

# Education

## "THE REPORT CARD"

### Building Program Urgently Needed

Yvonne Atkinson



We have learned that in this issue of the SENTINEL VOICE, the editorial endorses the school district's Pay As You Go building program initiative. I am pleased to see that the editorial staff has carefully reviewed the district's position and found that the information

presented would prompt an endorsement, and request that our voters vote on December 10 in favor of this proposal.

As we are all aware, Clark County has witnessed a population expansion that was unexpected just a few decades ago. In 1905, this

small desert community could never have envisioned such a population explosion and growth as we now see and experience. Over 113 different schools now operate in Clark County, and by 1991, we will have 99,906 students enrolled. When you consider that this figure of just students is far larger than most cities in this country, you get some idea of the magnitude of the problems we are encountering and the need for additional facilities for our children. The Pay As You Go funding issue is minimal in nature. It will actually increase our taxes by only 13.4 cents per \$100 of property assessed value. For this small amount, we will be able to build 12 new elementary schools, provide major additions to two other schools, and purchase and install 70 portable classrooms.

I have worked closely with other Board members in arriving at this funding plan, and now that tremendous effort has gone into our planning and decision making. We had to arrive at a plan which would provide for our needs and yet maintain the lowest possible tax rate for our citizens. I am pleased to say that we have, in my opinion, accomplished this goal. While I urge you to vote on December 10, 1985, in favor of this issue, I would also suggest to you that your action will, as stated by Bob Wentz, Superintendent of Schools, "Give us a positive

voice in our future and a positive voice for the education of our youth." You need only to travel about the country and view school districts which are overcrowded, or on double sessions, or in a run down condition, and you can quickly appreciate what we have in Clark County. You and I have supported the educational program through our tax money, through our participation in school functions, and through our interest in working with our youth. I say to you all of this is worthwhile because as I travel in the city, I see our school graduates holding positions in every business and firm. We have graduates who have gone on to become leaders in our community, state legislature, business people, and professional people. Our schools have made a difference in the lives of each family, and we will continue to do that in a positive manner.

What is needed now is space for those children who are getting ready to enter school. The figure that I cited above is not projected on new arrivals in the community, or people who may choose to move to Clark County in the future. These are children already born and who will be entering school in the next few years. The Pay As You Go building program, as endorsed by the SENTINEL-VOICE, needs your endorsement and your support. I urge you to vote

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## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

### WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL The "We" in Western High School

Take the first two letters of Western and you find the word, "we." Over the years, that "we" has come to symbolize the unity, pride, and cohesiveness that has been the trademark of this school's student body, faculty, and alumni. Today, that "we" can be found as you talk with the staff members or the principal, Dr. Brian Cram. His opening quote to me during our interview was, "We believe educational excellence and the world of work are inseparable, and we believe that education is preparation for life and preparation for opportunities for employment and opportunities for a creative and meaningful adulthood.

Dr. Brian Cram, with his unique style which exudes friendliness to the students and staff, practices that "we," as does Mr. C.J. Hall, Jr., a counselor at the school. It would be difficult for me to write an article about Western High and not include C.J. because, like so many employees of the District, C.J. is a product of the Clark County School District and a student I had an opportunity to work with "just a few years ago." As I talked to these two men about the vocational program at Western High School and

about the philosophy of education, it was impressive to note the similarity in statement, but it was more than just words, it was the similarity in feeling and believing.

### A Family Tradition Exists at Western High School

Over the years, Western High School has served thousands of young men and women who have entered the school and graduated achieving a high degree of scholarship. The vocational program offered at Western High School this year features courses in Business and Office Occupations, Home Economics Education, Trade and Industrial Education, and a Cooperative Vocational Education program. Any number of classes will exist in these broad program areas to accommodate the interest and occupational needs of the students enrolled at this school. Vocational programs, like the other segments of the total educational system, is punctuated with the needs of the students first in mind. C.J. Hall commented that students have an opportunity to succeed at school before entering their chosen profession. He went on to note that their career development center provides students with information pertaining to job skill

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### CCSD Honor Choir Concert On Nov. 20

The Clark County School District will present its annual District Honor Choir Concert at Artemus Ham Concert Hall on the campus of UNLV on Nov. 20 at 8 p.m.

The free concert, performed by 120 students in grades 9 through 12, will be part of a week-long celebration of American Education Week which will be observed Nov. 18-23.

The presentation will be conducted by Professor Emeritus, Dr. Howard Swan, nationally known as the "Dean of American Choral Conductors."

The community is invited to this free musical event.



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