

Education

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

A Better Chance, Inc.

"Ultimately, improving the education of minority youngsters means changing lives, raising achievement levels, and giving young people the hope that they can attain what their parents have dared to dream for them. No program in the country has done this better than A Better Chance. Seldom has an educational undertaking altered what might have been the way ABC has. Its graduates have raised from the most abject of conditions to form the core of a burgeoning generation of black and Hispanic professionals."

Gene I. Maeroff
Education Editor
The New York Times

A Better Chance, Inc., a national, minority high school student talent search organization, founded in New England in 1963, recently established an Office for Western Operations, in Oakland.

A Better Chance works primarily with students enrolled in grades 6,7,8,9 and 10. For twenty-three years, the organization has successfully placed talented minority students in demanding schools where cultural and social pressures were estimated by many to be nearly insurmountable. But ABC students defy the odds. In recent years, when the total enrollment of ABC students in its 163 member schools exceeded 1,300, the yearly attrition rate was

below 6%. There are nearly 6,000 graduates of the program, and most have attended highly selective colleges upon graduation from their ABC schools. Harvard, Dartmouth, The University of Pennsylvania, Brown, and Stanford top the list of colleges most often selected by ABC graduates.

In addition to high school placement, A Better Chance offers motivated youngsters the opportunity to participate in a number of selected summer programs designed to enrich and broaden their understanding of careers.

One such program, the LEAD Program in Business, places students at the end of their junior year in high school on the campuses of 10 of the nation's leading business schools, including The Wharton School, UCLA, Howard and Columbia. Fourteen hundred students compete each year for the LEAD Program. Three hundred students (about 30 from California) are admitted.

More than luck accounts for the success of ABC students. Their selection and placement require a great deal of effort on the part of volunteers, ABC staff and member school personnel. Students are identified for the ABC program by local volunteers who spot undeveloped or unchallenged academic talent in youngsters in their neighborhoods, schools, and churches.

A student must complete

an application in order to participate in A Better Chance. The submission of recommendations, standardized test scores and writing samples are required. The application helps the ABC staff determine the needs and interests of the candidate, so that he can be appropriately matched to an ABC school.

Schools in the ABC membership represent a variety of sites and environments. ABC member schools include: The Head-Royce School, Oakland, CA; Phillips Academy, Andover MA; Robert Louis Stevenson School, Pebble Beach, CA; The Cate School, Carpinteria, CA; New Canaan High School, New Canaan, CT; and many others.

According to which seems most appropriate for the candidate, member schools are contacted, and the candidate's application is forward for consideration. Using ABC's long experience with minority students, a school is able to select candidates most likely to succeed in its unique environment. The school then completes the process by offering admission and financial aid to the families of selected candidates.

Selection and placement at an ABC school can take three to six months, but the outcome is well worth the time spent. Students are well matched, and so have great chances for success. ABC's experience and knowledge help open doors at schools that parents and students might never have considered. And schools enroll strong, motivated student, who learn, grow and become leading citizens of high schools, their colleges and their communities.

Over the years, a total of 433 outstanding young people from California have been given the opportunity to excel through the auspices of ABC, 111 from the Bay Area and 322 from Los Angeles. In June 1985, 15 students from the Bay Area and 28 from Los Angeles graduated and entered highly selective universities, including

NASB Sponsors Statewide High School Speech Contest

The Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) is sponsoring a statewide speech contest for high school students. Speeches, limited to three to five minutes, must be on the topic of "Teamwork."

The Clark County School District will hold the play-offs of one student speaker finalist from each participating high school on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Education Center Board Room. Judges will be three CCSD Board of Trustees members. One student will be selected to represent the school district.

The winning student will present his or her speech to the full school board on Nov. 19 as part of the district's annual observance of

American Education Week, Nov. 16-22.

Then, the student will travel with a chaperone to Tonopah to compete at the NASB Fall Conference where representatives from participating school districts will give their speeches on Nov. 20. The NASB will select the top three presentations and those students will give their speeches to the full conference at the Nov. 21 luncheon.

The first place winner in the State will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. Ribbons will be awarded to the second and third place winners. All participating students will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

When You Mean Business

Do you have an idea to be your own boss but don't know where to begin? If the answer is yes, attend the New Business Workshop, co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration, SCORE, and the Clark County Community College.

The workshop is scheduled for Friday, November 14 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at the Clark County Community College, 3200 E. Cheyenne, No. Las Vegas, Room 1068.

Speakers will discuss the business plan, banking, insurance, legal entities, and resources from the SBA.

Registration fee is \$10.00. For information and reservations, call the CCCC, 643-6060, extension 200.

Cashman Jr. HI Sponsors Bazaar

The first annual Junior-Senior Bazaar sponsored by Cashman Junior High School will be held Friday, Nov. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at the school.

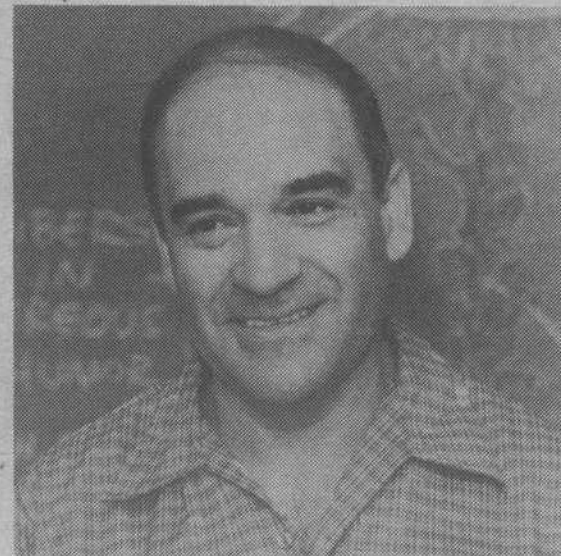
Proceeds will go toward financing Cashman's biology lab and to the Senior Citizens of Southern Nevada.

Activities will include a Senior Citizens handcrafts and bake sale, Candy Closet, Clock sale, art gallery, frame making and cake walk. Food and soft drinks will be available.

Numerous prizes donated by local casinos and businesses will be awarded by ticket drawings.

The general public is invited, free of charge.

Knudson Junior High School Instructor Honored



Jorge E. Sanchez

The faculty of K.O. Knudson Junior High School, led by principal Joanne Pughsley, recently honored Jorge E. Sanchez, science instructor and Presidential award winner for Excellence in Science, at a reception,

UCLA, the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia, Stanford and Harvard. Most were accepted with scholarships.

For more information about A Better Chance, a listing of their member high schools and a full description of services offered, please contact Yvette Zamila, 7047 Westbrook Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89117 (702) 386-0898.

which was held in the school library on Thursday October 16th.

The reception was hosted by the school council. Many local dignitaries were invited to participate. Las Vegas mayor Bill Briare, the Secondary Science Teachers Committee of Clark County, the Knudson faculty, and members of Sanchez' family all shared in this celebration of a master teacher.

Following the reception, Sanchez traveled to Washington D.C. where he received the Presidential Award and a \$5,000 grant which will be used to enhance the science capabilities of Knudson Junior High School.

TAP Scholarships Available

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas is accepting applications from individuals who may be eligible or interested in the Training Award Program (TAP) Scholarships. There are three scholarships available; one for a female or male who will be graduating from high school in 1987 and two for women who are over 30 years of age and who would be interested in pursuing an education in business and/or in helping services. For additional information, please contact Mrs. Margie Morris at Clark County Community College, 643-6060, ext. 338.

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