

Entertainment Briefs

HARVEY SIGNS OFF FROM L.A. RADIO SHOW

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Comedian Steve Harvey has signed off for the final time after five years hosting a morning radio show that delivered one-liners, political commentary and hip-hop. "The Steve Harvey Morning Show" on KKBT-FM featured a mix of Harvey's advocacy for the city's Black community, ruminations on everyday life and interviews with local and national political figures. The show, which also aired in Dallas, ended Friday. "As I close the door on this chapter, please know that the people of Los Angeles have made me a better person, and I thank them for that," Harvey said in a statement. The WB network also announced this week it was canceling Harvey's TV variety show, "Steve Harvey's Big Time Challenge." KKBT general manager Sue Freund said Harvey wanted to spend more time with his family and take a break, but was discussing possible future projects with the station's parent company, Washington, D.C.-based Radio One Inc.

RAPPER GUCCI MANE FACING MURDER CHARGE

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) - Just days before the expected release of Gucci Mane's debut album, the rapper is in jail, facing a murder charge. Mane, whose real name is Radric Davis, is accused of the May 10 shooting death of a man whose body was found in woods near a middle school, DeKalb police spokesman Herschel Grangent said. Grangent would not say what linked Mane to Henry Clark's death. The rapper waived his appearance at a hearing Friday and remains in DeKalb County Jail until a bond hearing. Mane's attorney, Dennis Scheib of Atlanta, said the rapper was at a home on May 10 with a woman and a male friend when five men came to the house and attacked them. Mane grabbed a gun on a table and traded fire with one of the attackers in self-defense, Scheib said. The men fled and Mane did not know that any were injured, his attorney said. He also did not know the attackers but believed they were associated with rival rapper Young Jeezy.

RACIAL SWITCH HALTS 'HUCK FINN' PRODUCTION

GLENELG, Md. (AP) - A Black Huck Finn and a White Jim might be OK for a high school production of Mark Twain's classic tale — but those performances had to be edited out of a C-Span talent show after the copyright holder objected to the cross-casting. Jay Frisby, a Black student who played Huck, and Nick Lehan, a White student who played Jim, taped their performance of the song "Muddy Water" for "Close Up," a weekly show that highlights high school excellence. When the program aired Friday, the two Glenelg Country School seniors were introduced, but viewers were told that "Close Up" could not show their performance because of "copyright restrictions." Lehan and Frisby had played the roles of Jim and Huck in the school's production of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" without complaint. But when the show's executive producer asked for the right to air the students' performance, permission was denied. Bert Fink, a spokesman for R&H Theatricals — the Rodgers & Hammerstein organization, which holds the license to the play — said his organization is not against cross-casting in general. "In the books, Jim is a runaway slave. He is clearly in the novel an African-American man. And Huck is a free White man — that is central to the story. To ignore that component or to comment on it by switching is not faithful to the story," he said.

THE REV. RUN TO STAR IN REALITY SHOW

NEW YORK (AP) - The Rev. Run is in the house. "Run's House," a reality show featuring the Rev. Run of Run DMC, his wife, Justine, and their five children, will premiere later this year on MTV, the network announced Monday. The show will give viewers "an inside look at the lives of hip-hop royalty," Brian Graden, president of entertainment, MTV Music Group, said Monday. The air date for the first show wasn't announced. In "Run's House," the Rev. Run, whose real name is Joey Simmons, must balance recording his first solo album with raising five children, ages 9 to 21. "My family is my ministry," he said in a statement. Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Russell Simmons, brother of the Rev. Run, are among the executive producers.

