

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



A Rand family picture at their reunion in Lodi, Texas. Black and White family members pose with a picture of their common White ancestor. The family was chronicled during CNN's groundbreaking series on the lives of Black Americans.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Jake Herrle/CNN

## CNN to examine Black life

By Bankole Thompson  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

(NNPA) "I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

I believe what self-centered men have torn down men other-centered can build up."

Those words from America's premier peace officer, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his 1964 Nobel Prize acceptance speech in Oslo have come to define Black

America today, where the battle for a decent living, a strong cultural identity, an empowering education, civil rights and economic liberation continues.

Hence, many say CNN's groundbreaking documentary "Black in America," pro-

duced by special correspondent and anchor Soledad O'Brien, is a timely journalistic work that cuts right into the heart of the issues shaping the future of Blacks in America.

The behemoth cable (See CNN, Page 6)

## NBA stresses reading to youth

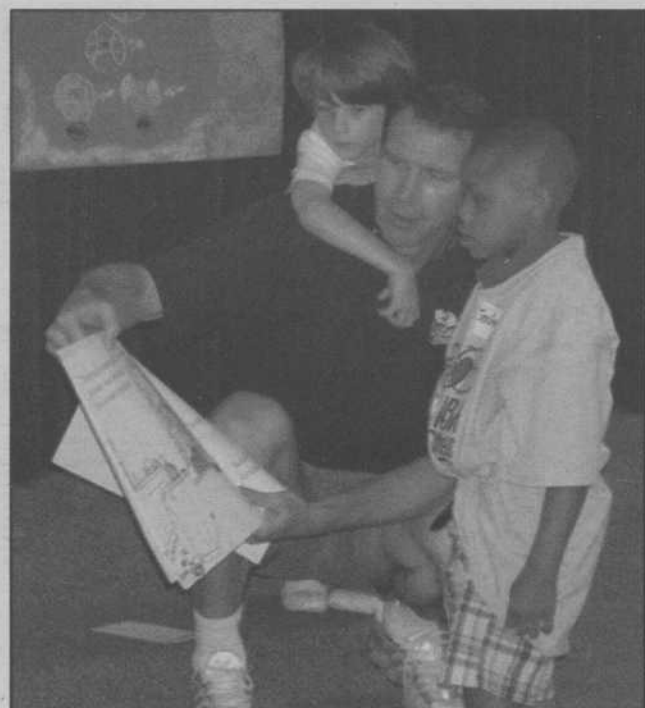
By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

Hoopsters past and present from the National Basketball Association read to 27 special education students at Mabel Hoggard Math/Science Elementary Magnet School as part of the NBA Cares program.

The community initiative reaches out to the needy areas in cities across the nation and works to make a difference in the lives of youths.

The NBA is in town because its summer league program, presented by EA Sports, is hosting its tryouts, and training sessions for rookies, draft picks, young veterans and those in the free agent market.

This was the second time that the NBA Cares program



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Former NBA player Kiki Vandeweghe takes part in an NBA-sponsored reading program at Mabel Hoggard Elementary.

hosted an event at the school. In 2007 during the NBA's All Star Week activities, players assembled at the school to assist in the refurbishing efforts.

The NBA Cares program is one fact of league's social responsibility initiative. It builds on the NBA's long tradition of addressing important issues in the United States and around the world. The NBA, its teams and players have committed to donating \$100 million to charity, providing a million hours of hands-on service to the community and creating 250 places where kids and families can live, learn or play, according to its website.

Players take part in many of the program's activities.

(See NBA, Page 12)

## Bond: Bush eyed NAACP's demise

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, at the organization's 99th National Convention in Cincinnati this week, showed no letting up on his marathon of criticism of President George W. Bush, this election year saying Bush has "united Americans around a desire for change."

Recalling threats from the Internal Revenue Service because of what the IRS implied were partisan attacks in recent years, Bond continued in his vintage in-your-face style.

"President Bush said he wanted to be a uniter. It took him seven years, but boy, has he succeeded. He has united Americans around a desire for change. He has united Americans in our anxiety — about our economic well-being and our dreams deferred; about an unpopular war of choice; and about America's reduced standing in the world," he said. "In 2004, the Internal Revenue Service threatened to revoke the NAACP's tax exempt status because I dared to criticize President Bush. During the Civil Rights Movement, we sang songs to bolster our resolve. One of them said, 'Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around.' Well, we ain't gonna let nobody turn us around, including the IRS, and the NAACP will continue to speak truth to power until this administration leaves town."

In the past, Bond has described the political operations of the Bush administration as everything from "the Taliban wing of American politics" to "snake oil."

When the IRS threatened the organization's tax exempt status four years ago, Bond held his ground. The case was eventually dropped.

"What the NAACP did not do in 2004 — and will not do now — is endorse a candidate. We always have been and we always will be scrupulously nonpartisan," Bond said. "But that doesn't mean we necessarily reject partisanship. It has its place, especially when our two major political parties exist on two separate planets, and one is dominated by neo-cons, theo-cons, and nativists."

With that, Bond expressed excitement to the audience of thousands about the presidential candidacy of Sen. Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee and possibly the nation's first Black president.

Bond said the country seems proud, and rightly so, that a candidate campaigning in cities where he could not have stayed in a hotel 40 years ago has nearly won the Democratic nomination for president.

However, he pointed to the racial stereotypes and White supremacy that still exists.

"On the heels of Barack Obama's clinching the nomination came the crude dissing of Michelle Obama as his 'baby momma' and the suggestion by Ralph Nader that Obama 'wants to talk White,'" Bond said.

Meeting the year before the NAACP's 100th birthday celebration, Bond pointed out that the organization has faced major financial woes as well as a dwindling membership.

Having claimed up to a half million members in recent decades, the organization documented approximately 250,000 two years ago during the presidential administration of Bruce Gordon.

"In all these 99 years, we've never had enough mem-

(See Convention, Page 2)