

CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman

Standing Up For Our Schools

Just blocks from where you live is a monument to our American heritage: your local public school. Even before we had a Constitution, our government had made a commitment to providing a public education to every child in our new land. For generations, most American children have learned to read, write, add and think in our public schools.

Today, many Americans — including many Black Americans — are worried about the quality of our public schools. So am I. Especially in poor neighborhoods, deteriorating social and economic conditions have taken their toll often producing a substandard learning environment. In particular, parents worry that their child might not be able to get the help he or she needs in a public school.

This is a serious problem. As with every serious problem, there are two choices: to cut and run, or to stand your ground to make a difficult situation better.

The Reagan Administration seems to have chosen the first approach. Since President Reagan took office, he has repeatedly tried to cut federal fundings designed to help public schools do a better job of helping minority or disadvantaged youngsters keep pace with their classmates.

More recently, the President has made a proposal — now being considered by Congress — which would further undermine public schools. His idea is to offer disadvantaged children federally-funded "vouchers" with which they could purchase their education from private schools or public schools outside their neighborhood.

The President's "voucher" proposal reminds me of a similar suggestion he once made about the unemployment problem. He suggested that residents of regions suffering high unemployment could "vote with their feet," by moving to another area to find work.

This "cut and run" formula will not solve our children's schooling problems, any more than it has helped the unemployed. Our children — especially

Black children — stand to lose, not gain, if Congress enacts the President's proposal.

First, under the President's plan, Chapter I would be undermined. We would lose the safeguards that now make sure that the federal money that goes to help disadvantaged children learn is used only for that purpose. The voucher money could be used by students to cover basic tuition costs and by schools for basic operating expenses, with no guarantee that the special teaching needs of disadvantaged students would be met.

Second, the President's plan will set back the cause of civil rights. Private schools will legally be able to get federal money — in the form of the vouchers — but parents will not be able to fight back in the courts if those schools discriminate against minorities, or by sex or handicap. We know that no \$600 government voucher is going to open the doors of a discriminatory, expensive private school to a poor Black child.

The reality is that most of our children still attend their neighborhood public school. We can help their education by working to strengthen — not weaken — public schools.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.

Assurance Course Set For CCCC

Clark County Community College, in partnership with the Quality and Productivity Institute, announces the establishment of a formal Quality Assurance course to begin on Feb. 5.

The course has been structured to meet the needs of Southern Nevada business and industry and is the first of its kind to be offered in the Las Vegas area.

Introduction to Quality Assurance will be taught on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 5 through May 14. The course will be conducted in Room 209 at Bonanza High School. There are no course prerequisites. The fee is \$81

Blueprint Reading Course At CCCC

Clark County Community College announces the establishment of a formal course teaching blueprint reading for machinists.

This course has been developed in response to a recent community needs assessment conducted by the City of North Las Vegas, the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and CCCC. It is expected that additional machinist related courses will follow, including mathematics for machinists and hands-on machinist application courses, depending upon response to this course from the business and industry community.

Blueprint Reading for Machinist Trades will be taught on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. beginning Feb. 6 through May 15. The course will be conducted in Room 2203 at the Cheyenne Avenue campus. The fee is \$81.50 plus an additional new student fee of \$5 for those who have not previously attended Clark County Community College courses. Students will be required to purchase a textbook at an approximate cost of \$20. Registration for the course will be conducted in the classroom prior to the first class meeting Feb. 6. Students successfully completing the course will be awarded three college credits.

The course will be taught by Amadeo Sanchez who is a Senior Technician with EG&G. Sanchez brings fifteen years experience to the classroom which will greatly benefit this course of study.

plus an additional new student fee of \$5 for those who have not previously attended Clark County Community College courses. No textbook will be required. Registration for the course will be conducted in the classroom prior to the first class meeting on Feb. 5. Students successfully completing the course will be awarded two college credits.

The course will be taught by Wally Roper, Director of Quality Assurance of EG&G. Roper is nationally recognized in his field and brings an understanding of quality assurance methods which will greatly benefit this course of study.

