

Education

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HILTON

**STUDY GROUPS:
NOT FOR BOOK-
WORMS ANYMORE**



KEITH O. HILTON

But were study groups ever ONLY for bookworms? I can testify that in more cases than not, studying together or even parallel studying has been beneficial to me.

Readers, particularly parents, please share this column with high schoolers, college students and guidance counselors. If you are a student reading this, please share this with others and take a leading role by starting a studying group at your school.

Contrary to popular belief, students do value education although at times their attitudes may imply the opposite. Sometimes, it may not seem cool to be studious. As an educator and parent, I see many students with high aptitudes being led by what they may think is a cool attitude. Likewise, I also see many students being positive examples under the "right" conditions.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION highly recommends that students participate in study groups because of built in advantages over the traditional method of studying something else. The fact that you are working as a group serves as an incentive.

Studying in a group also says that it is okay to want to be smart. It also represents a pooling of knowledge.

Another implied advantage is that a study circle increases the motivation to study. If you regularly see others studying, you are more likely to join the process.

Another major advantage of studying together is that it produces bonding. Friendships are formed.

The idea of study groups is not new, although many students still prefer to "wing it" alone. We believe that many students are just encouraged to realize that study circles are simply another form of peer group bonding.

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Just as there are organized sports teams, social clubs, after school informal groups; study groups also serve a valuable purpose.

A key for students is to understand that they are always moving between groups, depending on their interests or expertise. This is healthy and normal.

Although in most groups the statement of "want do I get out of this group?" is usually not explicitly stated, it is still a key reason for

participating.

Remember that study circles will work best without rigid rules; but in order to be effective, leaders must emerge to develop the ground rules. Again, please share this column with others.

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. (714) 899-0650.

DISTRICT FINANCIALLY STABLE

A conservative approach to fiscal matters is enabling the Clark County School District to weather the state's current financial crunch with minimal impact on staff, students and services. The district continues to live up to its goals of AVOIDING laying off existing employees, reducing funding to school for supplies and equipment, and disrupting essential services to schools.

The district is financially stable because officials have been keeping a close eye on expenditures. Officials began taking money-saving steps in August 1991, when it became obvious that state revenues were not going to reach projected levels. The district responded by delaying major equipment purchases, staffing conservatively, not filling or delaying filling vacant positions, decreasing out-of-district travel and reducing the vehicle fleet.

"The district is still financially whole due to measured taken at the beginning of the school year," said Superintendent Brian Cram.

Those efforts mean that if the Board of School Trustees so chooses the district is capable of complying with Gov. Bob Miller's request that local districts reduce their fiscal 1991-92 budgets by 2 percent of state funding. When Miller established a firm figure in January, that also allowed the district to provide

additional staffing for second-grade class size reduction and for classrooms that have experi-

CCSN GETS \$1,500,00 (M) EDUCATION ACT GRANT

The Community College of Southern Nevada has been awarded a three year, \$1,502,136 (m) federal grant under the Carl Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act to fund occupational education programs serving a high concentration of special population students, David Hoggard, Associate Dean of Occupational Education and grant project manager reported recently.

"These students are defined as those who are academically or economically disadvantaged, handicapped, individuals in correctional institutions, and those with limited English proficiency," Hoggard said.

The college will be awarded \$310,862 in the initial year. Hoggard said the funds would be utilized to employ a Special Populations Advocate, increase handicap services, provide expanded services for academically disadvantaged students, purchase textbooks for students in correctional institutions, provide equipment and transportation for students at the college's Center For Business and Indus-

tried extreme growth.

Cram assured that officials will continue to monitor the

district's finances, with necessary adjustments made as new information becomes available.

try Training, and fund instructor salaries for several apprentice-ship programs.

In addition, \$78,519 will be awarded in the initial year to fund a Tech Prep Associate Degree program.

"This is a joint program between The Community College of Southern Nevada and the Clark County School District," Hoggard explained. "It is designed to increase student technology training through studies

in advanced technology and applied academics."

Key to the program is an articulation agreement between the college and the school district to grant students college credit for certain technological skills learned in high school. Funds from this grant will be utilized in the high tech areas such as computer and information technology, drafting, electronics and other technology programs.

BOOK LOOKS AT FUTURE OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Recently court decisions on segregation involving historically black colleges put a new book by the former chancellor of North Carolina Central University at the heart of the matter.

Albert N. Whiting's book, *Guardians of the Flame: Historically Black Colleges Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, published by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, takes a look at the future of these institutions.

"Many historically black colleges stand at a crossroads," Whiting says, "with hard decisions to make: Should they fully integrate their student bodies or continue their emphasis on African Americans?"

The book offers answers from the points of view of historically black college presidents. To provide a perspective, Whiting also provides a history of the institutions.

Guardians of the Flame chronicles the development of a unique phenomenon: a group of institutions created by the "American racial system." "As such," Whiting says, "They were outside the established, accepted educational structure, inadequately financed and staffed, but nevertheless enlivened by an irrepressible passion for education — the flame."

He asks if these institutions will cultivate this "flame" or if they will become "vanishing symbols of a valiant struggle for knowledge outside the mainstream."

Whiting asks presidents of historically black institutions and other interested educators to comment on the future of their institutions. The following is a sample of their predictions:

"I think the future is very dark. I don't see that many of these schools are going to survive. I think that they are going to become predominantly white or be merged out of existence. The black college will be the cause of their own death because they are trying to do too many things with too little." Lionel Newsome, late president

(See *Book Looks at Historically Black*, Page 9)

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