

Bilbray's Alternatives To Youth: Self-Discipline * Effort * Initiative * Involvement

Congressman Bilbray officially inaugurated the Congressional Award program for youth residing in Nevada's First Congressional District. The introduction was at 3:30 pm on Friday, October 27, 1989 on the steps of Las Vegas High School, 7th Street and Bridger.

Bilbray stated, "I'm standing on the steps of my Alma Mater today with the same hopes and dreams for today's youth as I once had. I realize the pressures are different; life has always been a challenge. This is truly a homecoming for all of us, and I want to share what I have learned with young people. One way to do this is by offering the Congressional Award Medal to Southern Nevada youths."

The Congressman will then meet with students involved in the NALA Youth Program, 323 North Maryland Pkwy., at 4:15 pm to announce the Congressional Award Program.

The Congressional Award Medal, authorized by Congress in 1979, will be given to young persons who accomplish high goals in voluntary service, personal development, and physical fitness. This is the only program of its kind that gives youth a chance to be the best they can be, without the

pressures of competition. Bilbray added, "Nevada has never offered a program of this kind before. This program gives young people an opportunity to express their abilities in a positive way, and the only competition is personal to the individual."

What makes this program so exciting is that it gives any and all students an opportunity to participate. It provides reinforcement to "at-risk" youths who may not otherwise foresee many

opportunities in their future. Bilbray declared, "The Award program enables our youth to become contributors to our community. We want to recognize any youth who sets goals, and attains these goals, as an individual."

For more information about becoming involved in this congressional program, a student can contact a school counselor or any area youth organization. Anyone interested in becoming an adviser or activity specialist can contact Congressman Bilbray's office at 477-7000, or Donna Barber, Chairperson of the Congressional Award Council at 799-5960.

'The Drug Crisis' Topic Of Discussion In Forums

The public is invited to participate in the National Issues Forums, a series of study circles that bring citizens together to discuss and learn about issues of public concern. The library will issue a booklet for the Nevada topic, "The Drug Crisis: Public Strategies for Breaking the Habit," for those attending the forum to read before the meeting. Pre-registration is required by calling the branch library.

The schedule of forums is Monday, November 6, 7 pm, and Saturday, November 18, 1 pm, at the Clark County Library Conference Room, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 733-3613; Wednesday, Novem-

ber 8, 7 pm, West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd., 647-2117; Thursday, November 9, 1 pm and Monday, November 20, 7 pm, Green Valley Library, 2797 N. Green Valley Parkway, 435-1840; Monday, November 13, 7 pm, Rainbow Library, 6010 W. Cheyenne Blvd., 645-7500; Tuesday, November 14, 7 pm, Spring Valley Library, 4280 So. Jones Blvd., 368-4411; Thursday, November 16, 7 pm, Sunrise Library, 5400 Harris Avenue, 453-1104; Tuesday, November 21, 7 pm, Charleston Heights Library, 800 Brush Street, 878-3682.

NCNE Hosts Anti-Drug Teleconference

More than 1,500 people in scores of cities across the nation recently assembled for town meetings where they participated directly in the "Not Here You Don't!" anti-drug satellite teleconference originating here at the Biz-NET studios.

Sponsored by the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, (NCNE), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, the telecast was viewed and heard by an additional 60 million people via satellite, tv, cable tv stations, and radio simulcast.

The "Not Here You Don't!" telecast will have a tremendous effect on the already burgeoning national neighborhood anti-drug movement in the same way that the student sit-ins propelled the civil rights movement of the 60's", predicts Robert L. Woodson, founder and president of NCNE.

National Islam national spokespersons, Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad; and Trenton, N.J.-based Baptist youth minister and evangelist, the Reverend Buster Soaries, co-hosted the panel discussion on "The Role of Religious Institutions in the Anti-Drug Movement."

They were joined by The Reverend Lee Earl, Baptist minister of Detroit, and director of the REACH, Inc., anti-drug program; the Reverend H. Michael Lemmons, Executive Director of the National Congress of National Black Church, an inter-denominational Black religious organization; and the Reverend Harvey Clemmons, Executive Director of the fifth ward Drug and Redevelopment program, Houston, TX.

An Open Letter To The African American Pan-Hellenic Community

from

Ramona Hoage Edelin, Ph.D.
President, The National Urban Coalition

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to you tonight with a heavy heart, because of the escalating violence, criminal hazing, "underground" pledging activities, and lawlessness which have become evident among so many of our undergraduate chapters. Fighting, injury, abduction and even death are arising out of this behavior. As the adults -- elders -- of our group, we have a responsibility to take counsel with each other, and to act as a culture to change this tragic behavior among our children. In the context of the African American Cultural Offensive, this is the classic case of a time when cultural integrity, power and correctness must step in to change or correct intolerable behavior.

I write to you tonight to earnestly implore us, as the African American Pan-Hellenic Elders, to institute policy at the Grand Chapter level, and put into action throughout our collective network of chapters and individual members, a plan by which delegations of alumnae chapter members of African American Greek Letter Organizations become more directly involved in the orientation and initiation of undergraduate chapters in their neighborhood, town, city or region.

How will our undergraduates share our common values and ways of doing things, if we do not share with them? Who will teach them the real value of our sororities and fraternities, which is that educated African Americans need to bond like sisters and brothers, and form groups according to the values, goals, styles and preferences of their members; and they then need to decide as a group how they will work together on behalf of the uplift of our people. We have done that very well at times in our histories, but we are doing very poorly today. There is a clear role and function for Greeks in our culture; and there is a clear need, as thousands of graduate chapter initiates prove each year. We need to bond together, unify, and form a powerful network of educated professionals across the country and the world. But are we doing

what we could and should be doing to be examples of what the values represent; and are we passing our tradition and standards on to the next generation? Clearly, we are not.

I believe we should go talk to each of our undergraduate chapters, to share with them what the organization means and stands for; where we have been -- to get this garb but no further; why leadership and service to the vast masses of our people are so important, and central to our advancement. To let them know we love and care for them; and that we recognize their talent and their problems, and we have something in the way of practical wisdom to share with them. To guide them in their handling of pledging initiates and in our matters of representation. Not to dominate, intimidate, castigate or in any way disrespect, but to be the adults, the elders; and to show the way as is natural and correct for it to be shown. By example.

My brothers and sisters, how can we have any earthly hope of helping our children who have literally been turned out into the streets and who live in an environment of gang and drug violence if we do not guide and nurture the Talented Tenth?

Please become personally involved at this crucial time, to stem this tide before it rises any higher by becoming involved with our children. We can't be too tired, too busy climbing that corporate ladder, too otherwise self-indulgent, to come to the aid of our children when they obviously need our help. We can't leave them in this state of knowing what Greekdom looks like, but not knowing what it is really all about. Let's share our understanding and experiences with them, and provide practical help where we can and it is desired by the young people.

We will be following-up with you as much as possible, through the African American Cultural Offensive, to offer suggestions and resources.

We can do what we will do!
Yours in Unity,

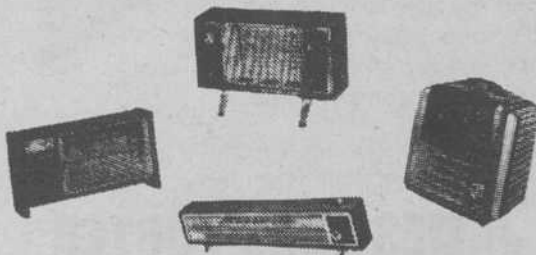
Ramona H. Edelin (Alpha Beta Chapter, Fisk University, 1966 Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated)



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