

# EDUCATION



Photos courtesy of the Governor's office

Stewart (seated) relaxes in the governor's office last month. Joining him are Assemblyman Jack Close (left), mother, Evelyn Clay, and Gov. Bob Miller.

## 5th grader writes way to the Nevada Legislature

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Writer. Lobbyist. Assemblyman.

Eleven-year-old Phillip Stewart has a grasp on the first two disciplines but will have to wait a few more birthdays before he can get his State Assembly desk in Carson City.

Thanks to his writing skills, Stewart may have laid the groundwork for a political career.

A fifth-grader at Will Beckley Elementary, Stewart won the school's essay contest on "How a Bill Becomes Law." On May 21, he trekked to



Stewart even had time to visit State Supreme Court Chief Justice Miriam Shearing during his tour of the capitol.

Carson City to witness Nevada's legislative machine in action.

As part of his trip, Stewart sat in assembly debates, toured state building and met some political heavyweights.

"I learned a lot from writing my essay, and have learned even more from observing our state's lawmaking process," Stewart said. "My trip to our state's capitol was an educational experience I will not forget."

Stewart sat next to contest co-sponsor Assemblyman Jack Close during the Assembly session.

He visited several assembly committee sessions and heard debates. He paid closest attention to Bill No. 6 which requires kindergarten attendance for children of a certain age.

Bill opponents, take heed.

Then, Phillip, son of Evelyn Clay and Derek Stewart, toured the legislative offices, including the Governor's mansion as well as the state museum before mingling with such dignitaries, Gov. Bob Miller and Chief Supreme Court Justice Miriam Shearing.

Mom chaperoned the trip and said she came home a bit wiser.

"Learning about the roles of our assemblymen and women and their contributions to the Nevada lawmaking process has been rewarding," she said.

## Retired educator volunteers time

By Damon Hodge  
Sentinel-Voice

In the past four years, Nurlin Tarrant has become a staple at Kit Carson Elementary School.

"Good afternoon Mr. Tarrant," yells a group of bubbly first-graders led single file by their teacher into the cafeteria.

Tarrant has a slew of admirers. Teachers smile at him. Students await his arrival. His wife praises his work.

Since 1993, Tarrant has taught keyboarding and computer skills to first-graders. He volunteers his services. For him, helping kids is payment enough.

"My gratification comes from teaching these kids how to use computers," said Tarrant, a Brooklyn native. "I can see a glow about the kids when they find out they can do something."

"The keyboard is the heart of the computer. If you know the keyboard, you can learn any computer."

Says Principal Linda Gipson:

"The individual help he gives the students is phenomenal. He's like an extra teacher." Seven-year-old Jasmine Williams agreed. "He has taught me so much."

Wife, Margaret, bandied about the classroom proudly showing pamphlets, books and other projects the children completed, with her husband's help.

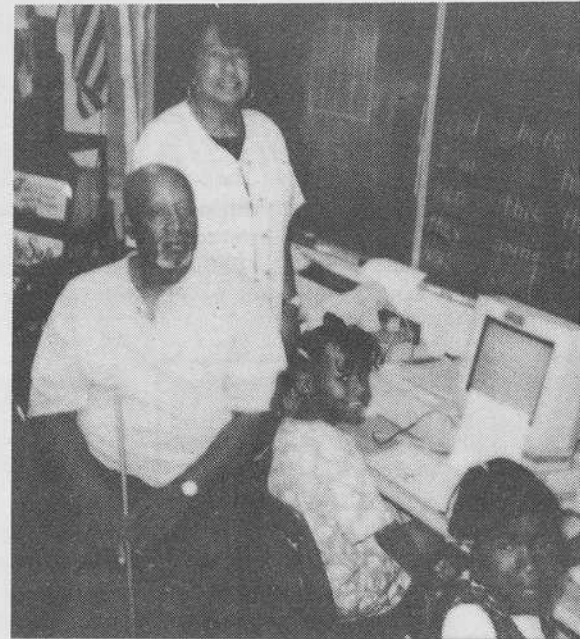
The Tarrants jumped to Las Vegas in 1993, lured by the weather, a lower cost of living and the city's social life. Nurlin retired after 30 years in the New York State Education System.

Margaret, who taught seven years in Long Island's Hempstead School District, began teaching the first grade at Carson.

Nurlin was a substitute teacher for awhile. But he preferred volunteering and asked his wife to get permission for him to do so at Kit Carson Elementary.

Gipson acknowledged. Visits were occasional. Then routine. Soon, Nurlin had a seat in the teacher's lounge. He had arrived.

"I really enjoy what I am doing," he said. "The kids have fun because they're learning and I am learning along with them."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Former educator, Nurlin Tarrant (seated) works with students during his wife Margaret's first grade class.

said first-grade teacher Willie Walker.

So do the 60 to 70 first-graders he teaches.

"He taught me how to type on the home keys (middle row on the keyboard), to print, to use the mouse and make graphics," said Williams, Nurlin's prize pupil and assistant.

"When someone needs help, I can help them," Williams said.

"His impact on the students will last a lifetime," said first-grade teacher Cynthia Hampton.

## LV resident awarded degree in social work

Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Mentau Mafaumbay." Translation: Beginning a journey.

Tiffany Smith completed her scholastic journey May 17 graduating with honors from Georgia's Clark Atlanta University.

Smith is a former Las Vegas resident and the daughter of Tommy Smith and Patricia Grimes. Smith attended San Diego State University before heading to Clark where she graduated with honors, as was common throughout her scholastic career.

Smith thanked her family and teachers for their help, encouragement and guidance.



TIFFANY SMITH

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