

## EDUCATION

# Glenn Banks Goes to Washington D.C.

By Nichole Davis  
Sentinel-Voice

Las Vegas High School senior Glen Banks attended the National Youth Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. recently. He was the only student from Nevada to attend the conference, but he didn't mind.

"Being the only one from Nevada forced me to be more

outgoing," he said.

Banks visited our nation's Capital from Dec. 5-10 where he met politicians, listened to reporters, and visited national monuments. He even managed to squeeze in time to take the ACT examination.

Banks was one of about 350 participants from around the country participating in the

conference. All of the participants were high school students who were referred to the program. Banks was referred by Tyrone Armstrong, a history teacher at Las Vegas High School.

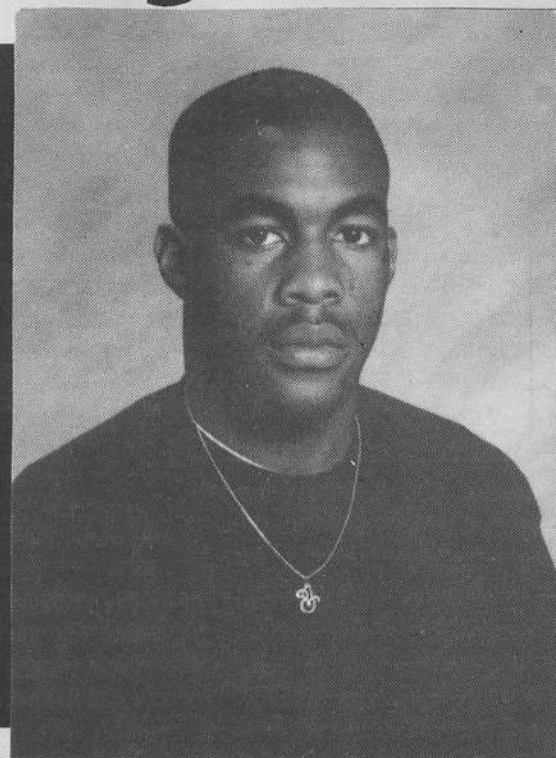
Upon arrival, the teens were divided into groups of 22 where they participated in role playing activities and congressional committee simulations in

preparation for a mock Congress. Each day of the conference, participants explored a different aspect of national politics. Banks learned about "America and the World" on day one. He played a trade representative in the role play activity "If I Were President," sat in on a discussion of "Foreign Policy Challenges in the Post-Cold War World," visited the Argentine embassy, skipped an optional seminar about the "Behind the Scenes Working of the United States Congress," and was entertained by "The Capital Steps" theater group.

The panels were in Banks words interesting, but he didn't ask too many questions.

"I was listening, but not being really government inclined, I didn't know what to ask," he said.

Day two was equally busy. Banks learned about the executive and legislative branches of our national government. He was greeted on the floor of the House, not by House Speaker Newt Gingrich as expected, but by the



GLENN BANKS

Honorable Bill Orton (D-UT). He then toured Capitol Hill and met Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid and Representative John Ensign. Banks saw Sen. Bryan at work during his visit. He was giving a speech on the floor

before he broke away to talk to Banks.

"I talked to him about 10-15 minutes," said Banks. He also posed for a photo.

Banks then went to see Harry  
(See BANKS, Page 15)

## Paying Back Those Student Loans

Whether you've been repaying your student loans for years or are a recent graduate just getting started, you may be frustrated by the squeeze on your monthly budget. And if you have more than one loan, keeping track of payments to different lenders can bog you down.

Now you can combine your loans into one monthly payment, extend or shorten your repayment period, adjust your monthly payments, and possibly lower your interest rate.

A new publication from the U.S. Department of Education, **Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program** (Item 611B, free) explains how to consolidate your loans under this program. It also includes a form you can fill out and return to the U.S. Department of Education to

receive an estimate of what you'll pay monthly. For your free copy of the publication, send your name and address to Consumer Information Center, Department 611B, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

There is no fee to consolidate your federal student loans into one account, and you can choose one of four repayment plans to best meet your needs:

- **Income Contingent Repayment Plan** — your payments rise and fall for up to 25 years as your income changes.

- **Standard Repayment Plan** — pay a fixed amount for up to 10 years.

- **Extended Repayment Plan** — pay a fixed amount for 12 to 30 years.

