

# Three jurors chosen in Kelly trial

CHICAGO (AP) — The wife of a Baptist preacher from R. Kelly's hometown, a business executive and a telecommunications company employee were the first three jurors chosen Monday for the R&B superstar's child pornography trial.

The executive, a middle-aged man, called child pornography "the lowest of the low" during questioning by the judge and attorneys.

But he said he felt he could give a fair trial to the 41-year-old Kelly, who is accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13.

At one point, Cook County Circuit Judge Vincent Gaughan said nobody in the room condoned child pornography and Kelly

appeared to nod his head in agreement.

Kelly, known for sexually charged hits like "Bump N' Grind," has pleaded not guilty. The alleged victim, now 23, says it wasn't her on the videotape.

Dressed in a dark silver-gray suit and matching tie, Kelly remained mostly pokerfaced Monday, sometimes appearing to study the faces of would-be jurors across the long conference table.

There were some moments of levity during the eight hours of questioning.

When one man mentioned that someone stole his car a decade ago, Gaughan leaned forward and said, "You know Mr. Kelly had nothing to do with that, right?"

Kelly, who was seated near a men's restroom, frequently held a tissue over his nose during the proceedings, and prosecutors complained about the odor coming from the room.

The preacher's wife from Olympia Fields, where Kelly lives, said her religious beliefs would not affect her service as a juror.

The judge reminded her that the trial involved "laws of man, not the laws of God," and she said she understood.

The telecommunications worker, a man in his 50s, said he'd didn't like seeing what he considered pornographic magazines at convenience stores, but he told the judge that wouldn't influence how he assessed the facts in Kelly's case.

He added that the only song he knew of Kelly's was the 1997 hit, "I Believe I Can Fly."

Potential jurors who were dismissed included a man in his 50s who prosecutors said clearly was awe-struck by Kelly's celebrity and a security guard who said Kelly would have "some explaining to do" if he was on the video.

About 15 potential jurors were questioned Monday; 20 others out of an initial pool of 150 were scheduled to face questions on Tuesday. Sixteen jurors, four of them alternates, are to be chosen for the trial. Court officials have said questioning and selection from the 150 potential jurors is expected to take *(See R. Kelly, Page 11)*

### Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON—New evidence was filed Friday in a long-running civil rights case against the Secret Service, including emails that portray an offensive image of a naked Black man and racist jokes. Among the 10 emails submitted to the court were jokes circulated within the agency that made fun of the way a "20-year-old fifth grader" in Harlem spoke; Rev. Jesse Jackson; and a Black golf caddy's work ethic.

"We are deeply disappointed by any communication or action on the part of our employees that exhibits racial or other insensitivity. We expect our employees to show better judgment," agency spokesman Eric Zahren said. "The Secret Service has a zero-tolerance non-discrimination policy. We do not and will not tolerate bias and discrimination of any kind."

"In 2000, a group of Black employees filed a lawsuit that alleges that since at least 1999, Black agents have been passed over for promotions because of their race. The plaintiffs also claim their White colleagues and supervisors regularly use a racial epithet to refer to criminal suspects and Black leaders of other countries. The lawsuit claims the Secret Service has always had a discriminatory culture."

Zahren said the 10 emails filed in court came from a comprehensive search of more than 20 million electronic documents over a 16-year period. "These emails are in no way a reflection of the agency or its policies or culture," he said.

Attorney E. Desmond Hogan said the Secret Service has been covering up evidence for years. He accused the Secret Service of dragging its feet by refusing to turn over documents and has asked a federal judge to resolve the dispute so the case can go to trial.

Last month an employee found a noose in one of the Secret Service's training centers. The employee who tied the noose out of canine training rope has since been placed on administrative leave, according to the agency.

In 2007, 80 percent of the people who worked at the Secret Service were White, and 10 percent were Black. *(See Emails, Page 10)*

# NYPD stop-frisk tactics called abusive

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Police Department's practice of stopping and frisking pedestrians in record numbers is plagued by racism and prone to excessive force, a panel of civil rights advocates and legal experts warned lawmakers on Monday.

"It's time for the federal government to step in and protect the citizens of this city," Rev. Al Sharpton said at a forum in lower Manhattan held by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Sharpton and other panelists advocated stricter independent oversight of the NYPD, and withholding federal funds from its coffers

unless it adopts reforms to root out racism. Some also questioned why Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and other police officials weren't there to respond.

"They have disrespected your chairmanship by their absence today," Sharpton told Conyers.

Congressional aides said an invitation through City Hall to include Kelly had been turned down. Kelly's spokesman insisted he never received one.

The event came in the wake of last month's acquittal of three police officers in the shooting of an unarmed Black man, Sean Bell, on his wedding day and amid recent reports that police had stopped about 145,000

people for searches during the first quarter of this year — the most of any quarter since the numbers were first made public in 2002.

Slightly more than 50 percent of the people stopped were Black, while about a fourth of the city's residents are Black, according to 2006

data.

"We see a clear pattern of racial profiling in the stop and frisk statistics we've seen in the past week," said U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., one of several elected officials on hand to hear the testimony.

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## Discipline

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confronted him over a broken headlight in February, then searched his vehicle for weapons.

Once the officers learned his name, it became "a source of much amusement, laughing and inappropriate joking amongst the officers, with crude and disgusting comments," Diallo's lawyer said in the suit.

Amadou Diallo was also the name of an unarmed immigrant killed in 1999 when four plainclothed officers, apparently mistakenly thinking he was reaching for a gun, fired 41 rounds in the doorway of a Bronx apartment building. The officers in that case were also acquitted of criminal charges.



## CARING, CONCERNED WOMEN

The sisterhood of the Southern Nevada Coalition of Concerned Women (SNCCW) held their 11th Annual Charity Luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel earlier this month. The special keynote speaker was the Honorable Alexis Herman, left of center, who was a former U.S. Secretary of Labor. SNCCW consists of women who share a concern for the political, educational and social problems in the community.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Bennie E. Palmore II

## ACE Resort Corridor Rapid Transit Study

In response to the ever increasing demand for faster service along the Las Vegas Valley's busiest roads, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is currently working on building a rapid transit system, ACE, that will traverse the Valley. Every aspect of ACE's function and design will parallel Las Vegas' world-class attractions and redefine the future of transit for Southern Nevada.

The RTC is currently conducting a transportation study of Las Vegas Boulevard. The study's objective is to examine transit improvement options and the feasibility of a rapid transit system within the resort corridor. The RTC proposes to implement ACE rapid transit service from the South Strip Transfer Terminal (SSTT) to downtown Las Vegas via the Las Vegas Strip.

### Learn More About ACE Rapid Transit and Share Your Transportation Suggestions

OPEN HOUSE  
Thursday, May 29, 2008  
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
South Strip Transfer Terminal  
6675 Gillespie Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Comments will be accepted  
May 29 to June 30, 2008.

Make your comments online, in person or by phone.

Questions: (702) 676-1606  
or [rtcsnv.com](http://rtcsnv.com)  
TDD: (702) 676-1834

Spanish interpreters will be available.

