

Event highlights newest fashions

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

This year marks the 47th production of the Ebony Fashion Fair, the world's largest traveling fashion show, and it will be where Las Vegas celebrates culture and beauty for a charitable cause this Sunday at the Texas Station Hotel at 4 pm.

Beautiful people in classy clothing will grace the runway with style. Mrs. Eunice

W. Johnson, producer-director of Ebony Fashion Fair has been traveling abroad to purchase creations from the world's best-known fashion houses for more than four decades. Nearly two hundred designers, from across the world, are featured in the fashion show.

In 1956, the Fashion Fair was conceived by Mrs. Jessie Covington Dent, who wanted to create a mini-fashion fair



Laura Biagiotti's ruffled opera coat embroidered with satin heels is worn over a transparent ruffled panel skirt.

Reid

(Continued from Page 1) Americans," reads Senate Resolution 83. The African-American press has operated as an instrument of social change for decades as it has protested inequality and spotlighted the achievements of African-Americans.

The sessions with Black publishers were not always smooth.

During a breakfast meeting, James Belt, publisher of the *Dallas Examiner* urged Senate Republicans to stop supporting federal judges that are insensitive to civil rights. Sen. Majority Leader Bill Frist responded, "I would never support a judge that would support discrimination."

Many Black lawmakers and civil rights advocates have objected to some of President Bush's nominees to the federal bench, some of whom were rejected in the last session of Congress or

held up in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Bush did not endear himself to civil rights leaders when he said he would appoint federal judges in the mold of ultra-conservatives Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia.

And Reid, the Democratic leader, was criticized for saying he could support the elevation of Scalia to become chief justice, but not Clarence Thomas.

The two are the most conservative members of the High Court and have almost identical voting records.

In his meeting, Reid told the Black publishers why he opposes President Bush's proposal to privatize Social Security, which provides 44 percent of the total income and is the only source of income for one in three African-Americans 65 and older. The president's plan is risky because "Social Security is not really in a crisis, and will



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

IN HIGH GEAR

Participants in the National TRIO/Gear Up Celebration 2005 event stand on stage at Bally's. From left to right: Bryant Rogers, deputy executive director for administration of the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, and honorees Uri Clinton, Crisanta Zamudio, Zuri Longhorn's mother (in place of her daughter who's in college), Republican Sen. John Ensign, Bruce Ford, Alejandro Aragon, Paul Salas and Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, CAEO's deputy executive marketing director and the emcee for the evening.

to raise money for a worthy cause. Through the years, although fashion has continued to evolve, the underlying purpose for the fashion fair remains the same. Since its inception, the Ebony Fashion Fair has raised more than \$50 million for several scholarship groups. The fair is now sponsored by over 170 nonprofit organizations including Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Alpha Rho chapter.

All proceeds raised from the event this year will be donated to the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation. The Pollard foundation plans to build Rainbow Dreams Academy, a charter school providing

children with a strong educational foundation by having full day classes for kindergarten, then first and second graders. The Pollard program began in 2002 at the Kit Carson Elementary school. They provided children with after school and weekend activities. Soon thereafter, they decided to move to their own facility and began their own established school. It was then that the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority decided to sponsor this foundation.

"We are a nonprofit organization. We sponsor many [worthwhile] organizational causes," said Dorothy Muhammad of the Gamma

Phi Delta sorority.

The Rainbow Dreams Academy is definitely a worthy cause. Although they will start out small, servicing only K through 2, they plan to add an additional grade each year. Students will be admitted to the school based on a random lottery administered by Nevada Department of Education. Parents of students will also have the opportunity to participate in computer, GED and employment training classes during after-school hours at the facility.

Education is a major focus for Gamma Phi Delta Sorority. They feel education is essential for children.

"That is one of our goals—to educate. We have to follow through on that. We have to provide education for underprivileged youth, because we know education is the key to success," Muhammad continued.

The Ebony Fashion Fair is known for its charitable contributions but most obviously for its "fashion". Throughout the years the Fashion Fair has been known for pushing the envelope, showcasing unheard of trends and bringing them to life dramatically on stage. The magnificence of each garment places this unique fashion show in a category of its own.

remain solvent for decades," Reid said. Many Republicans are also leery of the privatization of social security.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson of Texas hosted the breakfast with Republicans sponsored by the Republican National Committee. Texas Senator John Cornyn also appeared.

While Frist spoke to the publishers about initiatives to increase funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and technology for inner-city schools, none mentioned President Bush's Republican-backed budget proposal to cut funding for Pell grants, a cut opposed by Black civil right organizations.

Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) made a point of telling the Black publishers about his bill to apologize for the Senate's having never passed anti-lynching laws. Replying to a question, he said he is

against reparations for the damages done to Black people by lynching, Jim Crow laws or enslavement.

Member of the Congressional Black Caucus gave the publishers a copy of their legislative agenda for the 109th

Congress, listing many issues on which they disagree with President Bush, including a ban on racial profiling and seeking to close racial disparities in health, economics and criminal justice.

CBC members favored an alternative budget that passed the Senate 52-48 during Black Press Week. Delegate Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI) told the publishers, in comparison, "It's the best budget."



THE LAS VEGAS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION



is pleased to announce that its 16th Annual Scholarship Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 6:00pm at the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino.

This year's Keynote Speaker is the Honorable Dennis W. Archer. Judge Archer is the Immediate past president of the American Bar Association, Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice and Former Mayor of Detroit.

Ticket prices are \$75.00 per person or \$700 per table of ten. For more ticket and/or sponsorship information, call (702) 991-9931 or e-mail nbabanquet@yahoo.com