

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 29

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

November 17, 2005

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Civic activist faces murder charges

Convenience store altercation leaves one dead, one under investigation

By Dina Neal

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Longtime business and community activist Michael Chambliss is scheduled for arraignment this morning in District Court in connection with the stabbing death of 26-year-old Nigerian-born boxer Vincent Ekeoba Moses.

Chambliss' attorney, Peter Christiansen, said his client didn't initiate the attack last Wednesday at a 7-Eleven on Torrey Pines and West Charleston Boulevard. Police allege that an altercation led to Moses being stabbed. He died later at University Medical Center.

Chambliss was not held at the time of the incident, but was taken into custody earlier this week.

"This case is a clear case of self-defense and defense of others," Christiansen said, noting that he reviewed a tape of the incident. Christiansen said the tape



Michael Chambliss during happier times. The activist is shown with wife, Phyllis, and their child Michael Nilaja.

clearly shows Moses slapping the hat off store owner Jocelyn Nixon and Chambliss defending her from the attack. Christiansen said the tape shows Moses confronting Chambliss and his client reacting in self-defense.

Chambliss, who is being held at the Clark County Detention Center, has received an outpouring of support.

"Chambliss is a problem solver," State Assemblyman Morse Arberry said. "He is a person that really cares about the community. People felt

comfortable taking their problems to Chambliss and, in return, he would be a spokesperson for those people and bring those issues to Black elected officials. Chambliss has always been an easy, laid back kind of guy, a man who cared for the welfare of others."

Added County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates: "(She) has known Michael Chambliss for over 20 years, and he is not a violent man at all." Atkinson Gates called him a peacemaker who comes from a

prominent Alabama family. He has two brothers that are in legal professions: one is a judge, and the other is a Harvard law graduate who practices in a major law firm in Tennessee. Chambliss is the nephew of former County Commissioner William Pearson.

Other community activists say Chambliss is very active in civic circles. He serves as executive director of Black Elected Officials, is a member of the NAACP, as well as several other community organizations.

Lecture revisits how Black moms fought war on poverty

By Asmeret Asghedom

Special to Sentinel-Voice

They walked. Pass the honking cars, pass the screaming people, and pass

their own fears, they walked. Individually, they were poor Westside mothers on welfare. But marching together that day, over a thousand, they

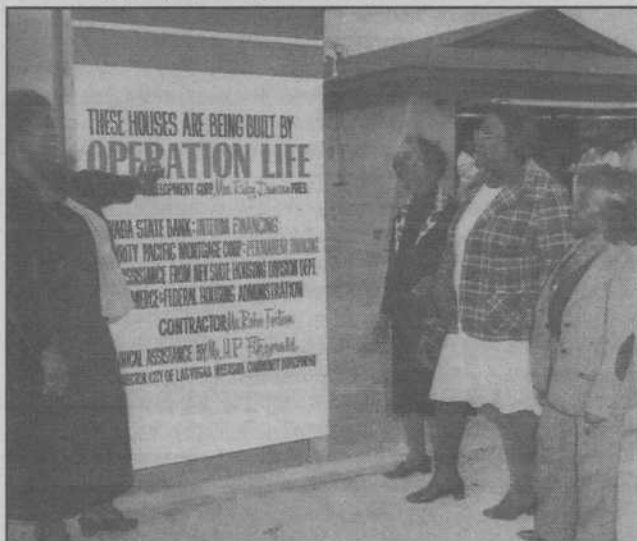
were a coalition of politically provoked women.

And they could not be stopped.

The mothers were marching on the Las Vegas Strip. It was 1971 and the state of Nevada had banned welfare benefits. Their children were hungry and unclothed, and the mothers were upset. So, they took matters into their own hands, "Stormed Caesars Palace," and made their presence known.

Annelise Orleck, a historian and professor at Dartmouth College, once again told this story at an evening lecture held Nov. 4 on the UNLV campus. Orleck first told the story in "Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty," her 315-page novel depicting the struggle that Las Vegas welfare mothers faced to re-

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In the 1980's, Operation Life received a series of grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the city of Las Vegas government to construct new housing tracts for low-income families. Here, Ruby Duncan greets Rosie Seals and Mother Ethel Pearson as she opens the first houses built by Operation Life.

FEMA to stop funding Hurricane guests must move out

WASHINGTON (AP) - FEMA will stop paying for hotel rooms for most evacuees of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Dec. 1, officials said Tuesday as the agency pushed victims to find more stable housing.

Housing advocates said they fear that won't be enough time for an estimated 53,000 families — mostly in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi — who remain in hotels.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had previously set the December deadline as a potential goal to have evacuees out of hotels and into travel trailers, mobile homes or apartments until they find permanent homes. Tuesday's announcement marked the first time the agency said it would cease directly paying for hotel rooms that have cost FEMA \$274 million since the storms struck.

FEMA granted exceptions to evacuees in hotels in Louisiana and Mississippi, where there is a shortage of housing.



Anthony Thompson, 51, makes his bed in a facility provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Evacuees in those states have until Jan. 7 to find homes, said David Garratt, FEMA's acting director of recovery. He said 9,830 households remain in hotels in Louisiana and 2,508 in Mississippi.

"There are still too many people living in hotel rooms, and we want to help them get into longer-term homes before the holidays," FEMA Acting Director R. David Paulison said in a statement.

"Across the country, there are readily available, longer-term housing solutions for these victims that can give greater privacy and stability than hotel and motel rooms."

"Those affected by these storms should have the opportunity to become self-reliant again and reclaim some normalcy in their lives," Paulison said.

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