

# Education

## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

### Commencement, A Time of Change

There is an air of expectancy in the senior high schools in Clark County. In less than a week, more than 5500 students will be graduating from the area secondary schools. For twelve years these students have been required to challenge an ever-expanding body of knowledge. The computer age was ushered into the schools during this time. New and modern sophisticated equipment has been made available for their use. But, added to this array of learning-support equipment are the demanding tasks of reading, writing, and cyphering which must be

and cyphering which must be learned by a standard system of hard work.

These students have passed the Nevada Department of Education's Proficiency Examinations and many of the students have mastered job-related skills and passed additional examinations imposed from this course of study. This segment of the formal educational program for these students will soon be completed. The time for rewarding this accomplishment is at hand. Parents will take great pride in having met their obligation by offering that all important inspiration, guidance and support base, crucial to every student's educational development. The teachers' will know that they have provided an appropriate learning atmosphere, and offered to every student an opportunity to reach out and challenge each aspect of his training.

The students who will soon leave the high schools view this time as one of celebration and, to some degree, regret. They have completed a most important part of their lives and the joy of graduation is a moment of excitement; however, tomorrow is here. Commencement is a time of beginning, a time of change, and for this year's graduates it must be a time for making those difficult decisions that will be required for the future. There will be those

feelings of sadness by the students, knowing that friends, made over twelve years, will be going to different states for employment and to attend colleges and universities.

Commencements will begin on May 26, with Chaparral, Valley, Virgin Valley, Helen J. Stewart, and Boulder City High Schools conducting ceremonies. On May 27, Bonanza, Clark, and Moapa Valley High School have scheduled graduation exercises. The Area Technical Trade Center will present certificates to their graduates on this same date. May 28 will have Rancho, Las Vegas, Basic, Variety, and Sunset High Schools completing their graduating activities. On Friday, May 29, Western, Eldorado, and the Southern Nevada Vocational Center will honor their graduates. Concluding the week-long event, the Clark County School District Adult Evening High School will present diplomas to its graduates on June 2. Most of the program will be conducted at the Thomas and Mack Center.

This is a special time — there will be speeches by the students and selected dignitaries; there will be those moments of remembrance when special recognition is provided the students who have excelled at their academic work. There will be a sense of pride felt by those who have earned these high awards, and to all present, it will be a pageant worthy of our special tribute.

To all who graduate this year, TO THE CLASS OF 1987, I OFFER OUR CONGRATULATIONS. IT HAS BEEN OUR PRIVILEGE TO HAVE KNOWN YOU, TO HAVE SHARED THESE YEARS OF SUCCESS WITH YOU, AND TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF YOUR FUTURE. MAY GOOD FORTUNE BE YOUR COMPANION ALWAYS.

**IT PAYS  
TO  
ADVERTISE**

### CCSD Chapter I "Writing to Read" Program Selected Nationwide

The Clark County School District division of Chapter 1 was recognized by the Department of Education for its success in meeting the needs of disadvantaged children.

The Chapter 1 program, "Writing to Read," was one of the projects nationwide selected as a program which demonstrates successful teaching approaches in basic learning skills.

Criteria for selection was based on the use of appropriate instructional materials and methods, high expectations for student learning, positive classroom climate, maximum use of academic learning time, parent and community involvement, professional development and training and positive evaluation results as evidenced by formal and informal measures of achievement.

The "Writing to Read" program is a computer-based system designed to develop students' reading skills through their own writing. The program is currently taught at five schools in the district: Quannah McCall and C.V.T. Gilbert Sixth-Grade Centers, Lois Craig Elementary School, Fay Herron Elementary School and Robert L. Taylor Elementary School.

Used at the kindergarten level at Robert L. Taylor Elementary School, the program builds on the children's oral language skills, according to Elementary/Kindergarten Curriculum Consultant Mary Neumann. "As they learn to write, they learn to read, understanding that these two processes are interdependent ways of expressing meaning," she explained.

