Students, School Board Members To Hold Mock School Board Meeting

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Some 200 students and several current members of the school board will participate in a mock school board meeting at the Tom Williams Elementary School multipurpose room, 3000 E. Tonopah, North Las Vegas, at 1:30 p.m. on December 12.

The mock meeting is designed to show students how the school board functions, as well as provide some typical examples of the duties and responsibilities of board members.

The mock board meeting is an outgrowth of a previous invitation for the board to attend an open house at Tom Williams School. Because the school open house conflicted with a regular school board meeting on the same date, board members couldn't attend. One thing led to another. It was finally agreed that several board members whould stage a mock school board meeting at Tom Williams for the benefit of students.

The fifth grade class along with the student council representatives from each grade level will be direct participants in the mock session. The agenda will be structured very similar to the school board's regular meeting agenda.

Students will act as

The SENTINEL-VOICE, December 4, 1986

CHILD WATCH by Marian Wright Edelman

President, Children's Defense Fund

Children Win Because We Persist

fraternities -- "asking them hild to get out and help us."

This year, Alabama child advocate Sophia Harris faced yet another in a series of uphill struggles on behalf of black Alabama's and disadvantaged youngsters. For the third year in a row, the termination of the state's program to help provide child care to disadvantaged children seemed likely. A special fall session of the legislature was called to resolve this issue and other budget matters. As a key leader in the child care community, Harris got on the phone to all of her friends -women's groups, churches,

It has never been easy.

concerned members of the public. They will submit cards a day in advance to reserve time at the meeting to speak on a subject of interest and concern. The board's standard operating procedures will be followed. However, there will be no action taken, since the meeting does not meet the legal requirements of a regular school board meeting.

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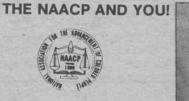
Students are anxiously awaiting the meeting -- eager to learn all they can about the school board and how it functions. to get out and help us." When the session ended, the money for child care had survived. Harris has never been daunted by difficult obstacles. As a young black girl, she sought to attend a predominantly white high school, an experience which, she says, made her "passionate" about equal educational opportunities for blacks.

She carried that passion into the first meeting in 1972 of the Federated Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL), a network of black-run child care centers of which she is now director. The centers were then struggling with complex new federal requirements for child care. Focal came to their rescue. attracting our 40 centers into its network in the first yearand-a-half alone. It provided the training and expertise that helped these centers offer better quality child care to the black community.

But many black families in Alabama still faced a big obstacle to getting the child care they needed:money. Harris did something about it. When federal funding to help families pay for child care began to dry up at the start of the '80s, she turned to another source: the state legislature. With a strong lobbying effort. Focal and other groups managed to win the first new state money to help poor and black families pay for child care in the history of this conservative state.

Harris was not deterred by the racial stereotypes and negative attitudes toward black held by some state legislators. Instead, Focal has built a broad coalition comprosed of both black and whites to fight together to nold on to the child care funds through repeated threats of cutbacks.

Once again, Sophia Harris has won -- and so have the children of Alabama. Her successful efforts are in important reminder that working for children is not a matter of fighting one fight. It is a matter of persistence.



Rev. Jesse D. Scott President Las Vegas, NAACP

--NAĄCP A Joyous Yuletide--

At this season of the year family members are beginning to wonder what gift to give one another as expression of love, peace and joy. Many times, people travel long distances and pay large sums for gifts that they think will fulfull the needs and desires of their loved ones. All too often the gifts received do not satisfy the ones who receive the, either because the receiver already has the item given or because it does not have any lasting values. May suggest that the above described gift that you are looking for can be found very easily and very inexpensively in the NAACP membership for every member of your family for a small sum of \$10 Why not join the each NAACP today and make this joyous yuletide for a Christmas?

--NAACP Holiday Seals--

The Las Vegas Branch NAACP has one hand in the office Holiday Seals to be purchased and used on all of your mailing during the holiday season. This year's seals are very colorful and depict the image of the new NAACP headquarters in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. Each sheet of seals is available for purchase for a dollar donation. Each year more than eighteen hundred branches of the NAACP make this appeal to the public. The proceeds of this effort are used to defray the cost of regional and the local. national operation of the NAACP. If the branch seals sales are three hundred dollars or more it will retain fifty percent of same in its treasury. NAACP members, friends and supporters are requested to come to the office and purchase their holiday seals. The branch is located at 940 W. Owens



--NAACP Election Day Scheduled--

Saturday, December 20 from 9:00am to 6:00pm is the date and time set to hold Las Vegas branch the election. You are advised to mark your calendar and make plans to be present to cast your ballot for the officers and members of your choice. If your membership is current or paid for during the last twelve months then you should come to the branch office and vote. Please don't fail or refuse to vote and then criticize the ineffectiveness of the people who are selected. This is your chance to become an active participant or an complainer. inactive the NAACP Remember derives its power from people. A trueism that all of us can agree with is a few people, little power-more people, more power and no people, no power. Be sure to NAACP bring your membership card or receipt to the polls on election day

Free Tax Reform Seminar Scheduled

IDS Financial Services, Inc. is sponsoring a free seminar to the public entitled: "Tax Reform & Financial Planning". The seminar addresses the new tax reform act of 1986 and its effect on individuals financial planning. IDS is the financial planning division of American Express.

The seminars will be held Tuesday, December 2nd from 7:30 p.m until 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. the seminars will be held at the IDS offices at 2080 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 100.

The seminars are free to the public, however, reservations are required. Please contact David J. Watkowski at 794-0400 for more information.

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