

NEWS CLIPS

NLV POLICE SEEK SUSPECTS IN MURDER SPREE

Police are stepping up their investigations into four homicides all involving teenage boys shot dead since Nov. 8. The latest murders sent the total number of murders there to 25 tying the city's all-time record set in 1991. Some 20 percent of the people murdered in North Las Vegas this year have been 17 years old or younger. On Nov. 14, 16-year-old Jermaine Walker was shot dead in an alley. Later that same day, another 16-year-old boy, whose name has not been released, was killed in a drive-by shooting in the 1900 block of Carver Avenue. On Nov. 8, Xavier Simms, 15, and Jason Alexander Moore, 14, was shot to death on the Clayton Road extension. Police have identified a suspect in the case, but no arrests have yet been made.

BANK OF AMERICA DONATES MONEY TO NONPROFITS

Several black non-profit organizations were among the 32 to have received monetary grants from Bank of America Nevada recently. The donations will help support a variety of community-based programs involving economic development, education, health and human services, conservation and the environment, culture and the arts. The black groups among the recipients include: African-American Cultural Arts Foundation, Committed 100 Men Helping Boys, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark Co., NAACP Las Vegas branch, Nevada Minority Purchasing Council, Nevada Partners and the Sickle Cell Disease Assoc. Bank of America expects to contribute more than \$600,000 this year to more than 350 non-profit and community based groups in Nevada.

STATE HOLDS UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AUCTION

Rare gold coins, watches, jewelry and collectibles are just a few of the items to be auctioned Saturday to the public by the Nevada Department of Business and Industry — Unclaimed Property Division. The items being sold are the contents of safe deposit boxes belonging to Nevada residents which have not shown activity for five years. As required by law, the banks turn over the goods to the state who try to find the owners for a year. The goods are then auctioned off and the proceeds put into an account which is held indefinitely to be claimed by the owner or heirs. The auction will be held at Cashman Field, rooms 101-102. Inspection opens at 8 a.m. and the auction begins at 10 a.m. For more information call 486-4140.

O.J. SIMPSON SAYS REPORTER SET HIM UP

O.J. Simpson said an 18-year-old blonde woman who claimed he sexually harassed her is a "liar" and that a reporter from USA TODAY set him up in the alleged incident. Simpson, who is the defendant in the wrongful death civil suit from the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman, said "the reporter (Jonathan R. Lovitt) always comes up to me when she goes by and says 'man how about that? Isn't she a looker?' I told him he wasn't going to get me to comment on anything like that. She always smiles at me. I talk to everyone. I don't just limit my people," he said. Simpson denies motioning to the clerk, Amber McGrath to lift up her skirt. He further denied asking her for a date. "Why would I ask her for a date on Halloween when I had a date, and the only ones at my house were my housekeeper and my sister? My date had been planned weeks ago. Anyway, how could I do anything with all of the press following me everywhere?"

NEW BOOK LOOKS AT LIFE, DEATH OF TUPAC SHAKUR

The controversial life and violent death of Tupac Shakur has sparked significant discussion inside and outside the hip-hop community. The recent release of "Tough Love: Familial Observations on the Life and Death of Tupac Shakur" edited by Michael Datcher and Kwame Alexander focuses discussion on what happened to this young black man and why. The book is a collection of essays, commentaries and poems examining the social, cultural and economic implications of Shakur's life and death. "We wanted to do a book that not only reflected the varying feelings and opinions surrounding Tupac's ascension and downfall, but also one that would offer some direction by providing a sensitive analysis of his life and his lyrics," Alexander said. In less than a month the editors gathered writings from a talented crop of 30 young black writers ranging from a true rap aficionado to a staunch black feminist. Copies of the book will be donated to high schools across the country and five percent of the proceeds from the book's sales will be donated to community and youth development-oriented organizations.

ARISTIDE TO FORM NEW POLITICAL GROUP

Haitians listening to the morning radio newscast on Radio Kiskeya were stunned recently at the announcement that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whose truncated term as president ended less than a year ago, was back in active politics. The report said Aristide plans to set up a new political group called Family Lavalas. The group will operate as a pressure group forcing policy changes on the ruling Lavalas party. Aristide said the party will be "a big family working together to avoid scandal and divisiveness."

Plans for black patriots memorial get boost

By Olive Vassell
Special to Sentinel-Voice

As millions paid tribute to those who served their country on Veterans' Day, a group working to build a national memorial to 5,000 black patriots who served in the Revolutionary War, urged Americans not to forget her first African-American veterans.

"Let's salute the bravery and sacrifice of these black patriots, who have too long been overlooked," said Wayne F. Smith, president of the Black Patriots Foundation.

"By building the Black Patriots Memorial, we now have a golden opportunity to right this historical wrong and properly honor our forgotten heroes," he said.

Efforts to build the memorial are rounding the home stretch after recently receiving legislative and financial boosts.

