

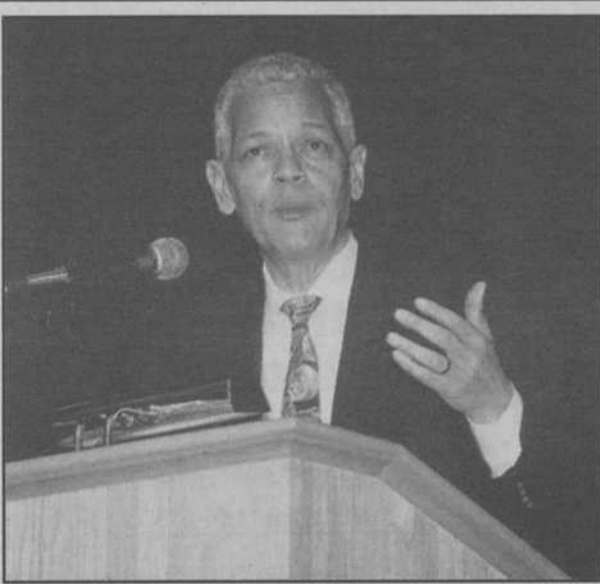
LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 11

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

July 14, 2005

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, says the group is taking selection of Supreme Court Justices seriously.

Justice nominee on NAACP radar

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond says the nation's oldest civil rights group will be working to make sure the person that succeeds retiring Sandra Day O'Connor is not hostile to civil rights.

"There can be no issue of greater or more immediate importance than the upcoming confirmation battle, and we intend to be in the thick of the fight," Bond announced Sunday night at the opening session in Milwaukee.

"One vote, for example, upheld affirmative action in higher education — and that vote belonged to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It is imperative that her replacement exhibit similar independence of mind and character," Bond said.

In filling the first Supreme Court vacancy in 11 years, President Bush must choose between nominating an extremely conservative judge, as he has often done with lower picks, or a candidate likely to win easy Senate confirmation.

In the past, Bush has made no secret that Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the two most conservative members of the court, are his ideal justices.

But if he picks a Thomas-like candidate, he is likely to face stiff opposition.

"We will support any nominee who stands for justice and fair play, and oppose any who is hostile to civil rights and civil liberties," Bond said in Milwaukee.

"To date, the successful Bush nominees to the federal district courts are the most conservative of any recent president. On racial discrimination, the president's federal district judges score the lowest of any modern chief executive. The ideas they hold, the rulings they have made and their speeches place them in a dim and gloomy legal netherworld where few Americans wish to dwell."

After five years of excoriating criticism of the administration, including comparing Bush's policies to the "Taliban" and "Snake Oil", Bond showed no signs of letting up at the NAACP's annual convention.

"For the fifth year in a row, the president of the United States..."
(See NAACP, Page 13)

ACORN demands store site

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

There is still no store, and efforts continue to help residents of the Historic Westside Las Vegas community get a full-service neighborhood grocery store since the sudden closing of Vons nearly one year ago.

ACORN, the Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now, held a news conference last Thursday to escalate the initiative it is spearheading in the community. The City Council discussed the same matter the preceding day at its regular meeting. The result is the City's new commitment—and ACORN's stern insistence — that the 9.5 acre parcel of land at the corner of Martin Luther King and Lake Mead boulevards will be considered as a location; that is, if by September 1 no grocery store tenant is acquired for the old Vons site located at Edmond Town Center at J Street and West Owens Avenue.

Vons, for more than nine years, had been the only major food store for more than 70,000 residents in the immediate area. At present, the store sits vacant and boarded; leaving the Edmond Town Center lacking an anchor tenant that's open for business (Vons still holds a 20-year lease on the vacant store.)



Jerry Neal shows his support Thursday emphasizing a need for locating full-service grocery store in West Las Vegas.

Although there is some disagreement, about which location is better—the old Vons site or the MLK location newly under consideration—no one in the discussion disputes the hardships residents have experienced due to the absence of a neighborhood grocery store.

Colleen Wilson, 70, said, at conference, "I make a lot of trips [driving miles outside the area]."

In earlier public meetings, most recently May 31, ACORN advocated for the City and local developer

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

John Edmond of Edmond Town Center LLC to secure a new tenant for the Vons location. City representatives, Mayor Oscar Goodman and the Ward 5 area's City Councilman Lawrence Weekly spoke at that meeting and committed to support the initiative with a tax and incentives package aimed at attracting a full-service grocery store, stressing the urgency of the need for area families.

John Edmonds still favors a grocery store anchor in his retail center and said, "[The representative negotiating

for] Vons is working to find a replacement store." He also believes the location there is preferable to placing a store at the corner of MLK and Lake Mead.

ACORN no longer agrees that replacing the existing store is better.

"We switched our energies to the land at the corner (of Lake Mead and Martin Luther King) when we got more information that the City has control over the more desirable location at that corner," said Will Ward, head organizer for the local ACORN chapter of one of the nation's largest community organizations.

Ward said that locating a store at what they — and developers they said they've consulted with — believe it is a better location than the Owens site—and will benefit everyone in the area.

"We want to see Edmond Town Center succeed... We want that to be clear," Ward explained. "If we keep [local residents] in the community for groceries, they will stay in the same area to shop for everything else..." he added.

Veronica Dunn-Jones, West Las Vegas ACORN chapter chair, who said the grocery store should be at the new site said, "We are not against him [Edmonds]; we want him to succeed, but she

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Black press stresses succession planning

Special to Sentinel-Voice

From mom and pop companies to large iconic enterprises, most American businesses fall within the realm of family-owned operations. African-Americans have followed a similar path, establishing themselves as entrepreneurs. This is especially true of the Black Press.

According to James I. Herbert, professor of management and entrepreneurship at Kennesaw State University, at least 90 percent of the U.S.'s 20 million firms are family operations. As business enterprises, Black-owned media have historically been family affairs.

The reasons behind a

family's decision to go into business together are often as diverse as the families themselves and the businesses they create. The business is sometimes a way of life — an opportunity to work together and build for a more prosperous future. For others, it's an attempt to fulfill a family legacy created generations ago. But the transition of leadership and power among family members over a period of generations can leave a business in disorder.

"It is ironic because all of the current [Black Press] publishers in leadership responsibility cite the community connection as a premium. Yet, and still, when

you inquire about publications documenting their legacy, there are few available." Herbert said.

Recognizing the significance of family businesses, the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Office Depot made a joint effort two years ago to bring attention to this large portion of the U.S. economy.

Small businesses are an integral part of their strategic plan.

"Small businesses, many of which are family owned, are critical to our business model," said Ruth Cyrus, spokeswoman for Office Depot's Multicultural Marketing.

"This segment represents our largest group of customers, so our company's success is tied to their success."

"Over 80 percent of the newspapers among the Black Press of America are family-owned." Recognizing this fact, NNPA made a two-year commitment to raise awareness of fundamental issues and solutions we as family business owners should consider," said former NNPA Chairperson Sonny Messiah Jiles.

NNPA, consisting of over 200 weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly member publications, boast a combined circulation of 15 million with
(See Black Press, Page 12)