

A Kid's Opinion

By Anika Jones



How Does DARE Help Us?

That's what I'm asked by many of my friends that have not experienced D.A.R.E. Some schools don't inform kids about drug awareness. I can respond to all fears and questions. D.A.R.E. is what kids should have at their elementary school and it is what will help all kids "Just Say No To Drugs." D.A.R.E. is a nationwide program where a police officer goes into the school classroom and shows different ways to say no without being pressured. Some kids only like D.A.R.E. because it's an hour away from classroom work. I think kids all over the world should

have D.A.R.E., because it helps a lot. More kids should be learning about how drug and alcohol can hurt them for life. If people followed the D.A.R.E. program there would be less crime and homeless people in this world.

Futurekids of Las Vegas, your local computer learning center for children, announced they are now taking sign-ups for five exciting summer camps which teach children how to use computers while having fun with the newest computer software available. Camps will be held at the Futurekids computer learning center located at 2905 W. Charleston Blvd., 256-9880.

"There are five Futurekids summer camps designed to meet the needs of children of all ages and to assure that each individual student is challenged and entertained by their own

camp," said Sue Bolton, owner of Futurekids Las Vegas. The camps planned for the summer of 1994 are:

- Storybook Maker - Ages 5-8
- Cartoon Camp - Ages 3-5
- Jr. Entrepreneur - Ages 7-12
- Rapid Fire Keyboarding - 7-14

- Robotics - Ages 8-14

Futurekids computer learning centers offer computer classes to children in more than 1,200 locations around the world. The programs help children build a solid foundation of fundamental learning skills by familiarizing

them with the power of computers. In the learning centers, classes are held weekly and are intentionally kept small to emphasize individual instruction.

For more information on Futurekids summer computer camps call 256-9880.

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NEWS

OF EDUCATION

Disadvantaged Students Must Be Challenged

(NAPS)—Some of America's poorest students may also be some of America's brightest students.

According to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Education, *National Excellence: A Case For Developing America's Talent*, the United States is squandering one of its most precious resources—the gifts, talents and high interests of many of its students. The problem is especially severe among economically disadvantaged and minority students who have access to fewer advanced educational opportunities and whose talents often go unnoticed. The GOALS 2000 initiative of the Clinton administration is designed to help the nation set higher standards for all children.

Almost one in four American children lives in poverty, representing an enormous pool of untapped talent. Yet most programs for these children focus on solving the problems they bring to school rather than on challenging them to develop their strengths. It is sometimes assumed that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are not capable of outstanding accomplishment. Yet stories abound of disadvantaged children who achieve at high levels when nurtured sufficiently.

The consequences of not nurturing the talents of poor and minority students are serious:

- Among black students who score at the highest levels on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, more than 18 percent leave school because of academic problems. Up to 70 percent of all black students who enroll in four-year colleges drop out at some point.

- Minorities are not entering many important fields in mathematics and science. For example, blacks make up 12 percent of the



Nurturing the talents of poor and minority students benefits American industry by expanding the pool of skilled workers.

population but earn only five percent of the baccalaureate degrees awarded each year in science and math, receive only one percent of the PhDs and make up only two percent of all employed scientists and engineers in the country.

To encourage poor and minority students to achieve, we can do several things, experts say. We can set higher expectations for all students and help them see that being smart is a great thing to be (high achieving minorities are often accused of "acting white" by their peers). We need to increase learning opportunities for disadvantaged and minority students with outstanding talents, increase access to quality early childhood education and broaden the definition of talented to serve a wider range of students.

Copies of the report are available from New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7950. The stock number is 065-000-00603-1, and the price is \$3.

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