

NEWS CLIPS

NAACP ANNUAL FREEDOM BANQUET'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS DR. JULIAN M. EARLS

The Las Vegas Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be holding their Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday, November 21. The gala event will take place at Bally's Hotel and Casino, located on Flamingo Rd. and Las Vegas Blvd. So. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. and dinner to be served at 7 p.m. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Julian M. Earls, Deputy Director for Operations, NASA Lewis Research Center. For ticket and general information call (702) 657-0599.

'NATION'S BEST' NATURAL DRINKING WATER MAKING MARK

Following the recent merger between the Nation of Islam (NOI) and Beco Company, the only black-owned water bottling company in the country has been established, says Kamal Muhammad, NOI's national secretary. The first bottling run took place on Oct. 30. The bottling facility surpasses all standards set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who inspects bottling plants on a regular basis to not only make sure bottled water is processed, packaged, shipped and stored in a safe and sanitary manner, but to also make sure that it is accurately labeled. At present, home and office delivery of Nation's Best is available only in the Atlanta area.

WRITER EXPLORES THE PLIGHT OF FATHERLESS GIRLS

In her book "Motherless Daughter: The Legacy of Loss, Hope Edelman writes that "The loss of a mother is one of the most profound events that will occur in a woman's life and like a sound in an empty house, it echoes on and on." But what about the loss of a father? Is it not significant or profound in a young woman's life? The voices and needs of fatherless women are muted. Repeatedly we are denied knowledge about the irreplaceable link between girls and their fathers, we are unable to comprehend the shadow a father's absence will cast on his daughter's path to womanhood. In "Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl?," a book being published by One World/Ballantine and scheduled for release in 1999, Jonetta Rose Barras explores her own fatherlessness and that of other African-American women, who saw their father leave because of death, divorce or abandonment. She wants to hear your story. If you would like to share your experiences of fatherlessness with other Black women like yourself, please call or write (202) 882-2838; P.O. Box 21232, Washington, D.C. 20009; email: JRBarras@aol.com.

NASA/HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES JOIN TO FIGHT ILLNESSES

An agreement that enlists NASA technologies to fight breast cancer and other women's illnesses was recently signed, establishing a cooperative framework between NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif., and the Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health will join to identify, develop and transfer NASA technologies to benefit women's health. Major areas of concern are cancer, reproductive health, pregnancy, osteoporosis and education. Examples of NASA medical inventions from the Ames Research Center were on display at the signing ceremony. Of particular note was the robotic brain operator, a computerized apparatus designed to make brain surgery safer. There was also a discussion on how the same technology that allows the Hubble Space Telescope to map distant stars is being used in doctor's offices today to easily detect tiny spots in breast tissue and makes it possible to use a needle for biopsy rather than surgery.

ASSOCIATION CREATES BLACK ENTREPRENEUR HALL OF FAME

The National Black Business Trade Association (NBBTA), a Washington, D.C.-based organization founded in 1993 and representing over 15,000 African-American business owners and entrepreneurs, recently announced the launch of their latest project on the World Wide Web — the first "Black Entrepreneur's Hall of Fame" online. Now anyone that accesses the site can nominate the entrepreneur of their own choosing. The site is interactive and informative. According to Lee Green, executive director of NBBTA, "its time for us to tell our own stories, in our own words." He added, "there are many heroes and sheroes who have paved the way for today's black entrepreneur and we want to take the time to honor them." Anyone interested in adding to the list of Hall of Fame nominees or learning more about NBBTA and its services can simply visit its website at <http://www.melanet.com/nbbta> or call (202) 371-1000.

Bryan blasts Justice Department for refusing to crack down on California illegal Indian gaming

Special to Sentinel-Voice

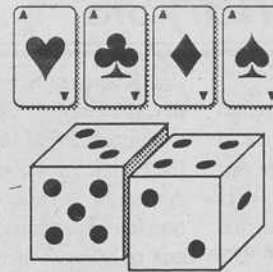
WASHINGTON, D.C. — United States Senator Richard Bryan (D-Nev.) at a recent Senate hearing blasted the Department of Justice for refusing to enforce the law and crack down on illegal Indian gaming.

Bryan said there are 14,000 illegal slot machines operated by 40 Indian tribes in California that the Department is refusing to shut down. Following the hearing Bryan asked Senate judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) in a letter to begin an investigation into the justice department's refusal to enforce Indian gaming laws.

