

NEWS CLIPS

NORTH LAS VEGAS BOND SPENDING QUESTIONED

Money from a 1990 tax hike that North Las Vegas officials told officials would be used for judicial facilities is really being used in buildings that house other city services. Voters passed a \$13.5 million bond in 1990 to pay for a new judicial center. Instead city officials used the money to pay for seven new buildings next to City Hall but none in conjunction with the jail, Municipal Court or Justice Court. Deputy Attorney General Randy Munn said the city did not technically break any state laws, but he questioned whether the city acted properly by promising North Las Vegas voters one thing and then delivering another.

MILLION MAN MARCH ORGANIZERS PLAN ANNIVERSARY

The Million Man March local organizing committee is calling for help in their planning of the one-year anniversary of the Million Man March held Oct. 16, 1996. The local group is holding a town hall meeting this Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library to raise interest in the local activities as well to raise interest in the national Convention of the Oppressed to be held in St. Louis Sept. 27-29. For more information call 647-0414.

SIXTEEN PUNISHED IN RON BROWN CRASH QUERY

The U.S. Air Force has severely reprimanded 16 officers in connection with the April 3 crash of the Air Force CT-43 that killed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others. Brig. Gen. William E. Stevens, the commander of the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and his operations commander, Col. John E. Mazurowski, were singled out for the most serious punishment - Article 15 letters of reprimand for "dereliction of duty." Stevens was punished for "dereliction of duty" for negligently failing to ensure "that government directives had been followed regarding reviews of airport safety under his command." Mazurowski was penalized for "dereliction of duty for willfully failing to ensure that the same directives were followed. Article 15 reprimands are the highest form of non-judicial punishment given out by the service, one step below a court-martial.

FRONTIER INTERNATIONAL FAMILY GROWS

Frontier International, a historic, Black male service club, is welcoming youngsters as members, writes the African-American Voice. Nimrod B. Allen of Ohio began the club in 1936 after he was barred from joining White community service clubs. Now the Frontiers, a once strictly adult, Black male club, has both male and female members nationwide, and a newly organized group for young people ages 13 to 18. Junior Frontiers now learn first hand how to be of service to those in need from senior Frontiersmen. The club's national foundation raises money for the treatment and research of diseases such as AIDS, Sickle Cell Anemia, Vitaligo and Hypertension. The National Jr. Frontiers group is directed by chairman Johnny Moutry of Milwaukee. For information about organizing a Frontiers Club in your community, or for details about Jr. Frontiers call 215-549-4550.

BLACK PARENTS RESOURCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

South Carolina's Metro Courier reports "The African American Parents Resource Guide" is available to assist parents, grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians in motivating their children to become high achievers. The guide contains books, plays, pledges and contracts specially created to help parents reach their successful parenting goals. One of the most unique products in the resource guide are plays created specifically for African-American children. "This is the only resource guide that provides products directed specifically at African-American parents," says Jeffery Bradley, publisher and editor of the guide. For your free copy call (800) 687-8346, or write to: Forward Communications, P.O. Box 9031NR, Dallas, Tex., 75209-9031.

NIGERIAN EMBASSY VICTIM OF ARSON

A lone arsonist went into the basement of the Rio de Janeiro-based Nigerian Embassy in July and set fire to the building, reports the African Sun Times. However, officials were quick to put out the fire before fire engines arrived. The arsonist reportedly had been angered because Nigeria beat Brazil in the soccer semi-finals of the Olympic games in Atlanta, Ga. Nigeria won the semi-final game in its 94th minute, four minutes into overtime and then secured the gold medal by beating Argentina in the final. Brazilian authorities sent an apology to the Nigerian government after the fire. Meanwhile, Nigerians were asked not to retaliate against Brazilians.

Teen abortions down; contraceptive failures up

Fewer teenagers are having abortions, according to a survey of nearly 10,000 women who have had the procedure. And, six in 10 women say they were using contraceptives that failed.

