

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 20

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

September 14, 2006

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Group eyes young talent

By Debbie Hall
Sentinel-Voice

The National Urban League of Young Professionals held their debut membership mixer last Tuesday at the Foundation Room in the Mandalay Bay on the Strip.

Ken Biser, COO of the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League, along with representatives from the UNLV School of Business MBA program and members of 100 Black Men Las Vegas Chapter attended the event to lend their support to the new organization.

NULYP is an extension of the national Urban League but it will operate as a separate charitable entity. Its mission is similar to that of the Urban League: to assist African-Americans and other underserved people in Clark County to achieve social and economic equality through advocacy, bridge building, program services and research, according to its leadership.

Tanya Flanagan, presi-



Gayland Seaberry and Gaylin Everson enjoy the Young Professionals event last Tuesday at the Foundation Room atop Mandalay Bay. The group is for professionals ages 25-40.

dent of NULYP stated, "This chapter will be as strong as its members. It will make this community stronger with members that are passionate about what we do. We stress commitment, communica-

tion and collaboration."

According to Flanagan, NULYP is "looking for young professionals committed to their careers and personal development. We invite those between the ages of 21

and 40 to join. National Urban League Young Professionals is here to be a voice locally, as well as nationally."

The membership of NULYP represents a broad (See Urban, Page 6)

Houston to end bad marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The tumultuous marriage of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown — which withstood drug addiction, Brown's numerous arrests, the decline of Houston's once-sparkling image and domestic abuse allegations — is coming to an end.

A publicist for Houston confirmed to The Associated Press that the Grammy-winning, superstar singer had filed for divorce after 14 years of marriage.

Publicist Nancy Seltzer declined to reveal where or when Houston filed the divorce papers, and she said the singer had no statement to make.

"I can just confirm that she has filed for divorce," Seltzer said Wednesday.

Brown's lawyer said Houston had filed papers for a legal separation.

Houston and Brown, who had a home in Alpharetta, Ga., have one child, a 13-

year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina.

When they wed in 1992, the union seemed to outsiders to be a mismatch. Houston — once one of the best-selling singers in history — was a glamorous, pop superstar with a super-clean, princess-like persona, whereas Brown, who rose to fame as a member of the boy band New Edition before striking out on his own, was a sometimes coarse R&B singer with a more street-wise image.

But as the years wore on, it would become hard to determine which one was more troubled. Brown — best known for hits like "My Prerogative" and "Every Little Step" — would be arrested numerous times for drugs and alcohol, while Houston's own battles with substance abuse sullied her image.

Together, the two were a tabloid editor's dream. When Brown was released from a

stretch in jail a few years ago, an ecstatic Houston greeted him by jumping into his arms and throwing her arms and legs around him before a throng of fans and media.

And in a 2002 ABC interview with Diane Sawyer, an erratic-sounding and wan-looking Houston, with a profusely sweating Brown by her side, admitted dabbling in drugs but denied using crack, then uttered the now famous phrase: "Crack is wack."

Houston checked into a drug rehabilitation program in 2004 and again in 2005, announcing the second time that she was also using prayer to help overcome her drug problems. Brown said at the time he was doing what he could to help her.

"It takes two to make things work, so I have to be there for her just like she was there for me when I went through my rehab stint," he told "Access Hollywood."

The couple did separate

for a time a few years ago, but their marriage endured, despite rumors and speculation. Their life was put on display last year with Brown's reality series, "Being Bobby Brown" on Bravo. The show actually made Brown look like a stable influence, while a jittery Houston was on display; the couple often crudely talked about their marriage and love life.

But earlier this year, the speculation of a possible split intensified. Brown's sister made headlines when she alleged in a *National Enquirer* interview that Houston was addicted to crack. She also supplied photos of what she said was Houston's bathroom, littered with garbage and evidence of drug use.

Phaedra Parks, an entertainment lawyer in Atlanta who represents Brown, said he told her Wednesday that Houston recently filed paper- (See Whitney, Page 9)

Locale linked to life length

WASHINGTON (AP) — Where you live, combined with race and income, plays a huge role in the nation's health disparities, differences so stark that a report issued Monday contends it's as if there are eight separate Americas instead of one.

Asian-American women living in Bergen County, N.J., lead the nation in longevity, typically reaching their 91st birthdays. Worst off are American Indian men in swaths of South Dakota, who die around age 58 — three decades sooner.

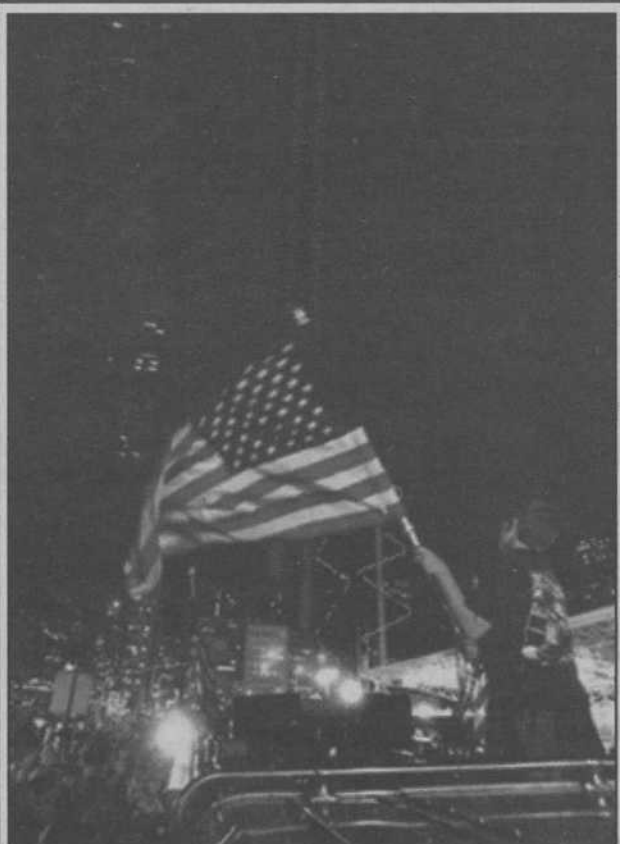
Millions of the worst-off Americans have life expectancies typical of developing countries, concluded Dr. Christopher Murray of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Asian-American women can expect to live 13 years longer than low-income Black women in the rural South, for example. That's like comparing women in wealthy Japan to those in poverty-ridden Nicaragua.

Compare those longest-living women to inner-city Black men, and the life-expectancy gap is 21 years. That's similar to the life-expectancy gap between Iceland and Uzbekistan.

Health disparities are widely considered an issue of minorities and the poor being unable to find or afford good medical care. Murray's county-by-county comparison of life expectancy shows the problem is far more complex, and that geography plays a crucial role.

"Although we share in the U.S. a reasonably common culture... there's still a lot of variation in how (See Life, Page 12)



IN REMEMBRANCE

Jared Gutwill, 11, from Paramus, N.J., waves the American flag, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, as he stands atop the fire truck parked at the World Trade Center site on Monday in New York. Monday was 9/11's five-year anniversary.