

# Education

## SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

### VARSITY QUIZ

Have you ever been asked to respond to a series of questions related to a vast array of topics? Have you ever been placed under a time constraint to respond to such questions? If these sound like familiar experiences you can appreciate the effort made by many senior high school students as they participate in the Clark County School District's Varsity Quiz Program.

Now in its twenty-first year of operation, this program allows the most talented of our students to compete in an academic quick response program every week. There will be questions that tax the most able intellect, ranging on every possible subject matter topic. The degree of difficulty is such that most adults will be hard pressed to respond to even a fraction of the questions, and if we attempt to offer answers to many of the questions, we have only begun to formulate the reply when the high school students have clearly articulated the answer.

Dr. Bruce Miller has been the program director for the past eleven years and commented that for many of our students this is their chance to actively participate in co-

curricular activity while sharpening their academic skills. Varsity Quiz is more than a forum for the expression of academic excellence, and this program provides the students with an experience in team work that is as well organized as any sports program or club organization. There are weekly practice sessions by each high school team. Notes are made on questions that might appear at the next quiz match. A collegial rapport is established for these young scholars as they weld their team together in a cohesive unit.

To guide these teams each year is a dedicated teacher and advisor, a member of the faculty who will provide the atmosphere, motivation, training, and counselor role that is needed to assist these students as they master this difficult task. While this story is sufficient in itself, there is a second side to these activities. The general public is seldom enticed to read reports on event such as a Varsity Quiz match between two schools, nor would there be a high television viewer appeal for such programs modeled after the College Bowl Program of years past. A question pertaining to the number of men who framed the Constitution may be far less exciting than a football

## Sunset High School . . . For Students With A Special Commitment

Sunset High School enrolled 456 students this Fall which is a thirty percent increase over last year's fall enrollment. Among the returning students are honor students Sheila Bee, Janet Devine, and Rosie Munoz. Seniors Alan Jelly, Chris Maupin and Willie Whitehead and Student Council Vice President Cathleen Cassidy plan to complete graduation requirements this year. Some students new to Sunset High School, such as Lisa Wright and Laura Beck, travel from Henderson; and Norman Ritta, who works at the Flamingo Hilton, say they came to Sunset because of the personal interest that teachers take in helping students achieve success in school. Norman is among the 220

game plan that finds the team scoring a touchdown on beautifully constructed team effort. Yet, the same work has gone into both activities and the reward for the participants has comparable value.

Varsity Quiz is not for the faint at heart. As the year progresses, if your schedule will permit, visit one of the high school campuses and spend a few minutes viewing the efforts of these young scholars, or tune in to KLVX, Channel 10, and view the weekly televised game between two of our competing schools. Your experience will reward you, for America is in good hands. Our youth don't all take drugs, fail at their school work, or become social dissidents; many are bright, creative, and skilled in the modern academics. America's future leaders can be found every week completing every subject assignment, and many are going beyond this requirement to prepare for a special scholarly quiz. Can we as adults offer the same commentary?

Sunset students who are working fulltime while earning their high school diploma.

Sunset High School students make a special and personal commitment toward furthering their education especially since they have to provide their own transportation to and from school. This commitment has been further demonstrated by the excellent attendance of students during these first weeks of school.

According to Bob Tobias, Sunset Assistant Principal, there are still thousands of Clark County citizens age 16-21 who are eligible to enroll at Sunset who are not taking advantage of Sunset's educational services. It is always timely to contact the school at 799-4160 for enrollment and program information.

### Donation of Rare Books Received by CCCC

The Clark County Community College's Learning Resources Center (library) will host a reception honoring Mr. Carl Volkmar on Friday, September 25, at 10:00 A.M. in the college's library.

Mr. Volkmar, a local realtor, is being honored by the college for a major donation, his lifetime collection of books and technical journals. The collection of books includes a number of rare books and an almost complete collection of volumes dealing with the art of locksmithing.

The collection of volumes will be available for use by the students and faculty as well as to others holding valid Clark County Library District cards.

For additional information concerning the reception or the contribution, please call Gene Nelson at 643-6060, ext. 264.

## NEWSLETTER FROM GOVERNOR BRYAN

### MORE STEPS TOWARD EXCELLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Parents — indeed, all Nevadans — understand the significance of the best possible education for our young people.

As the new school year begins, we must also draw attention to and recognize the cornerstones of education: teachers.

Simply, we must make extra efforts to ensure that Nevada's teachers are the best we can find.

As a step in that direction, an exciting new scholarship program is being implemented at UNLV and UNR to attract our brightest and most talented college students into the teaching profession.

As I recommended to the 1987 Legislature, 23 scholarships will be available this year to students entering teaching programs at UNLV, and 22 at UNR. Each scholarship will be for \$1,451, the cost of tuition and books for one year as estimated by university officials.

Next school year there will be 90 scholarships available: 45 at each university campus, also at \$1,452 each. Over the biennium, this amounts to 135 scholarships for a total of \$196,020.

It is anticipated that 135 scholarships will be available in the third year of the program, which will grow to 180 scholarships in the fourth year. The funds for these scholarships will come from Nevada's share of the federal estate tax credit funds.

I am excited about this

new scholarship program. The scholarships will enable university officials to recruit the most highly qualified students in all disciplines into the teaching programs. And they will help address the critical shortage of teachers in the west.

Since the university system sends only about 150 graduates each year into the teaching profession, the number of scholarships offered by the state is impressive. Although criteria for the scholarships are still being formulated, interested students should contact the College of Education at UNLV and UNR.

This is an example of the high priority we must place on teachers and their profession, if we are to hire the best we can find.

Another example is to recognize teachers as professionals. We must focus on teachers as the backbone of our educational system.

A second Governor's Commission on Excellence in Education will soon be convened. While the first commission under my direction studied education in Nevada in general, this commission will specifically address teachers and the teaching profession in our state.

With a concerted effort on all our parts, we can see to it that Nevada's teachers are the best. Our young people need such a commitment from us — and they deserve it.

### GMAT TEST OFFERED AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) will be given at National University's Southern Nevada Campus, 2439 Losee Road on Saturday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Students applying for entrance to a graduate management or business program and who wish to apply for a California State Graduate Fellowship must submit scores from the GMAT. Approximately 700 graduate management programs require a GMAT score as part of the application process.

The State of California also

requires students entering such a program to send a score from this test as part of the application procedure for Graduate Fellowships. Graduate Fellowships are tuition assistance in the form of grants worth up to \$5,940. Students are urged to take the GMAT test as soon as possible in order to complete the application process since applications are only accepted from January 1 through March 2, 1988.

This multiple-choice test is designed to assess general verbal and mathematical skills

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