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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



In October, 1966, in Oakland California, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Pictured are the original six members.

Panthers unite for celebration

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) - The Black Panther Party officially existed for just 16 years, but its reach has endured far longer.

Co-founder Bobby Seale never expected to be around to see that reach 40 years later.

"A lot of times I thought I would be dead," he said.

Seale and other former members will commemorate the party's founding when they reunite in Oakland this weekend. They plan a mix of events, including workshops on topics ranging from Hurricane Katrina to ethnic studies in higher education, as well as presentations on party history.

"Grassroots, community, programmatic organizing for the purpose of evolving political, electoral, community empowerment," Seale said. "This was my kind of revolution. This was what I was after."

The Panthers were born Oct. 22, 1966, the night Seale and Huey Newton completed the party's 10-point program and platform. At the time, Newton was a law student and Seale was working for the Oakland Department.

(See *Black Panthers*, Page 3)

Boyd stresses diversity

Gaming company announces new initiatives

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

Boyd Gaming Corp. announced in a news release Tuesday two initiatives to boost its corporate diversity outreach and support for minority businesses by identifying more local companies to fill contracts and offering those businesses financial support in two areas. Boyd will fund a part of the new membership dues for businesses to join any one of three minority advocacy chambers of commerce. In addition, in what some are calling a "big" move, Boyd will fund some of the subcontractors' required operating expenses for mandatory insurance while working with Boyd's upcoming new local development.

The overall goal is to increase minority- and women-owned company participation for Boyd's Echelon Place development starting construction in spring on the mid-Strip site where the Stardust Hotel and Casino now stands, according to Rob Stillwell, vice president of corporate communications for Boyd.

The primary thrust of the membership funding is to facilitate companies that want to join any of the three major

business groups chiefly representing Latin-, Asian- and African-American-owned businesses. Respectively, the three minority chambers affected are the Latin Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Urban Chamber.

Boyd will help defray the

Boyd's objective is to better identify more prospective companies and help them with the chambers' collective resources and other direct support.

"This is our way of reinforcing our belief of how important [the minority chambers are]," Stillwell added.



"They [Boyd] called to request a meeting with us to become more active, to make sure they had a diversity initiative that was on par with MGM and Harrah's."

— Louis Overstreet
Executive Director, Urban Chamber of Commerce

cost of any qualifying company's annual membership fee to join one chamber by paying a portion of it up to a one-time, \$500 maximum dollar-for-dollar match. Chamber membership rates are tiered, partly based on employee count, usually ranging from about \$200 to \$500 for one to several employees up to thousands of dollars for a large corporation with hundreds on payroll, according to representatives of the chambers.

Marianne Johnson, vice chair with Boyd and its Diversity Council chair, stated, "We want to expand the ranks of these chambers and to encourage new companies to participate."

Johnson highlighted advantages for the business owners and each organization in a written statement: "New members can network and increase their exposure to other local businesses. We have reduced the only impediment to joining," adding

that the matching subsidy will help the chambers "grow and better serve the community."

Additional information on the program for membership fee assistance is available by contacting the chambers' own membership offices and it runs through the end of next year, according to Stillwell.

Las Vegas-based Boyd Gaming Corporation is a publicly traded, owner-operator of 18 gaming properties located in five states in addition to its local major properties, including Sam's Town, Suncoast, and Main Street Station.

Boyd is a member of the local chambers it seeks to help.

Executive Director Louis Overstreet with the Las Vegas Urban Chamber of Commerce, whose diverse membership is predominantly Black-owned companies, believes the approach is workable to help identify more companies interested in applying for contracts with the Echelon Place development and seeking other opportunities. Overstreet said his chamber membership has slowed recently in growth to about seven new members

(See *Boyd*, Page 3)

Illegal immigrants live in fear of being caught

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

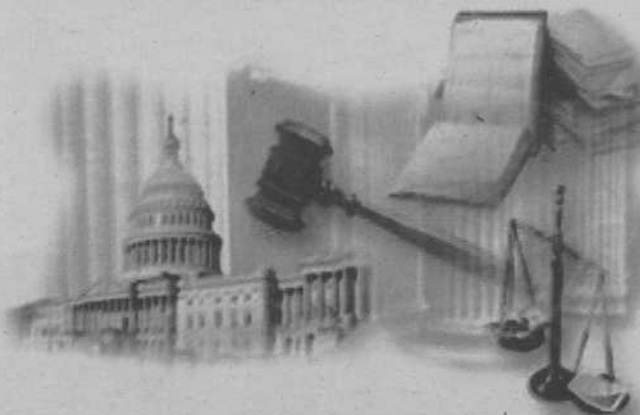
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Michele sits up startled in her full-size bed. Her heart is thumping. Her mind races with fear as she peers at the glow of the digital clock in the dark. It's near midnight. Who could be knocking at her door at this hour?

She crawls from her bed and tips slowly across the carpeted floor of her efficiency apartment, horrified at the prospect of who could be awaiting her. She holds her breath as she nears the door. Peering through the peep

hole, she sighs with relief. It's only a fireman.

The 37-year-old laughs heartily as she recounts the incident. Michelle (not her real name) is an illegal immigrant from Trinidad, having overstayed an Immigration and Naturalization Service visa that expired nearly 10 years ago. She has no driver's license, green card or passport.

"Sometimes you're getting up with night sweats and you're thinking, 'This is them.' You know they're coming. You feel as though you're confined," she nearly



Illegal immigrants have very few laws on their side.

whispers in her rich Trinidadian accent.

"I can't go anywhere that requires an I.D. I can't tell anybody. I pick and choose

the ones who I can trust. And I know who I can trust by having a conversation with them. It's hard, it's hard even to travel. So, in cases like

mine, it's in the back of your head all the time, all the time."

And so is stress.

"If you ask me whether I ever relax 100 percent, I would say no. On a scale of one to 10, I would say I sometimes I get to an eight? You hear a knock on the door and you think it's the INS, but it's just a firefighter. When you see police officers outside your building, you think they might be escorting the INS. When you see somebody new on your job, you think it's someone to put you in shackles."

Because of her immigration status, Michele agreed to tell her story to the NNPA News Service only under conditions of anonymity.

She came to the U.S. with a friend on a visitation visa, planning to stay only six months. During those six months, she found a job and an apartment on the east coast. She has held the same job ever since, sharing her secret with only a few of her co-workers and her employer. She said her boss has chosen to risk keeping her because she is a faithful

(See *Immigrants*, Page 4)