

SBA

(Continued from Page 11)

declining. "There's a lot of high tech services involved, and it's the field (other minorities) are in. That's a trend nationwide," Fountain said.

When presented with figures for Las Vegas, local SBA **Health**

(Continued from Page 6)

immune system, which inhibits the body's ability to control abnormal cell growth, some viruses may actually stimulate the growth and development of certain cells, which can then lead to uncontrolled multiplication of these cells.

CALCIUM UPDATE: If you have a lactose intolerance problem, you can still take in adequate amounts of calcium from dairy sources such as yogurt and hard cheeses. You can also find calcium in foods such as tofu, sardines, salmon (eat the bones, too!) kale, and broccoli.

Incidentally, many people who believe they are lactose intolerant may find they can tolerate lower amounts of dairy foods. Dr. Michael Levitt of the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, says, "It's often more a question of how much milk one drinks than whether one can drink any milk at all.

Economic Development Specialist Joe Luna said, "personally, I think there is something definitely wrong (with those figures), but I would have to Washington to see who the firms were."

Luna has worked with the 8(a) "from the beginning" but has worked locally for only six months, he said. Before that "the portfolio hasn't been working out of this office (for the last two years)...No one was here."

One explanation for the disparity may be that "they're letting a lot of firms into the programs, and there's no opportunities for them in the government," he said.

New York Style Pest Control, for example, has been in the nine-year program for five years

Medicines

(Continued from Page 6)

patients from getting the drug — which is only approved for certain eye disorders. He recently wrote in the Appleton (Wisconsin) Sunday Post-Crescent: "Reforming the FDA should be a top priority because it would save grief, pain and lives."

• Pamela Conford suffered severe migraine headaches, accompanied by vomiting and drowsiness. She finally found a drug that helped — but she had to get it from overseas for two years until it was finally approved by the FDA. She wrote in the June 11, 1995 Waterbury (Connecticut) Sunday Republican, "It's time for Congress and the Food and Drug Administration to find a way — without sacrificing safety and efficacy — to allow Americans to benefit from medicines that are already helping people overseas."

Larry Lucas is Associate Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

but have not gotten a single contract, because extermination is subcontracted out of maintenance contracts, co-owner Zyra Thomas said.

"They haven't been able to do to much for us. We've gotten our contracts from subcontractors," Thomas said.

Although Thomas has seen others do well in the program, "it depends on the kind of business you have," she said.

Right now, Luna is working with Nellis Air Force Base officials to see if they can split out some of the maintenance contracts.

"You expect some kind of return, especially when you've been promised things," she said. "We're giving them another chance."

National SBA officials also insist they are not responsible for any disparities.

"If the firms market themselves aggressively, these kinds of anomalies can exist," said senior adviser Ira Sockowitz.

True they grant credentials to the companies, but "that and 50 cents will get you a cup of coffee," said SBA spokesperson Jeanne Saddler

"Federal agencies can decide

which of their contracts will be received for this program," Saddler said. "We do not in the final analysis award the contracts."

When asked whether contract distribution patterns as seen in Las Vegas were unusual, officials said, figures alone may not indicate a problem, because these programs are regularly audited.

Neither Sockowitz or Saddler could, however, say when the

last audit was performed, nor could they provide a copy of it on deadline.

Countered Alford, SBA officials "identify the agencies, and they do the networking. They have a very strong responsibility, and they make it happen," he said.

"They do not let the contracts, but they do make it happen," he said. "They cannot wash their hands of this."



License Day Fair Fun

Clark County employee Pat Thomas, right, assists entrepreneur Gerald King with information on obtaining the proper paperwork for receiving a business license. More than 100 potential business people attended the one-day fair at the West Las Vegas Library Theater Tuesday. The event was sponsored by the Economic Opportunity Board's Micro Business Program.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

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