

Youth becoming computer-savvy via program

Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

Priori Enterprises' Youth Technology Recycling Program, a.k.a. Youth Tech Rec, is kicking off its first fundraising effort by selling "The Real Las Vegas Calendar."

The 18-month calendar, spanning July 1999 through December 2000, features photos of people from various Las Vegas institutions and will be available for \$9.95 by month's end.

Started in April of this year, Tech Rec's mission is to "recycle today's knowledge into a better future," according to the program's chair, Dachresha Harris.

"We're giving our local kids technological training, and although most of the students are African-Americans, it's not limited to blacks," Harris said.



Chris Fairman, a junior at Vo-Tech High School teaches Nebraska Brandon, a third-grader at Harley Harmon Elementary School as part of the Priori Enterprises' multifaceted Youth Tech Rec program.

The Tech Recs, high school and junior high school-aged children and tech tots,

6- to 11-year-olds, get comprehensive computer training, learn to use different

software programs and how to build computers.

The oldest set of children learn technological skills working five hours per week, for eight weeks, for pay, and

in turn, teach the junior high school-aged kids. That age set then teaches what they have learned to the youngest group, the "tech tots."

Students learn how to use programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel, multimedia presentation creation programs and web page builders, in addition to learning how to assemble and repair hardware.

Clark County School Board Trustee Shirley Barber and Superintendent Brian Cramm have endorsed the program.

"The reason why we started the program is that there's a lack of technology and technological-based resources in our community," said Karen McCall, president and co-owner of Priori. "It's our responsibility to expose our youth to science, math and technology early on."

(See Tech Rec, Page 4)

Twins

(Continued from Page 2) and fashioning hair."

The twins are also interested in the fields of physical therapy, which they say is linked to other projects and interests.

"We have very scientific interests," Jewel said. "We'd like to continue working in physical therapy, so we can incorporate dance with physical therapy - something therapeutic. And then there's the art, which is also therapeutic. Arts and sciences... they're one in the same. Once you start studying art, it's very scientific and its very disciplined."

One of the duo's main goals is to obtain their

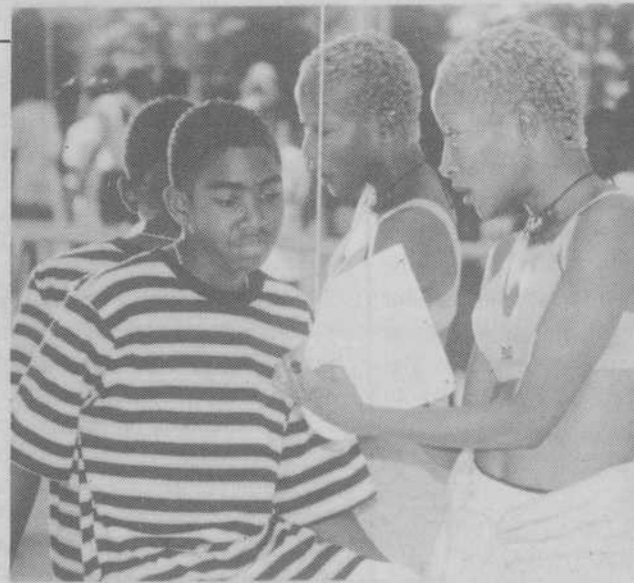
master's degree in Fine Arts. Presently, UNLV doesn't offer such a course.

Meanwhile, Jani and Jewel are midway through hosting an 8-week camp for 19 youth — 17 girls and two boys — that will culminate with an Aug. 5 performance at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. They are also working on several fall dance projects and participating in an end-of-the-month hair show at the Alexis Park.

"Working for shows on the Strip... the security of it is cool," Jani said when asked if the duo entertained thoughts of returning to professional dance. "But after

a while, you find yourself basically staying there set into the money out of security instead of for artistic reasons.

"If you can find that artistic avenue through classes or through doing company work, that's good," said Jewel who has performed with her sister in such local shows as "Winds of the Gods," at the Luxor; "Alakazaam" and "Abracadabra" at the Aladdin; and "Enter the Night" at the Stardust, in addition to performing in Japan, the Grand Bahamas, Monaco and Puerto Rico. "But sometimes it just takes a while before you mature and know that you need to move



Jewel Jeppe instructs Guy Morton James on a routine.

on and do something different.

"Hopefully I can see us

teaching and producing and doing more of our own work, and hopefully joining with some other friends and forming a black adult (dance) company," Jewel continued. "Through that we can reach those (youth) who wouldn't otherwise get into the arts or have the opportunity to do that." So what's next? "Everything that is in order with what the creator has for us to do," Jani said. "Not so much our limited perception of what we would like to do, but to be of some service. That's the most important thing; to be of service."

NAACP sues handgun manufacturers

NEW YORK (AP)—The NAACP has filed suit against nearly 100 handgun makers in federal court, seeking injunctions that would place sweeping restrictions on handgun sales.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People contends the industry's marketing practices fuel street violence.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Brooklyn, alleges that negligent marketing of handguns has "led to disproportionate numbers of injuries, deaths and other damages among those whose interests the (NAACP) represents."

"We are putting the gun industry on notice that it can't be business as usual,"

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said in a statement.

The lawsuit seeks to force distributors to restrict sales to dealers who have storefront outlets, prohibit sales to gun show dealers and limit individual purchasers to one handgun a month. Defendants include industry heavyweights including Smith & Wesson Corp., Sturm, Ruger & Co. and Glock, Inc.

Those companies and industry trade groups have argued that it's unfair and unlawful to try to hold manufacturers liable for the criminal use of a legal product.

The NAACP's lawsuit "would inappropriately try to change the law through the courts" said Glock attorney

John Renzulli. "This is a political, legislative issue, and not an issue for the judiciary. The industry already is well-regulated; some may say

over-regulated."

Plans for the lawsuit were first announced Monday at the NAACP's annual convention in New York.

Davis & Sons, Inc.
Door, Trim & Hardware
Remodel Specials

French Doors, Entry Doors, Base & Case.
Everything in Stock
30% Discount.
Senior Discount
Mon. - Fri. 8am to 5pm
Saturday 8am to 12 noon

383-9088


EARL SANDERS
Vice President

PUT SOME SOUTH IN YOUR MOUTH



Tender as a mothers love!

A WINNER OF SUNSET PARK RIB BURNOFF '97, '98, '99

VOTED "BEST OF LAS VEGAS"
1997 & 1998 Review Journal Reader Poll

AUTHENTIC
Soul • Cajun & Creole Cooking • Boudin
BBQ Ribs • Greens • Gumbo • Catfish
Homemade Desserts & Much More
Banquets & Catering
Large or Small — All Occasions
Reasonable Prices
597-1616 • Fax: 646-8866
2230 W. Bonanza Rd. at Rancho Dr.