

Ex-Slave

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Union efforts in the Civil War. In fact, President Lincoln rushed Nevada into statehood in 1864 for that very purpose. The state motto is "All For Our Country."

"The Comstock was fiercely pro-Union, so they tended to be sympathetic to slaves and ex-slaves," James said.

"We think of Nevada being a little more conservative about that kind of thing, more reluctant to buy into 20th Century civil rights, but in the 19th century it was leader," he said.

To walk the streets and wooden sidewalks of Virginia City is to take a trip back in time to the Old West. The entire city makes up one of the largest National Historic Districts in the nation.

The newly discovered site

"The Comstock was fiercely pro-Union, so they tended to be sympathetic to slaves and ex-slaves." — Ron James

is beneath a small asphalt parking lot behind the Bucket of Blood Saloon, which was established in 1876 and still stands at the corner of D and Union streets.

In addition to the old opera house, insurance maps show a series of female boarding houses near that intersection - "the designated red light district," said Kelly Dixon, administrator and archaeologist for the Comstock Archaeology Center.

Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, got his start a block away at the local newspaper, the Territorial Enterprise.

"It really will provide windows into the past," Dixon said. "It's a way to

find out about people who don't have as much written about them in the historical record."

The Great Fire of 1875 has proven to be a blessing for researchers at the site because it will provide a "nice ash lens cap" under which everything found likely was part of the saloon, James said.

The asphalt parking lot - which archaeologists want to dig up in the summer of 2000 - "complicates things but it also ensures preservation."

"I can talk about where it is and not worry about anyone pawing it out," James said.

The Boston Saloon was founded by William A. G. Brown, who "started working in Virginia City as a 'boot

black' — a 19th century term for a street shoe polisher," Dixon said. "Literally from the bootstraps, he pulled himself up and opened this saloon."

Test holes already have recovered a shard from a white porcelain cup and crystal stemware, "probably from a wine goblet or brandy snifter," she said.

James and Dixon said the discovery of the saloon defies long odds in a number of respects. It's rare to find a business that operated in the same spot in a mining boom town for more than a year. It's even more rare to find one sealed beneath the ashes of a fire and rarer still to have it owned and operated by a black man.

"To have all that line up in the 19th century is outstanding," James said.

Bill Cosby visits Chicago library

CHICAGO (AP) — "Jell-O, Mr. Cosby!" — or hello, for those who don't understand Jell-O-ese.

Second graders at Walter L. Newberry Elementary School shouted the salutation Thursday as comedian Bill Cosby visited the Harold Washington Library downtown.

Cosby's response was a simple, "Hello, friend," a familiar greeting of his late son, Ennis, that he wore on his blue sweatshirt.

Cosby was on hand to celebrate his 25 years as a

pitchman for Jell-O.

The company that makes the jiggly dessert has donated more than 120,000 of his "Little Bill" beginner books to public libraries across the country, a venture supported by the nonprofit organization Reading is FUNDamental.

Dedicated to his son, who was shot in January 1997 while fixing a flat tire along a Los Angeles freeway, Cosby's eight books teach about such topics as honesty, friendship and creativity.

Drug Testing

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"Without question, people that test positive for drugs are more violent, most likely to commit crimes and most likely to be absent and have problems," he said.

Peterson said reduction in drug use could help prevent rampages such as last week's shootings in Littleton, Colo., from being a regular occurrence. Toxicology tests revealed no drugs or alcohol in the bodies of the Colorado gunmen, but Peterson said there have been incidents elsewhere that involved drugs.

Both bills would keep results from law-enforcement officials, although Peterson's calls for the school to be notified when there is a second positive test result. In other cases, the test results would go directly to the parents.

DeForest Rathbone, chairman of the National Institute of Citizen Anti-drug Policy, said the legislation would probably be challenged in court, but he thought it would survive. He said more than 100 school districts in up to 20 states already test some students.

The Supreme Court in 1995 ruled in an Oregon case that random drug tests for student athletes do not violate the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches. But no court has ever condoned the

random testing of all public school students.

In addition to \$500 million for drug counseling, Rogan's bill would authorize \$500 million for the tests of children grades 9 to 12. Peterson's bill sets no funding level for the tests, which would apply to children grades 7 to 12. His bill would require a state or local school district to cover half of the testing costs.

Summit

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Summit represents African policies and procedures toward the hiring and assurance of fair treatment of blacks.

As a result of his envisioning a fully functioning bridge to Africa, Sullivan's Summits have resulted in more than half a billion dollars in new investments in Africa from American companies; 250 African bankers being trained in the U.S. and \$60 billion of debt relief for African nations. EDS has invested over \$500 million in African business, and Owen-Corning has African investments through the behest of Sullivan. Sullivan has set up an organization to train five million people in skilled trades, as farmers and in literacy.

The Accra Summit will be hosted by Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings and have high-level officials from North America, Asia and over 40 African nations. The

Summit represents African-Americans interacting at high levels in the areas of business and economic development, education, health care, agriculture and food production, energy, media and communications and financing.

Want to reach the Motherland with a purpose in mind? For \$2,950 the Summit represents an ideal bargain and opportunity that includes airfare, hotel accommodations, registration for all events, and meals. For more information and registration package contact: The African-African American Summit, 5040 East Shea Boulevard, Suite 260, Phoenix, AZ 85254-4610, 1-800-835-3530 - E-mail: SummitV@aol.com

William Reed is publisher of *Who's Who in Black Corporate America*, 2054 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045 — Nominations being accepted.

High-tech

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processes these labor condition applications. Last week, the American Electronics Association fired the first shot in its campaign to increase H1-Bs, because the limit will be reached this month with four months left in the fiscal year.

AEA said that enrollment in high tech majors was declining for the seventh consecutive year. The report couldn't figure out why.

The answer is simple. For seven years, computer firms have been able to bring in H1-Bs for guaranteed six-year terms during which the non-immigrants can not shift employers. Although supposed to be temporary, most of the H1-B become permanent residents. With two-thirds of graduate science programs filled by foreigners, the average American teen has figured out that these programs are guaranteed for non-Americans.

At the same time, the leaders of high technology have funded anti-affirmative action measures that keep Black, Latino and Native American students out of math and science programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels in California and Texas, the two leading high-tech states.

When asked about supporting HBCUs, companies that can find a programmer in Siberia, say that the Black colleges are too far away. And, of course, they're against "quotas."

As for finding qualified Americans, fewer than 10,000 of those 800,000 African-Americans with graduate degrees work in Silicon Valley. H1-Bs are preventing young Black and Latino Americans who are fighting abroad in large numbers for their country from working for the very companies that make the high tech gadgets they use in battle. Instead, we're hiring and training the best young people from the countries America spent trillions to defend against.

Let your representative know that Black folks are tired of fighting for freedoms and profits we can't enjoy. Your local government can also require that companies, which sell technology to it, comply with laws to hire and recruit American workers.

Those interested can call the NAACP's new national task force on information technology led by Leon Russell at its Baltimore headquarters or its California branch.

John William Templeton is executive editor of "Griot," the African-American, African and Caribbean business daily.

Drugs

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and John McCain, R-Ariz., and Reps. Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Dan Burton, R-Ind., said school violence is a complicated issue, but "we believe that media violence is contributing to this problem and we need the help of the entertainment community to solve it."

The four also asked Surgeon General David Satcher to conduct a new study into the impact of mass media on the increase in violent behavior by children and young adults.

Also, two House Republicans, Reps. John Peterson, R-Pa., and James Rogan, R-Calif., introduced separate bills Wednesday that would establish federally funded drug testing programs in schools.

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