

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Students from Democratic Georgia Rep. Cynthia McKinney's district attend a news conference addressing her fight with a Capitol Hill police officer last week in Washington.

## 'Case has just begun'

McKinney allegedly hit a Capitol Hill officer

By David Stokes

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Days after noted Hollywood actors/activists and a throng of youth and young adults stood in support and by the side of U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) to hear her comments pertaining to an altercation with the U.S. Capitol Police on March 28. Legal action is proceeding against the Congressional member who is claiming "being a Black female" and general racism was the catalyst for the incident.

At a news conference held last week at Howard University in Washington, D.C., renowned actors Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover, respectively, joined various supporters of McKinney and her attorneys to state an investigation is welcomed into the physical altercation of McKinney allegedly hitting a U.S. Capitol policeman after he called for her to stop and not enter the Longworth Building for House of Representatives.

It is mandated procedure that House members wear Congressional identification lapel pins upon entering and while in the Capitol. Ms. McKinney, on the date of the altercation, was not wearing



McKinney (D-Ga.) speaks at a press conference after an altercation with a Capitol Hill police officer last week.

her pin.

During a brief statement at the news conference, however, "the whole incident was instigated by the inappropriate touching and stopping of me: a female, Black Congresswoman," McKinney said. In a written report outlining the act, she said, "[The officer] approached me, body-blocked me and physi-

cally touched me. I used my arm to get him off of me. I asked him several times not to touch me. He asked for my ID, and I showed it to him. He then let me go, and I proceeded to my meeting."

A federal grand jury will soon begin hearing evidence about the run-in with the Capitol police officer, said a (See McKinney, Page 13)

## Backers rally to protect hip-hop

By Tasha Pope  
Sentinel-Voice

Donned in signature "Don't Stop Hip-Hop" tee-shirts, several promoters and local artists expressed their views and offered possible solutions to what they feel is a "ban" on hip-hop music during a rally and press conference held last week at 10:00 a.m. in front of Fan Club Entertainment at 124 S. 6th Street downtown.

Artists and promoters are growing concerned at what they say is becoming a ban on gangster rap and hip-hop concerts being held at Las Vegas casino venues. A group of local hip-hop advocates rallied together during the recent hip-hop conference to bring light to this issue.

Gangster rap, one of the widely popular and controversial forms of rap music, which is described in a contemporary online dictionary as "an aggressive type of rap music focused on gang culture and violence" was born in the early 1990's.

Early established gangster rap groups like N.W.A. and DJ Quick gained popularity and fame from making political

statements in their recorded songs and publicly expressing opinions critical of law enforcement officials.

The hip-hop genre of music, including gangster or gangsta' rap, still holds weight on the top on the charts with artists like Snoop Dogg and 50 Cent, who rack in millions in sales each year.

Hip-hop advocates believe this ban is a direct result of what they consider a campaign against rap and comments Las Vegas Metro Sheriff Bill Young made after the February 1 shooting that left local rapper Amir Rashid Crump and Metro Police Sergeant Henry Prendes dead. Crump was killed during a domestic violence call on which Prendes was in the lead, along with several other responding officers. Crump shot and killed Prendes at the entrance to the home and injured another officer, police reports showed.

"The sheriff came out and made an impulsive statement regarding the death of officer Prendes. He [asked] all the casino venues to ban gangster rap in the city of (See Hip-Hop, Page 3)

## New Orleans folks worry over city's fate, their own

By Hazel Trice Edney  
and Zenitha Prince  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

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

Sandra Robertson is just the kind of resident New Orleans needs to rebuild. At 36, she was working as an urban planner there when Hurricane Katrina turned her life upside down. She is now living in Dallas, not knowing when, or if, she will return to the place she once called home.

"It's very stressful not knowing where we stand with a lot of things," she said, softly. "I have so many emotions about it, and, on a daily basis, it changes." Summing up the fate of more than 800,000 displaced residents,

some relocated as far away as Alaska, she said, "Having to be forced to be somewhere or being somewhere that is not our choosing is emotional. But you deal with it." Merian Gross, a retired schoolteacher, first dealt with post-Katrina New Orleans by moving in with a daughter in Washington, D.C., 955 miles away. Now, she has moved to Baton Rouge, 76 miles away from New Orleans but a lifetime away from the New Orleans she had come to know and love.

To Donna Gross McDaniel, her only daughter, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita washed away more than the city's faulty levees.

"She's always been the rock," McDaniel said of her mother. "Now, almost every day, my Mom is crying. I keep asking her, 'What is it, Mom? What is it that I can

do?' I think there's no answer because there is no answer. She wants her life back. And I can't buy that for her. I can't fix that."

The people who can fix it — at the local, state and national level — have failed residents of the Gulf areas, especially the most vulnerable — African-Americans and the poor — and are now asking the people they failed, to trust them to make things right.

Not only is incumbent mayor Ray Nagin seeking reelection, 22 candidates are lined up to show him the door. If a mayoral forum in Houston is any indication, most have no concrete plan to return residents to a safe and thriving Crescent City. In fact, one candidate said that until there is ample housing, he wouldn't recommend that (See Katrina, Page 4)