

Barnes gets honors

Special to Sentinel-Voice
 "Make the best of everything because you only live once." Rashan Renee Barnes, a 16-year-old junior at Cheyenne High School, has used this philosophy to transform her dreams into realities.

Recently voted the 1998-99 president of the Cheyenne chapter of National Honor Society by her peers, Rashan is ranked in the top one percent of her class.

Next year, as a high school senior, she will also serve as student body secretary, cheerleader, and a member of the track team and the pep band.

Possibly due to 13 years of formal dance training and strong support from her parents, Rashan demonstrates maturity, discipline and determination beyond her years. She credits her parents

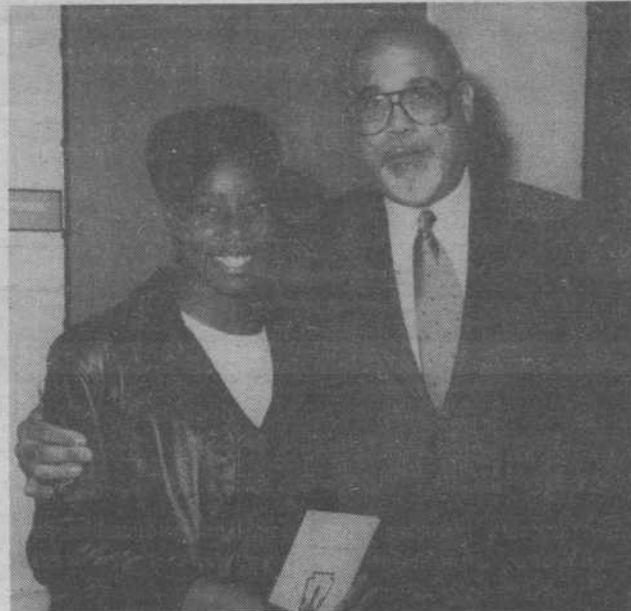
for teaching her that hard work and effort usually pay off in the end.

A spiritual young woman (she sings alto in her church youth choir), Rashan attributes her success to having a positive outlook.

"You have to focus on your goals," she says. "Do your best, and don't be discouraged when things don't happen exactly when you want them to. You can't give up."

She plans to parlay this attitude into a law degree from a historically black college or university.

Although an extremely busy lifestyle leaves her with very little spare time, Rashan wouldn't have it any other way. Her accomplishments, and the work it takes to achieve them, make the times when she can "just chill" all the more enjoyable.



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Newly elected president of the Cheyenne High School National Honor Society, Rashan Barnes is congratulated by the principal, Dr. Richard Brown.

Rashan sees her induction in the National Honor Society as a highlight of this school year. "I'm privileged to be a member of the NHS. It's an honor," she says. But she sees being

president of the NHS as a unique opportunity for spotlighting the ability of young African-American women and men, in hopes of inspiring others.

A quick glance at the school recruit pursuit

Special to Sentinel-Voice
 The following are some of the efforts being used to sign up Black and Hispanic students who were admitted to the University of California in the first freshman class of the post-affirmative action era:

— Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles, and a UCLA alumnus, has written letters to all the black and Hispanic students accepted by UCLA and Berkeley.

"We are going to recruit them like you recruit a 250-pound halfback who runs the

40 yard dash in 4.2 seconds," Villaraigosa said. "My biggest fear is that we are going to lose the best and brightest kids to the Ivy League schools unless we do something to get them to stay."

— Students are staffing a phone bank at UCLA.

"We really admire you guys. You got in without any affirmative action or anything," junior Aldo Flores told a high school senior in a recent call.

— At the flagship campus, Berkeley Chancellor Bob Berdahl spends evenings calling student prospects.

Minority recruiting at Calif. schools more intense

Special to Sentinel-Voice

BERKELEY, Calif. — Besides receptions, often replete with music and food, the University of California is waging a bold courtship to woo minorities that includes a mailing campaign, a videotape, phone calls from faculty and students and — in some cases — even a phone call from the man in charge, Chancellor Bob Berdahl.

Approved in November 1996, Proposition 209 forbids state and local governments from extending preferential treatment on the basis of race, sex, color or ethnicity.

The controversial measure is being closely watched across the nation, and similar laws face legal challenges in such states as Michigan and Texas.

Now, as Berkeley prepares to enroll a class with the lowest numbers of blacks and Hispanics admitted in more than a decade, administrators, faculty and students are engaged in an all-out pursuit for recruits.

Last fall, 1,045 Hispanics, 562 blacks and 69 American Indians were admitted to Berkeley. The numbers for this fall are much lower — 434 Hispanics, 191 blacks and 27 American Indians.

Outreach efforts are being waged throughout the nine-campus system of the University of California — with an emphasis on personal contact.

At UCLA, students are turning into telemarketers, working the phones after class to try to persuade students to sign up. In San Diego, recruiters are going to the homes of prospects. Recruiters at UC-Davis struck an outdoorsy note with a big picnic in April.

Normally, far fewer students enroll than are admitted. At Berkeley, just under 40 percent of black and Hispanic students admitted have enrolled in recent years.

This year, officials know they are fighting to hold on to the cream of the crop, the kind of students deep-pocketed private universities yearn to enroll.

The Berkeley overtures are a three-week affair, starting with the admissions packet and leading up to calls from students and school officials.

In mid-April, Berdahl and other campus officials made a whistlestop campaign through Southern California, packing in two receptions each day, visits to high schools and a session with high school counselors.

GOP

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and Prohibitionists parties and Anti-Masonic groups teamed to found the party, deriving the name Republican from the high ideals of Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. Their first national convention was held in Philadelphia in 1856 and their first platform was abolishing slavery in the country's new western territories.

"Individual responsibility, family values and education are the principles of the Republican party which make me a member," said 29-year-old Kenny Young, vice president of Strategic Solutions, a business consulting firm. "Individual responsibility is something that is lacking in the Democratic party."

At the convention, Bailey, a highly respected GOPer, spoke about the positive impact the party has had on blacks.

The National Black Republican Roundtable began in 1992 after George Bush lost his White House re-election bid to then-Arkansas governor Bill Clinton. Bailey and other Blacks appointed to posts by Bush pledged to return to their home towns and start organizations that would swell the number of young Blacks in the GOP. The local chapter started in 1994 with six members.

Bailey believes more blacks will sway to the GOP under the leadership of the new chairman, Dr. Terry Akers. Akers, a chiropractic physician, recently announced his candidacy for a not-yet-vacant seat: citizens are gathering signatures to force Clark County Commission Chairwoman Yvonne Atkinson Gates into a special "yes, no" election.

He also cited as a boon the creation of the Frederick Douglas Scholarship Foundation which will provide scholarship money for students attending Community College of Southern Nevada.

"I think this will be fruitful," Bailey said, referring to the scholarship which is open to Black youth interested in volunteering time in the state or county Republican party.

Tami Bass, who is 36 and a single mother of two, thinks African-Americans need to do more homework on political parties.

"Blacks need to get in the process, learn about the parties, do a little reading, go to different functions, and learn, learn, learn," she said.

A member of the roundtable, Bass is an attorney in the child support division of the Clark County District Attorney's office and is running for the office of county clerk. She said she's eyeing a future mayoral bid.

"This party must continue to reach out to minorities and stop forfeiting them to the Democratic party," said Bailey, who plans on opening a Reno chapter of the roundtable. "Democrats do a lot of talking, but the Republicans do the work."

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