

MLK COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 1)
 Juanita Simpson. Simpson, who still manages the program for the MLK Committee, began the program with a handful of volunteers. She now has 22 separate sites with double that amount of paid employees. The program is funded by a grant

from the State of Nevada Bureau of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Strict guidelines are adhered to along with classroom and behavior requirements for students.

"We attempt to keep our teacher/pupil ratio at 15 to 1," says Sawyer. "The kids actually

enjoy the opportunity to learn," says Ameika Coleman, 22, teacher for one of the teaching sites. Coleman says there is no problem finding kids who want to participate in the tutoring sessions. "They come freely and eager to learn," continues Coleman. This, from an

environment which decries learning, presents an anomaly for most. "People think because these kids come from bad neighborhoods that they are bad," she adds. Such is not the case, according to Coleman. LaCreCia Williams, 17, a peer counselor for the program shares Coleman's sentiments. "These kids are going to be the future," she says, "most are labeled as bad when actually they are very bright."

Sawyer, who becomes excited at the mention of the

program, likes the service it provides to the community. "Students are targeted that come exclusively from at-risk schools," she says. At risk schools are deemed by the Clark County School District as schools with high drop out potential. "We work directly with the school district to ensure that we reach the target group," says Sawyer. In addition to academic learning, students are provided self esteem development, drug awareness, computer training and social skills development. All given at

no charge to the parent. A snack, which all seem to look forward to, is the capstone to the day's festivities.

While Sawyer is enlightened by the success of the program, she plans to add another caveat. Volunteer guest speakers are needed to help with the self esteem development. It is Sawyer's hope to bring professionals from everyday careers to speak to the kids. "We desperately need professionals to give our kids something to shoot for," says Sawyer.

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Sammie Armstrong Receives National Award

Sentinel Voice
 Local businessman Sammie R. Armstrong was recently given the Washington-Nash Success award by the Black Woman Hall of Fame Foundation. The award was given during a formal banquet on Friday, September

30, 1994 in Chicago before a host of dignitaries and officials. Armstrong was described as: "one who has given unselfishly and untiringly of himself to benefit his fellow man." He joins the ranks of former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, Rev. Jesse

Jackson, and the late Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, who the award was partially named in behalf.

Doing business in Las Vegas for the past 20 years, Armstrong has founded two successful bus companies, Ray & Ross Transport, and a travel agency, Armstrong Travel. He is most notably known for his civic and charitable contributions towards local agencies.

He is an adamant supporter of the local Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas and fair housing for the poor, serving an appointment as a housing commissioner for the Las Vegas Housing Authority.

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A BILLION TIMES—NO!

The Clark County School Board says it needs nearly \$1,000,000,000 to build new schools, repair select existing schools and to place equipment in certain schools. Sounds good... BUT, will all our children benefit? WE say NO! Unfortunately, the School Board says, "NO," too.

The Board voted "NO" to placing needed schools in the immediate area of heavy student population, known as the Westside. This has been a historical problem for over 27 years. There are NO high schools, NO junior high schools, and the Board said NO to placing much needed elementary schools in the area. African-American and all other families in the area have been overlooked, disrespected and over-taxed. IT IS TIME TO SAY NO MORE!

Another serious problem is the low representation of African-American and other multi-cultural instructors in the district—especially in the neighborhoods where needed most. The result is insensitivity to the special needs of all our children and creates the types of repeated conflicts present throughout the entire school system. This hurts every family's children.


Furthermore, the Board, appar-

ently, plans to continue busing many children far out of their neighborhoods, while refusing to build schools where needed. Also, many buses transport only a few children. This is costly, wasteful, a danger to children, harmful to the students' sense of community and well-being—and, it's simply not effective. We ask that all parents say NO to unfair busing and demand better planning on the Board's part.

When asked where the bond money will be spent, the Board wouldn't say. The District is asking us for a great deal of money—about a BILLION DOLLARS—BUT can't tell us exactly who, how, where and which area it will benefit!!? And, what happened with the last bond issues? Why is there still controversy on how and where the funds were spent?

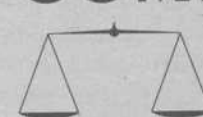
NO! We will not support any additional bond and taxes until the Board gives direct ANSWERS and comes up with a better plan, better management, better facilities that are fair for ALL OUR CHILDREN. Vote NO on Question 1, Part A and Part B. Our schools need help, but we need a better plan before it's too late.

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