

Rainbow Dreams Academy honors rights leader

By *Lés Pierre Streater*
Sentinel-Voice

An internationally recognized civil and human rights activist, Xernona Clayton is used to getting awards. As founder, president, and chief executive officer of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and the creator and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards—which honors those who've made positive community impacts—she's also used to giving them out. Recently, Clayton was the recipient of a particularly heartfelt honor: The multipurpose auditorium in the Valley's newest charter school was dedicated in her name.

Students, administrators and local dignitaries joined Clayton for the commemorative celebration at Rainbow Dreams Academy, a K-5 charter school in West Las Vegas.

"I am so proud to be here this morning to join with our community in congratulating Xernona Clayton," said Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, who emceed the event. "Thank you for being here and your commitment to the Rainbow Dreams Academy."

Before working exclusively with the Trumpet Awards, Clayton spent 30 years at Turner Broadcasting, where she served as corporate vice president for urban affairs with Turner Broadcasting System. She also worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation under the direction of

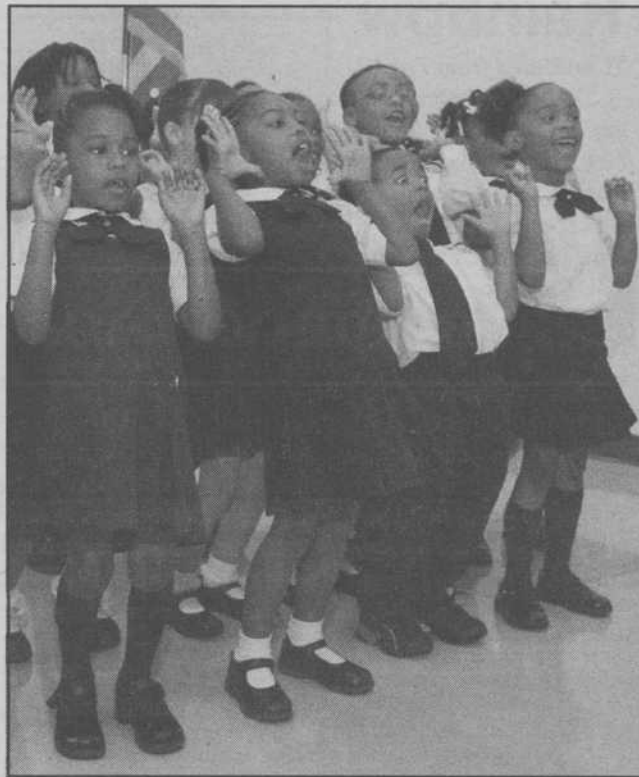
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Coretta Scott King.

Elder Bernice King, daughter of the late Martin Luther King Jr., made a special guest appearance at the dedication. "I'm here today, first and foremost, for the love that I have for Xernona Clayton. My mother and her were very good friends, and she worked closely with my father. I appreciate all that she represents."

"The pride and treasure of our nation is our young children. When my father spoke about his dream for this nation, he spoke specifically about his children. He said, 'I have a dream that one day my children will live in a na-

tion where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.' In much respect, he was not just talking about the four of us but he was talking about each and every one of you."

Also on hand was Tennessee State University President Melvin Johnson, who introduced Clayton. "When I think about the name of this school, the Rainbow Dreams Academy, and start first with Rainbow, I look at these children because they are rainbows with a pot of gold at the end. Dreams, you as the educators are the architects of those dreams to make them come true. And finally,



Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson
Students at the Rainbow Dreams Academy in West Las Vegas perform during a ceremony naming their auditorium.



Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson
Xernona Clayton, standing up with flowers in her hand, greets a young man during the commemoration ceremony naming Rainbow Dreams Academy's auditorium after her.

Academy, the answer to all of the questions that these children will have in life that are asked by them."

When it was Clayton's time to speak, she delivered an address heavy on reverie for the sacrifices leaders of yesteryear made so that a quality education was avail-

able to everyone, regardless of race or socio-economic status.

"As we sit here in an institution of learning, it was in 1954, that Brown v. the Board of Education, gave us a chance for equal opportunities in education, and Nancy Todd Noches, the first

plaintiff in that case is here with us. It was the courage of Nancy and her mother (Lucinda Todd) who laboriously gave up their time and energy to fight for our children to have a quality education. Thank you for all you have done for us."

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O.J.

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after the case.

"I think he's an ordinary man that made a bad decision," she said. "I prayed for him and Stewart and the attorneys. I don't have any ill feelings, and if they walked out tomorrow, so be it."

Simpson, 61, was acquitted in 1995 of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles. He was later found liable for the deaths in a civil case. He had claimed in the robbery case that he was trying to reclaim mementos stolen from him.

The jury also reacted to complaints by Simpson's lawyers that there were no Blacks on the panel; both defendants are Black. One juror identified herself in a court questionnaire as Hispanic. "We've been painted as an all-White jury who hates O.J., and that's just not true," Pettit said.

Asked why they convicted Stewart, whom some observers saw as a minor player, juror Teresa Owens said: "The thing that clinched it for me is he drove the car. He walked out with items. He came out of that room with items that didn't belong to him."

Said juror Consuelo Saldivar: "He didn't leave. If he walked in and saw what was going on, he could have walked out."

He then continued to participate in a cover-up, jurors said, which made him a conspirator.

Foreman Paul Connelly said it might have been a waste for prosecutors to give plea deals to several Simpson co-defendants in exchange for their testimony, since the jury did not rely on it.

Simpson's lawyer Yale Galanter told The Associated Press earlier Sunday that the former Heisman Trophy winner is hoping for a new trial and a strong bid to reverse his conviction. He is being isolated from other prisoners in the Clark County Detention Center for his own safety, and is allowed to see only family members and a few friends, he said.

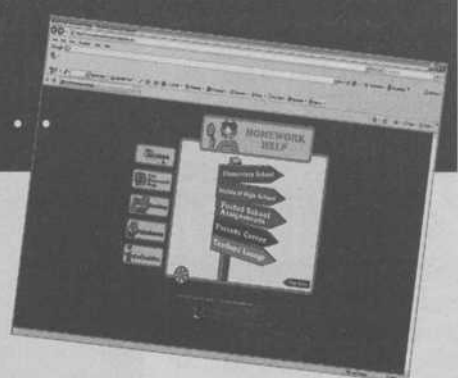
Simpson will be held at the detention center until his sentencing in December and then is expected to be moved to state prison. Galanter said he will pursue a request for Simpson to be released on bond during the appeals process.

"He's disappointed and a bit melancholy," Galanter said.

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