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GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Will KCEP survive EOB's troubles?

By Debbie Hall
Sentinel-Voice

An urban contemporary community-action radio station, KCEP 88.1 FM known as Power 88, was created 32 years ago by the Economic Opportunity Board Community-Action Partnership to meet the needs of the Black community. Musically, KCEP features a mix of contemporary R&B hits, hip-hop, classic old school and gospel. The station is also committed to community, cultural affairs and educational programming. With a strong presence in Southern Nevada, KCEP is EOB's only viable asset and now is up for sale to rescue the other programs offered by the private non-profit agency.

According to recently installed EOB Executive Director Dr. J. Lester Murray, "EOB is \$2 million in debt right now, and our only option is to sell the radio station [KCEP] or see EOB fold. This sale will allow us to be liquid and to satisfy our debts."

The deadline for interested parties was on Friday



A who's who of African-American activists attended Wednesday's meeting to express concern about the future of KCEP.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

with three firm bids and several more pending bids. A brokerage is currently handling initial purchase offers.

Just recently, six board members of EOB have re-

signed. Those directors include Board Chairman Claude Logan and board members North Las Vegas Councilman William Robinson, Eloiza Martinez,

Arthur de Joya, Hannah Brown and Larry Mason. The five board members who remain are Las Vegas Councilman Lawrence Weekly, State Sen. Steven Horsford,

Rev. Marion Bennett, Assistant County Manager Darryl Martin and Linda Harris.

According to a representative of EOB, the by-laws state there should be 12

members on the board. In the past year, there have only been 11 members, and with six leaving, only five directors remain to vote. Also stated by an EOB representative was that a vote can be carried by 50 percent plus one.

According to Murray, "My understanding is that there should be at least six board members, and a special meeting will address this topic."

That meeting was held yesterday at the EOB office at 2753 S. Highland and members of the board spoke and heard input from the public.

In addition, two candidates from the business sector — Bob Forbus and Larry Woodrum — were nominated and voted on to the skeleton board at Wednesday's meeting.

After the meeting, Weekly addressed some issues regarding the status of EOB and its radio station asset. "KCEP is EOB's biggest asset... that's it," Weekly said that the two cannot be "sepa-

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State of Black America: Mix of progression, regression

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — In evaluating recent nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court, too much emphasis was placed on competence and academic achievement while not enough weight was given to basic values, retired federal Judge Nathaniel R. Jones says.

Jones' analysis appears as an essay in the National Urban League's 2006 State of Black America report, released on Wednesday.

"One's fitness to be a U.S. Supreme Court justice transcends what so many focused on during the recent confirmation process — stellar academic achievements and a degree of unquestioned professional competence," writes Jones, a former lawyer for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and ex-general counsel for the NAACP. "While such credentials are relevant, they should be the beginning of the scrutiny, not the

end. The critical question is one of values, not competence."

Jones noted that Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who presided over the Dred Scott case was a supremely qualified jurist and had served as Secretary of Treasury in the Andrew Jackson administration.

"Yet, when faced with the fundamental question of whether a one-time slave, Dred Scott, had standing to sue to retain his newly-acquired free status, Justice Taney wrote that Black people — slaves — were not persons within the contemplation of the framers of the Constitution and were, therefore, powerless to sue. Had Chief Justice Taney been imbued with a different scale of values, our national history on race might have been considerably different," Jones writes.

In another landmark case, Plessy v. Ferguson, then-Chief Justice Henry Billings had impeccable legal credentials.

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Bishop McKenzie skips rest to mobilize Black churches

By Zenitha Prince
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Part 7 of an 8-part series of stories about the Gulf Coast and the road to recovery after Hurricane Katrina.

BALTIMORE (NNPA) — Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie was preaching at the funeral of Rev. James Shannon in Memphis, Tenn., when she began to hear rumblings of a potentially devastating storm in the Gulf. She had come to expect news of that kind since moving to the southern 13th African Methodist Episcopal District, and like many seasoned Southerners, met the reports with the sort of equanimity that comes with knowing that it was never as bad as you

think.

At the time, her uppermost concern was whether she would make it back to the east coast for a much-needed vacation with her husband.

"We knew the hurricane was coming, but we didn't think it was going to be that bad," McKenzie recalls. "I remember wondering if we would be able to fly to the east coast since flights are usually delayed or cancelled in this type of weather."

McKenzie was exhausted from a sustained period of organizing several conferences and performing all the other tasks associated with being an AME bishop. She was eagerly anticipating the cool trickle of wet sand between her toes, the soothing buffet of a Chesapeake Bay breeze

and some time alone with her husband to celebrate their wedding anniversary, which was a day or two away.

But in the coming days, all those plans were shot as the horrifying drama of Hurricane Katrina unfolded. McKenzie spent those days with her ear glued to the phone — coordinating relief efforts in her district and elsewhere, and seeking news of lost family.

Meanwhile, her eyes were transfixed on televised images of battered houses and frantic Americans seeking shelter on rooftops, in attics, on bridges and in the Superdome from the roiling miasma of floodwater, sewage and petroleum that was slowly burying the city of

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