

## DBEs

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faith effort to meet the 10 percent goal initially established. The problem this time was that most of the federal money we received went toward the purchase of buses. At this particular time, there are no DBEs doing that and buses are not part of the federal goal."

This year, RTC plans to maintain the 10 percent goal. "As a small business person, other businesses have access or influence and they tend to get the contracts," said Cornelius Eason, president of Priority Staffing here in Las Vegas.

"Programs that would cause the government to extend opportunities to those businesses without contacts, those programs are being eroded away."

"This is a direct result of us falling asleep at the switch," said Louis Overstreet, executive director of the Urban Chamber of Commerce. "The conservative element has rolled back a lot of initiatives and black organizations have not responded by fighting for

affirmative action programs. There's too few people controlling too much of the wealth to our disadvantage."

"There is a misperception that times have changed and that the playing field is level," said Eason. "These agencies keep talking about the numbers. It's to everyone's benefit to be as visible as possible. ... If it's a numbers game, then, let's get the numbers up."

Eason said that organizations like the Urban, Latin and Asian Chambers of Commerce, the Nevada Minority Purchasing Council and the National Association of Minority Contractors should lead grassroots campaigns to get more businesses certified as DBEs.

"I don't know if the new way is fair or not," said Cicero. "I think it's the best we can do right now. Everyone should have an opportunity. No one should be locked out. This may or may not be the right way, but nobody has come up with anything better. We'll see if it works once we implement it."

## Madison

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police." The two men agreed that the police presence was overwhelming and totally unnecessary. They both expressed that the event seemed like a sly attempt to build community support for the day care center.

"There is nothing for kids to do," said Smith. "There

## BB King

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educational experiences. I've played in 88 different countries and I've made a lot of friends. I'm an ambassador of music from the U.S., you know, and that makes me proud.

SV: How does blues fit into music history?

BB: It tells a big story of how it was, how it is and how it will be. People who sing the blues, blues people, if you will, tell many stories. ... Lady Day, for example, had this song called "Strange Fruit" and she told a story about what was happening down there in the South.

Now, not a lot of people may pay attention, but blues people will always tell the stories. Look for yourself when you go out into the audience. Most of the people are young. A lot of the old ones don't care. What can I say? Everybody has a right to like what they like.

SV: Are you going to open up a blues joint here in Las Vegas to tell stories?

BB: There's a very fine actor called Sean Connery. He's one of the people I like best as an actor. He made this movie once called *Never Say Never*. Does that answer your question? (laughs)

## Music

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teaching conference participants about the many aspects of running a successful and profitable record company.

"We are really excited about this year's conference that will truly inspire and educate those interested in the business of the music to take control of their own destiny's and step into entrepreneurship and own and operate their own independent record labels," said Bailey-Tureau.

Up-and-coming artists will also have the opportunity to perform live at the conference and be included on a B.O.M. compilation CD coordinated by B.O.M. Conference chairman, Jay King, that will continue to spotlight their talents to targeted record companies.

The cost of registration for the two-day event is \$50. For registration information call (702) 647-7735.

## Hoops

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and more kids have gone on to college to play," said Dinkins. "With eight teams of 10 players, there's 80 young men that were off the streets during those hours, along with the numerous fans—the stands were packed every night. So for those four hours we really did reach our goal of keeping the kids off the streets."

"For the age group that we targeted, participation and interest has definitely increased, even though the overall number of teams participating had decreased due to less funding," added Phil Thompson, Municipal Sports Program Coordinator, and former head of the Doolittle Center.

Despite fewer teams, however, the league was considered a huge success, and though more youth wanted to participate but were unable to because of funding, the future looks bright for the program.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Macheo Willis a member of the West all-star basketball team puts a move on Sean Long of the East team during the Late Night Hoops All-Star Game last weekend. The West won the game 112-105.

"Honestly, we hope to expand it to be able to reach a younger age group over the next couple of years," said Dinkins. "Versus just being 16-25 we hope to expand it to 14 (splitting the league up into two divisions). I see the numbers picking up because the interest was definitely

there. We just couldn't accommodate them this year because we didn't receive the amount of dollars that we received in the past."

This year, the Rebels were crowned league champions, though it was the Tarheels that took the season-ending tournament honors. The Late

Night Hoops season culminated with an exciting all-star game and slam dunk competition last Friday at the Doolittle Center.

"I think the league accomplished a lot," said slam dunk champion Eddie Shelby, a Cheyenne High School graduate who will soon be taking his high-flying game to Feather River Junior College in Sacramento. "It kept everybody out of trouble and it's fun when a lot of people come out to watch the games. It's exciting."

"There's a lot of talent out here," Shelby went on to say, "and going against other college players, you can't do anything but get better."

"It (the league) accomplished a lot this year, echoed slam dunk runner-up Corey White. "The league brought a lot of kids out—kept a lot of kids off the streets, and brought a lot of people out to watch the guys play."

should be a boys & girls club as opposed to a daycare center, because after daycare (is over) and the kids come home, then what do they have to do?"

Smith, a teenager, said that the party favor bags with the condoms and lubricants also shouldn't have been given out, especially to so many young kids.

Some residents were also against putting up gates around the proposed daycare center, saying that it would make the children feel closed in and that they're unnecessary, since most of the people in the neighborhood know each other.

The party ended without incident, despite the intimidating police presence.

SV: Would you ever play music from another genre?

BB: I've played with many different people and played many different things—jazz, country, I even rapped before. ... Whatever

you do to me, though, you will never change me. Why be a pig in the sea when you could be a hog in a pond? When I jump out, why should I try to do anything else but what I am and be the best at

what I do? ... I like to think of myself as playing with great jazz musicians, classical, R&B, rap, but I'm still playing being B.B. King. When you go to New York and play the Apollo, don't try

to be Nat King Cole or Fred Astaire because there are people who been sweeping the floors there who can imitate them better than you. But none of them can be you if you're being yourself.

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