

# Education



## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

*Happy Holidays!*  
and the  
*Brightest of New Years*

### Quadrantid Meteor Shower at its Peak

This year, the Quadrantid meteor shower will be at its peak of activity on the night of January 3/4. For observers away from city lights, as many as 60

meteors per hour can be visible after midnight under a clear, dark sky. This shower has been known to produce over 200 meteors per hour. The meteorers are rapid and the brighter ones often appears to fragment or explode. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky. However, if you trace the path of each meteor backwards, the paths will all cross in the constellation of Bootes. The showers gets its name from the now obsolete constellation of Quadrans Muralis (the Mural Quadrant) that occupied a part of the sky that is now the border between Draco, Bootes and Hecules. The best time to observe the shower is between midnight and dawn. While binoculars might be useful to observe the persistent trails left by brighter meteors, optical aids are generally not useful in observing meteors because they restrict your field of view.

Currently showing at the Planetarium is the multimedia experience "Death of the Dinosaurs". For many people, dinosaurs exist as hazy images from textbooks or tacky old horror films. "Death of the Dinosaurs" portrays dinosaurs in a vivid and scientifically accurate manner. Beginning with an overview of the development of the dinosaur family, the show soon turns to the various ideas that have been proposed for the mass extinction of these ancient creatures over 65 million years ago. This program will continue through January 10, 1987.

### 26 Seniors Selected As Semifinalists in National Merit Scholarship Program

Twenty-six Clark County high school seniors have been selected as semifinalists in the Thirty-second National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual competition in which over 50,000 academically talented U.S. high school students are honored and some 5,800 of the most outstanding receive Merit Scholarships for college study. The program is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without either federal or state funding.

Over one million students enter each annual Merit Program. Some 15,000 qualify as semifinalists. Approximately 13,500 of the semifinalists fulfill requirements for finalist standing and only these students compete for Merit

Scholarships supported by corporate, business, and college sponsors, as well as NMSC.

Only the 15,000 participants who are designated semifinalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for Merit Scholarships. The young men and women who qualify as semifinalists represent the highest scorers in each of the 50 states. The nationwide group of 15,000 semifinalists includes about half of one percent of the high school seniors in each state.

Because of their high level of academic attainment, semifinalists compete successfully for scholastic honors and scholarships whether or not they are selected as finalists. Attaining the status of semifinalists is an excellent predictor of a student's academic success in college.

### Do You Have What it Takes to Start Your Own Business?

Opening a new business in today's market requires knowledge in accounting, legal matters, finance, organization and planning before opening the doors.

The Small Business Administration and Clark County Community College are co-sponsoring a Pre-Business Workshop at the Cheyenne Campus, January 9th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Room 1068.

Professionals in law, advertising and accounting will discuss: Business Planning, Legal Aspects of a Business, Marketing and Advertising, New Tax Reform Act, and Small Business Administration Programs.

Registration fee is \$10.00. Contact Clark County Community College at 643-6060, Extension 200 for reservations. Seating is limited.

south entrance to the building. Use the parking lot closest to Cheyenne Avenue.

Planetarium performances are on Thursday through Saturday at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. A matinee performance is presented at 3:30 on Saturday afternoon. Theater will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day. General admission is \$2.00. A discount admission of \$1.00 is available for children, students, seniors, military and the handicapped with the presentation of appropriate ID. Reservations are recommended for groups of 10 or more (call 643-6060, ext. 326, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Reservations will be held until ten (10) minutes prior to show time. All performances begin on time and there is no late seating. On clear evenings, a telescope will be available for viewing after the 8:00 p.m. performance. Current targets for the telescope include Jupiter and Mars. The Moon is also viewed when available.

The Planetarium is located at Clark County Community College in North Las Vegas at 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue. From I-15, take Cheyenne Avenue east about one mile to the College. The Planetarium is just inside the

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