

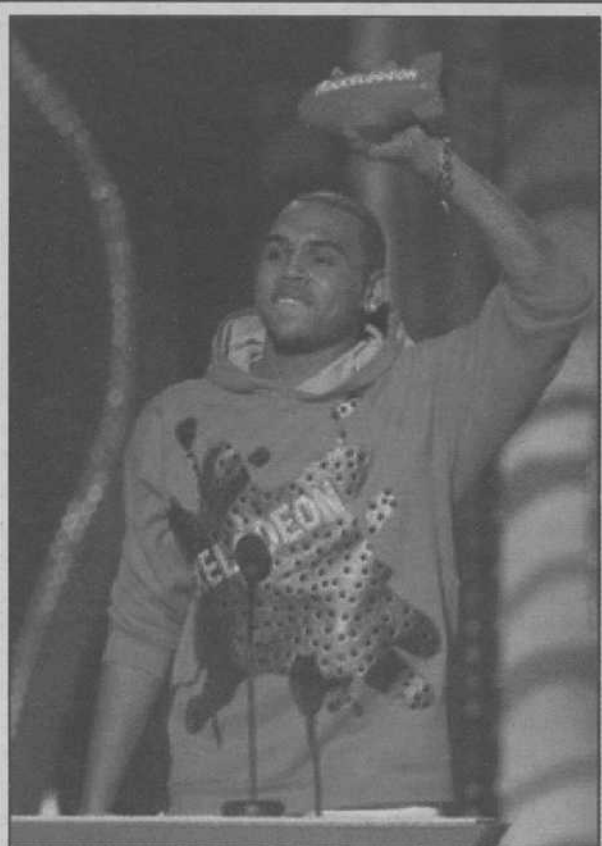
LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 46

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

March 12, 2009

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Chris Brown's alleged battery of girlfriend Rihanna not only threatens his freedom, but has tarnished his star.

Brown, Rihanna fallout growing

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — More than a month after the assault that left Rihanna bloodied and bruised, the situation gets more grim for the once-brilliant career of Chris Brown, her boyfriend and alleged attacker.

Despite reports that the couple has reconciled — including reports of an apparent duet recording session — public animosity toward Brown, Billboard's artist of the year for 2008, seems to be growing.

Radio stations are dropping his music, and on Wednesday he voluntarily removed his name from the ballot of Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards, for which he was twice nominated just before his Feb. 8 arrest for alleged assault.

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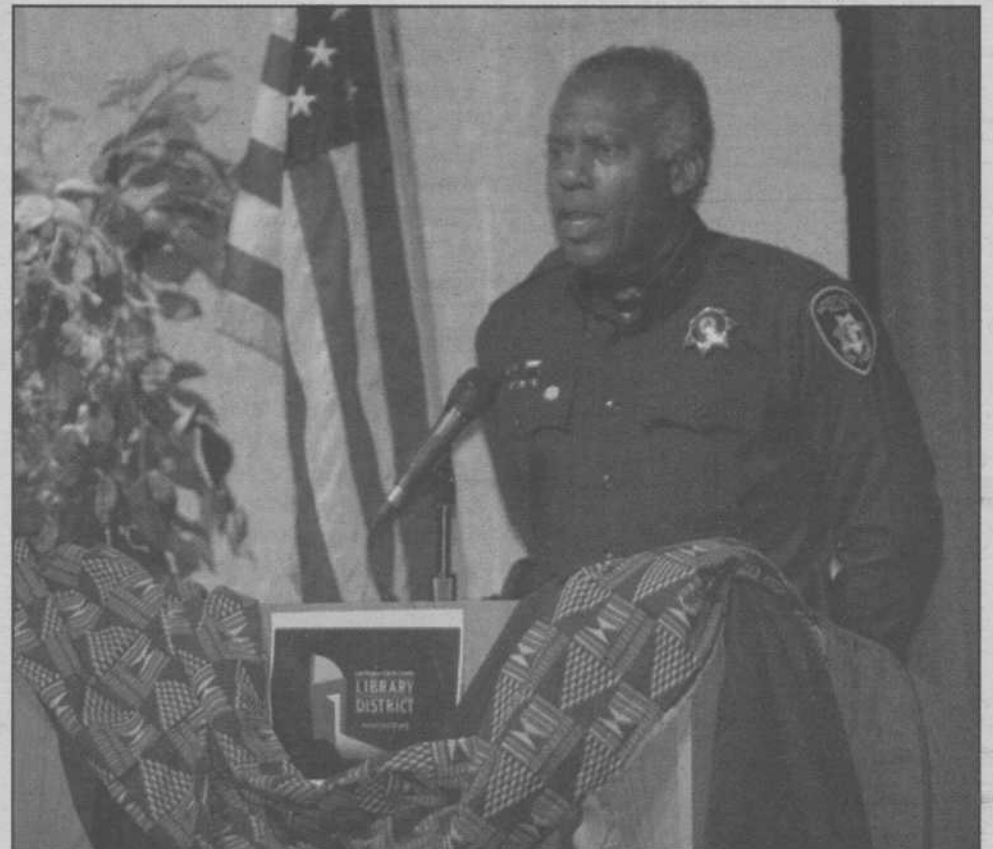
Top cop seeks change

