

NEWS CLIPS

3.75 MILLION SETTLEMENT AGAINST K-T BUS

Jeffery Peoples, a Nevada Test Site worker, recently won a multi-million dollar settlement for a bus accident in which he suffered injuries. "It's the first (multi-million dollar suit) we've won since being on our own," said Roy E. Smith, of the Law Office of Smith & Williams (Timothy C. Williams), located at 1785 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 337. The firm specializes in personal injury and medical malpractice suits with over ten years of experience. On Oct. 2, 1995, a K-T bus carrying Nevada Test Site Workers to Las Vegas suddenly sped off the road at 70 mph into a desert ravine at the hands of 68-year-old bus driver, Gerald Culley. Seventeen passengers, including the bus driver, were injured in the single-vehicle accident. "They (K-T Bus) tried to say that the bus driver had a stroke and he was not responsible," Smith said. "We felt he had fell asleep." The law firm had expert medical witnesses and a neurosurgeon to testify there was nothing wrong with the bus driver's brain to make him lose control of the bus. A CAT scan and an MRI of Culley's brain were used as evidence to prove the plaintiff's point. Just this year a 83-year-old bus driver lost control of his bus while taking Clark County School District-students from Las Vegas to Sea World in San Diego, Calif. The octogenarian bus driver was an employee of USA Coach Bus, a subsidiary of K-T Bus. "We (K-T Bus) can't not hire older drivers because we could be sued for age discrimination," Smith said of the busing company's response as to why some senior citizens were still driving buses on the highway. "Drivers in both accidents were older than age 65. I believe age has to be a factor in both bus accidents."

SIMPSON PETITIONS FEDERAL COURT FOR IN-LAWS' PHONE RECORDS

A legal team representing O.J. Simpson filed a Rule 27 motion last week with the U.S. District Court of San Angelo, Texas ordering GTE Corporation, the long distance provider for Louis and Judith Brown, to produce their phone records for June 12, 1994, the night Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were murdered. Simpson investigators are focusing on a possible oversight by Los Angeles prosecutors and Dan Petrocelli. It is alleged that lawyers may have introduced fraudulent phone records, masking the fact that Nicole and her mother were talking on the phone at the same time O.J. was being transported by limousine to L.A. International Airport. According to Simpson Attorney Mary Cox, "The morning following the murders, Louis Brown stated that Nicole and her mother spoke by phone at about 11 p.m. One week later, he recanted his initial statement, alleging the time they spoke was closer to 9:30 p.m." Official copies of the Browns' phone records were never introduced as evidence. Exhibits submitted by Clark and Petrocelli were only replicas and curiously stipulated by Simpson attorney Robert Shapiro. The Simpson legal team is hoping to prove that Nicole was alive while he departed for Chicago.

DIVERSE IMAGES OF THE BRONX TOPIC OF EXHIBIT

NEW YORK (IPS) — The Bronx, the northernmost of the five boroughs of New York City, has long been a focal point of stereotypical urban life in the United States. From the residential area of Riverdale with its large homes and luxury apartments to the slums and urban decay of the southeast section, a wide range of attitudes and perspectives are presented in "Urban Mythologies: The Bronx Represented since the 1960s." It is an exhibition at the Bronx Museum that contains the work of 40 artists responding to changes in the urban landscape of the Bronx since the 1960s. "Urban Mythologies" includes photographs, paintings, sculptures, installations, graffiti, and architectural plans and models. Arranged chronologically, the exhibition was framed by a timeline of important events from recent Bronx history and video monitors that feature clips of media portrayals of the city. Originally known as Keskeskeck by the North American Indians who sold their land to the Dutch West Indies Company in 1639, the Bronx is currently one of the most densely populated and ethnically diverse areas in the country.

Report downplays TV 'whitewash'

NEW YORK (AP) — Four of the six broadcast networks have a higher percentage of blacks as regular characters in prime-time comedies and dramas than the general population, according to a new study.

The report by TN Media suggests television is no whitewash, as some civil rights groups have charged.

The NAACP is considering a boycott of network television because of what it considers a dearth of minorities on TV.

