

Journalist targets child sex abuse with book

*By Antonio R. Harvey
Special to Sentinel-Voice*
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (NNPA) – When journalist and author Robin D. Stone wrote an article about sexual child abuse for Essence Magazine a few years ago, the response from readers was overwhelming, sympathetic, and inspirational.

After receiving letters and phone calls from numerous people on how to deal with an epidemically social disorder in the African-American community, Stone decided to

expand on the article by writing the book "No Secrets, No Lies: How Black Families Can Heal From Sexual Abuse." Published by Doubleday/Broadway Books, "No Secrets, No Lies" is a comprehensive resource guide designed for families seeking to understand, prevent, and overcome childhood sexual abuse.

"Because of the overwhelming response to that article, (the responses) told me that people wanted more information about sexual

abuse," Stone said in a telephone interview from New York.

"People had questions. People asked me 'How can I find help in my part of the country?' All that told me that there was a need for more information, and that's what led me to start research for the book."

Stone's 286-page book is a powerful collection of stories that break down the cultural taboos and social dynamics that has kept Black families in silence, and in re-

turn, enabled sexual abuse to persevere for generations.

The author's intentions were to bring the epidemically social disorder to the forefront of the African-American community's consciousness, yet the quest also had a personal spin on it, too.

"One of the reasons why I wrote 'No Secrets, No Lies,' is that I couldn't find information that spoke to me as a survivor, as a Black woman, and also a journalist," said Stone.

(See Stone, Page 11)



The Vegas Valley Book Festival drew good crowds. Among the attendees were Betty Haysbert, left, and Linda Dougan.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

Author

(Continued from Page 1)

streets of Harlem. The literary life carries us through the full spectrum of human emotion, adventure, and history."

He continued, "Telling stories that people can't turn away from, tales that are not factual but come closer to actual life than any journalistic attempt can, recreating the world that you know of, feared, or suspected to exist whether it was in your youth talking about the dog lady living in South Central Los Angeles, or speaking about sex as a youth and telling the most fantastic stories about a subject that you have no knowledge about. But ignorance doesn't matter in a child's literary life. For a child all stories are possible. Without the playfulness of childhood most writers would have never developed their skills and be able to laugh and cry, feel hurt and anger, or talk of love and life."

Mosley shared with the audience details of his life and how it affects his work. He was born of mixed heritage and said, "Coming from a multi-cultural background, I dare you to find someone who doesn't come from a multi-cultural background. This is America. Any person who tells you that when they look into a mirror and sees a Black man, that's crazy. Any person who looks into a mirror and tells you that they see a White man, that's crazy. You see yourself, you know who you are, we're individuals and in America it's something to remember because we get defined by others so much. Black people have mixtures of other races within them just as White people have mixtures of other races within them. There is no pure race within this country now. So we have to learn how to deal with all these complexities that exists within our lives and accept things as they are instead of how we want them to be."

Mosley closed out his ideas to the audience, saying, "It is my opinion that writers are not teachers. In order to have teachers you must have potential students. But we have readers, people who take in ideas and make them into something else. It's all about interpretation of knowledge. The reader or listener takes on the element of the sword and bends them to their own prejudices, images, convictions or beliefs. The reader or listener creates the story just as much as the storyteller does, especially when you realize that sometimes the reader is more intelligent than the teller of the story. Readers do not expect to take a pop quiz and be held accountable by any external authority. They read for the love of the story. They are the writer's peers and not a student. They are partners who will take on a different and new perspective about the story that will allow the work to take on meaning from many levels, growing within time and not forced into one idea given by a teacher to the student through some narrow perspective of learning."

Linda Dougan who attended the festival said, "I think this was wonderful because we don't get this kind of intellectual activity very much in Vegas. I am so elated to be here and be apart of this great event because it's a rarity and I hope that we have more of them. I think the characters in his stories are wonderfully developed and that's what I like about his writings. That's what makes a good story, especially when you can put those relationships together with the colorful characters."

Betty Haysbert, who came to hear Mosley said, "This was a good opportunity for us to actually see someone in person whose work that we read and enjoyed."

"Just having the opportunity to explore some of the rationale behind what he does and some of the ways in which he does his work. It always expands our vision and our appreciation for what he does and it takes us into his work a lot easier when we know some of the circumstances around his writing."



And then it hit us:
What law says home equity rates have to go up?



Now The Bank That Guarantees Great Service Guarantees Your Home Equity Rate Will Drop.

Introducing the EquiLine Rate Reward from U.S. Bank – it's the only rate that drops .25% every six months. Guaranteed. For homeowners who gravitate towards money-saving ideas, our brilliant insight is certain to attract plenty of attention.

NOW	LATER
4.75%*	3.75%*
PRIME +0%	PRIME -1%

- When other rates go up, yours goes down
- See your rate drop to as low as Prime -1%
- No closing costs
- Easy application lets you start saving money immediately
- EquiLine Rate Reward goes with you even if you move

But it's a limited time offer, so you better move quickly if you want the only home equity rate that's guaranteed to fall.

Hurry, act before November 12! To apply today or get details, visit your nearest U.S. Bank branch, call 888-444-BANK (2265) ext. 4100 or visit us online at usbank.com.



usbank.com

*The 4.75% variable APR is available with any new or existing U.S. Bank checking account and loan to value (LTV) of 80% or less. Higher rates apply for higher loan to values. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) will vary at Prime Rate as published in The Wall Street Journal. As of October 1, 2004 the variable rate for lines of credit is 4.75% to 7.75% APR. The margin and corresponding APR will automatically be lowered by .25% at 6, 12, 18 & 24 months from the note date. Rate Reward is available only on new relationships or increases of \$10,000. To qualify for the Rate Reward, the account cannot have any delinquency that is greater than 30 plus days past due. A single delinquency will disqualify the account from future rate adjustments and revert back to the original margin. There is a floor rate of 3.75% APR. The rate will not exceed 25% APR. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year. Offer is effective for new applications taken by November 12, 2004. Offer is subject to normal credit approval. Property insurance is required. Rate subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Offered through U.S. Bank National Association ND. Member FDIC

