

Education

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HILTON

Our Holiday KWANZAA Needs A Song



KEITH O. HILTON

Let's prepare for Kwanzaa right now.

Traditionally, Kwanzaa is celebrated in December, so now is the time to start planning. By December, many people have either gotten caught up in shopping or have closed ranks for the winter.

The fall also gives us time to encourage musicians to contribute to the holiday's growing importance.

Wouldn't it be quite a statement when Stevie Wonder, Kool Moe Dee, Nancy Wilson and some of our other great artists begin recording Kwanzaa albums that would be played during the grand December holiday season?

Kwanzaa songs could spread the meaning of "zawadi" (gifts) or "mishumaa saba" (seven candles) and its other reflective ingredients.

Putting aside the commercialism of Christmas, very few people can not say that they did grow up singing Christmas carols.

DECK THE HALLS is based on a traditional Welsh air. O, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL, was written in the eighteenth century in England. O TAN-NENBAUM is a German carol. O HOLY NIGHT was written in France. SILENT NIGHT was written in 1818 in Austria.

Our message is NOT to imitate what has already been done, but rather to utilize the talents that some of us have to strengthen a growing institution and community.

Nor are we saying that Kwanzaa should be packaged to be more commercial than cultural. It can, however, be packaged in a way that young minds will "invest" in it. HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION will

remain at the forefront of seeing that Kwanzaa's message remains solidly true to its roots AND growing branches.

Think of Kwanzaa as being another part of the growing maturity of African America. It is uniquely U.S. African. Nearly ten million people celebrate Kwanzaa each year.

Kwanzaa can or does not have to be a substitute for Christmas. They complement each other. In fact, Kwanzaa is considered to be the nation's only cultural holiday.

The number of artists with Christmas albums are too many to be listed, but their interpretations and renditions have "solid" millions on the notion of a holiday spirit.

If you think holiday songs add to the holiday season and that Kwanzaa is growing, DO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING; 1) spread the idea amongst others, 2) share this column with others, 3) write the music columnists in this newspaper and/or call your favorite radio station and mention the idea.

Finally, write your favorite artist in c/o the recording company address on the back of their albums. Any or all of these would be good student or civic club projects.

Remember that THIS NEEDS TO GET STARTED NOW in order to broaden and strengthen the nation's only cultural holiday.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk.

CCSD To Participate In Statewide Drug Survey

The Clark County School District will participate in a statewide student drug survey during the month of November. The drug survey is sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education.

Purpose of the anonymous survey is to find out what students know and think about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and the identify possible problem areas. The survey will also address student drug usage.

Participation is voluntary with parental permission. Grade levels to be included in the survey are: 6, 8, 10 and 12.

According to CCSD Drug Abuse Consultant Ron Ross, results of the statewide survey will be disseminated to local school districts to be used for planning, prevention and intervention programs.

Parent information letters will be sent home with students in participation classes. The letter will include information on how parents may preview the survey and the procedure they should follow if they prefer that their child not take part in the survey.

School Enrollment Tops 110,000 Mark

The official 1989-90 school year enrollment for the Clark County School District (CCSD) is 111,482 students, according to figures released today. That means CCSD gained 6,306 students above the last year's official enrollment of 105,176.

The largest class is first grade, which enrolled 10,253 students, making it the first first grade level year to exceed 10,000 students.

Enrollment projections were for a maximum of 109,503 students. Those projections were exceeded by 1,979 students.

According to annual statistics compiled by the Educational Research Service, the Clark County School District is the 17th largest in the nation and the fastest growing of all major school systems in the U.S.

Student Earns School Credit By Traveling

Fifteen-year-old Maurica Stewart wanted to learn about other cultures.

And the best way to accomplish that, she thought, was to visit foreign lands.

So Stewart took part in an overseas travel program last summer and spent three weeks visiting Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other European countries.

"It was really educational," said Stewart, a sophomore at Clark High School.

"I think it gives me a better outlook on life by seeing how other people live. It makes me more open-minded."

For her venture, which also included other students from high schools in the Clark County School District, as well some students from Arizona, Stewart will receive one elective credit toward her graduation. To receive the credit she must write a report on her trip and its sights and scenes.

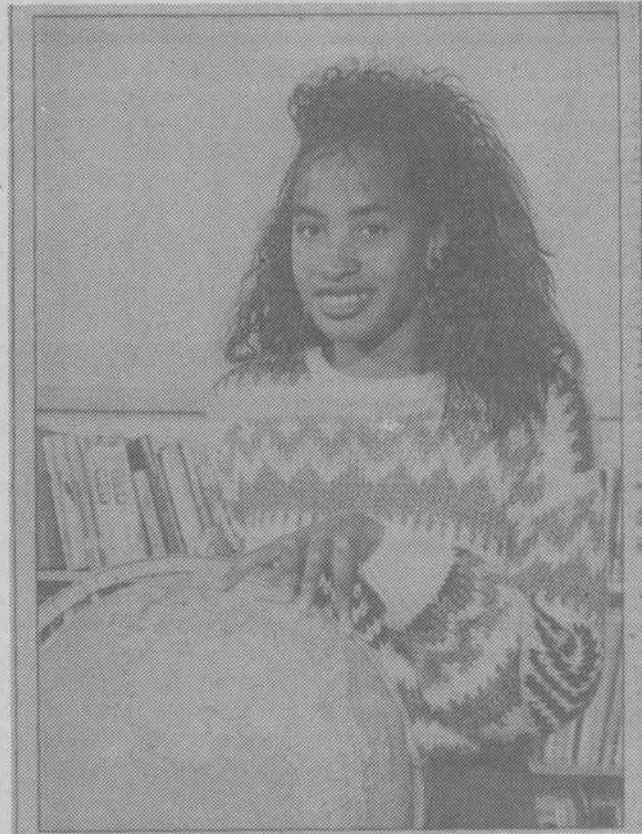
Schools Plan American Education Week Observance

American Education Week (AEW) will be observed in schools throughout the Clark County School District November 12-18. The national theme for the week-long celebration is "Learning and Liberty: Our Roots, Our Future."

Jan Biggerstaff, chairman of the American Education Week Coalition, said the celebration will feature a wide variety of school building and community activities.

The week has been an annual event since 1921 when it was established by the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Legion.

Local activities scheduled for American Education Week include: Teacher of a Day, Student Music/Art at the Malls, Superintendent Salutes National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists, Excellence in Education Hall of Fame, National Secondary School Recognition Award -- Cannon Junior High School, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8 Bulletin Board Contest.



Maurica Stewart

"I guess I enjoyed Germany, Austria and Switzerland the most. They were the cleanest and the people were friendly," Stewart said.

The Clark High School sophomore, who is active in

cheerleading, marching band and modern dance, hopes to become a marine biologist someday.

She is the daughter of Maurice and Virginia Stewart of Las Vegas.

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& GED — AGE: 16+**

**CONTACT
A.O.I.P.
647-2117
1-4 P.M.**

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