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# Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## EOB TRANSPORTATION SCRUTINIZED BY RTC, STATE SENATORS

By Joan Shepard

Plagued by a rising tide of complaints ranging from lack of air conditioning to failure to return patients home following medical appointments, the bus service for the elderly and the handicapped operated by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County has come under the scrutiny of U.S. Harry Reid and the Regional Transportation Commission.

"Such shortfalls in service for those most in need is inexcusable," said Senator Reid.

In addition, Kurt Weinrich, director of the Regional Transportation Commission told Reid that the shipment of 17 new buses were not equipped with the proper air conditioning equipment.

The E.O.B. bus service is part of a network of social services provided by E.O.B., which is funded by the federal government. Reid also said that he

informed Health and Human Services secretary, Louis Sullivan, about the situation and is awaiting a response.

The RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) has started investigating about a dozen new complaints gathered by Alcinda Miller, on behalf of elderly and handicapped people who are unable to negotiate the bureaucratic procedure.

Miller has used the E.O.B. during a period when she had at least one dozen operations in several Las Vegas Hospitals. "People have been complaining for more than a year," said Miller. "When I started gathering complaints this time, many were discouraged because they never saw any results the last time they complained."

One of the most serious problems this summer has been the lack of air conditioning in brand new E.O.B. buses. E.O.B. transportation director, John Del

Mare, said the air conditioning should be repaired by the end of the month. Del Mare said he was unable to rent substitute buses this summer because of the red tape involved. In addition, he said he did not feel that the lack of air conditioning represented a health emergency despite high Las Vegas temperatures. "What is extreme heat," said Del Mare. "It was either no air conditioning or no buses."

The E.O.B. transportation director blamed the air conditioning breakdown on an inadequate compressor. However, Del Mare said he wrote the specifications for the new buses.

The RTC has begun to investigate the following categories of complaints:

1. The policy requiring riders to call at midnight or 6 a.m. for appointments.
2. Long waits up to four hours for a return trip home.
3. Early pickup, two or three hours,



EOB employees inspect one of the 12 empty buses recently parked in the transportation yard at "H" and Bonanza. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

prior to an appointment.  
4. Dispatcher rudeness.  
5. Fear by riders they will refused service if they lodge a complaint.  
Del Mare said E.O.B.'s main prob-

lem is shortage of buses. Currently, E.O.B. service about 900 people a day, but has to refuse service to about 300-400 people a day.

(See EOB, Page 18)

## OLYMPIC HOPEFUL SEEKS SPONSORSHIP

By Muhammad Abdullah

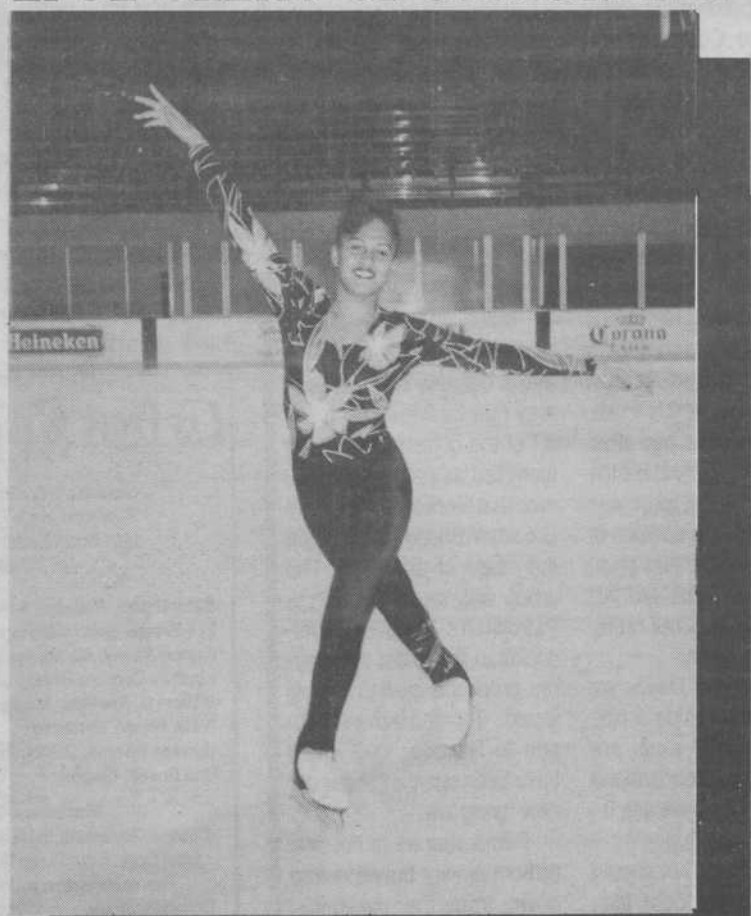
Ever since she was in pre-school Tasha King, a fifteen year old Olympic hopeful, has had a love for ice-skating. She has developed her own unique style and has amassed over 30 trophies, medals and awards in ice-skating competitions throughout California, namely Palm Springs, Palos Verdes, Burbank, Paramount and Costa Mesa, in seven years.

Tasha has also competed in Ontario, Canada and Reno, Nevada and recently (i.e. one year ago) moved to Las Vegas along with her grandparents, Arthur & Lea Rankin to continue her training in hopes of competing in the 1994 or 1996 Olympics.

Tasha is presently training at the Sante Fe Hotel & Casino Ice Arena, where she also works part-time as an instructor when she is not in school, to help pay for her training.

Her grandparents have been her legal guardians since she was 13 months old due to the break-up of her parents, and have encouraged her to achieve her dream since the age of five.

Tasha is a student at Cimarron High School and has had her share of  
(See Olympic Hopeful, Page 18)



TASHA KING

## WEST LAS VEGAS AWARDED GRANT

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The City of Las Vegas has been awarded a \$260,858 Community Development Block Grant, by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant will be used for areas of the city that were ravaged following the Rodney King verdict last April, Nevada's Congressional delegation announced recently.

The grant will be used to complete the neighborhood planning process for West Las Vegas, expand the City's role for coordinating neighborhood economic activities and provide business development and training services for West Las Vegas. These objectives were established by the Mayor's Multi-jurisdictional Community Empowerment Commission which was convened in response to the disturbances.

"CDBG funds provide a basis for low-income communities to create and implement economic programs," U.S. Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV) said. "With this grant, I am confident that from the destruction of the April riots will come economic improvements that will benefit the West Las Vegas community for years to come."

"We must change America's economic focus to empower people from the bottom up, instead of the top down," U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) said. "Our communities need strong foundations, both physically and spiritually. This community grant will help the people of West Las Vegas resurrect their neighborhoods."

With members of both his Las Vegas and Washington staffs working closely with the Multi-jurisdictional Commission, Congressman James Bilbray (D-NV/1st Dist.) wholly supports their efforts. "The work being done by this Commission is of vital importance to the future of the Westside. If we are to see real, lasting, progress it will only be through the dedication of concerned residents along with support from Nevada leaders on every level," Bilbray said.

"I have always supported these grants because they allow local officials to make the decisions as to how they are spent," said Congresswoman Barbara F. Vucanovich, (R-NV/2nd Dist.). "Local officials are more likely to generate creative ideas for using CDBG money than are federal administrators in Washington."

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