

EOB

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finance was uncertain if Richardson had met with the Nevada Democrat.

Thus far no allegations of wrongdoing have surfaced.

"It's not a Metro (police) issue," Logan said, denying they are investigating. "I can't see why this would be an issue that involves a police investigation."

"Nothing that I've looked at or my staff has showed me suggests any criminal wrongdoing," Willden said. "I would be shocked if it came back to me that way. The fair statement is I don't know right now."

Earlier this week, Willden said part of the problems at the EOB stem from a lack of internal controls.

Embroided in turmoil with the board over accountability matters, executive director Marcia Rose Walker resigned without notice on Monday, March 8.

Walker refused to return repeated calls to her residence.

"She's not going to say anything," said a source close to the situation who asked to remain anonymous. "She's just going to take it easy for now and not respond to anything unless fingers are pointed at her. That's the way most people would do it. She is not going to talk unless she has to. Rose has never talked to the media unless she had to."

Board member Joe Neal, D-North Las Vegas, said he thinks the state's \$2.1 million advance was inadvertently entered into the wrong account. He told the media he thinks it was the general fund, but had no way of supporting that premise.

This problem with unaccounted for funds has been brewing since 2003. The EOB, a not-for-profit, receives funding from county, state, federal and private sources. The anti-poverty agency's annual operating budget is about \$60 million, Willden said.

Apparently Angela Quinn, president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, tipped off state officials last fall about payments in arrears from the EOB to the Boys and Girls Club for childcare services. Quinn is a former administrator of housing programs at the EOB.

Late payments in 2003 were as much as \$585,000. State officials were alerted and began making queries, especially about the \$2.1 million advance the state made to cover childcare costs. Quinn, shortly after assuming her duties with Boys and Girls Club, inquired to the EOB about the payments in arrears.

Quinn told the local media that the EOB finance director said the problem was with paperwork incorrectly submitted. After the paperwork was resubmitted, Debra Santos, informed Quinn there was no money to make the payment.

Quinn, in turn, informed state officials who began making inquiries. The Boys and Girls Club is still reportedly owed approximately \$54,000 for childcare services from the fiscal year 2003. Santos, for reason not yet made public, was subsequently fired by Walker.

Eventually Quinn's complaint reached the desk of higher-ups in state government. Willden's department has oversight of four divisions that provide grants for EOB programs, including childcare programs.

A resolution is being sought "to right the ship," as Richardson said. On Tuesday, EOB officials voted to seek assistance from the Mid-Iowa Peer-to-Peer Crisis Team. Last week, EOB officials turned down "technical support" offered by Jerry Carroll, director of Clark County's Audit Department.

The crisis team will come from the Office of Community Services, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Willden said the team will review internal controls, financial policies, programs and other operating mechanisms and then make recommendations for how to put the agency back on track.

Clark County, which also channels grants to EOB, hasn't encountered any problems.

"No, we haven't seen any problems with accountability," said Douglas R. Bell, manager of the Clark County Community Resources Department. "We do our normal monitoring. We haven't identified any problems. The vast funding sources for the EOB come from state and federal sources. We are a very small part of their funding."

Herman's official portrait unveiled

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

When the official portrait of Alexis M. Herman, the nation's 23rd Secretary of Labor, was unveiled at the U.S. Labor Department last week, history was made on two fronts. Herman's likeness became the first African-American on display in the Department's Great Hall. Of all the former heads of the department, it also marked the first time a Secretary of Labor portrait was painted by an African-American.

Herman selected local artist Simmie Knox, who, like Herman, grew up in Mobile, Ala., to paint her official portrait. Knox has also been commissioned to paint the official portrait of former President William Jefferson Clinton.

His impressive portfolio includes portraits of Supreme Court Associate Justices Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, former Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, baseball great Hank Aaron, and actor Bill Cosby and his wife Camille, among other political, judicial, academic, corporate, sports and entertainment luminaries.

In a nod to the southern roots both the subject and the artist share, the portrait fea-



Alexis M. Herman; her successor, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao and the artist, Simmie Knox, examine official portrait.

Photo credit: Sharon Farmer

tures a background of azaleas, the official flower of Herman's hometown, where her father served as the first Black alderman since Reconstruction. Herman also requested that her mother's Bible, which was used at her sweating in ceremony be included into the painting.

As Labor Secretary from 1997 to 2001, Herman focused on a prepared workforce, a secure workforce, and quality workplaces. She consolidated the Department's wide array of skills development programs into a simpler, more efficient system; led the effort to insti-

tute a global child labor standard; moved people from welfare to work with dignity; and launched the most aggressive unemployed youth initiative since the 1970's. Under her leadership, unemployment in the country reached a 30-year low and the nation witnessed the safest workplace record in the history of the Department of Labor.

Currently, Herman serves as Chair and Chief Executive Officer of New Ventures, Inc., and is a partner with Visual Edge. She serves on the board of her alma mater, Xavier University in Louisi-

ana and is a trustee of the National Labor College George Meany Center. She is the Chairwoman of The Coca-Cola Company's Human Resources Task Force, Chair of the Toyota Diversity Advisory Board and a member of the Board of Directors of Cummins Inc., Entergy Inc., MGM MIRAGE, USA Football and the National Urban League. Her nonprofit work includes the National Urban League, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Council of Negro Women, and the Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric Aids Foundation.

Hate incidents stir controversy in Calif.

CLAREMONT, Calif. (AP) - Students rallied and teachers canceled classes recently at a group of colleges where a rash of hate incidents has been reported in recent months.

"I'm disappointed, disgusted, angry, frustrated and saddened," said Marc Bathgate, 21, president-elect

of the Claremont McKenna student government. "There was a sense that this community was beyond that. That sense is now gone."

The colleges - known for their rigorous academics and home to several respected research institutes - were galvanized after a Claremont McKenna professor's car was

vandalized and covered in racist and sexist epithets Tuesday night while she spoke at a forum about the need for tolerance and racial harmony.

Police and federal agents are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

The consortium of seven independent institutions includes undergraduate colleges Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, Pomona and Scripps, as well as the Claremont Graduate University and the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences.

The schools have about 5,500 students, nearly 30 percent of whom are minorities, according to Pomona College

spokesman Mark Wood said.

The vandalism came just weeks after similar race-focused incidents.

In February, a slur against Blacks was written on a calendar at Claremont McKenna picturing George Washington Carver. Also that month, initiates in a fraternity scavenger hunt were asked to take photographs of 10 Asians, Wood said. The organization was disbanded.

At Harvey Mudd College, a group of four students set fire to an oversized cross used in an art project in front of a dormitory in January. They were put on probation by the college and required to perform 100 hours of community service.

Trio

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grandparents."

Part of The Center's mission is to help students overcome obstacles that prevent them from achieving academic success, increase the number of "at-risk students" and underrepresented minorities on faculty at the college. The TRIO/GEAR UP program offers ranging from personal success to helping first generation college students. The Center provides opportunities to high school juniors and seniors to earn university credits, job training and GED assistance; academic advising/counseling; financial aid; mentoring, tutoring and enrichment; encouraging parent participation in the academic success of their children.

Following the keynote speaker, U.S. Sen. Harry Reid received the "Educational Pioneer Award" from The Center. Dr. Carol C. Harter, president of UNLV, presented the award, thanking Reid for his support. The Center also recognized three past participants with the Trio Alumni Award. They are Dr. Romona Denby, Rosa Arogonz-Cortez, and Steve LaDouceur.



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