Energy missing from Nelly show

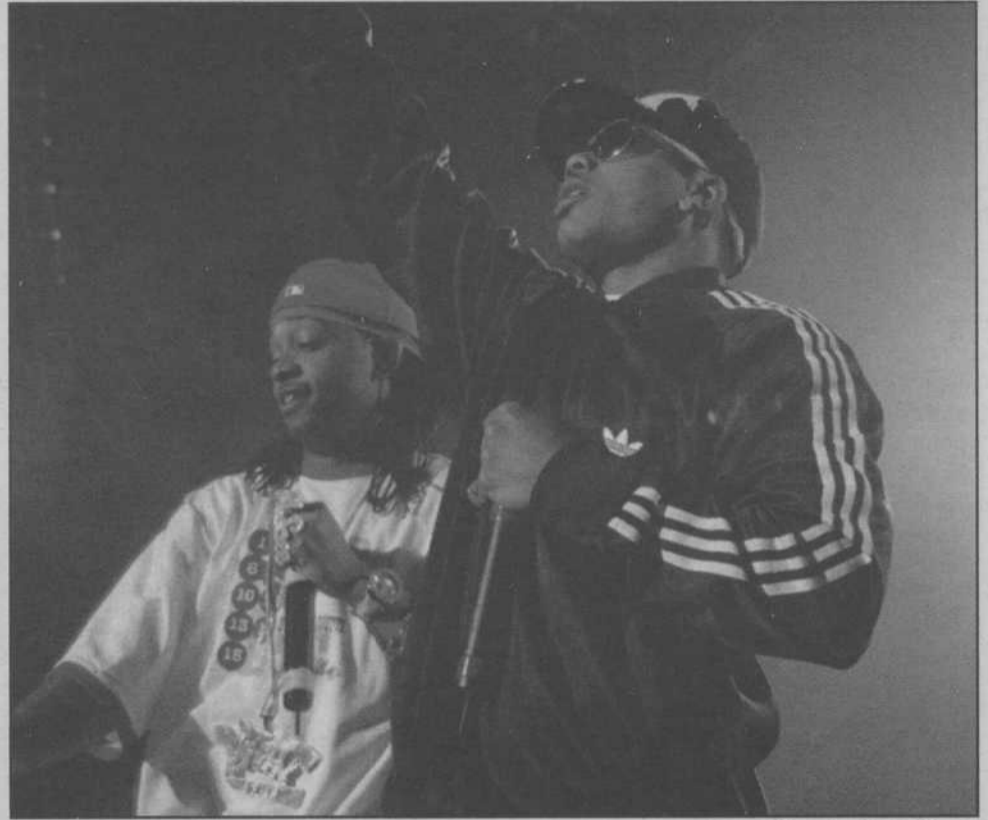
Chelsi Cheatom
Sentinel-Voice

Plagued by protests, postponements and controversy, the nearly two-month long, U.S. leg of rapper Nelly's "Sweat/Suit: Up Close and Personal Tour" concluded at the Aladdin Theatre on Saturday night. The concert featured performances by Fat Joe, T.I. and the St. Lunatics.

Nelly concerts were protested and boycotts had been encouraged by several student and church groups during earlier tour dates this year. The vehemence started when Nelly released his sexually explicit "Tip Drill" Video in 2004. The fervor continued when Nelly began marketing his popular "Pimp Juice" Energy Drink. The controversy didn't keep fans away Saturday when a nearly sell out crowd paid to see the rapper-actor in concert.

Fat Joe and members of his group Terror Squad opened the concert performing hits including "Still Not a Player" and their #1 single "Lean Back". He was followed by Atlanta Emcee T.I., who performed the hits "You Don't Know Me," "Rubber Band Man" and "Bring 'Em Out," as well as other songs from his albums.

Unfortunately the venue wasn't well suited for such a high energy hip-hop concert. There was little room for movement with the venues' theatre-style seating. Many of the mostly female concert attendees crowded the aisle in order to have more room to dance. This led to people with balcony seats attempt-



Sentinel-Voice photo by C.J. Cansler

Nelly, right, and fellow St. Lunatics group member Murphy Lee perform for the crowd.

ing to sit in the temporarily unoccupied lower level seating, causing arguments. Security had to be called in to calm one such argument over seating within the first few minutes of the show.

Police presence was heavy throughout the approximately two and a half hour event. "We always ask Metro [Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department] to work because we have such a large facility," explained Sara Gorgon PR Coordinator for the Aladdin Resort & Casino. "We were close to selling out. We had over 6,300 people at the show," Gorgon added.

