

# Education

## "THE REPORT CARD"

### GOAL SETTING

Yvonne Atkinson



We have all heard of those unique situations where one individual, over what seems insurmountable odds, achieves at a level totally unexpected. We can find examples of this in every day life, but because of the mass communication systems that we have, it is most often found in athletes. Wilma Rudolph or Jessie Owens would be two examples, from two different decades, and there are so many other black athletes who have excelled that the space in this column would be too short to cover all of their names.

One unique set of characteristics possessed by all our scholars, diplomats, athletes, and private citizens who have been successful is the establishment and maintenance of life goals.

Just recently, I heard of a situation very similar to one that we have all been told about, except in this case, it was about a man who maybe none of us know. His name was Nathan Wilson. Nathan grew up in the south at a time when it was almost impossible for blacks to own property or acquire wealth. Through sacrifice, perseverance, and the setting of some personal life goals, Nathan Wilson, as early as 1930, owned two businesses and had acquired a large amount of property. Because of his goals, he had amassed wealth, reputation, and a degree of prestige in the community. What is so different about this man? Obviously he had overcome adversity and succeeded in business and his personal life in spite of the odds. I am told that today, his children continue to be successful because of what he started. If we took time to look at the reasons for his success, no doubt we would find the

following: first, Nathan established for himself certain short and long-range objectives. The short-range objectives dealt with being successful in a number of small activities which related to his career. His long-range objectives were dreams which said, "I will be successful and I can own a business in this community." But more than just setting down and deciding what he was going to do with his life, he was willing to pay the price and sacrifice with hard work and determination.

This must be the case with every individual who wants to be successful. They must start with goals that are attainable and use these as stepping stones to gather heights. For our students, this same plan, which has proven successful, must be employed. Let me suggest to the students in the Clark County School District that they establish short-range goals. These are ones which involve participating in every class and being attentive to each of their scheduled programs. But more than just earning the "C" grade, be willing to sacrifice and put forth that special effort to get the "A" and the "B".

Next, establish career objectives which are long-range in nature. This would involve job preparation or college education. There is an old adage that there are three kinds of people living in the world: those who watch things happen, those who let things happen, or individuals who make things happen. Positive goal setting puts all of us into this third category. Without establishing priorities, we end up either watching things happen or having them happen to us.

Education is a first priority for all students who want to

## Las Vegas High To Receive Special Recognition

Three years ago the United States Department of Education established the Secondary School Recognition Program. The program was established to identify and call attention to a national group of schools that are unusually successful in meeting the educational needs of all of their students. In January of 1985 the Nevada State Department of Education narrowed the number of Nevada applicants to six and Las Vegas High School was one of the schools selected. In February the United States Department of Education reviewed the six Nevada reports and selected Las Vegas High School as one of two Nevada schools to receive a team visit. The team visit occurred between March 11 and May 31, 1985. The committee met with students, staff, parents, and community representatives.

The final selection was made during the week of June 17.

achieve success in life. There is no substitute, there is no alternative. We all know that education is not something that is achieved, by just sitting and learning. It requires dedication and hard work. That is the first goal that I would recommend to each of our students. Achieve the strongest possible education while in the Clark County School District. Parents, demand the best from your children. Too many times we take for granted the idea that just getting through school is the goal. I want to suggest that getting through school and earning a diploma is only half of the goal. Taking away from high school a strong academic program and being able to use what you have

learned is the second half, and obviously, the most important part of the education program. As students and parents, we have an opportunity to help our children set proper goals for themselves both for the short-range and long-range benefit that these goals will bring. I encourage you as parents to talk with your children about programs that are offered at school, their grades, and their dreams.

Encourage them and if we in the school district can help you in the process, don't hesitate to call the school and ask for assistance. Through goal setting and through preparing our young people for the world of tomorrow, we can make a difference.

Las Vegas High School Principal, Mike Edwards, and two instructors, Dr. Gaylan Hussain and Warren Okelberry, will attend the National Secondary School Recognition ceremonies at the White House on October 1, 1985. Las Vegas High School is one of 281 public and private secondary schools to be recognized by the United States Department of Education for exemplary success in meeting the educational needs of students.

The ceremonies will be highlighted by an address from President Reagan. He will award to Las Vegas High School and other schools a flag that represents the school as one of the nation's model schools.

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## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

### A DIPLOMA COMBINED WITH A JOB SKILL

Have you ever thought about designing and building a piece of furniture for your home? Have you given any thought to developing the skills necessary for handling a micro computer, or learning to type at a speed of 60 words per minute? Maybe your home needs to be redecorated, or the furniture moved in a way to best utilize the space available? Or maybe you would just like to draw an outline for installing a sprinkler system. Most of us, at one time or another, have given serious thought to these questions, and probably come away with thinking that the skills necessary for these tasks are beyond us. We seek help from individuals trained to handle the job and with that help, comes a price tag

which astounds us.

If you pose these same questions to students at Clark High School, 1161 vocational students last year would have quickly replied that they could handle some of the questions, and some of these students could handle all of the questions. The vocational classes at Clark High School cover a variety of occupational opportunities. Clark has industrial woods classes for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. For some of us who may have been enrolled in shop classes in the past, you

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