ROWE

From Page 6

promotion, publicity, press, marketing and artists relations for one of America's largest independent record labels...Due to your travels you missed the opening night of "Jerome Kern Goes to Hollywood." The mixed cast of four includes Scott Holmes, Liz Robertson, and soul sisters Elaine Delmar and Elisabeth Welsh whom you might know since she got her start in Harlem. Didn't know that Kern wrote "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." I love the way Dinah Washington used to sing it...

LOOKIN' BACK — In accepting an invitation to participate in the Graduate Alumni Reunion at the U. of Ca., Berkeley, newspaper mogul and MD., Dr. Carlton Goodlett did not fail to list almost every racial injustice that took place on that now liberal campus from 1936 until the late '60s. Now that Afro-American History Month is here you're beginning to receive invites to programs in honor of our culture. LaRocque Bey at Smalls Paradise will display his school's mastery of African, Caribbean, Tap and Jazz dance in a benefit performance in honor of the school's 26th Ann'y. The Chuck Davis Dance Co., Inc., presents "A Celebration of Life" at the Triplex Borough of Manhattan Community College, while The Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) will host an Open House "Carnival" at their school. Speaking of DTH, it will hold its '86 season uptown at the Aaron Davis Hall, City College Campus... Who will win the Bill Cosby/Joan Collins face-off? In an attempt to keep CBS from winning a ratings war when its miniseries "Sins," starring Collins, hits the screen NBC has scheduled a special showing of "The Crosby Show" with guest star Danny Kaye to precede its mini "Peter The Great"...

Coretta Scott King continues her quest to gain 83,000 documents donated to Boston U. in '64 by Dr. King for the Atlanta Center. B.U.'s offer to microfilm the collection if the Center supplies copies of its papers, has gotten no reply from Mrs. King... Kool and The Gang and Whitney Houston were the hits of the American Music Awards... The phone in the admission office of Morehouse College and Med. School must be ringing off the hook since "Cos"

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



Rev. Jesse D. Scott, President of the Las Vegas NAACP, is on emergency leave for the next couple of weeks. His column will resume upon his return.

CCCC Theatre Auditions Scheduled

Clark County Community College Theatre will hold open auditions for Beth Henley's bizarre but bewitching comedy, "The Miss Firecracker Contest," to be directed by Barbara M. Brennan.

Auditions are Thursday, February 13 from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday, February 15 from 12-3 p.m. in the CCCC Theatre, Room 1201.

Rehearsals will begin March 3 with performances scheduled for April 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12.

There are castings for two males and four females ages 25-40. A southern dialect is mandatory.

All auditions involve cold readings and improvisations. Dress comfortably and have a one minute monologue, not necessarily from the script.

wore that "House" sweatshirt while hosting TV's King Celebration.

"WRITE" NOTE WORTHY — There is growing interest in your idea to present a monied prize in the name of Langston Hughes and other Afro-American writers to Black and white authors who through their work have supported the causes of human rights, freedom of speech and equality... Radio trade publishers Jack-The-Ripper and Sidney Miller are rounding up support from those who want to put an end to the disrespect these two publications get from some major record labels... They say its due to those of "us" on the inside bad mouthin' their magazines... Took advantage of your absence and went to the Apollo to catch soul singer Eugene Wilde, who might remind you of the late Jackie Wilson, and those zaftig beauties The Weather Girls. This show was the beginning of Inner City B'casting's, thru WBL's relationship with Westwood... Hurry back Mr. One, a nat'l network of radio stations that transmit live performances via satellite across the country. Vice

Chair. Hal Jackson said that the monthly b'cast may include Evelyn

"Champagne" King and Freddie Jackson, among others... Former model Norma Jean Darden and cousin Carol, authors of "Spoonbread & Strawberry Wine," a collection of family recipes, are now caterers. Spoonbread, Inc., is the name of their family venture.

Because of your schedule you missed Michael-David Gordon, as Jackie Robinson, in "Play To Win," at the Promenade Theatre. Since you were with Jackie then I know you wanted to see it to separate fact from fiction... The 6th annual Jesse Owens International Trophy Awards Dinner this month will have former Sec'y. of State Dr. Henry Kissinger as its keynote speaker. This year marks the 50th ann'y. of Owens triumph in the '36 Berlin Olympics, so all ten winners of the 100 meter since that time will attend... R. you're missed... This is Nancy, it's been real... Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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