"The Justice Department has done an abysmal job of prosecuting illegal Indian gaming," Bryan said. "The failure by the U.S. Attorneys to enforce the law has created a situation which rewards wrongdoers and those obeying the law suffer the consequences."

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), enacted in 1988, was based on a central concept that Class III gambling, such as casino and parimutual gambling, could be conducted on Indian lands with a tribal/state compact approved by the Governor and tribes have entered into 161 compacts in 24 states, including Nevada where five compacts have been negotiated, including regulation and enforcement by state gaming authorities. In some states, such as California, there is no compact.

"I believe the inability to reach an agreement rests with the failure of the U.S. Attorneys to shut down illegal operations," Bryan said. "Tribes have no incentive to reach an agreement as long as they can continue to operate illegal games with impunity."



Bryan met with several Justice Department officials to once again tell them they must enforce the law over Indian gaming. They refused to do so. For years during the current administration and the previous Bush administration Bryan has argued with Justice Department officials to get them to do their job and enforce the Indian Gaming Act. He recently discovered that several U.S. Attorneys in California announced they would not enforce IGRA and would allow illegal gaming operations to continue. As a result, Bryan called on the Committee to provide states with concurrent jurisdiction to enforce IGRA and the right to sue to enjoying illegal operations.

Bryan also called for increased regulation of Indian gaming establishments. There are 186 gaming tribes operating 280 casinos in 28 states, generating an estimated \$5 billion a year. The National Indian Gaming Commission, the agency entrusted with Indian gaming regulation, has a budget of \$4 million and a staff of 33. By comparison, Nevada spends over \$30 million regulating the gaming industry and the Nevada Gaming Control Board has over 400 employees monitoring casinos.

Bryan praised recent actions in Congress which authorized the National Indian Gaming Commission to raise \$8 million in fees and appropriated an additional \$1 million for the Commission. The provisions were included in the Interior Department Appropriations bill.

"No issue is more crucial for gaming than tough regulatory controls, for both Indian and non-Indian gaming," Bryan said.

The hearing was held by the senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

SBA loan volume sets records in Nevada, nationwide

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The U.S. Small Business Administration's primary commercial lending programs made record setting guarantees in Nevada and throughout the country in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 ending Sept. 30.

"The SBA in Nevada reached a record level in dollars loaned," said district director John Scott. "Our total volume exceeded \$95 million for the state, up from \$90 million in FY 96 and \$84 million in FY 95."

"The results for 1997 reflect the SBA's continued role in providing greater access to capital for the nation's entrepreneurs, who in turn are creating jobs, developing new technologies and supporting a healthy economy," Scott said.

A good indicator of the continued growth of Nevada's economy is lending through SBA's 504 development company program which provides funds for business expansion through building construction and renovation as well as the acquisition of machinery and equipment. In fiscal year 1997, 79 loans were made in Nevada for nearly \$24 million, with two-thirds of the funds awarded to women and minorities.

In the 7(a) program, the SBA's primary lending program, the dollar volume for fiscal year 1997 reached its highest historical level in Nevada at nearly \$72 million, up from \$48 million in fiscal year 96.

"We are very pleased with these results," Scott said, "particularly since over 40 percent of these funds went to women and minorities-over

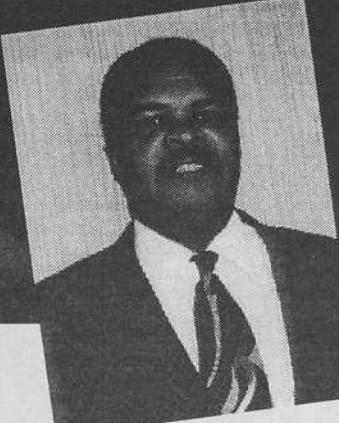
\$28 million."

Additionally, the January 1997 floods in the Reno-Sparks-Lake Tahoe area resulted in 562 SBA disaster loans for \$24.4 million. This

included 248 home loans and 314 business loans.

"We are proud to play a vital role in the economic development of Nevada," Scott said. "Our enduring challenge

is to effectively communicate the broad array of available SBA programs and the many opportunities and benefits of small business growth and
(See SBA, Page 16)



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