The study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, published recently, provides the most extensive look at who gets abortions since the nonprofit organization's last survey in 1987.

While government data show 1.3 million Americans have abortions every year, it provides very little information on the demographics of abortion.

Although Guttmacher is affiliated with Planned Parenthood and is regarded as being on the abortion rights side in the debate, the government often cites its abortion figures as reliable supplements to the meager federal data.

The Guttmacher report confirms mostly White, middle-class women get abortions, because they make up the bulk of the nation's women of childbearing age.

Young women are still most likely to get abortions—but the teenagers' share has dropped, from 25.5 percent in 1987 to

21.5 percent last year, Guttmacher researchers discovered.

"We can't entirely account for that drop," said study author Stanley Henshaw, who noted that the overall U.S. abortion rate has dropped about 10 percent in the recent year while the rate of teenagers who gave birth rose.

"Part of the reason is that they're continuing more of their pregnancies," Henshaw added.

At the same time, 57.5 percent of abortion recipients surveyed say they were using a contraceptive the month they

became pregnant. That's a rise from the 51.3 percent in 1987, and the increase was greatest among teenagers, Henshaw said.

No contraceptive is perfect, but studies show they usually fail when they're misused. A second study that appears in Guttmacher's journal, "Family Planning Perspectives," found that half of 103 college students given birth control pills were skipping at least a month.

"Using a [contraceptive] method helps you, but you're still taking a chance if you're not using it correctly every time," Henshaw said.

Guttmacher offered questionnaires to 11,288 women who received abortions at 100 selected hospitals, clinics or doctors offices in 1994 and 1995. They received completed forms from 9,985 women.

The survey concluded women who are Hispanic or Black, or poor and live with someone to whom they're not married, continue to have a statistically high disproportionate share of abortions. For example, non-White women make up 18.9 percent of the childbearing-age population, but accounted for 38.7 percent of the abortions, Henshaw reported.

Women with family incomes below \$15,000 accounted for 28.7 percent of abortions yet make up just 15.4 percent of the childbearing-age population. And unmarried women living with a man accounted for 20.2 percent of abortions, yet constitute just 5.8 percent of the population, the survey found.

Slater

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Here is a brief summary of initiatives and accomplishments by Slater at FHWA:

*Slater was on site at the California Northridge earthquake and expedited emergency aid to help rebuild the highways in record time;

*FHWA renamed its Intelligent Transportation Systems room in honor of African-American businessman and inventor, Garrett A. Morgan, who invented the first three-position traffic signal.

*FHWA provided \$456,000 to the State of Alabama to restore ferry services to the predominately black community of Gees Bend; (Segregationists dismantled ferry service over 30 years ago to hinder the families of former slaves from crossing the river to register to vote, to demonstrate and to attend integrated schools in the predominately white county seat of Camden);

*Slater announced a \$1.5 million in scenic byways discretionary funds to the State of Alabama to design and construct interpretive displays along U.S. Route 80, site of the historic 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery.

*Slater awarded \$2.5 million in transportation fellowships to 113 students and faculty for post-graduate study and research in the transportation field;

*FHWA and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration executed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Republic of South Africa for cooperative efforts between the two countries to expand transportation research and to share transportation technologies.

Other Slater program announcements have included a research training partnership

with a historically Black college in Georgia, (Albany State) a transportation-oriented Urban Youth Corps in Baltimore's inner city, and support for a Transportation and Technology Academy at an inner-city high-school in Washington, D.C.

Slater says, "Our travels represent the most extensive outreach effort ever undertaken in the FHWA's 103-year history, as we carry out President Clinton's charge to put people first and fulfill his commitment to rebuild America. In our travels, we have looked, listened, and learned, and we have acted on what we have seen and heard. We have sought to become a government agency characterized by vision and vigilance as we strengthen our enduring partnerships with state and local governments and forge new alliances with the private sector to serve the American people."

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Late Firm of Smith & Williams

ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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