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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Suspected Florencia 13 gang members are questioned by Los Angeles Sheriff's detective Adam Torres after being pulled over for erratic driving in the Florence-Firestone neighborhood of Los Angeles County.

L.A. gangsters sought Blacks

LOS ANGELES (AP) - In a murderous quest aimed at "cleansing" their turf of so-called snitches and rival gangsters, members of one of Los Angeles County's most vicious Latino gangs sometimes killed people just because of their race, an investigation found.

There were even instances in which leaders of the Florencia 13 gang ordered killings of Black gangsters and then, when the intended victim couldn't be located, said "Well, shoot any Black you see," Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca said.

"In certain cases some murders were just purely motivated on killing a Black person," Baca said.

Authorities say there were 20 murders among more than 80 shootings documented during the gang's rampage in the hardscrabble Florence-Firestone neighborhood, exceptional even in an area where gang violence has been commonplace for decades. They don't specify the time frame or how many of the killings were racial.

Los Angeles has struggled with gang violence for years, especially during the wars in the late 1980s and early '90s between the Crips and the Bloods — both Black gangs. Latino gangs have gained influence since then as the Hispanic population surged.

Evidence of Florencia 13, or F13, is easy to find in Florence-Firestone. Arrows spray-painted on the wall of a liquor store mark the gang's boundary and graffiti warns rivals to steer clear.

The gang's name comes from the neighborhood that is its stronghold and the 13th letter of the alphabet — M — representing the gang's ties to the Mexican Mafia.

Federal, state and local officials worked together to charge 102 men linked to F13 with racketeering, conspiracy to murder, weapons possession, drug dealing and other crimes. In terms of people charged, it's the largest-ever federal case involving a Southern California gang, prosecutors say. More than 80 of those indicted are in custody.

But eliminating the gang won't be easy. It's survived for decades and is believed to have about 2,000 members. Its reach extends to Nevada, Arizona and into prisons, where prosecutors say incarcerated gang leaders were able to order hits on Black gangsters.

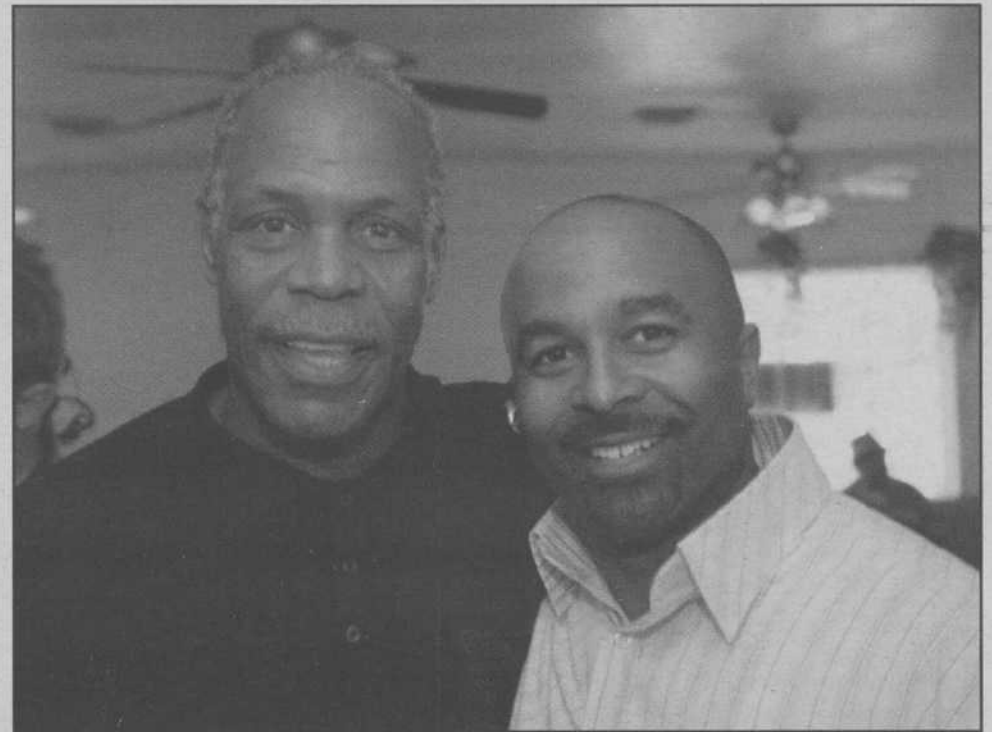
According to the indictment, F13's leader, Arturo Castellanos, sent word in 2004 from California's fortress- (See Florencia 13, Page 4)

