

# Former nonprofit now must compete for outreach funds

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

A 30-year-old government funded employment training program is doing a 360-degree turn: It's now competing for federal funds. Nevada Business Services, which has offices in Las Vegas, Henderson, Pahrump, Tonopah, and Caliente will have to compete with other businesses and agencies for limited funds to help the disadvantaged find employment.

"What we're going to be is a lot better," executive director Richard B. Blue, Jr. said. "The system will be forced to spend quality time with the job seekers and (address) their needs ... employers will be our primary customers."

Beginning July 1, Nevada Business Services will become NBS inc., and gone will be the days when individuals could come in off the streets and qualify for free job training.

The new rules stipulate that for NBS inc. to assist, a patron must have a job and then qualify for additional training to either advance on that job or receive training for a new career.

"The philosophy is work first," Blue said. "If training is keeping you from a job, then training will be made available."

NBS is federally funded by the 16-year-old Job Training Partnership Act. Formulated during the Reagan era, the act guaranteed training agencies operating funds — this year the budget is \$6.2 million.

The Workforce Investment Act goes into affect the beginning of next month — it was signed into law in 1998. As a result, NBS inc. will have to submit proposals and bids to compete for \$5.8 million.

"(Congress) weren't happy with the results ... (it) felt that JTPA did not hit the mark (nationally)," said Blue, citing reasons for the

bill's creation. "These programs are not the cure all — and they shouldn't be viewed as the cure all."

"(NBS) was a public non-profit organization automatically securing funding," said Bill Murphy, director of NBS Inc. "No hand-outs or actual funding ... NBS Inc. is a private non-profit organization. We're not a public agency anymore. We have to compete for the funds just like any other business."

Murphy said people can no longer walk in and say, "I want training to be a truck driver, daycare worker, medical billing assistant, computer specialist, or cosmetologist (these were the most popular occupations). An estimated 3,000 people per year will now participate in a program that is touted as a 'One Stop Delivery System'."

The new agency will serve as a go between for the employed to receive training. The starting age for clients is 14.

"Budget cuts are not a good thing in terms of the kids you can help," said Clintine Coleman, facilitator for youth services at NBS. She said she will only be able to provide 600 to 800 youth between ages 14 and 21 with jobs. In the past, NBS typically placed 1,400 to 1,700 youth in summer jobs. "It's a shame — some kids have waited to turn 14 so they can go to work."

With the budget cuts come new rules for qualifying. First, a youth must meet the low-income requirements set by law and at least one of seven "social barriers" listed by the investment act, ranging from homelessness to being a public offender.

"All based on our ability," said Murphy, whose job it is to ensure NBS Inc. meets the 17 measures set by the Workforce Investment Board, an entity comprised of local city officials. "(In) Each service ... the emphasis is to get a person employed."

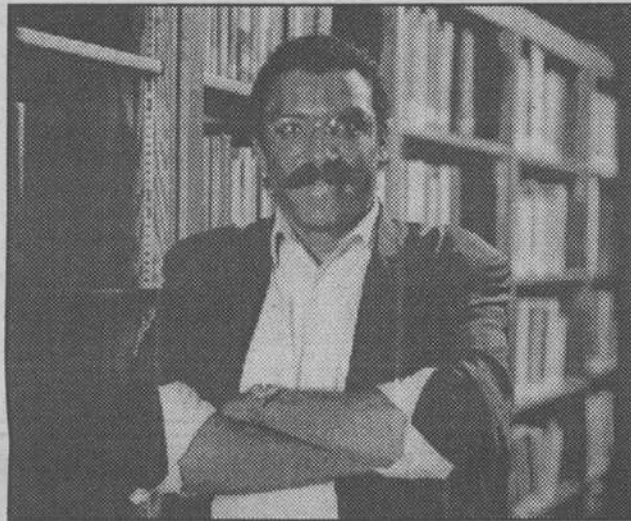
# College professor to portray W.E.B. DuBois in play

Marcello Sawyer  
Sentinel-Voice

Who better to play W.E.B. DuBois, the first African-American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University in 1893, than a man who has two Ph.D's of his own?

Dr. Earnest Bracey, a political science and African-American history professor at Community College of Southern Nevada, will portray educator and activist DuBois in a Las Vegas Chautauqua Performance staged at Hills Park in Summerlin on Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m.

Bracey, who was contacted by the Chautauqua Institute, wrote a theoretical debate between DuBois and Booker T. Washington for the Nevada Humanities Committee. His 1999 book, "Prophetic Insight," a history of



DR. EARNEST BRACEY

higher education and pedagogy of African-Americans, made him an excellent reference for the Institute, which is a renowned center for the arts, education, religion and recreation.

