

# EDUCATION

## Weekly receives UNLV award

By Nancy Watson  
Sentinel-Voice

Lawrence Weekly was honored last week by the Black Students Association of the University of Nevada Las Vegas with the presentation of the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award.

Weekly received the award for his unselfish contributions of time and energy for the youth of the Las Vegas African-

American community.

According to Carl Tolbert, president of the Black Students' Association, Weekly also provides a positive role model for the youth because he has a successful career and he tries to encourage others.

Weekly said he was "very surprised and extremely honored to receive the award."

"It meant a lot coming from the students at UNLV. I'm

flattered, blessed and thankful," he said.

Weekly works for the City of Las Vegas as a management analyst in the Neighborhood Services Department. He is president of the Martin Luther King Committee and he is director of Kappa Leadership League, a mentor program for young males in grades nine through 12.

He also hosts a regular weekly talk show "Straight Talk" on KCEP 88.1 FM and he is a trustee on the Las Vegas Clark County Library Board.

The Black Students' Association also honored Velicia Haron, director of the office of Multicultural Affairs at UNLV.

Germaine Webster, a



LARRY WEEKLY

student and member of the UNLV football team who gives time to the Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas and gives motivational talks at high schools and junior high schools in Las Vegas, was also honored.

**HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION**

By Dr. Keith Orlando Hilton

## Remember March 17-21 is Black Press Week NCBS, Africana studies and the black press

Part I

Recently, I presented some of my research on the black Press at the 20th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies. The event was held at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. and hundreds of activists, students and scholars were in attendance.

The theme was "Celebrating 30 Years of Black/Africana Studies: A Legacy of Leadership, Learning and Change." My paper dealt with black studies and the black press.

It stands to reason that if Africana Studies is to move to a higher plateau as a discipline and re-empowerment agent, it must now also re-establish a direct connection to the greater African community via the African-American press.

Some individuals, programs and publications are already serving as models for accomplishing this.

According to experts, next to the black church, the African-American press is perhaps the second most influential institution in our communities.

I agree with the importance of this press — and of the church, however, a crucial third institution that needs to remain in that dialogue is the place of the academy, and in particular, students, scholars and synthesizers of black studies.

You see, John Russwurm, the co-founder of the nation's first black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was also the nation's first black college graduate — in 1826, Bowdoin College.

The fact that we were at the D.C. conference affirms the notion that black studies as an intellectual discipline is valued, however, equally important is how we disperse the information to students on campus and also to those students, practitioners and residents in the greater community.

As students, I know how easy it is to get locked down on your campus and removed from the local community, even on a campus like University of Southern California which is right in South Central Los Angeles or even at the great Columbia University in New York City, located right in Harlem.

That is one reason why African newspapers with their community emphasis are so important for black studies or African-centered students. These publications provide a real world environment to reinforce your academic studies.

And this is important because the re-empowerment process moves from local to international just as often as it flows from the outside to the campus.

(Part 2 next week)

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is an internationally syndicated column designed to dialogue with college and world readers.

## Test scores show slight increase

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CCSD students in grades six and 11 scored near or above the national average on tests taken last October that measure achievement in reading, math and language. Some scores increased from the previous year while others held steady.

Sixth-graders scored at the 49th percentile in reading, 61st percentile in math and 54th percentile in language on the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills, Fourth Edition. This test compares local student achievement in the subject areas with that of a national sample of students. The math score increased from the 56th percentile in 1995-96, while scores in reading and language held steady.

The national average is the

50th percentile.

Eleventh-graders scored at the 49th percentile in reading, 55th percentile in math and 49th percentile in language on the same test. The language score increased slightly, from the 48th percentile in 1995-96, while the reading and math scores held steady.

Both sets of students also took the Test of Cognitive Skills, Second Edition, last fall. This test measures the academic ability of CCSD students compared with that of a national sample.

Sixth-graders this year tested at the 44th percentile in ability, down from 53rd percentile in 1995-96. Eleventh-graders scored at the 51st percentile in ability for 1996-97 and 1995-96.

## Education Today

By Teresa Thorne

### More \$'s not the answer

There is no question that parents need some form of help in order to put their kids through college. Tuition, room and board, and books are at an all-time high, making a higher education difficult to attain for many families.

When the federal government got into the business of making low-interest student loans, the intent was exactly that — to provide aid for those who wanted a college degree but had trouble paying for it. Unfortunately, that program has been a disaster. It isn't a good thing for taxpayers, who are stuck footing the bill.

Now the president has proposed more spending on education, including a plan to extend high school to include the first two years of college. In theory, that sounds like a great idea. In reality it's just

not feasible.

Adding two years into the current systems means creating more bureaucracy, more of a burden on taxpayers, and more socialization, if you will, of the education systems.

There is much to be said about the ineffectiveness of continuing to throw money into the education system in order to fix it. As I've said, until I can't even stand to hear myself anymore, money is NOT the answer.

Money isn't going to solve the problem of teachers who are more interested in a child's self esteem than correcting his papers or grading his work. For example: A teacher asks a students how much 3 plus 2 equal. When the student, replies 6, the teacher then asks how he came to that conclusion.

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## Multicultural conference scheduled downtown

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Various facets of human cultures will take center stage this weekend during the 14th annual Multicultural Conference, which will celebrate the theme "An Array of Jewels in Multicultural Education."

Topics to be covered include "A Conversation with W.E.B. Dubois," Chinese Nevadans, "The Ebonics Controversy: William Shakespeare vs. Paul Lawrence Dunbar, You Be the Judge," "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover" and "Becoming and Unbecoming White." Workshops will promote an understanding of the culturally diverse background of students and families, and will focus on ethnically diverse communication styles, as well as customs, literature and history of different cultures.

The conference is open to public.

It will be held at the Union Plaza Hotel from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For conference registration, call 593-1091 or 799-8484.

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