



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Workers from Variety Day Home man a table at Saturday's Job Fair. More than 1,000 people came to West Las Vegas to apply for jobs offered by 25 companies.

Job fair labeled 'success'

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

More than 1,000 showed up last Saturday in the parking lot of Vons on Owens Avenue near 'H' Street looking for an employment match with about 17 potential employers at the ninth Southern Nevada Enterprise Community Job Fair.

"This is a huge success here. I would estimate that we have about 1,000 this

year," said Maurice Reid, a management analyst for Clark County. "This is an enterprise community. We need to bring jobs here during these hard economic times."

Vivienne Hudson, an employment manager for Circus Circus, was expecting to receive 500 applications for positions ranging from entry level to "corporate types." Circus Circus employs approximately
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Study finds Black teens have discouraging views on sex

By Valencia Mohammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Many teens involved in the study for Motivational Educational Entertainment view sex as a transaction, harbor little trust for members of the opposite sex and believe adults contribute to the problem of early, casual sex and pregnancy.

"Young people have made a radical change in sexual behavior in the sense that it occurs earlier and more often, despite the danger of the AIDS epidemic," said Asa Hilliard III, of Georgia State University.

Several teens said that adults contribute to the problem. They believe that parents try to be as "young" as their children, and engage in risky sexual behavior them-

selves. Most of the teens surveyed said that parents can help, but often don't. In fact, many teens say their parents don't guide them.

"My mom always says that she knows men are looking at her ass and she wears what I wear," said one teen girl. "How is my mother going to tell me not to have sex outside of marriage?" asked another girl in the group. "She had four children by four different men and she was not married," the teen said, in a video provided by MEE.

The report, "This Is My Reality / The Price of Sex: An Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality," summarized findings from 40 focus groups in nine cities in which low-income Black youths candidly shared their views and attitudes about sex.

relationships, marriage, pregnancy and parenthood.

"These Black youth wanted and needed to be heard and we went to their communities and listened," said MEE president Ivan Juzang. The results, Juzang said, were "sometimes painful to hear," yet provided a startling call to action.

African-American youths between 16 and 20 from Detroit, Atlanta, Oakland, Los Angeles, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago and New Orleans added their voices to the debate about why teens are involved in sex and with whom.

According to the report, girls said they are involved with much older men because they are financially and socially independent. "I can get
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Lady exudes strength

Davies overcame street life to become success

By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice

Letha Davies, mother of nine, looks back on her life with no regrets.

Davies' story is one about a resilient survivor who at 29 is a real-life "shero." Her story is about compassion, understanding family values and exhibition of unselfish love. She learned the strong family values she holds dear to her heart growing up in her grandparents' home. Davies' mother had her when she was only 13 years old.

"I was an only child for ten years," she said. "We lived with my grandparents and they helped raise me. My mother and grandparents took good care of me. I had a happy childhood and my mother was a good mom."

When Davies was three, her mother fell in love and got married. The marriage didn't work out and two years later her mother and stepfather went separate ways. Three years after the break-up her mom met the father of her three oldest brothers, Andre, Freddie and Eric.

"We were a happy family until 1986, when their dad died unexpectedly from brain cancer," she recalled. "Eric was just a few months old."

Her mom struggled alone raising four children while working two jobs. Although Davies became the major caregiver to her three younger brothers, the truth of the matter was Davies, just 12, a child herself, needed a caregiver, too. Unfortunate elements in the streets became that to her. Unbeknownst to her mother, Davies became a gang-banger and sold drugs.

"I saw how hard my mom was working to try and raise us. We needed money, so I did what I thought was the right thing to do at the time," Davies said.

Despite Davies' gang and drug activities, she developed into an above average basketball player.

In 1991, Davies' mom met and became the common-law wife of the man who would

father her seven youngest children.

Davies gang members recognized her basketball talent and began to distance themselves from her. Davies said, "I'd show up to play ball with them and one by one they would just leave. They told me I needed to stay away from the streets and focus on basketball."

In fact, Davies was so good that she attended basketball camp at Stanford University for three consecutive years. By the time her senior year arrived, Davies had scholarship offers from six colleges, including Stanford, Virginia State, North Carolina State and Tennessee State.

With such a bright future, Davies still didn't listen to her gang members. She continued her street life activities until she was stopped in her tracks. Her brother Andre, 5 years old at the time, was asked who he wanted to be like when he grew up. His reply was that he wanted to be like Letha because she always had money.

Those words echoed in her spirit and it was out of the mouth of this babe that made Davies realize she didn't want any of her brothers or sisters to follow in her footsteps. It was at this moment that she decided to turn her life around. She left the streets and focused on the game of basketball.

Dr. Nona Carroll, president of the Las Vegas Chapter of Justice Unity Generosity Service International (J.U.G.S.), sees a woman who survived gangbanging.

"Telling young people about her life in the streets and how she (Davies) turned her life around is a story of encouragement by itself," Carroll said.

Then there was a setback.

Her dreams of becoming a basketball star were shattered when she blew out her knee during a high school game. So, after graduation, she became a cook at a local casino and moved out on her own.

"I enjoy cooking, but I love music and
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Diplomatic Conversation

U.S. Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, second left, Maxine Waters, D-Calif., center, and Barbara Lee, D-Calif., fourth left, with supporters of deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, speak to reporters following a meeting between the Congressional Black Caucus and Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday.