

JOB FAIR

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community and social programs.

Applicants withstood 100 degree heat and hour-long lines just to get an opportunity to talk to about 20 employers who brought applications and job information. Some employers interviewed and hired on the spot, according to event co-organizer Metro police officer Julius Prator. Prator, along with fellow officer D.C. Toney, spear-headed the event

18-year-old Willie Marshal didn't mind the long

lines or extreme heat and patiently waited for an opportunity to speak to employers. The Valley High School senior wants to be an electronics technician after graduation. "All of my life I've been taking things apart," says the eager teenager. "All I want is a good job, really." Representatives from Education Dynamics Institute (EDI) were on hand to assist Marshal with his dream.

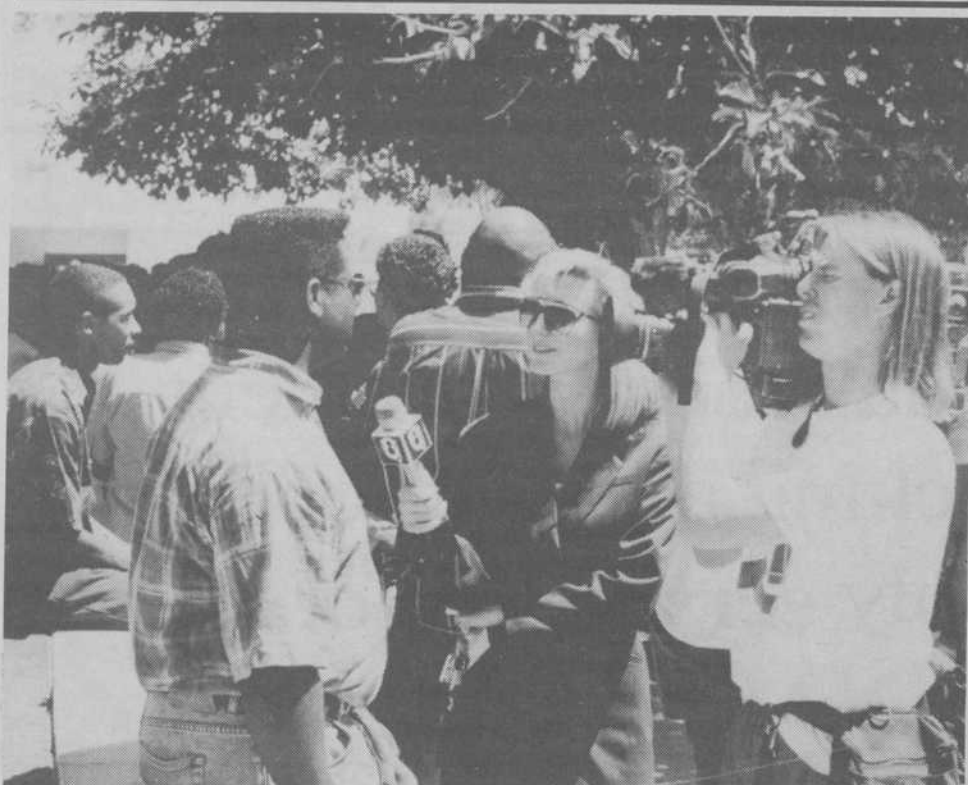
Officer Julius Prator, affectionately known as "Predator" by neighborhood residents, calls the event a success. "One employer who handed out

100 applications had to stop and get more." Nevada Employment Security representative, Ron Huffman, was surrounded by job seekers as he completed referrals to potential applicants. "The response has been great," says Huffman. "They want more jobs," he adds. Some applicants were referred to the agencies main office for further follow-up. From a variety of employers who showed to the volunteers from the Nevada Black Policemen's Association and other organizations who donated their time to the event, Prator says

the event represented a community effort. "There have been other instances where officers have helped people get jobs, yet this is the first combined attempt," says the officer.

Metro plans to staff a sub station and fully implement its community policing strategy within Gerson Park. A bike patrol will be assigned to the area in which officers will carry cellular phones for immediate response to residents. Gang members and drug dealers will be closely monitored and arrested.

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