



The West Las Vegas Library Theater served as the drop-off point for the 14th Annual Shoes for Children shoe drive/holiday concert on Saturday.

Ronnie Rose



Phil Flowers



Marian Pennick

Bits 'n' Pieces

Oprah Winfrey rated most powerful person in the entertainment industry

(TMS) The *Hollywood Reporter* last week released its annual "Power 100 List" of the most influential women in the nation's entertainment industry. Atop the list this year was television talk-show diva and billionaire Oprah Winfrey. The magazine labeled Winfrey a person of "immense cultural influence" and possibly "the most influential woman in America." The 54-year-old Winfrey was ranked number 6 on the list last year. The second spot on the most powerful list went to Anne Sweeney, president of the Disney ABC Television Group. She was followed by Amy Pascal, chairman of Sony Pictures Entertainment.



Oprah Winfrey

"House of Payne" rated top show among African-American TV viewers



House of Pain cast

(TMS) According to *Broadcasting and Cable* magazine, the most popular show among African-American television viewers is Tyler Perry's *House of Payne* which airs on TBS. The show scores a primetime leading 6.3 household average among Blacks 18 to 54. The second most popular show among Blacks is Fox's *Family Guy* followed by ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* and CBS' *60 Minutes*. For those who have not seen it, *House of Payne* is a comedy series involving a multi-generational, working class family.

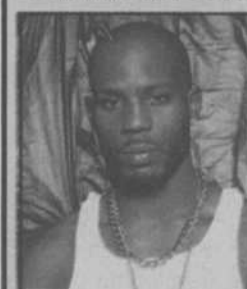
"American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino in danger of losing her home

(TMS) Court documents made public last week show *American Idol* winner Fantasia Barrino is on the verge of losing her home in Charlotte, N.C. because she allegedly failed to repay a company which loaned her money to pay her taxes in 2006. The home is valued at \$1.1 million. Barrino ascended to national stardom after winning television's *American Idol* competition in 2004. A single mother and a high school dropout, Barrino has released two albums and debuted on Broadway in the musical version of "The Color Purple." If the auctioning of the house takes place as scheduled in January, Barrino will not be homeless. She owns another home in the Charlotte area. Ironically, Barinno's autobiography is titled "Life Is Not a Fairly Tale."



Fantasia Barrino

DMX arrested in Miami on warrant



DMX

MIAMI (AP) — Rapper DMX is back behind bars again in Miami after he was arrested by federal authorities for allegedly skipping out on a court appearance. The 37-year-old, whose real name is Earl Simmons, was arrested in the afternoon of Dec. 9 on a warrant issued by a Phoenix judge after he wasn't in court. Attorney Charles Kozelka says the entertainer had been in and out of rehab in Florida for a couple of weeks. DMX was being held at the Miami-Dade County jail. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of drug possession, identity theft and animal cruelty in Arizona. He will be returned to Phoenix, where bond is set at \$120,000.

DVD explains history of Kwanzaa

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

Kwanzaa has come a long way since it was created by Maulana Ron Karenga in California 42 years ago. The now mainstream holiday is observed each year between December 26 and January 1 by over 40 million black folks around the world interested in honoring their African heritage. The U.S. Postal Service has even issued a commemorative Kwanzaa stamp which is why it should come as no surprise to see the arrival of the first feature-length documentary about the annual celebration.

Written and directed by M.K. Asante, the movie is



narrated by former U.S. Poet Laureate Maya Angelou and features contemporary interviews with Karenga, rapper Chuck D, pro football Hall of Famer Jim Brown and numerous other luminaries who weigh in on the value of Kwanzaa and its seven prin-

ciples: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

Dr. Molefi Asante, father of the director, suggests that the holiday was born more out of a cultural crisis than an identity crisis because, historically, African-American school kids have had "two sets of notes — one for the test, one for the truth." Malcolm X affirms this notion, courtesy of file footage, indicating, "You can't help hating Africa and not help yourself." Similar sentiments

are expressed by the late novelist James Baldwin when he wistfully acknowledges that, "There are days when you wonder what your role is in this country and what your future is in it."

For this reason, Dr. Scot Brown concludes that Kwanzaa as important because it "insists on celebrating our Africaness," while Angelou tells future generations, "You owe no racial debt to history." A most informative DVD aimed at anyone interested in exploring the roots of Kwanzaa or explaining its meaning to young children.

Excellent (4 stars). Unrated.