Hispanic groups have similar complaints, and are in the midst of a two-week "brownout" urging their followers not to watch TV.

The study by TN Media, which advises companies on TV advertising, said 18 percent of CBS' characters this fall are black, as are 14

percent of ABC's. Blacks represent about 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Eight percent of NBC's characters are black, and 7 percent of Fox's.

The two developing networks, which both air shows that specifically appeal to a black audience, do much better.

On UPN, 45 percent of the characters are black. Twenty-three percent are black on the WB.

The six-network average is 16 percent.

"The networks seem to be fairly representative," said Steve Sternberg of TN Media.

It's not clear how much the percentages changed after the NAACP made diversity a public issue. When the situation was pointed out to the networks, several shows in production began adding

minority characters.

A spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the organization is equally concerned about the lack of minority executives, writers and production people at the networks.

"Certainly we're glad that there are a number of minority characters on camera," said the NAACP's John White, "but we're still saying this is more than a matter of who's on screen."

Only 3 percent of the prime-time characters on the networks are minorities other than blacks, the report said. Hispanics alone make up 9 percent of the population.

Sternberg argued that the belief that blacks were much better represented on screen during the 1970s and '80s is

not true.

And he disagreed with the notion that networks don't cater to blacks because advertisers are only interested in young, upscale whites.

"Everyone appealing to the same audience hurts us all, viewers and advertisers alike," he said. "It limits our choices, further polarizes the audience and contributes to network ratings erosion."

TN Media's study of viewing habits indicated that CBS is the most popular network among black viewers, as it is now with all viewers.

Blacks watch nearly 72 hours of television, on average, each week, while whites watch 50 hours.

Almost half of all Hispanic television viewing is of Spanish-language television, the report said.

Ten percent of U.S. residents foreign-born

Jim Lobe

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (IPS) — Nearly 10 percent of all people living in the United States last year were born in another country, according to new figures released by the Census Bureau.

Some 25.2 million residents were born abroad, an increase of more than five million from 1990. Altogether, foreign-born citizens made up 9.3 percent of the total U.S. population of just above 280 million — the highest percentage since 1930, when 14.2 percent of all residents were born abroad, almost all of them in

Europe.

Unlike then, most new immigrants now hail overwhelmingly from the Third World, particularly Latin America and Asia.

The number of foreign-born Hispanics grew from 8 million to 10.7 million in the last eight years, according to the report. Hispanics made up 42 percent of all foreign-born residents of the U.S.

The growth in the number of residents born in Asia or the Pacific Islands was even more spectacular. Some 6.4 million, residents originally from these regions, now outnumber the 4.1 million native Asians and Pacific

Islanders, according to the report. The number of African-born residents has also increased substantially in the past eight years—from 1.7 million to 2.4 million — making that group the country's fastest growing immigrant population.

The new figures provide some insight into the fast-changing demographics of the United States. Changes in the U.S. immigration law over the past 20 years, as well as higher fertility rates among most immigrant groups, has resulted in a population that is growing ever less European.

In a recent report, the

Population Reference Bureau, a demographic research group, projected that the White, non-Hispanic population that now makes up about 72 percent of the U.S. population, will fall to 62 percent by the year 2025, and 53 percent by the year 2050.

While the African-American population will increase by only two percent — from 12 percent to 14 percent — over the same period, the Asian-American population is set to double and the Hispanic population will more than double—from 11 percent today to 24 percent (See *Foreigners*, Page 14)

NBC edits Hispanic slur from sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A recent episode of the NBC comedy "Will & Grace" was edited to remove a word that Hispanic leaders called an ethnic slur.

Dialogue in which a Salvadoran maid was called a "tamale" by her boss was changed in the episode that was to air Tuesday night, with the word "honey" substituted.

"Hey, you're on the clock,

honey. Get to work," character Karen Walker, a wealthy New Yorker, tells Rosario Salazar in the new version of the scene.

"We just thought that in today's climate it was the most appropriate thing to do," NBC spokeswoman Shirley Powell said.

Broadcasters have been under fire for their treatment (See *Edited*, Page 14)

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