

Education

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Vocational Equipment Arrives

During the past few weeks, my column has been absent from the Sentinel-Voice, certainly not because there was a lack of information to be offered about vocational education, but because of an unexpected medical which has now been corrected, hopefully. Once again, I hope to provide information to students and parents about the vocational education program, along with other news concerning the Clark County School District.

The 1985 Legislature approved \$3 million for purchase of vocational education equipment throughout the State of Nevada. In several recent news releases, the amount of

money to be received by Clark County has been described at over \$1.5 million. The need for buying sophisticated equipment to upgrade vocational programs has also been discussed. Now that new and sophisticated state of the art equipment for our junior and senior high schools is beginning to arrive and being placed in classrooms for immediate student use. A visit to any one of the area secondary schools will provide an opportunity for you to visit vocational instructors who are pleased with the equipment which has been supplied their classrooms and students who are being offered an opportunity for new and challenging skill training

sessions.

This past week I have visited Western High School and observed the program they are establishing for handicapped students. In the near future, I will spend some additional time discussing their new program, but I am convinced that such a new classroom operation, with the equipment which has been provided, may truly be a model not only for the State of Nevada, but for the nation.

The state legislators certainly deserve a note of appreciation for their aid to occupational training programs in Nevada, and for providing funds to upgrade equipment to be used in this training. Administrators and teachers in the occupational

program in Clark County need to be commended for their wise use of the funds made available. The future looks bright for occupational training due to the equipment improvements which have been made this year.

Jury returns decision to School District

A District Court jury in Las Vegas recently returned a unanimous decision favoring the Clark County School District in a lawsuit filed on behalf of a student injured in a 1983 shop class mishap at Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center.

The lawsuit, termed "without merit" by the school district, was filed on behalf of former student Trent Stuckey. The basis for the legal action was a hand injury sustained by Stuckey, then a high school sophomore, while operating a power tool during shop class. The legal action alleged negligence on the part of the district and the teacher in following prescribed safety rules.

School district officials maintained all along that appropriate safety precautions were taken, and that the student had been properly instructed in the safe use of power tools.

After deliberating one and one-half hours, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in favor of the Clark County School District. The four-day trial was held in Department I of District Court and was heard before Judge Charles Thompson. The trial began March 19 and concluded Saturday, March 22.

School district officials point out that its aggressive defense of this suit is a strong indication that the district will protect the public's interest when negligence is not probable. There has been a significant increase in the number of legal actions against the school district in recent years.

Seeing Is Believing In Reading Featured Noted Author, Walter Dean Myers

"And at home sitting loose-legged on the linoleum in the sun slant and fire escape shadow prison and right in the middle of fatback and collard greens smells, Jimmy imagined himself flying, flying and sailing and soaring above the red-brick buildings and the tangle-tangled antennas." From "Fly, Jimmy, Fly!" by Walter Dean Myers.

Walter Dean Myers, author of such noted young adult books as "It Ain't All for Nothin'" and "Hoops" was the featured speaker at the "Seeing is Believing in Reading" program Tuesday, April 15 at the Flamingo Library.

Offering insights into his life as a black author, Myers discussed his works, which express a positive view of black Americans growing up in Harlem. "The Young Landlords" was selected in 1979 by the American Library Association for its list of "Best Books for Young Adults." This novel also won the 1980 Coretta Scott King Award as did his "Motown and Didi: A Love Story" in 1985. Another "Best Books" selection (1982), "Hoops," will soon be released as a major motion picture, starring Lou Gossett.

Myers' novels of Harlem ghetto youth are filled with a belief in a better future, humor and realism. Many of

Planetarium Seeks Major Funding

The Planetarium at Clark County Community College is seeking a major donor from within the community to fund the acquisition of a Cinema-360 projection system. Cinema-360 is the 35mm version of the 70mm system at the Caesars Palace Omni-Max and was pioneered by the Fleischmann Planetarium in Reno. Cinema-360 projects a motion picture image over the entire surface of the planetarium dome totally surrounding the audience with the image. This produces a level of realism unmatched by most other projection systems.

his stories borrow from his own boyhood days in Harlem. States Myers, "It was a place of affirmation. The excitement of city living exploded in the teeming streets. I remember the easy rhythms of bodies moving along the tar and asphalt pavement, the sounds of hundreds of children streaming in and out of red brick tenements."

"If there was a notion that as a black child, I was to be denied easy access to other worlds, it mattered little to me if I could have this much life in the place I found myself."

Co-sponsored by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and the Clark County School Librarians Association to introduce Clark County residents award-winning authors, the program was funded by the Nevada Humanities Committee.

CCCC Career Day on May 1

The Job Placement office and the Associated Students of Clark County Community College will sponsor Career Day '86, "An Investment in People" at the CCCC Cheyenne Campus on Thursday, May 1. There will be two sessions; one from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and the second, to serve the high percentage of evening students, from 5 until 8 p.m.

The program has been designed to allow local employers to meet the CCCC students and for the students to obtain information concerning career and employment opportunities. For additional information, call 643-6060, ext. 455.

Music All-State To Be Held April 19

More than 350 Clark County School District students in grades 9-12 will perform in band, orchestra and choir at the Music Educators All-State which will be held on April 19 at UNLV's Artemus Ham Concert Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the free event.

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