

NEWS CLIPS

FORMER SENATOR REID AIDE INDICTED IN PYRAMID SCAM

Eric Jordan, the former director of U.S. Senator Harry Reid's regional office was one of 27 people sued last week by the state attorney general's office in connection with this spring's widespread pyramid scheme that promised participants a \$16,000 payoff on a \$2,000 cash investment. Others included Las Vegas police Sgts. William Reed and James Carroll, officers Regina Coward and James Baker and state probation officer Kenneth Wheaton. Authorities suspect thousands of people were duped into the scheme that relied on relatives and friends to recruit others. Those who were sued are accused of promoting the scam and violating the Nevada Deceptive Trade Practices Act. All the defendants face fines and must surrender the profits to the state.

HOSPITAL STAFF GOES BEFORE COUNTY COMMISSION

During more than two hours of testimony at Tuesday's County Commission meeting, several commissioners expressed that additional equal opportunity division staff members may be required to speed up an investigation into complaints filed by several University Medical Center employees. Over a dozen UMC employees testified Tuesday that hospital officials have been slow to respond to employee complaints of racial discrimination and sexual harassment. During a heated discussion, employees noted the recent findings listed in a report, which cited 94 complaints filed since 1993, done by the county's equal opportunity division. To date, 38 of the complaints have been investigated with 10.5 percent of the complaints showing "probable cause."

POLITICAL CONVENTION SEQUEL TO MILLION MAN MARCH

The three-day National Political Convention, a follow-up to last October's Million Man March, will convene Sept. 27-29 at the America's Center TWA Dome in St. Louis, Mo. The convention, which is organized by Million Man March Inc. and the National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS), will address the issues impacting urban areas and the poor, say officials. The convention "signals a new day in Black politics. This is a move toward independent political participation. This is a move toward affirming that our politics is going to be God centered, not white male centered," said march convenor, the Rev. Ben Chavis, executive director of NAALS. For information call the NAALS at 202-726-5111.

IMPORTANT VITAMIN PREVENTS BIRTH DEFECTS

The Florida Sentinel reported many women are unaware that during pregnancy, and even before, they need folic acid, a nutrient that helps prevent certain types of birth defects known as Neural Tube Defects (NTDs). NTDs are spinal tube defects, or malformations of the spinal cord and/or brain that result in fetal malformations such as Spina Bifida. The Sentinel states daily multiple vitamin supplements contain 0.4 milligrams of folic acid, but warns against taking more than one milligram of folic acid alone without doctor's orders.

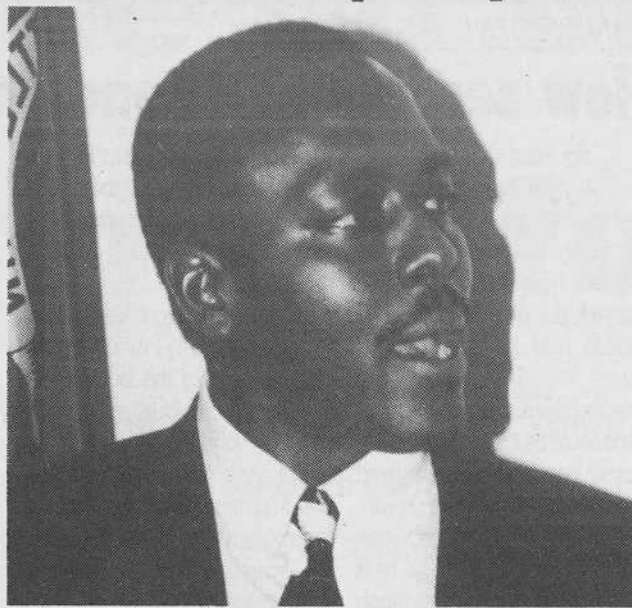
ALI PROGRAM MAY MEAN NEW JOBS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was the guest of honor Aug. 21, at the "First Annual Muhammad Ali Community Service Award Dinner" in Chicago, reported the Chicago Defender. The dinner was held on behalf of the Muhammad Ali Community and Economic Development Corporation (MACEDC). A private, invitation-only event, it was attended by both Mayor Richard Daily and Henry Cisneros, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The mission of MACEDC is to employ and train low-income, public-housing residents in the building trades in a partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). Its purpose is "to empower public-housing residents to develop and implement community and economic enterprises within public housing," said Otis Monroe, director of public affairs for MACEDC. The program has been in existence since last September. Northern Trust and First National Bank of Evergreen Park are lending partners with MACEDC. For more information about the organization call 312-752-3726.

