

KCEP makes holidays happier for family

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

A local woman, raising nine grandchildren ranging from one month to 16 years, is extremely merry and happy this holiday season. All their faces beamed brighter than Christmas tree lights when the announcer named Janice Sylee's family the winner of KCEP's "Extreme Christmas" promotion Tuesday night during an event at the Side Bar.

And when he told her what she'd won, there were tears, hugs and cheers.

Sylee and her grand team now have a designer suite of home furniture, a supply of groceries, children's gifts galore, but wait, there's more. Sylee will now drive her own new car.

"I don't know what to say, what to think... It's overwhelming..." Sylee said ecstatically as soon as she could speak.

The promotional award



Surprised and jubilant, Janice Sylee, a grandmother of nine, helps her grandchildren open some of the many gifts they received during KCEP FM 88.1's Extreme Christmas Celebration Party held at the Side Bar downtown on Tuesday.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

package was made possible by Las Vegas Councilman Lawrence Weekly, community radio KCEP Power 88.1 FM, local business sponsors and caring supporters who nominated Sylee.

More than 50 letters were received from listeners who wrote about many prospective candidates. The final selection was made by a committee, according to Weekly.

"The letters we reviewed were all deserving of an extreme Christmas," Weekly said. "What made the winner's letter stand out the most was the fact that she took it upon herself to go and tend to her grandchildren, who her daughter was unable to take care of..."

"They made an awesome choice," he said. Weekly commended Sylee for rescuing her grandchildren from "deplorable conditions."

Vanetta Pease, spokeswoman for KCEP also recognized Sylee's achievement. (See *Extreme*, Page 5)

Annan frames issues, bashes press

NEW YORK—Terrorism and conflicts across the Middle East will be major global issues in 2006, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at a year-end news conference on Wednesday, and he also lashed out at the media for its coverage of the oil-for-food program.

Annan said he faced getting tough management reform proposals through the U.N. General Assembly and trying to solve the ongoing conflict in Sudan's Darfur region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But he said he expected terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and the Middle East — the slayings in Lebanon, the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict and the turmoil in Iraq — to be "a major issue for us."

The usually unruffled U.N. chief castigated what he called unfair media coverage of his role and that of his son's in the now-defunct U.N. oil-for-food humanitarian program in Iraq.

He scolded James Bone of the Times of London for saying, "Your own version of events don't really make sense."

Annan responded: "I think you're being very cheeky. Listen James Bone, you've been behaving like an overgrown schoolboy in this

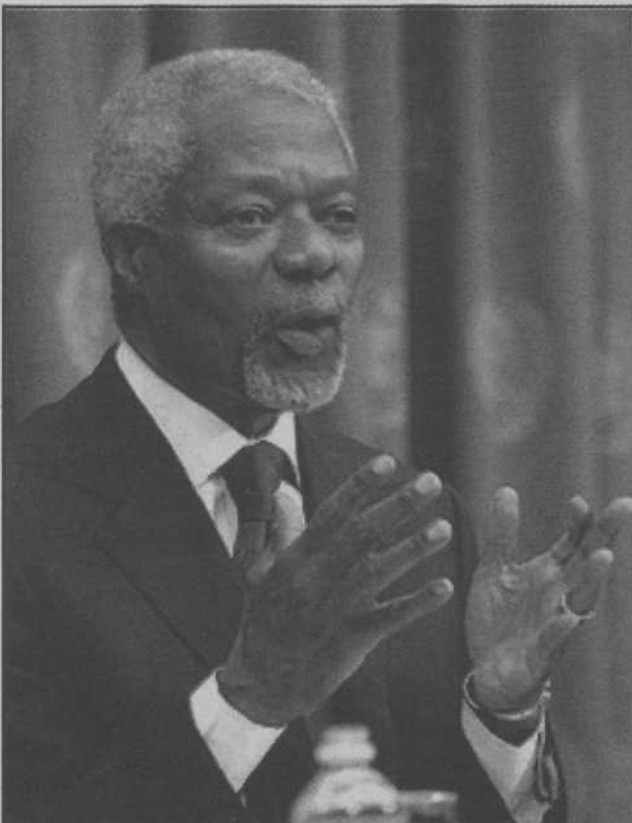
room for many, many months and years. You are an embarrassment to your colleagues and to your profession. Please stop misbehaving and please let's move on to a serious subject."

The president of the U.N. Correspondents Association said that Bone had a right to ask a question.

Annan said not enough weight was given to bribes and oil smuggling outside of the \$64 billion program, recently documented by a U.N.-established inquiry, headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker.

"We all have to be careful, whatever responsibilities we have, not to be fed by people with agendas."

Asked again if he bought a Mercedes tax-free for his son, Kojo, with his diplomatic discount, Annan said, "I know you are all obsessed about the car. If you want to know more about it, please address yourself to my son or" (See *Annan*, Page 4)



U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks at a conference at U.N. headquarters in New York City on Wednesday.

AP: More Blacks live by pollution

CHICAGO (AP) - An Associated Press analysis of a little-known government research project shows that Black Americans are 79 percent more likely than Whites to live in neighborhoods where industrial pollution is suspected of posing the greatest health danger.

Residents in neighborhoods with the highest pollution scores also tend to be poorer, less educated and more often unemployed than those elsewhere in the country, AP found.

"Poor communities, frequently communities of color but not exclusively, suffer disproportionately," said Carol Browner, who headed the Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton administration when the scoring system was developed. "If you look at where our industrialized facilities tend to be located, they're not in the upper middle class neighborhoods."

With help from government scientists, AP mapped the risk scores for every neighborhood counted by the Census Bureau in 2000. The scores were then used to compare risks between neighborhoods and to study the racial and economic status of those who breathe America's most unhealthy air.

President Clinton ordered the government in 1993 to ensure equality in protecting Americans from pollution, but more than a decade later, factory emissions still disproportionately place minorities and the poor at risk, AP found.

In 19 states, Blacks were more than twice as likely as Whites to live in neighborhoods where air pollution (See *Pollution*, Page 13)