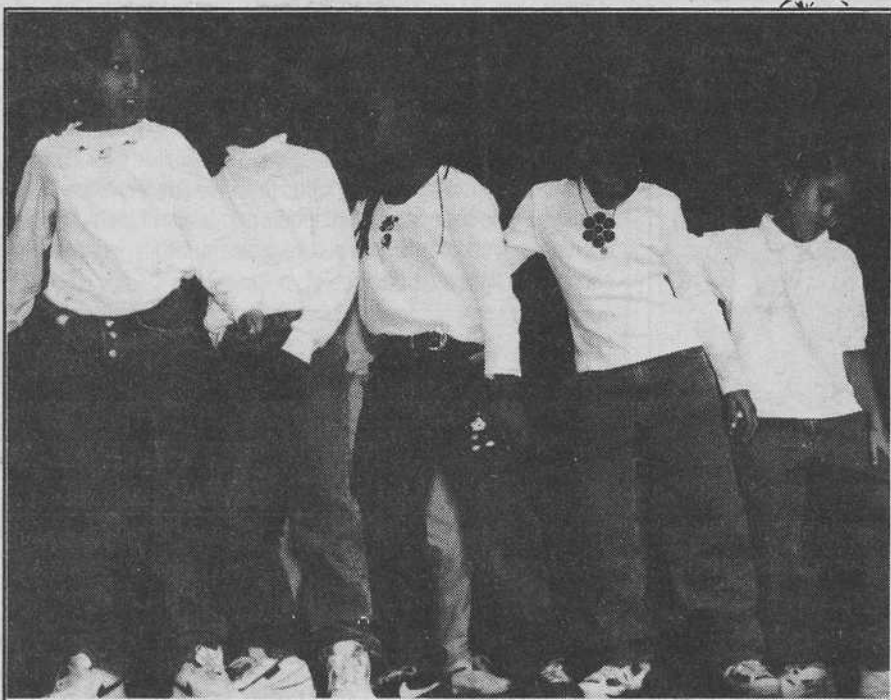
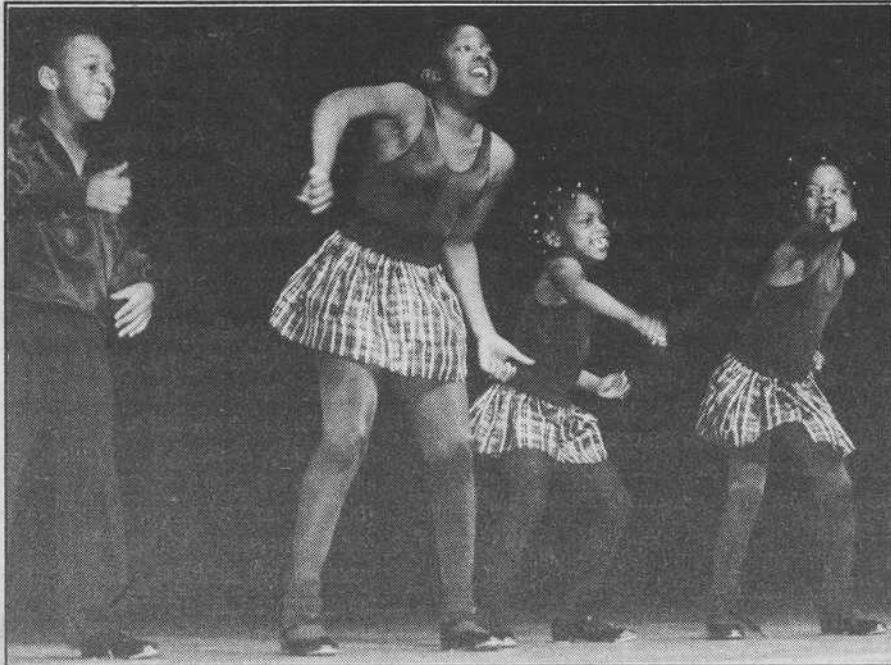


SHOES FOR TOTS



The Second Annual Shoes for Children Christmas Concert was held Wednesday at the WLTV Library Theater. The show featured local talent acts including (pictured at top) The Austin Dancers and bottom, The Girlfriends. Several hundred pairs of new shoes for children were collected.

