

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"

CAREER FAIR: NEW EDUCATIONAL FAIR

Yvonne Atkinson



This past week, the Clark County School Counselors' Association conducted their seventh annual College Fair. Thousands of students, parents and community members each year visit over 100 college and university representatives located at one sight — the Las Vegas Convention Center. This was an easy opportunity for students to interview college and university personnel and ask those questions so important to college admission. We can be proud that this professional organization has accepted the challenge of providing this kind of service for the youth of this county.

Now, through a combined effort of the Clark County School District, the Clark County School Counselors' Association, and the Clark County Vocational Association, a new and uniquely different fair is being scheduled. On April 3 and 4, 1986, a Career Fair designed to provide students with an opportunity to talk with representatives from public and private trade schools will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Mary Appel, a consultant working in Curriculum and Instructional Services, directs a committee that will be planning and organizing this important event. The other members of Mary's committee include Dave Barnum, Gene Grimm, Chuck Musser, and Don Perry. It is encouraging for me to see professional associations and the school district combine their efforts to plan and conduct such a program. It is more important, however, I believe, to suggest to our community that here will be a valuable opportunity for you, as parents and for our students, to take a few moments and visit the

Convention Center. Your visit will allow you to attend seminars on financial aid and job skill requirements. You will have business schools, trade schools, and any number of other postsecondary colleges and universities available. Mary Appel commented that this will be an "excellent opportunity for our students to enter the job market." Mary continued, "Students can also benefit from this educational experience by hearing first-hand the requirements that will be needed to enter these special schools, and it will also help students plan their high school programs."

The College Fair, and now the Career Fair, are excellent examples of opportunities being provided our students to gain information about postsecondary training. If you would like to have additional information about either of these programs, contact Mary Appel at 386-4906, or contact your school counselor and ask for details. This week's Report Card acknowledges the work of our administration, and the Counselor and Vocational associations. They definitely get an "A" for their work, and an "A" for their interest in our students.

COMMENTARY

During the past few weeks, some of our schools have received negative publicity. Whether it was a policy which was being enforced, or allegations being brought up against individuals, we suddenly find ourselves attaching the name of the school to the problem. I am concerned that as problems are identified, they so often are headlines in our media, but then as the problems are resolved, these facts are not newsworthy. Each of our schools are staffed with dedicated

professionals and the young people who attend are enrolled for a special time. Criticism of the school affects them and all members of the staff equally. I would hope as you hear such criticism that you will remember that our schools have little defense except through us.

I offer this commentary because just recently, I had an opportunity to talk with a student who was upset because her school was being criticized. Her grades were excellent, and her senior year was one of excitement for her. Her problem was that she could not understand the criticism or the statements being made. It was not a person who had faulted, it was her school. She felt this was unfair, and I agree. Let us be critical of individuals when criticism is warranted. Let us never criticize a school which could not ever offer a response or rebuttal. To those who offer criticism without substance, the Report Card today can only provide a failing grade.

APPRECIATION TO OUR PARENTS

Our Parent Advisory group organization is now making positive headway and I am pleased with the results and know that through P.A.C.E., we can make a difference. I want to express my appreciation to all of those who have helped and to those who serve in leadership roles. We have a voice in educational matters.

Parent Conference Days Announced

Parent conference days for elementary students in Quads A, B, and C in year-round schools have been scheduled for Nov. 5-7.

On conference days, school will be dismissed two hours and 50 minutes after starting time. Lunch will not be provided on these days, except to students in other Quads in regular attendance.

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Rancho High School "Welcome To The Home Of The Rancho Rams"

For more than a decade, this sign has welcomed students and visitors alike. This past week, I visited Rancho and once again recalled the marvelous history that this school possesses. I must admit to you that Rancho High School holds a very special place in my career, for some 24 years ago, I began my teaching experience on this campus. Then, as now, I met young people enrolled in this school which has both a strong academic program and an equally strong vocational program.

As I stood in the quad area, there were 90 students in an after-school program participating in drill instruction provided by the Air Force R.O.T.C. classes. Students were busy with education and I stood there and recalled my first years of teaching when students in 1961 were also busy with their education. These students have since gone on to become prominent members of our community. We have craftsmen, businessmen, and political leaders who have graduated from this school, and each is a part of that very unique group known as Rancho alumni.

To emphasize the importance of Rancho High School's graduates, I can attest to the occupational skills which have been provided the graduates. Each week, the person who types this column, Sally Price, is a proud graduate of this school. Over 16,000 people during the past 24 years have graduated from this school and taken their place in the community.

This year, Rancho High School has 2,378 students enrolled. Of this number, 16 percent have scheduled classes in vocational training programs. The courses are in Industrial Arts, Business and Office Occupations, Home Economics Related Occupations, Consumer and Homemaking Education, and Work Experience. Using the job market as their guide, the administration at Rancho High School has developed a program based upon student interest and employability. One hundred seventy-three students have selected a class in woodworking. Job market potential for these students is excellent in both the construction trades and the finished carpentry areas. Seventy-five students on the campus of Rancho High School are currently employed and receiving a grade for their work experience education, as well as pay for the work performed.

While these classes represent the traditional vocational programming effort, you will find one program singular in nature. In 1978, there was an interest by one of the faculty members, Marilyn Bolinger, who wanted to initiate a program in gerontology. When I first heard the title,

rather than give it a definition, I turned to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary and found that it was a branch of knowledge dealing with aging and the problems of the aged. Marilyn, with her foresight, suggested to all of us that there was a need to teach young people about the aging process and there was employment opportunities for students in nutrition, recreation, housing, and the care for this group of Americans. The program, now seven years old, offers to the students a sociological approach to the care of the elderly. Edna O'Neal, the current instructor, said, "We must become more aware of the issues and problems facing our elderly. I stress this approach in presenting the material to our students and provide them with job skills." When I asked about employment opportunities, Ms. O'Neal reported that her students had little difficulty in finding employment; however, many were using their training to pursue careers in nursing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Licensed Practical Nursing at the Clark County Community College. Ms. O'Neal went on to comment that through a

See SCHOOL, page 15

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