

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Female singers rule BET

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The BET Awards are known for show-stopping performances, and they came one after another on Tuesday. It started off with a dream, uniting "Dreamgirls" from past and present with a stirring duet between Jennifer Holliday and Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson.

Though Hudson won a best supporting actress Academy Award for her role as Effie in the movie "Dreamgirls," it was Holliday who originated the role on Broadway and made the song "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" one of the most memorable performances in music.

The two Jennifers united to sing what is now both women's signature song — particularly noteworthy, given Holliday's complaints about being ignored for her original contributions to "Dreamgirls."

The night's most touching performance was O'Jays singer Eddie Levert's tribute to his late son, singer Gerald Levert, who died in Novem-



Beyonce, left, performs with Mo'Nique at the 7th annual BET Awards Tuesday, in LA.

ber 2006. The elder Levert was joined by Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle and Yolanda Adams for a heart-wrenching rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings," which Gerald Levert often performed.

Introducing the number,

LaBelle got teary-eyed as she described Gerald Levert as "one of the best voices around."

"His life was embodied with soul music," she said.

Ne-Yo, who won best male R&B artist, dedicated his award to Levert, also

nominated in the category.

Another stand-out performance was Erykah Badu's cover of "Love Hangover" during a tribute to lifetime-achievement honoree Diana Ross. She emerged in a floor-length dress and huge Afro.

(See BET, Page 6)

## State targets King-Harbor

LOS ANGELES (AP) - State health regulators announced they were moving to revoke the license of a hospital where a patient recently died on the emergency room floor while waiting for treatment.

The California Department of Health Services said in a letter to Los Angeles County officials that it was beginning the process to terminate the license for Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital.

While the public hospital could not operate without a license, the process could take many months and is subject to appeal. The move was part of a growing chorus of government agencies targeting the facility, which has a long history of providing substandard care to inner-city patients.

Sandra Shewry, director of the state health agency, said the goal is to improve the quality of King-Harbor care, not close the facility. She said the agency's move comes as a response "to the egregious incidents that have come to light in the last six weeks."

"We hope this will be the final rallying cry where the hospital and the county will make that push to improve patient care," Shewry said.

Last month, a woman died after writhing untreated for 45 minutes on the floor of the emergency room lobby.

In February, a brain tumor patient allegedly languished in the ER for four days before his family drove him to another hospital for emergency surgery.

Dr. Bruce Chernof, director the county's health agency, stressed that King-Harbor would continue to operate.

"What this does not mean is that the state is pulling the license immediately and the hospital will close."

(See Hospital, Page 2)

## Black Press wants Microsoft dollars

By Heather Faison  
and Shari Logan

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SEATTLE (NNPA) - The National Newspaper Publishers Association, representing more than 200 Black Newspaper publishers around the nation, gave new meaning to the Microsoft Media Skins Challenge at the corporation's headquarters in Seattle last week.

Amidst a passionate — sometimes heated — exchange, Microsoft Corporation officials who represent Black and other minority business and organizational interests for the multi-billion dollar corporation conceded that Microsoft is among major companies that often think advertising in White-

owned newspapers is a catch-all — even in the Black community.

"To be very frank, it's a challenge," said Jose Piñero, Microsoft's director of diversity and multicultural marketing. "Part of the issue is ignorance, and part of the issue is they think that, 'Hey if we just put out advertising in USA Today, it reaches everybody,'" he said.

But, several of the approximately 150 NNPA members, who participated in the three-hour conversation, were not in the mood for excuses.

The publishers and advertising managers in Seattle for NNPA's summer conference challenged the corporation, (See Microsoft, Page 10)



### YUMMY TO THE TUMMY

Looking over the steak and shrimp kabobs, Zelda Williams, left, and Jessie Rogers enjoy the wide selection of choices during the annual Gourmet Grazer put on by the Alliance of Black Culinaricians, held Sunday at the Cashman Center. The event raises money to provide scholarships for aspiring culinarians. See Page 6 for more pictures.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy