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HILTON

Yvonne and Yvette Did More Than Just Inspire Other College Students



KEITH O. HILTON

In early January, I was jolted out of bed with the news of the deaths of Yvonne and Yvette McCarther, two of the world's oldest unseparated Siamese twins.

I immediately began to recall my brief tenure at Compton College (1986-89). It was during this time that the twins first enrolled at the college.

"Mr. Hilton, have you seen the twins yet?", I was first asked by one of my student workers. When I replied that I had not, the student went on to describe them in such a way that I didn't know what to expect.

The fact that the twins were joined at the head explains why many students felt very uncomfortable looking at them when they first came to campus.

However whatever discomfort that was felt by students and educators alike was short lived for two reasons, 1) the humor, warmth and openness that the twins exhibited and 2) Compton College, after all, was and to this day, remains a predominantly African American College, and with this comes a lot of old fashioned family love and African "values."

It was the right thing and the African thing to welcome them in. Sometimes, however, I believe that we have a tendency to down play too much of our cultural base.

My own personal contact with Yvonne and Yvette was primarily in my capacity as head of the college's Learning Center/Academic Resources Center.

With some students, it is just plain difficult to convince them to come in for extra assistance when they are having difficulty in class.

However, regular readers of this column are aware that I am also an advocate of students taking advantage of a college's academic support programs even if they are doing well in class. For example, why settle for a B+ when an A is right around the corner.

The twins were regular visitors to the center, eager to learn and also eager to chat. In fact, at the end of the 1986-87 academic year, we presented them with appreciation certificates from the Learning Center staff. I saw less of the twins during my second and third years at the college, however, whenever our paths crossed, we always engaged in "lively conversations."

Bill Nave saved these

kids from drowning, but he's not a lifeguard.

Verleeta Wooten found

several new stars, but she's not an astronomer.

And Ivan Neal put out

a lot of fires, but he's not a firefighter.

These are teachers. But to the kids they reach, they're heroes.

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EDUCATION

When I learned that Yvonne and Yvette McCarther had died at the ages of 43, I thought back to some of those conversations. I suppose that will be one way to preserve their energetic spirits.

The purpose of this particular column is not to use overused phrases about life and death, but rather to pause and say that these

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT CLARK COUNTY

Approximately 130,000 copies of the Clark County School District's annual report are being mailed to the parents or guardians of every child in the school district.

Copies of the report are also available at the Education Center, 2832 E. Flamingo Road, or the Public Information Office, 799-5304.

After January 30, copies of the annual report will be available in the lobbies of all local libraries.

The annual report contains information on every facet of the district: enrollment, test results, graduation rates, dropout rates, personnel and recruitment, budget matters, expenditures and revenue, curriculum, special programs, graduation requirements, magnet schools and

community involvement.

This is the third annual report prepared by the school district. The report, an eight-page tab-

PARENTS NAMED TO CCSD HALL OF FAME

Nine people have been named to the Parent Hall of Fame, which was established this year to recognize the extraordinary and lasting contributions by parents in the Clark County School District.

Named to the Parent Hall of Fame were Ruth Betowski, Jane and Patrick Carter, Helen Dixon, Stan Durrett, Joyce Haldeman, Patricia Jarman, Socorro Paredes and Linda Wade. One representative was selected from each of the seven trustee districts, with one tie and one couple named this year. Their names will be placed in the Parent Hall

of Fame display in the education center lobby.

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. (909)899-0650.

loid, is designed to comply with a 1989 law requiring all Nevada school districts to prepare and disseminate an annual report

reflecting their performance. The legislative mandate is also referred to as the school accountability law.

Parents featured in the Hall of Fame are among almost 60 parents nominated by teachers, principals, staff and others for their work on behalf of students and education.

Their volunteer efforts include assisting with school fundraisers, tutoring students, helping teachers in the classroom, volunteering in school libraries and offices, being involved in PTA, and generally pitching in wherever needed.

All 1992-93 nominees to the Parent Hall of Fame were honored Tuesday, January 26, with a recognition ceremony and reception.

Other nominees are Pat Ackeret, Maureen Allred, Nancy Andreae, Anna May Barrera, Vonda Blackburn, Carrie Bona-

bian, Maria Castanza, Mari-Anne Cover, Neola Crossman, Barbara Dempsey, Anne Downing, Fred Ehrlich, Nancy Flaherty, Monica Forbes, Mary Fortune, Ronda Garland, Pam Ghertner, Joanne Greenbaum, Darby Gwin, Dianne Heggem, Luisa Hernandez, Janet Homoki, Greta Isham, Kathy Jasinski, Maureen Johansson, Donna Kennedy-Segel, Fatmah Kimpton, Susan Kring, Theresa Langowski, Patricia Lewis, Jean Lighthart, Dale Lucero, Elizabeth McMurray, RoseMarie Merback, Debbie Morales, Debra Murray, Janet O'Donnell, Frank Perone, Barbikay Pohl, Joanna Sharpe, Karyn Shaunnassy, Cindy Small, Susan Steward, Glynnis Stirling, Janis Stoney, Pat Stow, Connie Whitaker and Cynthia York.

Parent Hall of Fame will be an annual event.

DISTRICT TEXTBOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Textbooks proposed for use in the Clark County School District will be available for public review on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 16 and 17.

Textbooks may be reviewed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day in conference room #18 at the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, 601 N. Ninth Street. Personnel will be on hand to answer questions or respond to concerns.

Subjects included in this round of textbook review are various vocational-technical courses, communications and journalism, computer, foreign languages (specifically, German, Japanese and Spanish for Spanish speakers), earth and environmental sciences, and humanities, anthropology and psychology.

The review is held prior to adoption of the textbooks by the State Board of Education.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED AT ATTC

An open house will be held at Area Technical Trade Center on Wednesday, February 17, in celebration of National Vocational Educational Week, February 15-21.

The open house will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the school, 444 W. Brooks Avenue

in North Las Vegas, off Cheyenne Road and Commerce Street, about one mile west of the Community College of Southern Nevada. Sandy Miller, wife of Gov. Bob Miller, will be the guest speaker.

ATTC is a magnet vocational school, where students attend one-half day to study a selected vocational program. Students complete their comprehensive classes required for graduation at their home high school.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

There's an old adage that goes something like this: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but if you teach that man to fish then you've fed him for a lifetime. In a society so bent on the work ethic and bringing unemployment down why are there so few "fisherman" willing to teach their trade? The answer is simple; part of the white agenda is to keep the Black man depressed and dependent and a big part of his feeling superior to you is knowing that you are dependent upon him. If he were to share his skills and knowledge with you his fear would be that you'd equal him or perhaps even surpass him and his psyche couldn't handle that. In the African community there are plenty of "fisherman" out there with skills and know how. It is incumbent, if not compulsory, for those with the skills to take in apprentices and teach them what you know in order that we can break the cycle of dependency that has us in an altered state of slavery. We can not afford the luxury of begging for fish when we have the capacity to learn the trade. Until next week, this has been the Minister of Information.

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