By Martine Ramos
Special to Sentinel-Voice

As the son of a former Clark County sheriff's deputy, Rod Jett knew at an early age he was destined for police work. Save for a two-year stint in the Marines, where he was stationed on Guam, law enforcement has been Jett's life's work, and all of that work has taken place here. These days Jett is undersheriff of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the second most powerful man in the largest police agency in Clark County. He's also the highest-ranking African-American on the force.

Sheriff Douglas Gillespie hand-picked Jett for his position. "I chose Rod Jett because he was qualified for this job," Gillespie said. "I chose Rod because I have great respect for him as a professional, and I knew he would always be honest with me and speak his mind. And I need that from the person in the number two position. Rod is everything I could have hoped for in an undersheriff, and I am glad he accepted the position when I asked him."

Jett's father, an airman, was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base when Jett was born. Rod matriculated through the public school system and, as a young man, entered the police academy



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Undersheriff Rod Jett spoke recently to more than 200 young males at a leadership conference at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre.

in 1978. Jett worked a beat for two years. In 1981, he became one of only two officers to be assigned to Metro's first police department community relations office, located in the Nucleus Plaza in West Las Vegas.

"The community relations office was created to open up a dialog between the [police] department and members of the community," Jett said. "I went in there with my Caucasian partner, and it showed

the people, who had, up until this time, been guarded and suspicious of the police, that we were accessible to them."

Jett said that the relationship with the minority communities created understanding and respect, something that continued over the next three decades.

"We demonstrated a commitment to inclusion by forming a multicultural forum that brought together

community leaders, like the Black Muslim leaders, leaders of Christian congregations, like Rev. Dr. Robert Fowler, Rev. Willie Cherry and others, the NAACP, and members of the business community. Through Sheriff [Douglas C.] Gillespie's Safe Village Coalition, we established Safe Village in the African-American community and Safe Valley in the Hispanic community. People

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Study: Children of imprisoned parents often suffer

By James Wright
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — When Lawrence Miller was in jail in Prince George's County for receiving stolen property in June 2007 and in the District's jail for violating probation in September, he missed his friends and close family members with whom he interacted on a daily basis. But the one person he missed the most was his 9-year-old son.

"I had no contact with my

son while I was locked up and that really hurt," the 31-year-old D.C. resident said. "His mother, who I say is a friend, would not bring him to the jail in Maryland [Upper Marlboro] or D.C. jail to see me. Because of that, I missed out on some things."

"I did have a chance to write him a letter but that was the extent of the contact. I wish I could have seen him."

Miller is an example of what some social scientists and professionals in public

policy say is an increasingly disturbing trend: parents who are incarcerated.

According to a report released Feb. 9 by the D.C.-based Sentencing Project, mass incarceration has had significant and long-lasting impacts on American society and particularly on communities of color.

"There is a growing awareness that parents who go to prison do not suffer the consequences alone; the children of incarcerated parents

often lose contact with their parent and visits are sometimes rare," said Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project and co-author of the report, *Incarcerated Parents and their Children: Trends 1991-2007*.

"Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to drop out of school, engage in delinquency and subsequently be incarcerated themselves."

The report was based on statistics released by the U.S.

Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics citing data from 1997, 2004 and 2007.

"There is a growing awareness that parents who go to prison do not suffer the consequences alone..."

The report states that in 2007, there were 1.7 million children in the United States with a parent in prison, more than 70 percent of them children of color. The report presents other disturbing statistics such as:

—One in 43 American

children has a parent in prison. In terms of race, it is one in 15 Black children, one in 42 Latinos compared to Whites, which is one in 111.

—In 2007, there were 809,800 parents incarcerated in state and federal prisons, an increase of 79 percent since 1991.

—In 2007, 52 percent of all incarcerated men and women were parents.

—Two-thirds of the incarcerated parent population is

(See Incarceration, Page 2)