Photos by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Las Vegans prepare for annual Kwanzaa season



Dr. Al Gourrier shares Kwanzaa history with students last week. Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Compiled from Sentinel-Voice and wire reports

Black Las Vegans will be among the estimated 18 million African-Americans who will participate in some sort of Kwanzaa event this year.

In the wake of the rising African-centered education movement in America, it is important that every segment of the African-American community begins preparing for the Kwanzaa season.

In Las Vegas, community activists Dr. Al Gourrier and Anika Johnson held pre-Kwanzaa programs at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center aiming to raise awareness and interest in the coming holiday.

On Friday, Dec. 27, the City of Las Vegas' Cultural and Community Affairs Division will host a Kwanzaa night featuring poets, storytellers and vocalists.

In preparation for the season, the first question

that should be asked is, what is Kwanzaa and why is it as important for African-American people?

In the 1960s, the black power explosion shook up America and successfully began the dismantling of the legal system of racial segregation in the south. However many blacks felt there was a deeper meaning to the ideas of freedom, justice, and equality that had not been advocated by the civil rights movement.

The call for black power by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Kwame Ture (a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael) and others gave a new impetus for the black liberation movement in America.

When the smoke cleared from the Watts rebellion in 1965, an organization emerged in the Los Angeles, California area called "US". Its leader, Dr. Maulana Karenga, became a noted spokesman for the independence, liberation and the acquisition of power for African-American people.

After intense study of African cultural traditions, Karenga - who gave a spirited lecture during a Las Vegas visit last month - established the only nationally celebrated, indigenous, non-heroic black holiday in the United States that he called Kwanzaa.

The concept of Kwanzaa, as Karenga established it, was derived from the African custom of celebrating the harvest season. Karenga's explains that, "the origin of Kwanzaa on the African continent are in the agricultural celebrations called the "first fruits" celebrations and to a lesser degree the full or general harvest celebrations. It is from these first fruit celebrations that Kwanzaa gets its name which comes from the Swahili phrase Matunda Ya Kwanzaa."

Karenga further explains, "the first fruit celebrations are recorded in African history as far

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Experts give safety tips

By Nichole Davis
Sentinel-Voice

With Christmas just around the corner, consumer advocates are reminding shoppers to be wary of shopping and fire safety hazards.

Patricia Morse Jarman, commissioner of the state Consumer Affairs Division, urges shoppers to use discretion then they make their holiday purchases.

"The more informed a consumer is, the better off they are," Jarman said.

Making out detailed shopping lists, knowing what people want and making larger purchases on credit cards are just three of the suggestions Jarman offered.

To avoid overspending, "shoppers need to plan what they want," Jarman said. "Don't do impulse shopping."

It's always a good idea to make out a detailed shopping list then do some comparison shopping, because as they do the rest of the year, stores are going to have the same products at different prices, she said.

Another common pitfall is spending too much

money on an unwanted gift. Jarman says you should ask people to make lists of what they want in priority order.

"Most people won't tell you when they don't like a gift," she said, but with a list "you can be sure you give a gift they like," she said.

But, clear communication doesn't have to be a holiday formality, Jarman said. She gave her significant other something she called Patricia's Preferences, a card listing her favorite perfumes and designers, best colors, and measurements with the understanding that it's always okay to purchase something from this list.

But sometimes even the best laid plans go awry, so it's always a good idea to keep your receipts and to check the refund policy of stores before making purchases, Jarman said.

Nevada state law does not designate a standard time limit for returning items, but stores are required to post their refund policy clearly where customers can see them, she said.

Additionally, Jarman said credit card users have another safety net, if they use those cards for

(See Safety, Page 2)