While his teaching career in Southern Nevada began

only in 1996, the acting bug bit Bracey during his twenty-one year tour of duty in the U.S. Army.

"We all think about acting, but I think its based on luck. All black people can act... show various faces," said Bracey. "It's important

to show your history and do it justice. If you can't do that, don't do it at all."

His extensive work and life experience includes serving in Europe and the Far East, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, being chosen as protocol aide to Gen. Colin Powell, writing historical novels on medieval warriors in Korea and about the Japanese Samurai and learning to speak and write Korean.



W.E.B. DuBois

dergraduate degree from Jackson State University, Mississippi and earned one doctorate at Virginia's George Mason University, while his Ph.D in Educational Leadership was completed at Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn., last year.

DuBois taught economics, history and sociology at Atlanta University, but was best known as a social analyst and political activist.

## Shinhoster

(Continued from Page 1) for all of his adult life and he will surely be missed."

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, chairman of the Black Leadership Forum and president emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said in a telephone interview Sunday with the NNPA that he was "shocked and saddened" by the news.

"It's a great loss for the civil rights movement," he said. "Nobody was more consistent and faithful to the

movement than Earl."

Melanie Campbell, executive director of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, met Shinhoster about 20 years ago when she was a student activist.

"He was one of those people who always knew the right thing to say," she said, recalling his favorite statement was "We have to get out there and organize, organize, organize." She said she had recently been working with Shinhoster, the NAACP's

director of Voter Empowerment, to organize the Black vote. He was named to the post last November by Mfume. Lowery said that Shinhoster showed "a trait of humility" unusual for national civil rights leaders.

Campbell said the best way to honor Shinhoster's memory is to organize for Black empowerment.

"Earl was out there doing what he loved," she said.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby, and a son, Michael.

## Erving

(Continued from Page 1) vice president of the Orlando Magic.

Last year, Erving acknowledged he is the father of tennis player Alexandra Stevenson, whose mother, sports writer Samantha Stevenson, raised her as a single parent. Last summer, Alexandra Stevenson became only the second qualifier to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon.

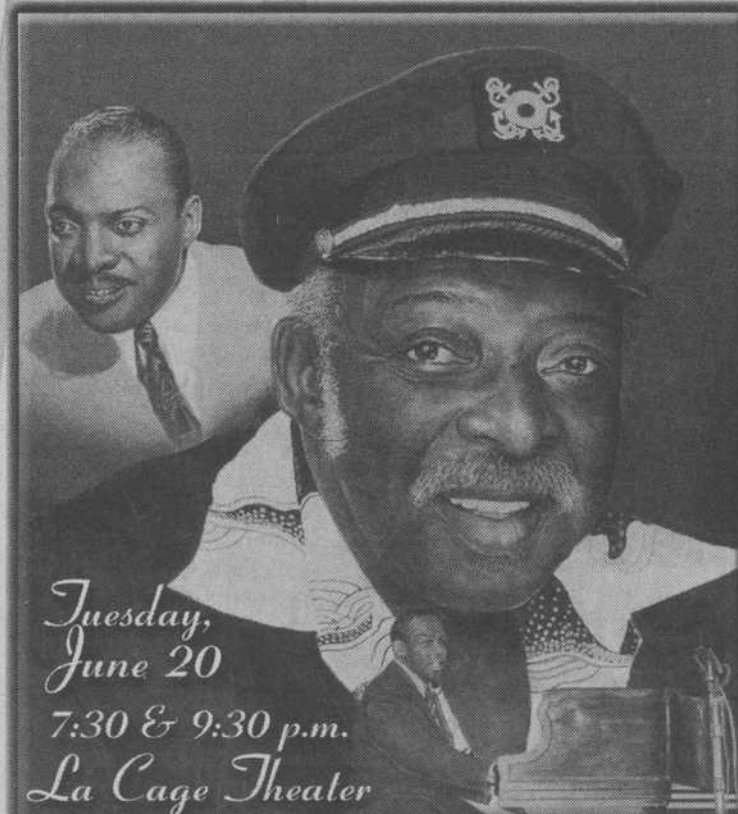
## Clark

(Continued from Page 1)

took a physical and emotional toll including extreme weight loss and insomnia, Clark remarked: "There were some days that I just didn't feel that I could get up." She said she'd "been walking around for fourteen months holding my breath."

Just over a week ago she was vindicated in federal court and, no doubt, gave new meaning to the phrase "waiting to exhale."

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