

Elders

(Continued from Page 1)
ent. We also has a crisis of creativity," she said.

"We have shoes that light up and brains that go dead when they talk," she said.

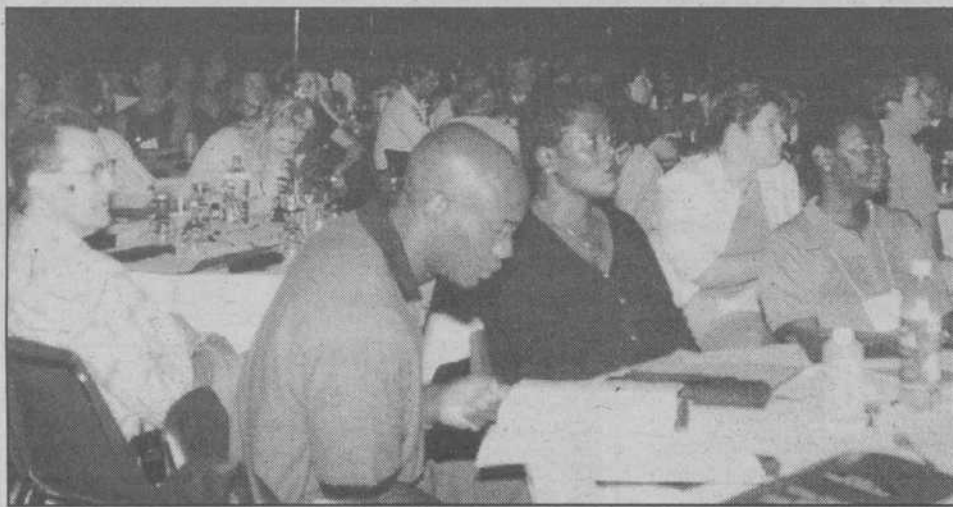
She encouraged the social workers to get neighborhoods, businesses and churches involved because they cannot do the work alone.

Also, children and families need to belong, to be a part of something to end their isolation.

Frequently throughout her speech, Elders commented on the fact that the United States is the only country in the world that does not provide adequate sex education in its schools.

She deplored the simplistic, moral and ineffective doctrine of the government which has spent millions on a campaign touting abstinence and "just say no" while not spending money on family planning.

"We have children born to children," she said, "Ninety percent of the teen mothers were themselves born to teen mothers. Sixty to 70 percent of men in prison were born to teen mothers. Yet, our country does not support family planning."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Elder's keynote speech drew an appreciably large crowd.

Elders also wants condoms made readily available so young people can protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases.

"We have 15 million teenagers infected with STD's and 25 percent of those infected with HIV are teenagers," she said.

"People tell me condoms will break. Well, vows of abstinence break much more easily," she said. "We need to realistic not morally idealistic."

"The average onset of puberty is 11.4. The average age of marriage is 26. It is time to educate our children about sexuality. We live in the only industrialized coun-

try in the world where there is no education about sex and we have the most teen pregnancies," she said.

During her speech she frequently mentioned teen pregnancy, poor health care and poverty.

"We suffer from the Five H's," she said.

"Hunger. We have 25 percent of the world's wealth but 5 percent of children go to be hungry every night."

Politicians run on children's issues during elections, but they after they have won, they vote for industry.

"We have to make them remember," she said.

"We are healthless. Forty-four million people have no

access to healthcare in this country.

"We are homeless. We have homeless mothers and children.

"We are hugless. And, we are hopeless and when hope dies moral decay is not far behind," she said.

Building strong families and making sure that every child born is planned and wanted is an ideal Edlers would like to see a reality.

"We need to educate, educate, educate," she said.

Elder's was fired from her position as surgeon general after a speech she gave at a World Aids Conference.

During that speech she outlined ABC & D's of HIV

intervention.

A - abstinence, B - be faithful, C - use condoms and D - do something else.

The something else was masturbation. The conservative moral majority, which is neither moral nor the majority, brought an end to her career as surgeon general. Elder's has no regrets about that speech, she said.

When questioned about the gang problems facing youth in the African-American communities in Las Ve-

gas, Elders said the following.

"We as African-Americans have to solve our own problems. No one is going to do it for us. We have to reach out and save the children. We have to educate the children. We have to give them something other than gangs."

She suggested that the businesses and the churches "that are on every corner in black neighborhoods" become involved in saving the children.

Nevada has nation's highest rate of high school drop-outs

The percent of Nevada teens, ages 16 to 10, not attending school and not working is 22 percent higher than that of the nation.

Nevada ranks 45th in the nation in the percentage of children under 18 without health insurance. Over 100,000 of Nevada's youth have no health insurance.

The birthrate among females in Nevada, ages 15 to 17, is 24 percent higher than the national average.

The rate of teen deaths, ages 15 to 19, in Nevada by accident, homicide and suicide is 22 percent greater than that of the nation.

The total number of child-abuse and neglect reports in Nevada increased 28 percent from 1988 to 1998. The most commonly documented type of maltreatment was lack of supervision, followed by physical neglect and minor physical injury.

Taken From Nevada Kids Count Data Book 2001, Center for Business and Economic Research, UNLV, <http://kidscount.unlv.edu>

"Why do we ride?"



Club Ride members (clockwise): Mary, bus rider; Major, carpooler and bus rider; Chris, bike rider; Kiona, carpooler; and Rick, busrider

Real people. Real reasons.

"I carpool to save money."

"I bike to work for the exercise and the \$550 a month I save in car payments and insurance."

"Using CAT gives me more time to visit with my coworkers, and the money I won from Club Ride paid for a doctor's visit."

Our riders say it best when explaining the benefits of the Regional Transportation Commission's commute programs.

Maybe one or more of the programs are right for you. Why not look into the many alternatives available today? Just call the RTC at 228-7433 and see how easy it is for you or your company to participate in carpooling, biking, busing or vanpools. You can even be eligible for cash prizes and federal tax advantages through the Club Ride Commuter Services program. More importantly, you'll enjoy a better quality of life and do your part to help our community reduce traffic congestion and clean our air.

Call the RTC today. Using transportation options even one or two days a week can make a difference in your pocket, our air and your peace of mind.



FOR INFO: 228-7433