

Point of View

Editorial

To Be Equal

Three new schools trustees to be elected

With Trustee Pat Bendorf's announcement Thursday night that she would not seek re-election, the path has been paved for the Clark County Board of School Trustees to take on a whole new look come Jan. 1.

Four spots on the seven-member board are open and only Yvonne Atkinson -- who took over the District C seat vacated by Virginia Brewster in 1985 -- is running for re-election.

Dan Goldfarb and Bendorf are hanging up the gloves after one term while Robert Forbuss is packing it in after two four-year stints.

How the face of the board might change remains to be seen.

As of Friday, just two candidates had publicly

announced intentions of running for a post -- Atkinson and Las Vegas businessman Brent Lovett for Forbuss' District D spot.

But the competition is expected to heat up in coming weeks.

The Clark County Classroom Teachers Association is working with parents and other educational groups in seeking possible candidates for each open post.

CTA president Chris Giunchigliani said she has three candidates committed to run with a fourth still trying to decide on the matter.

Goldfarb, who bowed out of the election on April 23, said three people in his

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SAVING CIVIL RIGHTS

By John E. Jacob

The vitally important Civil Rights Restoration Act is stalled in Congress, despite increasing evidence that civil rights protections will seriously erode unless it is passed. The Bill was framed to correct the results of a Supreme Court ruling that cast a shadow over civil rights enforcement.

That decision, the Grove City case, found that the law's sanction against sex discrimination applies only to specific programs or activities receiving federal funds, and not to the institutions of which they are a part.

The strength of civil rights laws resides in their penalties. So if an institution

gets federal funds, proven discrimination should result in loss of those funds. That's a powerful incentive not to discriminate.

But after Grove City, proven discrimination will not



John E. Jacob

lead to a total loss of funds. Only the specific classroom or office that practiced discrimination would be affected. In the case of a college, if discrimination occurs in a sports program, that program might be threatened by loss of any federal monies it gets, but not the entire college.

That amounts to a license to discriminate since, in addition to easing the penalty for discrimination, it places a massive burden on federal enforcement officers who would have to track down every single federal dollar the institution gets just to see if they have jurisdiction.

since other civil rights and anti-discrimination laws use language similar to that questioned in the Grove City case, it would treat the Court's ruling as applying to all civil rights laws.

That broad interpretation would apply to local governments, hospitals, corpora-

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Of course, that is not what the Court said in the Grove City case -- its ruling was much narrower and should be interpreted as a good deal less than the dynamiting of effective federal enforcement.

The court ruled on the provisions of sex discrimination amendments to the Education Act, applicable only to educational institutions.

But the Justice Department unilaterally decided that

tions and other entities that get government money -- a stance that is in line with the Administration's de-emphasis on civil rights enforcement in general.

That's why it is so important to pass a law that restores Congress' intent in the affected civil rights laws -- to prohibit discrimination throughout entire agencies and institutions receiving any federal funds.

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CHILD WATCH

Homework: A No-Cost Educational Aid

By Marian Wright Edelman

All parents want to see their children do the best they can in school. We know that a solid grade record will boost our children's chances of getting into a good college or landing a challenging job.

While much of the task of teaching our children is up to the schools, we parents have an important role to play in after-school hours: encouraging our children to do their homework.

There is nothing new about homework. We can all remember lugging home our arithmetic books. But today's increased pressure on our children to compete in the classroom makes us look at this old tradition in a new way.

Educational experts now tell us that parents of public school children, especially parents of Black or Hispanic children, want schools to

give more homework assignments to their children. These parents see homework as a no-cost way to better their children's achievement in school.

But our children cannot do it alone. As parents, we can and should help our children get the most learning they can out of doing their homework. Recent research at the University of Illinois suggests that as much as half the improvement in student grades and test scores stems from parent participation in school related activities, including homework.

Helping your child with homework should not mean playing policeman or tutor, according to Network: the Paper for Parents, a monthly

educational report published by the National Committee for Citizens in Education. It does mean encouraging your child to tackle homework in a responsible, independent fashion, and watching for any recurring problems. Here are some of this publication's tips for parents:

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