The Washington, D.C.-based Foundation won congressional approval last month to extend its October fund-raising deadline for two years, allowing fund-raising to be completed. Lawmakers also approved a bill — HR 1776 — authorizing the striking of 500,000 black patriots commemorative coins. The legislation was signed into law by President Clinton in a special Oval Office ceremony.

The coins, which will be struck in 1998 on the 275th anniversary of the birth of Crispus Attacks, a black man who was the first to die in America's War of

Independence, could raise as much as \$5 million for the project.

"The Black Patriots coin will serve so many purposes, but two are particularly significant. The coin will spread the word about the black co-founders of our nation and profits from coin sales will help build the Black Patriots Memorial," said Smith, who was recently appointed the Foundation's new president.

Former president Dr. George C. Dumas stepped down from the post after completing a pre-arranged term with the organization.

The memorial's design, by noted black sculptor Ed Dwight, also won final approval from a variety of memorial vetting commissions. Two opposing

curved walls — one granite, one bronze — comprise the memorial. The sculpted bronze wall of some 50 figures, will depict the 16th century arrival of African people to North America and the variety of roles played by African-Americans through 1783 — slaves building America, soldiers defending America. A quotation by poet Phyllis Wheatley will also be inscribed on the memorial's granite wall. It reads:

"In every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is impatient of Oppression, and pants for Deliverance..."

The Foundation has accumulated contributions and pledges totaling \$3.7 million in 1996. New sponsors include Lockheed Martin Corporation, which has committed \$50,000 to the project.

According to Smith, the former director of development for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, "The accomplishments ... show how deeply America cares about this project and how she will not let it fail. While we still have a distance to go before completing our mission, these propitious developments put us well on our way to ultimate success."

"Progress was made possible because of the perseverance and hard work of so many supporters over the years. But having come this far, we're asking others to join our history-making endeavor by giving as generously as they are able," he said. The Foundation still needs nearly \$6 million before groundbreaking on the memorial can begin. Contributions can be made by calling the Foundation's toll free hotline at 1-800-888-9811.

Black women protest women's statue that excludes Truth

By Chester A. Higgins, Sr.
Special to the Sentinel-Voice

The United States Congress has approved a request to raise the Woman Suffrage Statue from a dusty crypt in the basement of the Capitol Rotunda where it has remained hidden for more than 75 years and place it among the pantheon of the nation's celebrated greats proudly on display.

But it will not be raised, vows the National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW) unless the image of black female suffragette Sojourner Truth, NPACBW convening founder/chair, declared: "It is our belief that the space for a fourth space is strongly indicated but left blank because the fourth honoree was to have been an African-American woman" believed to be Sojourner Truth.

The Suffragette Statue's history conjures up an ugly anti-feminist, racist period of America. In a letter to leaders of the Raise the Statue Campaign: Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, president, National Museum of Women in the Arts; Karen Staser, president, National Museum of Women's History and Joseph Hardiman, president, NASDAQ Stock Market, all of Washington, DC, Dr. Tucker praised the effort as "noble" but decried the fact that "our founding fathers let this statue languish in the Rotunda crypt for more than 75 years."

She placed blame on some white women, too. She said ever since the beginning of this nation, white women have wooed the support of African-American women for their causes and then deserted them for "expediency."

The women's Suffrage Movement was no different. In 1918, with the support of President Woodrow Wilson, the Anthony amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote received the necessary two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives, but in order to gain passage in the Senate, several southern senators proposed amendments that only gave white women the right to vote. The white suffragists asked their African-American sisters to defer their demand for the right to vote on grounds of "expediency." The legislation passed.

The Woman Suffrage Statue of Anthony, Mott and Cady Stanton was dedicated in 1921. But within 24 hours it was moved from the upper display reaches of the Rotunda to the basement crypt. Three attempts were made to raise it. Last August (1995) for the 75th anniversary celebration of women's suffrage, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed legislation to restore the suffragist Statue to the Rotunda. However, it stalled in the House of Representatives on grounds that taxpayers' dollars should not be used for the relocation

costs of the Statue.

This launched the campaign. "Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have seen photographs of the statue have an astonishing revelation," Dr. Tucker exclaimed. "Although sculpted to celebrate the accomplishments of these three esteemed women, the statue is the Mount Rushmore of Women's Suffrage Movement. It is our belief that the space for the fourth face is blank because the fourth honoree was to have been an African-American woman, Sojourner Truth!"

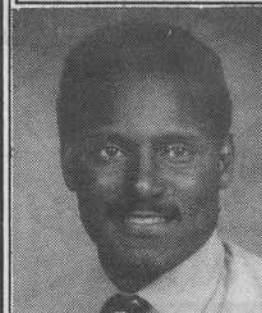
Sojourner Truth played a key role in the Suffrage Movement. Born Isabella Baumfree and a slave, she had a religious experience which led her to believe she was to do God's work on earth.

She changed her name to
(See Crypt, Page 5)

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