

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 51

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

April 17, 2008

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Ex-felons given chance by law

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) stood behind President George Bush as he sat down, pen in hand, in front of the open folder. Among the string of witnesses beside Davis were Black Caucus members Reps. Bobby Scott (Va.), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (Ohio) and House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (Mich.).

It was a rare, but happily unified non-partisan gathering to sign what had once appeared to be a mission-impossible for Davis. It was five years ago when he first conceived, introduced and began fighting for the Second Chance Act to deter the recidivism rate that is so disparate among Black inmates. For five years straight, the legislation failed to make it through Congress.

Finally, mainly due to a Democratic Congress, the refusal of Davis and his Senate co-patron Joseph Biden (Del.) to give up, and some strong bipartisan coalescing, the Second Chance Act, last week, was being signed by Republican President Bush.

Davis is exuberant about the possible impact.

"It's a comprehensive approach to looking at what it takes to get a person back into normal life. Even more than the programs that are going to actually be funded, it is an opportunity to help Americans to change their mindsets and to help put corrections and rehabilitation as a central part of our criminal justice system," Davis said in an interview after the signing that took place inside the Old Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House. "There is no point in talking corrections until we do things to correct. The concept calls for be-

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Miss Texas reign supreme

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A 26-year-old entrepreneur from Texas was named Miss USA recently, besting 50 other beauty queens for the coveted crown.

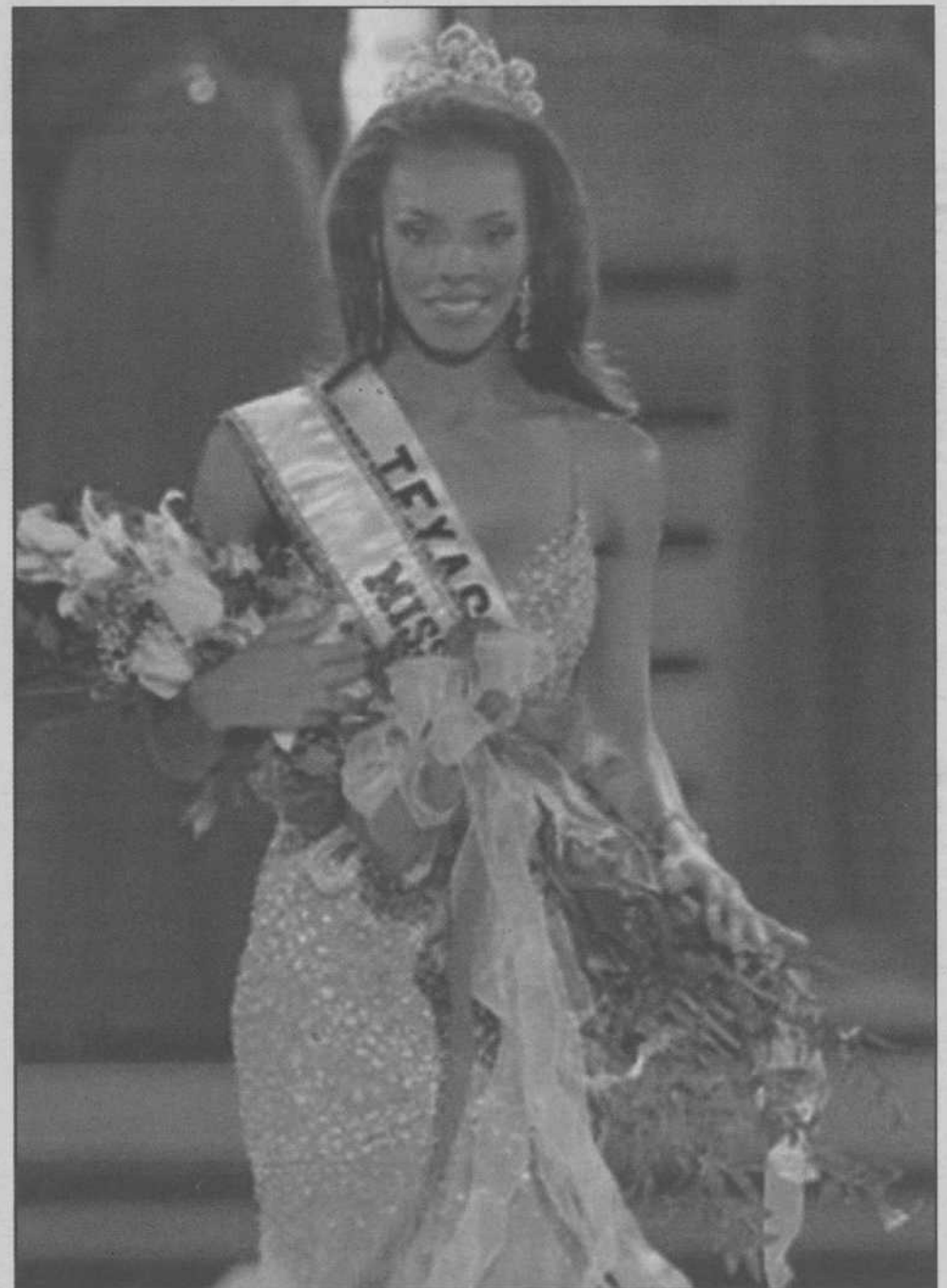
Crystle Stewart, of Missouri City, Texas, runs a party-planning and motivational speaking company, as well as modeling professionally. She says she wants to dedicate her life to international philanthropy.

"I want to talk to people about how to set a goal and achieve it," she said after the show. "Because I just achieved my goal."

Stewart edged out first runner-up Leah Laviano of Mississippi and Tiffany Andrade of New Jersey.

Miss USA 2007, Rachel Smith, relinquished the crown — and the posh New York apartment that comes with it — in a show aired live by NBC with hosts Donny and Marie Osmond from the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The network co-owns the parent Miss Universe Organization with Donald Trump.

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Crystle Stewart won the Miss USA Pageant held at the Planet Hollywood Hotel and Casino.

Culinary academy unveils expansive events facility

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Culinary Training Academy's new event center will be the focal point for training individuals to take many of the estimated 100,000 new jobs that will be added to the local economy over the next five years, CTA officials said in a Wednesday ceremony unveiling the property.

"With many large-scale developments scheduled to open over the next several years, Las Vegas will see a tremendous need for thousands of qualified, skilled workers in the hospitality industry," said Felix Rappaport, president and chief operating officer of the Luxor Hotel and Casino and

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Luxor Hotel and Casino president Felix Rappaport, left, and CTA CEO Steven Horsford in front of the events center.

Davis sorry for referring to Barack Obama as 'boy'

Special to Sentinel-Voice

U.S. Rep. Geoff Davis (R-Ky) apologized Monday for calling presidential contender and U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) "boy" during a Northern Kentucky dinner over the weekend.

"My poor choice of words is regrettable and was in no way meant to impugn you or your integrity," Davis wrote in a letter that staffers said was hand-delivered to Obama's U.S. Senate office. "I offer my sincere apology to you and ask for your forgiveness."

Davis continued: "Though we may disagree on many issues, I know that we share

the goal of a prosperous, secure future for our nation. My comment has detracted from the dialogue that we should all be having on legitimate policy differences and in no way reflects the personal and professional respect I have for you."

The word "boy" is considered extremely offensive by many African-Americans, as it was used by Southern Whites in the Jim Crow South to assert racial superiority.

Davis spoke at a private fundraiser held by the Northern Kentucky 4th Congressional District's Lincoln Day Dinner, also

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