

Education

- Educator
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KEITH O. HILTON

1990 Spring Commencement Message

The graduation of the NATION'S FINEST, the multicultural college and high school senior classes of 1990, represents the very best of our communities nationwide.

From Nigeria to New York, from Cuba to Chicago, from Liberia to Los Angeles, you have now increased our ranks of scholars, practitioners and future leaders.

Rather than write about what awaits you in the "real" world, **HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION** correctly prefers to focus on the fact that people of color are the "real" world, past, present and future.

It will still be some time before the final census count is complete, however, the following fact will surely be projected: that your/our numbers are growing and by the year 2000, in many parts of the United States, European Americans (white folks) will be in a minority.

As quiet as this is kept, it is highly likely that people of color are severely undercounted, even greater than the 5-6 percent usually stated. Could it be that we are already in the majority?

What this basic fact means to you, the class of 1990, is that the majority work force that you will be joining and/or leading will look much like you and me.

Not only will it look like us, but it already has placed its trust (and love) in you via the encouragement that you have received from school day one through graduation.

The consensus of the opinions of academic and

corporate experts and analysts is that the professional ranks nation will have to continue to make room for you at all levels.

In the dream world canned commencement addresses that many of you will also hear this spring, some will fill your minds with gloom and doom statistics or tell you that the sky is the limit. Or that you can go as high as you strive for.

We have no reason to lull you to sleep. Therefore, we suggest that you take those messages with a grain of salt.

This is not to say that there isn't some truth to those comments. However, we would prefer not to hear of some of you jumping out of windows a few years later because you became stressed out or disillusioned.

Two of the best ways to avoid this scenario are to remain and/or become culturally grounded and to also identify key people in your field who can serve as mentors and friends. By the way, mentors should and can be of ANY ethnicity - as long as you are culturally grounded.

Many of you will soar to great heights in your professions; some will not. All of you have to this point experienced bits of success that have enabled you to reload the movement.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to school classrooms. Let's talk. (714)899-0650.

Striving For Equity and Excellence in Education

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

Recently I introduced H.R. 4379, legislation which seeks to further the federal government's traditional objectives of equity and excellence in education. The thrust of the bill is that these objectives can best be realized through greater funding for currently successful programs, such as Head Start, WIC, Chapter 1, Education of Handicapped, and Pell grants.

The bill also builds upon current efforts by creating several new programs. Four of the programs have been proposed by the President: merit schools, science scholars, teacher awards, and an expansion of aid to historically Black colleges and universities.

The other new initiatives include teacher training programs, an adult literacy initiative, and a math and science curriculum centers proposal. The final initiative would expand eligibility for student aid to middle class students by disregarding the equity value of a family residence and through other changes. Grant assistance to postsecondary students would also be expanded.

Perhaps one of the best examples of the expansion of a cost effective program is evidenced in Title I of the legislature; the authorization for the Head Start program is increased by \$1 billion over the current appropriation. For each \$1.00 invested in Head Start more than \$6.00 is saved in reduced costs for public school education, crime and welfare, with in-

creases in participants' lifetime earnings and productivity.

Other federal education programs such as those which boost reading and math skills, ensure school completion, and prevent illegal drug use are also cost effective and help to promote student excellence. Of course all these initiatives cost money. However, when confronted with other national emergencies such as the savings and loans bailout we seem to find the money. In the same spirit we must find the money to advance the education of our children. It is not only a worthy investment, but one which is necessary if we are serious about the future economic and social health of the nation.

MAY 31 DATE FOR FINAL SECONDARY ZONING DECISION POSTPONED

To facilitate the scheduling of additional public input meetings, the school board has decided to postpone a May 31 vote to finalize 1991-92 secondary zoning proposals for new junior and senior high schools.

Although no action will take place on secondary zoning, the school board will hold the May 31st meeting as planned. However, instead of taking a final vote, they only will be reviewing proposals which have been received so far and providing an overall update and status report on secondary zoning.

District officials are presently finalizing locations,

Nevada Foster Care Association Sponsors Workshop on June 1

The Nevada Foster Care Association is sponsoring a workshop on Friday, June 1, "Empowering Children and Youth." Emily Jean McFadden, Associate Professor at Eastern Michigan University, will facilitate the examination of how we may offer youth, especially those in the foster care system, the opportunity for self-expression, self-fulfillment and self-governance.

Included in the discussion

will be preparation for emancipation, realistic interventions, and creation of a supportive environment, and examination of independent living projects.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the UNLV School of Social Work and Nevada State Welfare, is open to the community and will be held in the UNLV Moyer Student Union. There is no fee. To register, please contact Karen Jorgenson, 486-5050.

NEEDED!

Foster Homes for African American Children

Good at raising kids? We need your help! Many children in the Black community are separated from their families due to illness, neglect, abuse or other family problems. These children need caring families, like yours, to give them roots and a place to call home.

Your help is especially needed to care for:
-newborn infants, medically needy infants, toddlers,

preschoolers -brothers and sisters of all ages, to avoid separation -short term care (1 day to 6 months) -teen age mothers

Please contact Wanda Scott, 486-5050 for Foster Care application and financial assistance information, or meet with us at the Westside Library, 951 West Lake Mead Blvd. on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24, 2-5 p.m.

Saturday, July 21, 2-5 p.m.

dates and times for the additional public input meetings to be held in West and North Las Vegas.

BRING A FRIEND!

NEED HELP WITH READING, WRITING, MATH, & GED - AGE: 16+

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

Kids R Smart

LEARNING CENTER

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PH: 647-5712

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CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE