

NEWS CLIPS

SENATOR RICHARD BRYAN HONORED AT BANQUET

Committed 100 Men will be celebrating 10 years of excellent community service at its Eighth Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, October 9, at 7pm at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino on 2411 W. Sahara Ave. This year retiring U.S. Senator Richard Bryan will be honored for all of his contributions to the organization. "We (Committed 100 Men) are having a 10 year celebration for the mentoring of young African-American boys," said Program Coordinator Mike Waller. "There's been a misnomer for African-American men not being there for their children." Committed 100 Men was inceptioned in January of 1990. The idea for its creation came from the organization's nationwide success as a "100 Black Men". The ideology of providing 7-13 year old African-American males of single-female headed households with positive role models for mentoring is the same. The name change is only because of the diversive rich ethnic cultures of Las Vegas. "Our purpose is to mentor young African-American boys in single parent families," said Waller. "Give them the necessities they need to pass from boys to men." Ticket prices for the event are \$50.00 a person and \$500.00 for a table of ten. Donations to Committed 100 Men are tax deductible and they are publishing a book to commemorate the banquet with advertising space available. For information please call 593-5110.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS HONORED BY BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

The 74-year-old Harlem Globetrotters recently became the first team to be honored by the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. Known world-wide for their talent and comedic abilities, the team was awarded the prestigious John W. Bunn Award, established in 1973 and named in honor of a former trustee. "This is an incredible honor for us," said Mannie Jackson, team owner and former player. "Everyone knows the joy and honor that the team has brought to the game all over the world, for all of these years. It's nice to see the efforts of all 500 players past and present rewarded." The Harlem Globetrotters recently completed a training camp in which eight new players were named to lead the team into the new millennium. Founded in Hinckley, Ill., the Globetrotters have played in 115 countries and performed before 100 million people.

CALIFORNIA EXPANDS HATE CRIME LAW

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill last week that increases the penalty for murders motivated by the victim's gender, sexual orientation or disability. Under California's current hate crime law, a murder committed because of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin can bring the death penalty or life in prison without parole. The maximum penalty for a murder based on gender, sexual orientation or disability is 25 years to life in prison. The recently signed bill, which takes effect Jan. 1, increases the maximum in those categories to life in prison without parole. It does not by itself allow for the death penalty. The bill's author, Assemblyman Wally Knox, said he tried to pass the measure last year but was unsuccessful. He said the bill gained support after the slayings of Mathew Shepard in Wyoming last year and a gay couple in Northern California in July.

NYC PAYS \$40 MILLION TO RESOLVE COP CLAIMS

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City paid a record \$40 million in the last fiscal year to resolve claims and lawsuits against police officers charged with brutality, an increase of 40 percent from the previous year. The number of brutality claims seeking damages increased by 10 percent — to 2,324 — the highest number in a decade, the city comptroller recently said. City officials dismissed the suggestion that increases were a measure of more misconduct being committed by police officers. Instead, city lawyers pointed to a new policy that calls for more cases to be settled quickly to avoid the long-term costs of an extended court fight. The \$40 million includes cases that were settled and those decided with a court judgment. The city paid \$405 million to resolve other lawsuits and claims, most of them personal injury claims stemming from accidents like sidewalk slips.

Muslims protest Disney exhibit

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — A group of Muslims protested outside the entrance to Walt Disney World as a controversial exhibit on Israel opened to the public.

The exhibit, part of Epcot Center's Millennium Village, has sparked angry denunciations from Jews and Muslims unhappy over the depiction of Jerusalem.

Protesters on Friday carried banners reading "Israeli Exhibit of Falsehood" and "Disney and Israel — Partnership for Propaganda," and passed out a leaflet that read: "Why my children will not be at Disney today."

Muslim groups say the exhibit wrongly depicts Jerusalem as a unified city. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith complained the exhibit doesn't celebrate Jerusalem as the capital of

Israel.

"We were disappointed to see that, according to Disney, Jerusalem is the capital of the Millennium, rather than the capital of the state of Israel," said Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director.

A delegation of Arab Americans recently toured the exhibit and later called for the addition of a Palestinian display to the exhibit of 24 countries.