Myrna Haltzman, kindergarten teacher at Taylor, has used the "Writing to Read" program three years. She explained that the program allows time for the students' creativity, for example when they are instructed to write a story.

"Heavy emphasis is placed on developing the child's language skills which carries them into a more advanced writing stage. Every aspect of a child's life lends itself to a written story, which makes for exciting

reading," she said.

The program consists of three parts: a computer-based instructional program, correlated student work journals and supplemental language development activities.

The computer program leads students through sequenced, self-paced cycles of interactive learning, providing approximately 15 minutes per day of intense individualized instruction for each child, Neumann said. "The instructional cycles of the computer are designed to teach children the 44 phonemes that they need to be able to write everything they can say."

Neumann explained that the students' work journals provide reinforcement activities that parallel the computer program. Each journal also provides a chart that students can use to follow their daily progress.

The language development activities supplement the computer program and work journal activities by providing many different ways for students to apply language arts skills through the curriculum, according to Neumann.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Chapter 1, formally called Title 1, is a federally funded program initiated in 1965 during President Lyndon Johnson's administration. The program was designed to provide specialized education in basic subject areas to disadvantaged children.

### CCCC Summer Registration Scheduled

Learn and Live at Clark County Community College. Registration for the 1987 summer term at Clark County Community College will begin on the CCCC Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas from June 2 through June 4 from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM, and from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM on June 5, 1987.

Registration will take place at the CCCC Henderson Campus concurrently.

Instruction will begin on Monday, June 8. Class schedules are available at the Cheyenne Avenue and Henderson campuses.

For additional information, please call 643-0830.

### Head Start Programs To Hold Graduation Exercises

Some 250 four-year old youngsters will participate in Head Start Pre-school graduation exercises, complete with caps and gowns, at several metropolitan area locations May 26-28. Henderson Mayor Lorna Kesterson will be the keynote speaker for one of the programs. Each ceremony will feature skits performed by the graduates.

Formerly operated by the Clark County School District, Head Start has for several years been successfully operated by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County. The program is 22 years old and was one of the original war-on-poverty programs under the Johnson

administration. Following are the graduation schedules:

May 26, 9 a.m.: Hullum Homes, 4980 East Owens Avenue.

May 26, 11 a.m.: Jones Gardens, 1950 Marion Drive.

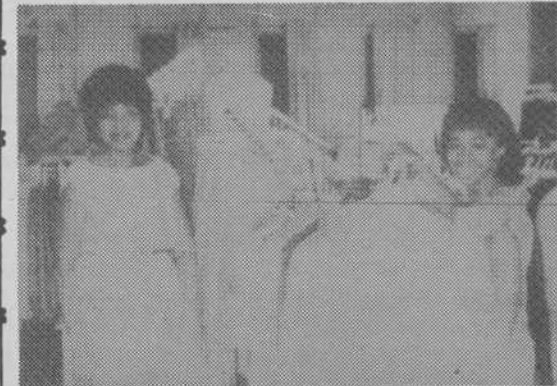
May 26, 2 p.m.: Marble Manor, 909 Morgan (Graduation Exercises will be held at 1818 Balzar).

May 27, 9 a.m.: Miller Plaza, 3960 Perry Street.

May 27, 11 a.m.: H.R. Crawford I: VI, 1818 Balzar.

May 28, 11 a.m.: H.R. Crawford II & III, 1818 Balzar.

May 28, 2 p.m.: H.R. Crawford, IV & V, 1818 Balzar.



### Ms. C.L.'s Black Pearl Fashions

Carlean LeFear

### END OF SEASON CLEARANCE

1/3 to 1/2 Off All Merchandise

Infant Wear to Ladies sizes 1 to 26

**SALES! SALES! SALES!**

**HOURS:**

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday thru Saturday

Ms. C.L.'s Black Pearl Fashions  
900 W. Owens

Nucleus Shopping Plaza

646-1377