

September 12, 2006
 "Setting The Table"
 Conference • Free
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Diversity Economic Empowerment Day

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 Portland, OR 97204

IRS Clears NAACP in Political Probe

Civil rights group vindicated

The IRS has informed the NAACP that it has concluded its examination of the civil rights group's activities and determined the association did not violate conditions of its tax exempt status.

The IRS launched the examination on Oct. 8, 2004 after receiving complaints from several Republican members of Congress who said their constituents believed NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Julian Bond crossed the line of non-partisanship in a speech at the NAACP 2004 National Convention critical of Bush administration policies.

"The good news is that we are vindicated," said Bond. "The bad news for us

and other freedom loving Americans is that it was initiated for partisan purposes to threaten our right to free speech. We'll continue to speak truth to power."

NAACP President and CEO Bruce S. Gordon called it "disappointing that the IRS took nearly two years to conclude what we knew from the beginning: the NAACP did not violate tax laws and continues to be politically non-partisan."

"Tax-exempt organizations should feel free to critique and challenge governmental policies under the First Amendment without fear of IRS intervention," Gordon said.

The IRS initiated an audit of the NAACP



Julian Bond

just one month before the 2004 presidential election and nearly three months before the end of the NAACP's tax year.

The IRS refused to explain the basis of its investigation for more than a year. The NAACP learned the basis for the examination only after filing four Freedom of Information ACT requests.

The documents included complaints filed by Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn. and Susan Collins, R-Maine, then-Senator Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., Reps. JoAnn Davis, R-Va. and Larry Combest, R-Texas, then-Reps. Robert Ehrlich, R-Md) and Joe Scarborough, R-Fla. and political donor Richard Hug.

Croc Hunter Killed on Job

Video rolling when stingray attacked

(AP)— Steve Irwin pulled a poisonous stingray barb from his chest in his dying moments, his longtime manager said Tuesday, after watching videotape of the attack that killed the popular "Crocodile Hunter."

Irwin's body was returned home to Beerwah, a hamlet in southeastern Queensland on the fringe of the Outback of Australia where he lived with his wife and two young children. Irwin turned a modest reptile park opened by his parents into Australia Zoo, a wildlife reserve that has become an international tourist attraction.

Hundreds placed bouquets and handwritten notes at an ad hoc shrine to the popular 44-year-old naturalist outside the park, and other tributes flowed in from Canberra to Hollywood.

The dramatic details of Irwin's death Monday as he was shooting a program on the Great Barrier Reef were disclosed by John Stainton, his manager and close friend. He said he had viewed the videotape showing the TV star pulling the poisonous stingray barb from his chest.

"It shows that Steve came over the top of the ray and the tail came up, and spiked him here (in the chest), and he pulled it out, and the next minute he's gone," Stainton told reporters in Cairns, the nearest city to tiny Batt Reef off Australia's far northeast



Australian Steve Irwin, of the Animal Planet TV show "The Crocodile Hunter," holds a nine-foot female alligator in company with his American wife Terri, who is from Eugene, at his "Australia Zoo" in Beerwah, Queensland, Australia.

coast where the accident happened. Stainton said the video was "shocking."

"It's a very hard thing to watch, because you are actually witnessing somebody die, and it's terrible," he said.

Irwin's boundless energy and daredevil antics around deadly beasts made him a household name as the Discovery Channel's "The Crocodile Hunter," with a reported audience of more than 200 million.

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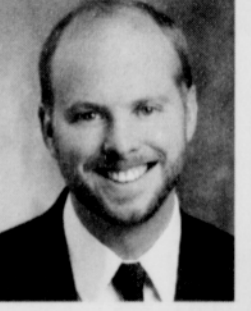
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Taking Charge: The Future of Energy in Oregon

Join State Representatives Diane Rosenbaum, Jackie Dingfelder, and Chip Shields for a discussion of energy issues in Oregon. We will cover several energy topics and have a panel of experts to address your concerns. Plenty of time has been reserved for questions, so please plan to attend.

Don't miss this chance to share your views with your legislators!

Date: Thursday, Sept. 21st, 2006
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Hollywood Senior Center
 1820 NE 40th Ave.
 Portland

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Questions?
 Please call 503-493-4411

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