At 9:30, headliner Nelly and his group, the St. Luna-

tics, took the stage and performed songs from his albums including "Country Grammar," "Nellyville," and his dual disks "Sweat" and "Suit."

Some of the material appeared to be new, including Murphy Lee (of the St. Lunatics) free styling, and Nelly and Kyjuan (of the St. Lunatics) performing their own version of Ying-Yang's "Wait (The Whisper Song)." They were backed by a DJ and, occasionally, female back-up dancers throughout the performance.

The uncomfortable seating arrangement led to a lack of enthusiasm from the crowd.

"The fact that people were

sitting made it less exciting. Some people didn't even stand for the entire concert. The fact that there were seats made the energy uncomfortable. The energy just didn't carry itself to the back of the venue," explained Delfina Anchondo.

She added, "Nelly would be performing a hit song, and he would stop after 20 seconds and start talking. Most people came here to listen to music, not talking."

About a half-hour into Nelly's set, small groups of concert goers began exiting the show early.

According to Las Vegas Metro's Public Information Office, immediately following the concert a man, identified to police as a gang-member, was shot in the buttocks after an altercation.

"There are times when a city ordinance or the law will say that there needs to be a certain amount of officers at a venue. Many large properties hire overtime officers to secure their properties through our special events division. In order to have a police presence event promoters have to request that officers be present at the venue," stated Sgt. Jones, from the Metro Public Information Office.

An unidentified juvenile was arrested in connection with the shooting.

There were also several reports of fighting after the concert. The Las Vegas Metro requested detectives from their Gang Unit to respond to the incidents. An investigation into all incidents is still ongoing.

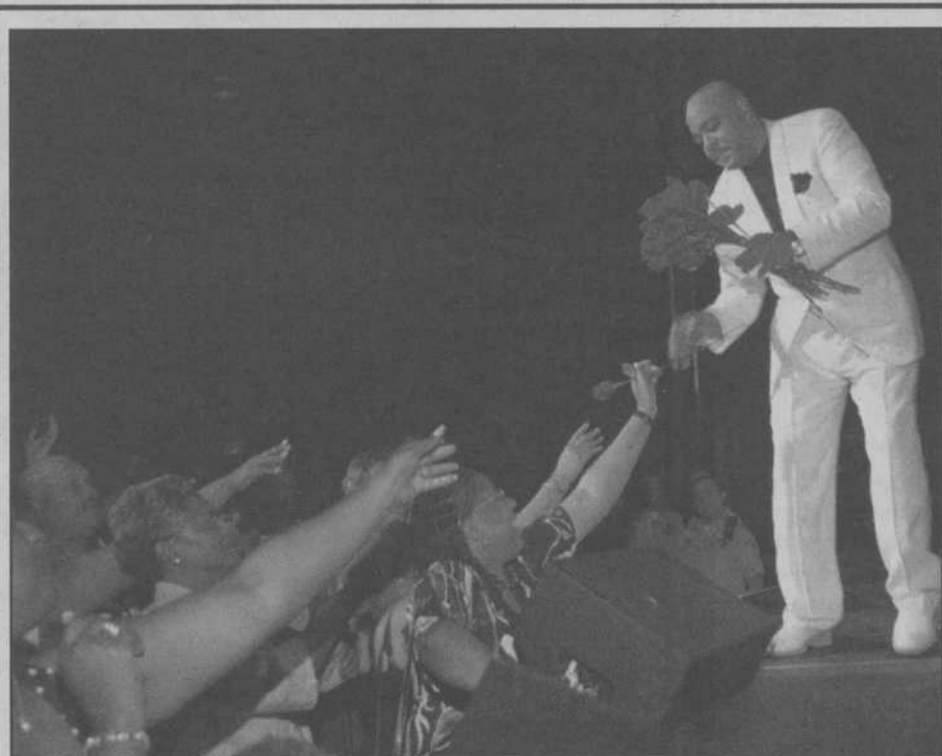


Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

LADY LOVER

Veteran crooner Peabo Bryson hands out red roses to adoring female fans Saturday night during an old-school concert at The Cannery Hotel-Casino in North Las Vegas.