

Army reserve an option for would-be collegians

Special to Sentinel-Voice

With the cost of college soaring, parents and college students-to-be are grappling with how to fund higher education: grants, loans, military service.

But each method comes with drawbacks: to qualify for grants, the student's family must be at and maintain poverty-level income. Loans shirk the stringent economic guidelines, but straps students with debt after graduation. Students are often discouraged at pursuing advanced degrees, fearing additional debt.

The Nevada Army National Guard 221 Armor Battalion's only drawback: sweat equity. Battalion officials said military service is increasingly an option for black high school students who can't afford college.

Reservists interested in college can qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill which provides \$203 per month for tuition and expenses. Nevada provides a 50 percent tuition reimbursement program. Combined with the soldier's salary, the cost of college can be reduced significantly.

To earn the college benefits a soldier must complete eight weeks of high-stress, intensive training and eight-13-weeks in a school featuring

his or her specialty.

Armor battalion commander, Lt. Colonel Aaron Kenneston, sees the reserve commitment as an excellent opportunity for minority students seeking money for college and wanting to acquire high-tech skills.

"I believe that the Nevada Army National Guard is responsible for delivering a product to the citizens of our great state," Kenneston said.

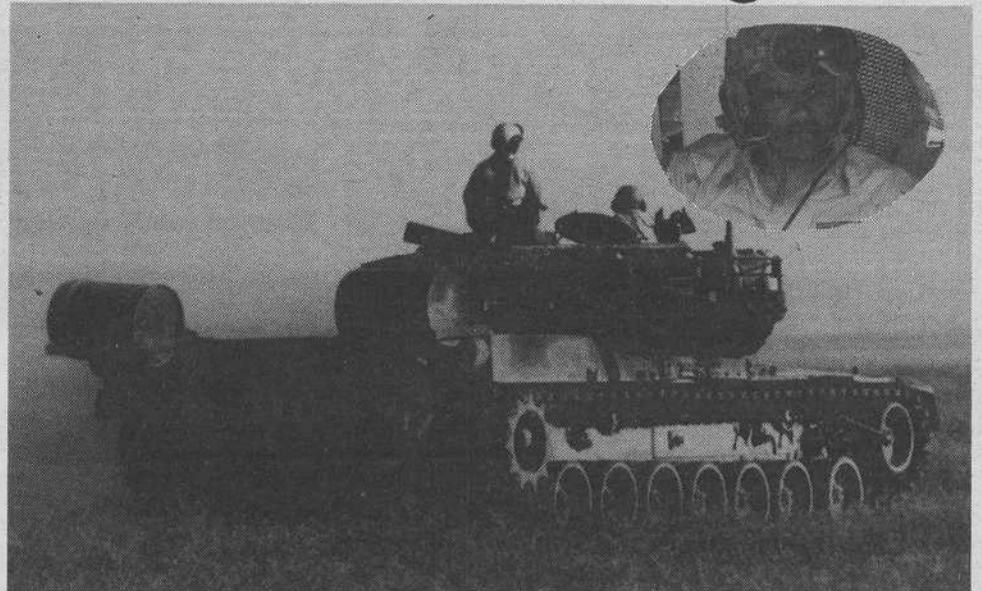
Kenneston said the small number of blacks in the Nevada National Guard reflects demographics. Personnel statistics show blacks account for six officers and 90 enlisted personnel statewide or 11 percent of all soldiers.

Kenneston, given the authority to recruit 100 new soldiers, hopes to increase minority participation.

"I would be extremely pleased if I could raise the percentage of African-Americans in the battalion."

Kenneston plans a variety of outreach programs specifically targeting areas minorities frequent. He said he will collaborate with southern Nevada recruiters on marketing strategies.

The reserve units function as combat-ready



Reserve Army Specialist Dye maneuvers his high-tech M1A1 Abrams tank during a weekend training exercise on the Nevada test range. Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

forces which augment active duty units during war. Specifically, the armor battalion operates the Army's high-tech M1A1 Abrams tank. With three separate gun systems and a high-tech

turbo motor, the M1A1 is arguably the most lethal tank in the world.

Reserve soldiers commit to a one weekend per month, two weeks during the year obligation.

Mayor

(Continued from Page 1)

might waive certain fees and boost the response time of inspectors and suggested that developers building in the outer ring of the city might have to fund their own infrastructure. She said 80 percent of infrastructure upgrades are executed in newly developed areas.

"The city will implement its own rings around the city for growth," she told the crowd. A growth advisory committee is in the works to examine infrastructure needs and cost options.

To build a "city of connected urban communities," empower residents of Jones is proposing a neighborhood association ordinance that will allow

"The mayor has guts."

— State Senator Dina Titus

citizens to review and give input in all development in their region. The council will receive the ordinance in 45 days, she said. There are 120 established neighborhood associations. Under her plan, the associations would elect boards to work with developers and builders to plan how the land is used.

"This promotes dialog among citizens, developers, and builders," she said.

Jones also touched on transportation, complaining of limited room to build roads in the city. "There are too many

roads that stop before they reach their destination," she said. Adequate completed roads are "no longer an issue but a necessity."

The council was fairly receptive to Jones's speech.

"The goals that are set are obtainable," councilman Michael McDonald said.

Said councilman Arnie Adamsen, "The mayor has put it (her plan to improve Las Vegas) in a comprehensive package. It's ambitious."

State Senator Dina Titus, D-Las Vegas, who pushed for a "ring around the valley" during 1997 Legislature said, "The mayor has guts and has shown vision."

Ritalin

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Some common reactions to the drug are nervousness and insomnia, however, both can usually be handled by reducing the dosage.

During the long-term therapy children may experience abdominal pain, loss of appetite, rapid heartbeat and weight loss.

Tutman argues that ADD is not a disorder and, therefore, should not be treated with drugs.

"The main problem is that these kids are bored with what is going on in the classroom," he said. "Drugging them may be useful for the teacher, but is absolutely useless to the child."

Instead, he advocates non-medical treatment for children with ADD. After all, he said, Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison are quite often believed to have had ADD, and studies show that ADD rates are higher than average among entrepreneurs, sales people,

trial lawyers, emergency surgeons and pilots.

Tutman is the founder of the Community Service Guild, an organization which developed a system of training volunteer tutors to help children master basic reading and arithmetic skills. One project demonstrated that by using techniques grounded in scientific research, inner-city children can be taught to read despite such labels as dyslexia and ADD.

Tutman said parents need to organize to "stop this wholesale drugging, particularly of minority children."

When asked who benefits most from the use of Ritalin, he responded, "A lot of pharmaceutical companies make a lot of money from it and that's the prime reason behind it — it's monetary. And some doctors are getting a profit as well."

Sonya M. Toler writes for the New Pittsburgh Courier.

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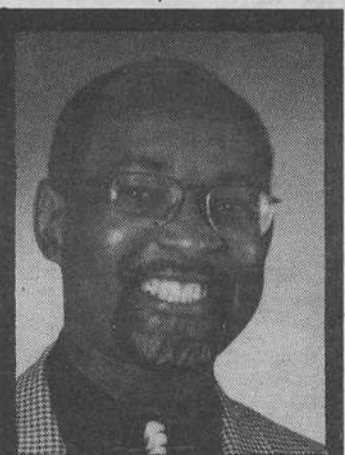
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