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payments every two years for 12 to 30 years.

Regardless of the plan you choose, there is no minimum consolidation amount, you can change it at any time and you can repay early without penalty. More than a dozen types of loans are eligible, including Stafford, Ford, PLUS and Guaranteed Student Loans. And if you're married, you and your spouse can combine all of your loan repayments into one monthly amount. Parents can even consolidate loans for different children.

The interest rate you'll pay is based on adjusted Treasury bill rates that change yearly on July 1. As a student borrower, your interest rate will never exceed 8.25 percent.

If you're repaying loans now at a higher interest rate (even if you have just one loan), consolidating them may save you money. But keep in mind that the longer you take to repay your loan, the more interest you'll pay in the long run.

Find out now if consolidation is right for you by ordering your free copy of Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program (Item 611B, free).

When you receive it, fill out the worksheet on the back page and send it in.

Using the information you furnish, the U.S. Department of Education will provide free calculations of your payments under all four plans to help you decide which is best.

## Student Exchange Seeks Host Families

As Americans, we are fortunate to live in a country which people from around the world are eager to visit. The American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation, is seeking host families for high school foreign exchange students for the 1996-97 school year. AISE exchange students live with American families and attend local high schools during their ten-month cultural exchange experiences. Host families provide students with room and board, and a loving, family atmosphere in which to live.

Students learn about government, our history, our customs and our language, as well as leaving a lasting impression of their cultures in the minds and hearts of their American host families and peers. AISE seeks to shorten the perceived distance between countries around the world, while at the same time showing foreign teens why the American people cherish their country so.

Call AISE at 1-800-SIBLING for more information on hosting a foreign exchange student. A world of adventure awaits you!

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## Dad Files \$5 Mil Suit Against Dorsey High

Jury selection began earlier this month in a \$5 million civil lawsuit filed against the Los Angeles Unified School District by a black father who alleges the district failed to protect his teenage sons from gang-related violence.

Glenn Browne Sr. filed the lawsuit and claims his sons, Glenn Browne Jr., who was 15 at the time, and Deon Browne, who was 14, suffered physical and mental injuries in the Sept. 7, 1993, shooting at Dorsey High School, said Melanie Lomax, Browne's attorney.

The lawsuit accuses the school district of negligence, improper supervision, inadequate safety precautions and infliction of emotional distress.

It seeks general, special and punitive damages, as well as

medical expenses and legal costs.

"The terrible, unfortunate irony of this tragic incident is that Mr. Browne wanted to get his children away from the gangs and violence, so he sought and obtained special permits for them to attend Dorsey, thinking it would be a safer school with less danger from gangs," Lomax said.

During the trial, expected to last two weeks, Lomax said she expects to call LAUSD Superintendent Sid Thompson; Dr. Jerelene Wells, Dorsey High School principal; LAUSD Chief of Police Wesley Mitchell; and Julie Korenstein and Mark Slavkin, LAUSD Board of Education members, to testify. School officials were not immediately available for comment.

On the day of the shooting, Glenn and Deon Browne and approximately 300 other students were waiting in line on the Dorsey campus to register for classes. Without warning, a gang member began shooting. Glenn was struck in the chest by a bullet. Deon witnessed the shooting and was restrained when he tried to go to the aid of his brother.

Lomax said that as a result of the shooting, Glenn suffered permanent injuries which required the removal of a kidney and large portions of his intestines. Deon, she said, suffered severe trauma as well as emotional distress.

"School officials should have known that gang members were on campus and that guns were present," Lomax said.

## THE EDUCATION MINUTE

### Parents' Responsibilities in Children's Education

By Mary Peterson,  
Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
and the State Board of Education

Communication is a two way responsibility. Parents are the first teachers of their children. They can make a big difference in their child's success. Parents should have high expectations of their child and confidence in his or her ability to succeed. They can help prepare children to enter school by exposing them to basic behaviors and skills essential to success in school.

It's important to make sure a child comes to school on time each day ready to learn. Parents

can emphasize the importance of doing well in school and insisting on regular attendance.

Ask children what they learn at school each day and what they felt was most interesting. Attend parent conferences and support other school activities. Volunteering at school or offering to provide cookies for a party will convey your interest in your child's education.

Communicate often with your children's teacher about their progress. Find out ways you can help them succeed in school at home. If you have an idea to contribute to the Education Minute, please call 702-333-1392.