

## SNETP Welfare Client Finds Employment

As a 25-year-old high school dropout, mother of a 2-year-old son, Susan Rice had been unemployed and living on welfare since 1981. On Sept. 28, 1985, she began her new life as a legal secretary and now is employed full time at \$6.25 an hour. She credits her success on the valuable classroom training which she received from SNETP.

Helping those on welfare become employed is a priority at the Job Training

Program. With the placement of Welfare recipients in being mandated by the Job Training Partnership Act. But, this is by no means an easy task. Susan first had to get her General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Then with the program's help, spend a total of 12 months in training to learn to be a legal secretary.

It was well worth it when you consider that Susan, who had been drawing \$183 per month in welfare

benefits, plus medical coverage, is now making \$1,083 per month and paying taxes. She also can be proud that she is no longer dependent on government programs and handouts.

It is stories like this that support the value of Job Training Programs. Together with clients who want to work and employers who need trained employees, Southern Nevada Program will continue.

## NLV Council draw battle lines with drug dealers

A suggestion to block off streets in the College Hights area to discourage drug dealing was proposed to North Las Vegas city councilmen.

The proposal was suggested by three residents, who presented the council with a petition signed by 16 neighbors who support the plan.

The idea behind blocking the streets is that if drug pushers know they cannot get in and out quickly to

avoid capture by the police, they are less likely to frequent the area.

Councilmen instructed city staff to draw up a proposal, taking into consideration the emergency needs of the fire and police departments.

The area under discussion is bounded by Balzar Avenue on the north, Comstock Drive on the east, Lake Mead Boulevard on the south and Carver Avenue on the west.

Councilman Theron Goynes said he oppose

blocking off any streets. "What's going to become more important if a blaze breaks out and a family's life is at stake?"

A minister who identified himself as Elder Gray told the council there are times when a motorist is almost afraid to adhere to a stop sign because drug pushers will rush up to the car to make a sale.

He said that the drug pushers are so organized they have a "supervisor" who rides up and down the street on a motorbike collecting money as sales are made.

"It's not a decent neighborhood to live in," Gray said, "We're just pouring our hearts out to you."

Councilman William Robinson said "It's a supermarket there on Comstock at times."

Mayor James Seastrand said he, too, is aware of the problem because he has driven through the area and has had dealers try to sell him drugs.

Council members said they would like to see police increase their antidrug activities in the area.

Robinson said the city may have to increase the fines levied for some misdemeanors so it can hire more policemen and "break some heads."

Lt. Dorin Goudreau of the city's police department said one of the problems in cracking down on drug trafficking in the area is that Comstock is the dividing line between North Las Vegas and Las Vegas. Single-family houses are on the North Las Vegas side, while the Herbert Gerson housing project is on the Las Vegas side of the street.

If the police from one city try to crack down on drug pushers, they move across boundary lines, he said.

The problem of empty, boarded-up houses in the area, which sometimes are used by criminals to hide drugs or stolen property, also was discussed.

Wayne Reilly, city beautification coordinator, said he recently counted 77 vacant houses in a five-block area of that neighborhood, mostly owned by Sanson Properties.

While the firm sends work crews out to keep houses boarded up in compliance with city regulations, it is difficult to improve such a neighborhood, he said.

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