

# Male mentoring group strong at age 14

By Monica Verley  
Sentinel-Voice

"Education is our passport to our future. For tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."—Malcolm X

One local organization that lives up to this creed is the Las Vegas chapter of Committed 100 Men.

Conceived by cornerstone members Michael Waller and Henry Herbert, the Committed 100 Men is predicated upon a simple concept: To ask sound men of moral principles to provide one-on-one mentoring to young African-American males. Armed with the slogan: "African-American Men Meeting the Challenge," Committed 100 Men was born 14 years ago.

"We are serious about this and have been for the past 14 years. We are down here in the trenches, where youth have gone amuck. We are not trying to sugar coat anything," said Herbert.

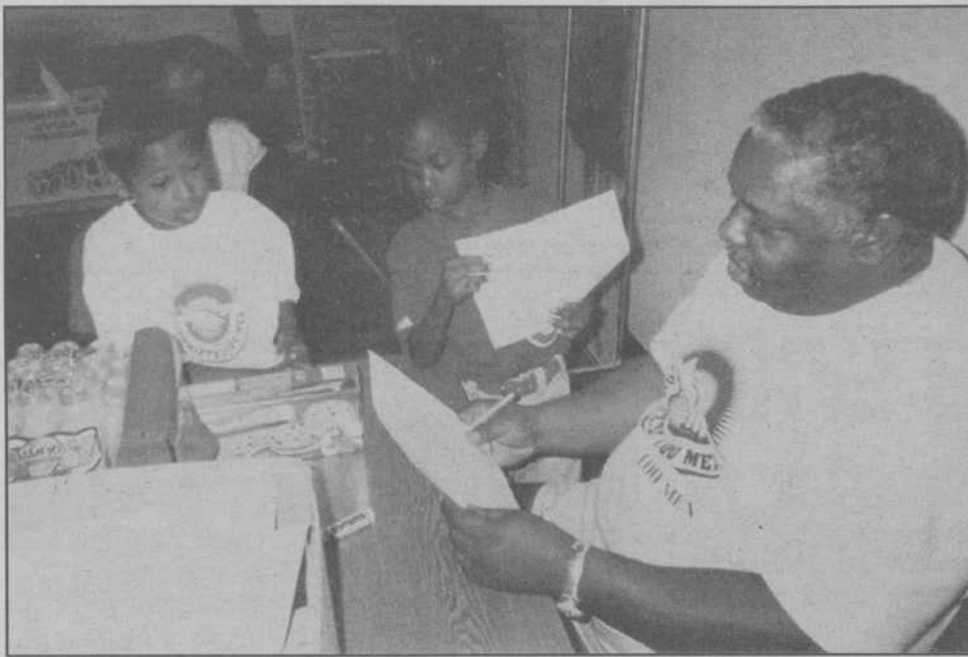
"Only a male can teach a boy how to grow into a responsible man," said Waller, citing the organization's purpose as his yardstick. "Committed 100 Men provides mentoring to young men from single-parent households. We provide positive choices in these boy's lives. We are here to help them meet the challenges of becoming men," he added.

The organization is well received in the community and highly touted by mothers whose sons are enrolled in the program. "My son's involvement in Committed 100 Men has improved his awareness of opportunities beyond his community," said Martha Harden. "He is much more responsible and polite."

The programs are designed to improve educational and career interests, increase school attendance, and prevent gang and illegal drug activity. Life skills training begins in the Jump Start program and culminates with the Rites of Passage program.

Jump Start is designed for young boys ages 6 through 12. The current group, of 11 boys, meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the West Middle School, 2050 Sapphire Stone, to work on math and writing skills, formulate cognitive skills through thought provoking questions and learn morals and responsible behaviors through life skills training.

The young men's thoughts on the Jump Start program are as diverse as the schools they attend. But one thing is for sure, they are all proud to be a part of this program. "This class helps me under-



Henry Herbert, a member of Committed 100 Men, goes over homework with Dominic Ryles (right) and Jerald Greer. The group has mentored local males for more than 14 years.

stand the right ways to go. I can also teach my younger sister and explain things to her," said Thaddeus Williams, 12, a student at Clifford Lawrence Middle School.

Jabari Grayson, who attends Mabel Hoggard Elementary School, offered his take on the program: "I come here to learn math and language. It's helpful because most people I know don't get to learn as much as I do."

While an insightful Addan Jones, 11, said, "I learn about how to get more out of life and the adults here teach me about what kind of girl I should be looking for."

The Jump Start and Rites of Passage programs take place simultaneously each Saturday morning. The Rites of Passage series is the cornerstone of Committed 100 Men. It is a 10-week program for 12-to-16 year olds and is designed to give kids positive instruction and guidance that deters them from drug, gang and criminal activity. The Rites of Passage class also allows the boys to work one-on-one with tutors in math and English.

"We learn about a lot of things. It's kind of like a head start to what I learn at school. Here I'm writing essays and learning how to write introductions and conclusions. I got an A+ on my last essay at school," says Andon Ansari, 14, of Cimmaron Memorial High School.

One proud mother is Santa Jackson whose son Gustavo Rocha participates in the Rites of Passage program. "These men help him so much. They are always telling him how to be a good man. There is tutoring available and they take them on trips, like to colleges in California. What more can I really ask for?"

(See 100 Men, Page 14)

## Delta Sigma Theta eyes young Las Vegas talent

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., will host its fourth annual Jabberwock talent fundraiser for its civic programs and scholarships 7 p.m. Saturday at the Clark County Library Theater, 1401 E. Flamingo. The theme is "Gospel Meets Jazz."

Twelve talented youths will compete in two categories for cash prizes. Entertainment will include singing, dancing, instrumentals and dramatic readings. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door. Those interested in more information can call 391-9500.

"(There'll be) Five to 6-year olds belting out songs," chapter president Sandra Johnson said. "(There'll be) Excellent amateur and professional talent...at one sitting...almost like Star Search."

The national Delta Sigma Theta sorority has hosted Jabberwock events for decades. Barbara Shade and Marcia Evans orchestrated the local version, infusing it with an art and culture theme. Past winners have gone on to (See Delta, Page 3)

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