



Sentinel-Voice photos by Isadore Washington

Scholarship winner Willis Williams (right) joins Todd Kenner and Virginia Valentine of PBS & J, Inc. Friday during graduation ceremonies at the county-sponsored Summer Business Institute. Williams worked at their engineering firm.

## Student engineers \$1,000 scholarship

By Crisandra Varnado  
Sentinel-Voice

Cimarron-Memorial High School graduate Willis Williams has gained a lot from this year's county-sponsored Summer Business Institute.

An internship with PBS&J civil engineering helped him work in and become more knowledgeable of his desired career. He even worked at McCarran Airport, learning about drainage studies, flood maps and ratios.

He also earned a \$1,000 engineering scholarship to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"In the future I hope to have the opportunity to work at a good engineering firm," he said. "I plan to be very successful if I keep going at the rate I am."

Williams and other high school students from the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community participated in the 5-week job-training program designed to foster career skills. Sponsors and mentors assisted the



Seven Seas Restaurant owner Louis Conner and his wife Judy attended the ceremonies. Conner served as a mentor in the program.

students with guidance and counseling throughout the program.

The students, who received \$1,200 stipends at the program's end, graduated last Friday at the Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway.

## LA swears in new police chief

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
LOS ANGELES- Bernard Parks became Los Angeles' 52nd police chief and the second consecutive African-American to hold that position when he was unanimously confirmed Tuesday by the City Council.

"I can pledge to you that you have not made a bad decision and that you will be very pleased with the results," said Parks, 53.

"You're going to do a good job," Mayor Richard Riordan said.

Last week, Riordan tabbed

Parks for the position. On Tuesday, he fumbled with the badge as he pinned it on Parks' uniform.

The new chief then told the packed City Hall audience: "I believe that this city is on the rebound and moving forward."

Parks will earn \$203,058 a year. He made \$152,640 as deputy chief.

Applause filled the City Hall chamber as the council voted 12-0 on Parks' confirmation.

"I would just like to say that it is very humbling to be here and see all the hullabaloo,"

Parks said as his wife Bobbie smiled. "It's also a reality that this is a very serious decision for the city."

"We have an opportunity as a city, with all the departments working together, to give the citizens of LA the best functioning government in the United States," Parks said. Parks replaced interim Chief Bayan Lewis.

A 30-year police veteran and father of three, Parks has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

## Clinton praises decreased welfare load

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
ST. LOUIS - President Clinton lauded on Tuesday last year's welfare reform initiative which has reduced the 1997 workload by 1.4 million.

Speaking at an affair hosted by Missouri Democrat Richard Gephardt Clinton said, "I heard all the reasons that people said it wouldn't work, but a year later, I think it's fair to say the debate is over. We know that welfare reform works."

The new welfare figures show a 24 percent cut in caseloads, a 3.4 million drop since Clinton took office in 1993.

Gephardt, the House

"I heard all the reasons that people said it wouldn't work, but a year later, I think it's fair to say the debate is over. We know that welfare reform works." — President Clinton

Minority leader, had opposed the bill. He appeared unfazed by the president's jab. His opposition to the bill, he said, was only to insure that it would work. "It remains to be seen whether everything will work."

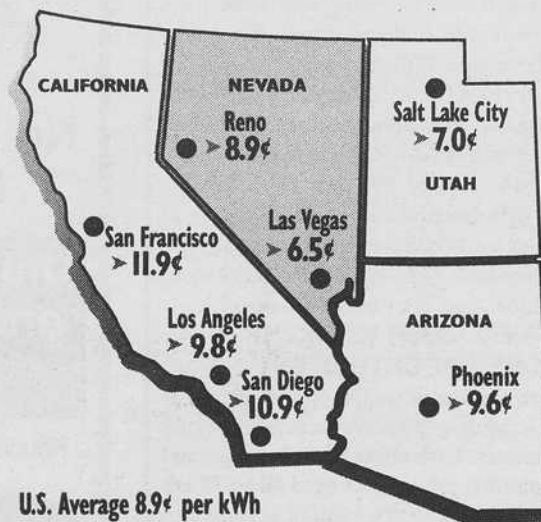
Gephardt also opposed the balanced-budget legislation Clinton recently endorsed. Political pundits say Gephardt is a likely candidate for the 2000 presidential elections.

Clinton asked business leaders to remember that,

although the law mandates able-bodied welfare recipients to find work after two years, "The rest of us have a moral obligation to make sure a job is there."

Though a feature event of Clinton's trip was a Democratic National Committee fundraising lunch, the welfare forum - a spate of speeches by local and state officials - enabled the president to bill the federal government for the travel expense.

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