resident member since December 2001.

Ferguson said he had been repeatedly referred to as "nigger" and kicked out of the golf club "without cause or process."

His attorney Ian



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Steven Ferguson, left, claims he's being discriminated against by the Southern Highlands Golf Club. Ferguson has lived in the exclusive community since December 2001.

Silverberg filed a motion Friday in the United States District Court for a temporary

restraining order asking the judge to reinstate Ferguson's privileges. The judge granted

that motion.

Last week, papers were (See Ferguson, Page 2)

Bush disappoints in Congressional Black Caucus meeting

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mel Watt (D-N.C.) and other caucus members say President Bush's State of the Union speech fell far short of their expectations.

"Measured against the criteria we agreed to use, the president's State of the Union speech, unfortunately, fell short of our expectations and woefully short of what the CBC had hoped to hear," says Watt, whose group recently met with Bush.

"We are disappointed that the president did not acknowledge the dramatic extent to which disparities continue to exist in every area of our lives and did not use this opportunity to rally our country to work on closing these disparities."

In an interview with NNPA, Watt cited as an example, the president's request for Congress to fully fund his initiative to protect innocent people from the death penalty by expanding DNA testing for convicted offenders. He said he appreciates the president's overture, but the CBC agenda consisted of at least five criminal justice issues, including DNA, racial and ethnic profiling, criminal justice reforms focused on prevention and rehabilitation, fair and impartial judges and recidivism.

"If you look at criminal justice, what did he say? DNA? How does that help somebody



From left to right, Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, D-Mich., Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., Rep. Charles B. Rangle, D-N.Y., and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Mel Watts, D-N.C., speak to the media outside the West Wing of the White House following their meeting with President Bush last month.

who is disproportionately stopped by the police or disproportionately prosecuted? It might help you when you get ready to go to

the death penalty," says Watt. "I don't mean to demean that. DNA is important. But I can't believe that that is the [the president's] only

response to our justice agenda."

In his 2001 inaugural address, Bush promised to make anti-racial profiling initiatives a priority by forming initiatives through the office of Attorney General John Ashcroft. But, little has been said about the problem since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Black lawmakers say the failure was limited to criminal justice issues.

"I didn't hear any real descriptions of programs or ideas," says Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.).

The CBC had said the president would have three chances to make good on the issues given him at the White House meeting January 26. First, he could have made a public statement to embrace the CBC agenda, consisting of six priority issues — which he did not. Second, they would watch to see if he tangibly dealt with their issues during the State of the Union. Finally, they would see how initiatives are funded in the president's budget released on Monday.

The CBC presented an 8-page document to the president describing disparities in education, health care, economics, criminal and social justice, social security, and foreign policy with hopes that he would propose specific policies to close the gaps between Blacks and Whites. Waters says she has very little hope.

"We have a basic philosophical difference (See CBC, Page 6)