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AIR IN LAS VEGAS ON AUGUST 27**
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

School Board Trustee Speaks Out At Luncheon

By Y. Ali El-Shabazz



Yvonne Atkinson Gates voices many concerns about the future of Southern Nevada during NVBCC.

Participating at the last Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce luncheon as guest speaker Yvonne Atkinson-Gates brought to light many different points about the future success or failure of Southern Nevada. Pointing out five important factors concerning infrastructure planning, the public schools, the counties growth, the Yucca Mountain issue, and the Las Vegas image, Mrs. Gates had the undivided attention of the 100 plus attendees to the monthly luncheon.

The Clark County School Board Trustee mentioned that since 1984 the Clark County School District has seen a 36% school population growth, 89,771 to over 122,000 new students. Mrs. Gates made an appeal to the city and county leaders to conduct a study into the continued influx and take the necessary actions to create a growth plan to

maintain the current way of life namely, no state income taxes and low property tax.

The seven year board member found it necessary to explain the demise of the 10 year building plan of the CCSB to an accelerated 5 year plan that has already gone through the 674 million dollars that the public approved in a bond issue in 1988. In less than three years the money has been exhausted due to human error in calculating costs, and competitive bidding. The original 10 year proposal was to build 77 schools, however in the first year only 13 new facilities were built, and this year 18 will open including two new high schools.

Mrs. Gates spoke further about several programs that pertain to the social responsibilities of the public and the business sectors part in the workforce in the years ahead. She states "our

community is not part of the problem, but part of the solution". One new program on the drawing board is a partnership with long time education advocate Elaine Wynn, of the Golden Nugget Corporation, that deals with drugs, gangs, violence and fragmented families.

Mrs. Gates feels the solution to having productive graduates is being able to deal with the issues, and that can be achieved by helping one help another.

Even though Clark County is involved with the second largest school building program in United States history, Mrs. Gates acknowledges that this all means nothing if the school system forgets about the children outside of the main stream, she concluded, "our future is our children."



The best selling author of such books as "Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys, Volumes I, II and III, and "Developing Positive Self Images" and "Discipline In Black Children", Jawanza Kunjufu is constantly on the lecture circuit with over 30 different workshops for teachers, parents, students, community groups and churches. He is president of African-American Images, and Executive Director of the African-American Images Center, designed to identify and develop children's talents.

AFROCENTRIC: Curriculum under attack, scholar defends

PART 1

By Jawanza Kunjufu

As a national trainer for preparation for implementation and co-author of a self-esteem curriculum that builds on the many positive aspects of African culture to raise self-esteem of all children, I have presented above just a sampling of the kinds of comments I hear in my travels across this

(See Afrocentric, Page 7)

SUMMER SCHOOL INTERSESSION

by J. R. Sawyer

In trying to prepare the future leaders of tomorrow, the Clark County School District embarked on a pilot program aimed at preparing kindergarteners for first grade.

The three week pre-first grade intercession program, who's theme was "Colors", targeted special kindergarteners throughout the city from different six grade centers who would be attending first grade this upcoming semester.

With over two hundred students participating in the extended sessions at eight six grade centers, this program was designed to sharpen the skills learned in kindergarten, such as the al-



Young students help one another in developmental skills during intercession summer school

phabets, colors, numbers and listening habits. Mabel Hoggard Six Grade Center's principal, Mrs. Shirley Barber, who was instrumental in designing the program,

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