

# Education Today

By Teresa Thorne

For years, the concept of "self-esteem" was often used to rationalize the failure of the school systems across the country to deal with the educational needs of children. Merit wasn't as important as "feeling good" about oneself. Teachers were warned that correcting grammar, speech, spelling or math, for example, or even insisting on their students doing homework, would make the school experience an unhappy one. The goal was to keep the children coming to class, even if they didn't learn. In essence, the presence of bodies took precedence over the exercise of minds.

(Am I being cynical in believing that one reason for concentrating on attendance had more to do with the fact that in most areas, states fund local schools on the basis of daily attendance records?)

The irony is when youngsters are helped to achieve, and feel people believe in them, and are willing to take the time and make the effort to help them, they will respond, and really feel good about themselves.

On that point, let me recommend ABC's "About Us: The Dignity of Children," hosted by Oprah Winfrey, airing Saturday, March 29. Youngsters from around the country share their feelings about themselves, their lives, and their hopes. (Oprah, who had a traumatic childhood, also shares some recollections.) One of the many thoughtful comments in the program expresses what the first part of this column tried to make clear vis-a-vis how children feel about themselves: "When you're told you're special, it means there's something about you that is worth saving, is worth loving, worth just allowing to be part of the world...."

The best way schools can help kids believe they're special, is to believe in them. The best way parents can help kids believe they're special is love them enough to encourage them to make the most of their God-given talents.

**HELPLINE:** If your youngster has trouble paying attention in class or other problems, you can find important information in two publications from the National Institute of Mental Health: "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder," and "Learning Disabilities." For both publications, send a check for \$1.00 to Learning Help, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009.

## Black college presidents meet with Clinton

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Eight historically and predominantly black college presidents recently met with the President Clinton to learn how his higher education policies will affect education generally and black colleges specifically. Henry Ponder, CEO and President of National Association For Equal

Opportunity in Higher Education, called the meeting to ask the President to place higher education on the national agenda as a high priority.

Topics addressed included: Flexibility in institutional aid which would allow Historically Black Colleges and Universities to choose how to

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Delta Kappa Chapter and the Clark County School District's Partnership Program will present their second annual Career Day Program, April 9, at the Community College of Southern Nevada, Cheyenne Campus.

The program matches African-American students with professionals from their chosen fields of interest.

A 7:15 a.m. breakfast kicks the day off, followed by an introductory program featuring guest speakers.

Then it's off to work as the students join the professionals at work for some on-the-job training.

Students are encouraged to write an essay about their Career Day experience. Several \$800 scholarships for the best essays will be awarded at a May 24 luncheon on the Cheyenne campus. All participants are invited back as guests for the luncheon.

Businesses interested in sponsoring a student or students can call Ruby Amie Pilot at 648-8530, Patricia Feaster at 642-9185 or Kathy Fox, 647-9797.

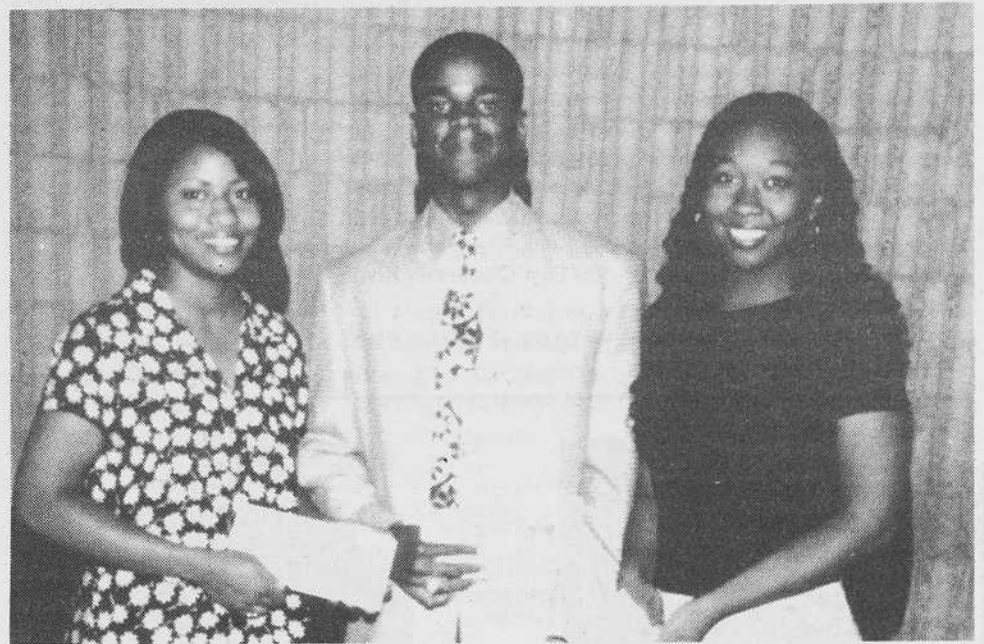
utilize their awards for endowment building purposes; extension of the HBCU student loan default exemption in the upcoming higher education act reauthorization; inclusion at the University of the District (See Policies, Page 12)

# EDUCATION

## Career Day set for April 9



Gamma Phi Delta Sorority members from left to right: Kathy Fox, Ruby Amie Pilot, Novella Huey, Jean Myers, Patricia Feaster and Gladia Bell. Photo special to Sentinel-Voice



1996 scholarship recipients, from left to right, Sonnie Victor, now at Byrman School in Phoenix, Glen Travis, a student at CCSN Cheyenne Campus, Tanya Cuthbert, attending the University of Kansas. Not pictured is Nichole Jackson, a UNLV student. Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

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### Denial, the Right to Read and Write: The Language of Resistance and Survival

presented by Rosemary Sport and Carolyn Hensley

Through every era, the African-American culture has created a language to survive. Language for the African-American has always been twofold. From the beginning, the struggle has been to maintain their African tongue while being focused to adopt the American vernacular. The development of slave narratives, language of the Harlem Renaissance, jive, rap and ebonics have communicated the struggle of the duality.

**FREE** Saturday March 22, 1997 1:00 p.m.

West Las Vegas Library Theatre 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Please call 229-4800 to reserve a seat.

This program, part of the series Humanities and Language Through the Black Experience, is made possible, in part, by a grant to the Cultural & Community Affairs Division City of Las Vegas Department of Parks & Leisure Activities from the Nevada Humanities Committee, the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities Committee, and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

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