Glover stumps for Edwards

Special to Sentinel-Voice

They seem like an odd couple: a Black actor forged in the Civil Rights Movement and a former Senator and multimillionaire trial lawyer running for president. But the two men — actor Danny Glover and candidate John Edwards — have come together, united by a singular cause to end poverty. In the race between Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., to lock up the Black vote, Edwards has been the odd man out. Glover may help change that. On Saturday, the veteran actor dropped into the newly opened M&M Chicken and Waffles on Martin Luther King to talk about his support of Edwards.

Edwards' past also interests Glover: the former senator was the first in his family to go to college; his family members worked in the mills; he fought for disadvantaged as a trial lawyer. And he was the first candidate to talk about the importance of



Sentinel-Voice photo by Marty Frierson

Actor/activist Danny Glover with M&M Chicken and Waffles owner Tim Gilmore. Glover stopped by the Martin Luther King Boulevard restaurant to stump for John Edwards.

unions in the lives of American workers.

"My parents worked in the post office so they were very involved in the unions," Glover says.

So when the two met,

Glover says he was wary of Edwards' true motives.

An article in *Fortune* magazine describes the genesis of this unique union: "For three days, the 'Lethal Weapon' star and the one-

term senator were glued to each other's sides like a pair of mismatched LAPD cops as they traveled across the country to help lend support to hotel workers and their (See Glover, Page 3)

Women's summit urges social action

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

The first African-American Women's Summit presented by radio talk show host Patricia Cunningham is accepting registrations. The daylong event will take place on Sat., Jan. 12, at the Henderson Events Center at 200 Water Street.

Because not many diversity-oriented women's conferences seem to focus specifically on bringing Black women together, this year's theme is "Organizing for Collective Power," which is especially "crucial" because of crises in the Black community and "the most important thing" in this election year, according to Cunningham, event founder.

"We are hoping to tackle some tough issues and develop some real solutions," she said.

The summit aspires to bring together African-



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— Patricia Cunningham
Radio talk show host

American women and girls who are emerging as leaders. Participants will strategize and collaborate during the panel and discussion sessions about ways to meet the most pressing challenges facing Black families in Southern Nevada.

Summit organizers have defined immediate and long-range goals. Initially, finding ways for Black women to become politically proactive is paramount due to the inaugural summit being in a presidential election year.

"One of our invited guests, who has given us a tentative that she will come, is Michelle Obama," Cunningham said.

"It's scary how little some people know about the process," Cunningham said, pointing out that women are now faced with a challenge, referring to Democratic contenders Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., as popular groundbreakers.

"One of the main sessions at the event will be the dis-

ussion of gender versus race, and that has been the topic of discussion for quite some time — where women have to choose one or the other," Cunningham said.

Long-term solutions will be discussed to address other problems adversely affecting African-American women and families disproportionately, such as healthcare disparities and the need for wellness programs. Other topics include housing, job and business development, as well as a dire need for higher education and college funding sources.

The summit panel guests and workshop leaders are: Vice President for Planning and Chief of Staff Dr. Juanita Fain of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; mortgage broker and political organizer Yvette Williamson; Clark County Caucus Organizer Kenya Pierce of the (See Summit, Page 4)