

NEWS CLIPS

BLACK LEADERS URGED TO HELP TRADE BILL

Pressing African-American leadership for support of African Trade Legislation, the Constituency for Africa has made an urgent appeal to call African-American leadership to support the legislation sponsored by Congressmen Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., Phil Crane, R-Ill., and Jim McDermott D-Wash. Congress recessed in late November and tabled the Africa trade bill without full debate. The Republican leadership attempted to trade passage of the bill for the support of the Congressional Black Caucus on fast-track legislation, say CFA supporters. The group suggested that it is highly possible that in the upcoming election year the bill may never resurface for a vote, despite the relatively strong bipartisan support it enjoys. Melvin Foote, executive director of CFA thinks the primary hope for passage of a trade bill with Africa rests with the leadership of the African-American community.

COMMERCE DEPT., IBM TO AID SMALL BUSINESS

The United States Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and IBM have entered into a new public/private sector relationship to promote opportunities and growth with the small business community using information technology. Under the arrangement, IBM will provide technology-related services, solutions, product offerings and pertinent information to MBDA's clients, which include nearly 30,000 minority-owned businesses, representing the Asian, African-American, Hispanic and Native American business communities. The program will be supported by MBDA through its national network of five regional offices, four district offices and more than 60 local business development centers. Through the network, MBDA will disseminate information on IBM technologies and how small business can use technology to maximize their competitiveness in both national and international markets.

PREGNANCY CARE KEY TO WOMEN'S LIVES

In the report, "Special Focus: Surveillance for Reproductive Health," scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) document that on average an African-American woman dies every two-and-a-half days in the United States from pregnancy-related causes and many could be saved by regular check-ups during pregnancy. African-American women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women, with that discrepancy continuing to increase. Yet a 4-year study of pregnant women found that even a small amount of medical care during pregnancy can save a woman's life. In addition to black women, women 35 years and older, women who have three or more children and unmarried women are also at greater risk. The CDC report also stated that fewer abortions are being performed in the United States although African-American women are more likely to have abortions than white women. For every 1,000 African-American women, 40 had an abortion in 1994 compared to 13 white women for every 1,000.

SIMPSON SETTLEMENT DETAILS KEPT SECRET

A dispute pitting the guardian of O.J. Simpson's children against Nicole Brown Simpson's parents over profits from the sale of her diaries, wedding photos and other memorabilia has been settled, according to lawyers for both sides. No details were released. B. Wayne Hughes, guardian of 12-year-old Sydney and 9-year-old Justin, had sued for money from the sale of items including Nicole Brown Simpson's diaries, sold to the National Enquirer for \$100,000; and videos and photographs of the Simpson wedding, which garnered \$162,000 from A Current Affair, a television show. Simpson lost a multimillion dollar wrongful death civil suit but was found innocent of his wife's murder.

AUTHOR CLAIMS STUDIO STOLE 'AMISTAD'

Despite losing a motion earlier this week to stop *Amistad* from hitting theaters, Barbara Riboud-Chase promised to continue her lawsuit against Dreamworks studio who she claims used one of her novels as a source for the movie. U.S. District Court Judge Audrey Collins denied Chase-Reboud's preliminary injunction to halt this week's opening of *Amistad*. Chase-Riboud filed a \$10 million copyright infringement lawsuit charging Dreamworks, the studio producing the movie, with using as a source of material her novel *Echo of Lions*. Chase-Riboud is a respected author. *Amistad* is a Steven Spielberg film about 53 slaves who escape during a stormy night in 1839 and find refuge off the coast of Cuba. They kill most of their captors but are tricked into landing on the Long Island coast where they are enslaved and become the center of a court battle between the pro-slavery President Martin Van Buren, the queen of Spain, abolitionists, a real estate attorney and others.

Internet access now available in libraries

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Yahoo. Search engines. Bookmarks. Dogpile. Surfing the net.

Unfamiliar terms?

They won't be for long if the Las Vegas-Clark County Library district has its way.

"As a library district we are always looking for new ways to get information and knowledge to our residents," said Darell Batson, director of the library district. "I'm quite pleased that we are able to provide this service."

