

Education

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

EYO ITA

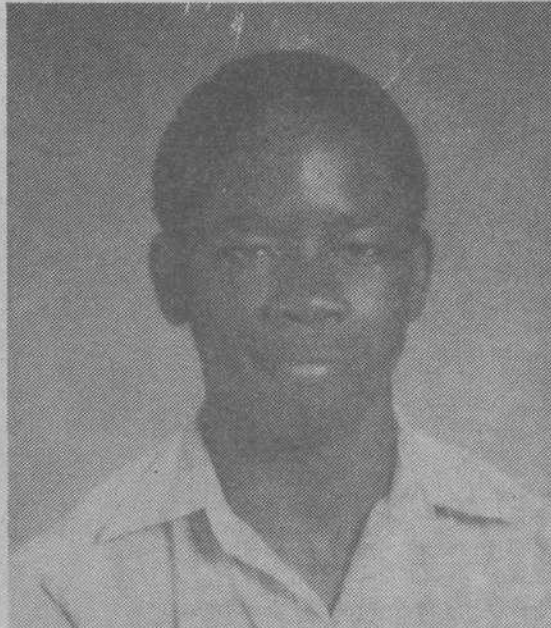
Eyo was a graduate of Western High School, 1986. Today he is a member of the cadet class for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. But more importantly, Eyo has achieved a distinction seldom recognized at any of our prestigious universities. He has been exempt from his undergraduate math program and now is enrolled in advanced level math course work at John Hopkins University. How could he achieve such notable rank? Those who have worked with him at Western High School are quick to suggest that this young man dedicated himself to the educational program which is offered by the Clark County School District, and through his own skill-level ability and hard work, he has earned a place for himself as a dedicated scholar.

Across the nation, criticism has been levied at the entire educational system. We have heard comments from national leaders and elected officials that the educational system is no longer providing the challenge requisite to meet student needs. If we look carefully at this student Eyo Ita, such is not the case. He has proven the criticism to be wrong and has offered substantial proof that the educational program designed in Clark County not only meets the needs of superior students but can have these same students compete with their peers across the country and excel when a comparison is made.

Part of the problem may lie with the fact that such students, as Eyo, are seldom

recognized and their achievements go unnoticed except by some school officials, parents, and their friends, and a moment at

instructors at Western High School who have worked with him in achieving success for a student with outstanding academic ability.



Eyo Ita

graduation. Yet when some of our students do not achieve at an expected level or maybe violate school rules and regulations their deeds do not go unnoticed and are highly publicized.

Take time now to honor this student, to congratulate him and his parents for the encouragement they have provided in meeting the test, and to compliment the

Eyo will be an honor cadet this year and no doubt a distinguished graduate of the Naval Academy, but his real success started in public schools, which should tell us that not all is wrong with the American public education.

Education is still available for those who want to take the time to spend the effort and Eyo can serve as the model for all students.

Principals polled on dealing with discipline problems

About one in six school principals responding to a survey by the Clark County School District says tougher disciplinary alternatives are needed in dealing with dangerous student behavior in the elementary grades.

Most of the principals who responded to the district questions in May indicated that adequate administrative options are available to deal with dangerous and antisocial behavior.

The question of whether principals should have the choice of Opportunity School, in-house suspension or other methods of discipline for elementary students will be debated Thursday by the

district Board of Trustees Policy Committee. Opportunity School is a program designed for students with behavioral problems.

According to the survey, 31 incidents of dangerous or anti-social behavior occurred at the elementary level during the 1985-86 school year. Six incidents involved students who were held back at least one year.

Twenty of the students were in the sixth grade, four were in the fifth, two were in the fourth, one was in the third, three were in the second and one was in the first grade.


Of the school administrators who

responded to the survey, 19 recommended additional alternatives. The top five are in-school suspension, restitution for property damage, Opportunity School, expulsion and counseling.

James L. Pughsley, the district's associate superintendent of elementary education, said he opposes Opportunity School for elementary students.

He said he supports in-house suspension programs, which are being instituted at Sixth Grade Centers this year, and counselors, as additional disciplinary procedures at the elementary level.

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