INCHING TOWARDS A SENSITIVE BUDGET IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's women budget initiative, an attempt to develop poverty programs targeting women, who represent the majority of the country's poorer, is progressing, albeit slowly reports IPS. Debbie Budlender, a member of the group that has completed work on a pilot project identifying ways of reallocating existing budgets to improve the status of women, says the problem with the current gender-blind budget is that departments are under no obligation to evaluate their performance in relation to gender and poverty. As a result, policies that seem to work for the good of all actually disadvantage women. "We are saying if women are 53 percent of the population, the budget should reflect that," Nomtuse Mbere, a consultant at the Development Bank of South Africa, told IPS. First presented to the finance ministry in 1994, the South Africa initiative is modeled on one developed by Australia, but says Budlender, the team did not even look at the women's budget program in Australia let alone draw lessons from it.

Businessman parlays hard times, faith into success



JAMES W. ANDERSON

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

The lack of a basic high school education would almost certainly mean failure for anyone in this day and age. But not always. Especially not in the case of local businessman James W. Anderson.

Anderson, president of Apex Maintenance Inc., one of southern Nevada's largest janitorial and industrial cleaning services, was unable to read or write just over 10 years ago, and says his experiences as a youth in the South, combined with faith, has led to his current success.

Born and raised in Bunkie, Louisiana, a small town located in central Louisiana about 70 miles from the state capitol of Baton Rouge, Anderson often found himself in trouble.

"I was a gambler," Anderson said of younger years. "I liked to gamble and knew how to gamble. Even though I didn't know how to read, I could comprehend things."

Little did he know at the time, however, how his gambling would indirectly change the course of his life.

While shooting dice on a Louisiana street corner in 1971 at the age of 13, Anderson was picked up by police. Unfortunately, on the way to the police station, the police car was involved in an accident with a train. After that accident, his life was never quite the same. Anderson says he died in that accident — his spirit leaving his body — and it wasn't until he heard his mother say "James, please come back," that he says

he returned. Since the accident, he says nothing scares him.

Subsequently, he spent nearly eight months in the hospital, before spending almost a year recuperating at home.

"It (the accident) changed my life," Anderson said. "When I was in the house is when learned how to organize. That's where I learned how to head this (operation). I was sick and didn't have anything to do, and I found out that when you're by yourself, you can teach yourself. That's why a lot of people are scared of

Summer youth program participants honored

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Apex Maintenance Inc. held an awards ceremony Friday, August 23, to recognize the participants of their second annual Summer Youth Program. Developed with the help of Nevada Business Services (NBS), the awards ceremony, which took place at the Apex Maintenance offices, 3900 E. Cheyenne Ave., was held to celebrate the achievements of the youth participating in the summer program.

This year's program was made up of 16 area youth, each of whom were employed by Apex Maintenance, Inc. during the summer months. As part of the program, the participants were taught all phases of office training, including filing; letter typing; invoicing and employment application processing; marketing, which involved talking with clients; site visiting; client correspondence and bid proposal submissions;

warehousing, which includes stocking and receiving; inventory and the issuing of supplies to technicians; and the four methods of carpet cleaning — dry foaming, bonnet cleaning steam cleaning and scrubbing and extracting.

According to James Anderson, president of Apex maintenance, all training was done at the Apex facility, as well as at various job sites.

"We must do all that we can for these young people coming up today," said Anderson. "I hope other companies will step up and take an interest in the youths of America."

Added William H. "Bob" Bailey, president of New Ventures Inc. and master of ceremonies for the event, "Probably one of the greatest challenges we face here in Las Vegas is providing the youth the kind of atmosphere which will allow them to ultimately become the successes we know they can be. We strive every day,

themselves — they don't know how they really are.

"I knew that if I could make it through the accident, I could get anything I wanted," he said.

After recovering, Anderson said he promised his mother he would get her out of Bunkie, which he referred to as "this slave country," and he said he would make sure she got a home and that their entire family would be taken care of.

But, at the time, there was more going on with James Anderson than most knew. He was also dealing drugs. Then he began using. All the while, trying to build his business.

"I started becoming my own best customer," Anderson said. "I had a problem, but I never let the business go. I kept the business going."

"My business was one thing, my private life was one thing and my drug dealing was another. I kept them all separate."

By 1984, his luck had run out. Busted as part of an undercover investigation, Anderson, young, illiterate and black, had little to look forward to. Again, little did he know, another chapter in his life was about to begin. Awaiting trial, Anderson met public defender (now District Attorney) Stewart Bell. Lucky for Anderson, Bell saw something in the hard-working young man and decided to help him.

"It was probably the best thing that could have happened to me," Anderson said of finally being caught.

"Stewart Bell has like a sixth sense about people. He can see through things."

Within a year here, however, he began his quest to fulfill even bigger goals. He began working for himself. Starting out with little more than a mop and a bucket, he began what today has become Apex Maintenance.

"I've got everybody here," Anderson said. "I told my mother when I was a kid, that I will get all your kids together, and I will take them out of this slave country, because I want them to see the real world."

Stewart Bell has like a sixth sense about people. He can see through things."

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