The library district now offers Internet access at 12 locations. The service falls in line with the Library Bill of Rights. Authored by the American Library Association, the Library Bill of Rights supports intellectual freedom through electronic information services and other sources.

Sixteen-year-old Elizabeth Lopez admits she is not Internet savvy, yet.

"I'm not familiar with the

internet or information highway, but I'm happy that it is available at the library for me to use," the Las Vegas High junior said.

The service is free and limited to patrons with library cards and who are in good standing. Would-be-users must fill out a registration form at the circulation desk.

Those under age 18 must get a consent form signed by their parents.

The Internet was created to allow government agencies and universities to communicate with each other during a nuclear war. Since its use is mostly unregulated by federal law, its content can be volatile.

"The Library District is unable to control or monitor the content of materials on the internet which changes quickly and without warning," reads a disclaimer put out by the library district.

Internet use is on a first-come first-serve basis and is limited to persons with a library



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Micro computer technician Gerald Strickland puts the finishing touches on the newly installed Internet system at the West Las Vegas Library Tuesday.

card and in good standing. There is an hour time limit if there are others waiting. Electronic mail, access to news and chat lines are not offered.

To limit the amount of viruses and damage to the computers, the district prohibits patrons from using their own software.

"I think the internet available in the library is convenient for people who cannot afford a computer at

home," 17-year-old Michelle Fernandez said.

Derry Juneja, the district's assistant director for the support services, said the Internet will boost the quality of library services.

"The Internet will be just one of the tools that librarians will use," he said. "The library will always be a place where there will be books, there will be videos, or whatever the current technology is."

Mandela

(Continued from Page 1)

convicted in 1991 for Seipei's murder, is still serving his jail term.

John Morgan, Madikizela-Mandela's former driver, told the commission she was the first to slap Seipei at her home on Dec. 29, 1988.

"I lied about some of these things in court in order to save Winnie, who was my boss. I decided to lie myself. We were not told to lie specifically by anyone. I want to tell the truth now because it is no use to me to lie anymore," Morgan said.

Courts at the time found Madikizela-Mandela guilty of kidnapping Seipei and sentenced her to six years in jail, but this was commuted to a \$3,000 fine.

A visibly angered Xoliswa Falati, who served time for the kidnapping, told the commission it was Madikizela-Mandela who caused the death of Seipei "and messed up all our lives."

"My hands are not dripping with the blood of the innocent African children," Falati said. "I went to prison for her (Madikizela-Mandela), she was very much ungrateful. I was protecting my leader. That was our culture, to protect our leaders."

Falati urged the commission to examine a mine dump near Johannesburg where she said the bodies of four youths were dumped by Madikizela-Mandela and the MUFC.

Contradictions abound in the witness testimony. Several witnesses are self-confessed liars, a fact Madikizela-Mandela may use in her favor. Others, however, could prove damaging.

"If, for example, Albertina

Sisulu testifies and what she says goes against Winnie then people would rather believe Albertina than Winnie," says Lodge. Albertina is the wife of former African National Congress deputy president Walter Sisulu.

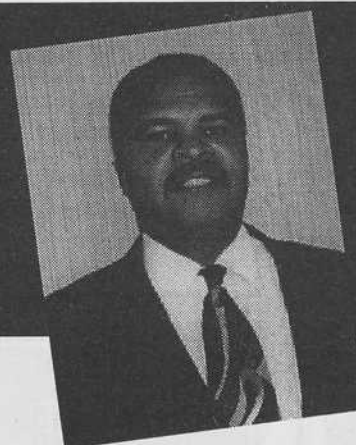
Madikizela-Mandela has

said the purpose of the hearings is to demonize her in the wake of her nomination by the ANC Women's League as its candidate for the deputy presidency of the party, which is to elect its top officials this month.

There are fears within the

ANC that the party's favorite for that post, Jacob Zuma, might lose to the outspoken former wife of President Nelson Mandela who, in a recent exclusive interview with the Star, lashed out at both the ANC and the commission.

(See Mandela, Page 4)



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