Disney spokesman Bill Warren responded by saying: "I'm not going to prejudge a decision we haven't had a chance to evaluate. Any day we're open to hearing from potential sponsors or exhibitors."

Two Arab countries — Morocco and Saudi Arabia — are among the countries already represented in the Millennium Village. All the

exhibits are partially paid for by the countries themselves.

Walt Disney World President Al Weiss said the theme park resort did everything it could to avoid politics, but in Israel, politics and culture often can be hard to separate.

Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast War, annexed it and claimed the entire city as its capital. The Palestinians want the eastern part of the city to be the capital of their future state.

Because the issue has remained controversial, most countries, including the United States, have their embassies in Tel Aviv.

"Our problem is not with Disney itself, but Disney has chosen to be on the wrong side in this instance," said Khalid Turaani, executive director of the Washington-

based group American Muslims for Jerusalem. It is boycotting Disney over the Israel exhibit.

Arab foreign ministers had considered a Disney boycott but decided against it last week. Weiss met with Arab and Muslim leaders in Washington several weeks ago to assuage their concerns.

Ahmad Saidi, an Orlando businessman who toured the exhibit, said "it was fair." But Hussein Ibish, spokesman for the Washington-based American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and others said the exhibit should have mentioned Palestinians.

"All of this is occupied territory," Ibish said during the tour, waving his hand in front of an enlarged photo of Jerusalem's Old City. "It's an excellent piece of propaganda."

Court: Muslim cops may wear beards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court recently refused to let Newark, N.J., authorities bar two Muslim policemen from wearing beards.

The court, acting without comment, rejected the city's appeal and left intact rulings that said such a ban would violate the officers' freedom of religion.

Since 1971, the Newark Police Department barred officers from wearing beards but allowed them to wear

mustaches and sideburns.

Officers Shakoor Mustafa and Faruq Abdul-Aziz are Sunni Muslims who say their religion requires them to wear beards. Both said they wore beards while serving on the force for at least 10 years, but in 1997 the police chief issued a new "zero tolerance" policy.

The policy contained an exception for officers with medical conditions that keep them from shaving, but it did not contain a religious exemption.

Deputies charged in assailing black couple

CHICAGO (AP) — Five white sheriff's deputies face criminal charges for allegedly chasing and opening fire on a black couple in their car while the officers were off-duty.

Two of the deputies were recently charged with attempted murder and aggravated discharge of a firearm. All five also were charged with obstruction of justice, prosecutors said.

"You have an individual firing into an occupied vehicle without any justification under the law," Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine said.

An attorney for Cory Simmons, 23, and his girlfriend, Dominique Mapp, 20, had alleged the June 2 confrontation was racially motivated, but Devine said there was no such evidence.

According to the charges, the deputies thought Simmons had cut them off in traffic. They then allegedly chased him and subsequently opened fire, shattering the rear window of the car.

Sgt. Thomas Lanigan, 34, fired at the vehicle as Anthony Bohling, a 32-year-old deputy, drove, according to Devine. Both were charged with attempted murder, aggravated discharge of a firearm, official misconduct and obstruction of justice. Deputies Andrew Remus, 37, Daniel Troike, 27, and former deputy Robert Jones, 29, are charged with official misconduct and obstruction of justice. Both charges are felonies.

All five were released on bond Friday.

The Cook County sheriff's office announced Friday that Lanigan was suspended. Bohling, Remus and Troike were stripped of their police powers and placed in administrative jobs. Jones resigned from his job in July.

After Mustafa and Aziz were charged with disobeying orders to shave and were threatened with being fired, they sued. Their lawsuit said enforcement of the policy violated their right to freely exercise their religion.

A federal judge ruled for the two officers, and the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed last year.

The two officers "are entitled to a religious exemption since the department already makes secular exemptions," the appeals court said.

In the most recently appeal

acted upon, the police department's lawyers said the no-beard policy is intended to present a "professional and dignified image to the public" and establish discipline and solidarity within the ranks.

Officers given medical exemptions are transferred to administrative duties with little contact with the public, the department's lawyers said.

The two officers' lawyers said officers with medical reasons for beards wrongly were treated more leniently than those who wear beards for religious reasons.

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