

SBI

(Continued from Page 1) all across the valley, including private schools, and we begin recruiting in January at area schools and churches to make people aware of the program. In the past, we normally recruited juniors and seniors in high school, but this year we added 12 college freshmen to the program."

Acceptance letters were sent in April, and an orientation was held in June prior to the start of the program. The requirements for students to participate in the program are that they possess above average grades, demonstrate a willingness to learn, have a positive attitude and are able to follow directions, according to Conway.

She continued, "Four days a week, the students are involved in a job training process and are assigned to a work site gaining actual work experience and completing projects. And on Fridays, we take the students to the Cheyenne community college campus where we provide them two classes in financial management and life skills. The students work eight hours a day, four days a week, totaling 32 hours, and are paid \$8.00 an hour over the eight-week period."

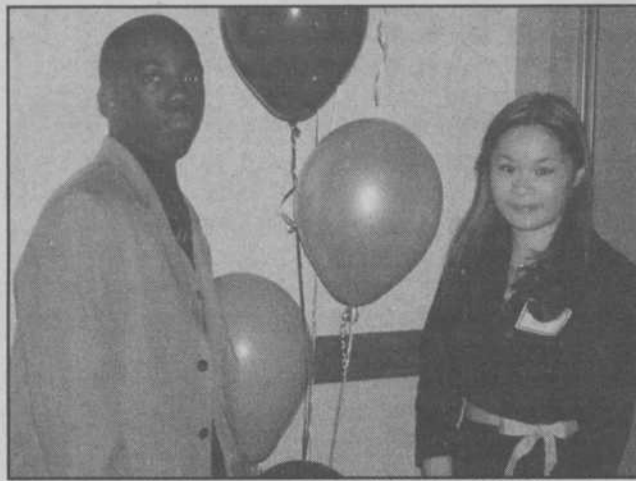
Conway explained that at the conclusion of our program they host a graduation ceremony for students and give away a number of scholarships. "This year, we will be giving away over 40 scholarships and 20 backpacks."

Speaking about the growth of the program, Conway said, "Each year we add more and more students to the program. In year one, we only had eight students and eight businesses. This year, we had over 100 students and over 100 businesses. We focused more on the mentoring portion of the program this year and... the community service project."

Other highlights included parent participation in workshop activities.

Parents helped ensure that the students reported to their respective jobs. Students provided over 1,000 volunteer hours in the community service project at the Community Food Bank and Catholic Charities. Funding for the program comes primarily from Clark County and support contributions come from local businesses participating in the program.

The keynote speaker was Farrah Gray, 20, author and entrepreneur, who spoke to the students about realizing their dreams and striving to achieve all that they desire in life and not letting others deter their dreams. He also an-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

D'Angelo Leonard and Wen Hui Tan, participants in the Clark County Summer Business Institute, enjoy themselves. The institute pairs young people with mentors in business.

nounced that his foundation would be expanding the SBI program in the fall teaching entrepreneurship training to students. Gray is known for making his first million in business while in his mid teens.

Gray said, "My goal, first and foremost, is to launch and build the next generation of solutions that I believe will positively contribute to our economic, political and social fabrics in our community through entrepreneurship training. The program is scheduled to begin at the end of September at the Martin Luther King Center."

Krishelle Gaines, a senior at Las Vegas Academy and second year participant of the program, was this year's recipient of the Farrah Gray Foundation scholarship. Her mother, Deborah Jamerson, was there to support her daughter. Two second-year SBI program students spoke about participating in the program this summer:

D'Angelo Leonard, a senior at Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center (Vo-tech) said, "My experience with SBI has been great. I am pursuing a future career in the culinary industry, and my involvement at Nevada Partners with the Culinary Institute taught me how to cook, prepare menus, and an overview of running or owning my own business."

Leonard added, "One of the things I enjoyed participating in was the forum held at the Andre Agassi School on gang and drug problems in the community and learning how to regain control of our community from these negative influences. Another was the preparation of food for the luncheon reception for the Atlanta Falcons and the Green Bay Packers."

Wen Hui Tan, a senior at Coronado High School with a 4.5 grade point average who scored a perfect 36 on her ACT standardized testing nationwide competing against 4,055 other students, commented on her participa-

tion in the SBI program. She said, "I really do like being affiliated with SBI because I got to learn a lot this summer. I've had my second summer internship with the Bank of Commerce, and it was an amazing experience."

She explained what she learned: "In this program, I learned about how to deal with money, utilizing social and interpersonal skills at work, participating in a community service project and dealing with the real world. My future goal is to become a pediatric surgeon, and this is my motivating factor for me to be successful in my academic achievements. I would like to possibly attend John Hopkins or Harvard once I complete high school."

Tan encourages students to consider the program: "This program teaches you that if you push yourself and are successful, then you can achieve the things in life that are going to make you productive."

Three mentors shared their perspectives on working with the students: Louis Richardson of Richardson Construction and his wife Vicky Richardson of JB Ventures mentored two students in their respective businesses; Vida Lin of the V & J Insurance Agency, and member of the Asian Chamber of Commerce also mentored two students.

Richardson showed his commitment to the program: "I have been involved with this program since its inception, and I've had one to three students each year... We've tried to instill in these individuals an understanding of what it takes to be a part of this industry — business finances, bidding, job acquisition and procurement, and exposing them to the different projects and the staging processes and how they develop. My involvement in this program allows me to keep up with understanding what young people see as their reason to succeed and

how they approach reaching their goals, both academically and career wise."

His wife commented: "This year has been a wonderful experience. I worked with one young female who was dedicated, and it gave us an opportunity to instill in her an understanding of having good work ethics and what is involved in being a good employee. She worked in inventory, scheduling, human resources and got a wide range of experience from being exposed to [my business locations at] the Premium Outlet Mall and the airport, learning how the business runs from each location. This is a wonderful opportunity for young women to see that they can be successful in the business world when given the opportunity."

Lin said, "I have been involved with the program for the past eight years... My involvement has helped me to shape the future for these students and give them opportunities for career advancement and learning about diversity and dealing with others. I enjoy working with Debbie Conway teaching these young people to reach out and excel. This program is amazing."

Barbershop clips cost for students

Special to Sentinel-Voice

House of Fades Barber Shop (HOF), located at 1014 E. Charleston Blvd., will celebrate their customers this Sunday, August 28, by offering half-priced "Back to School Haircuts" for children between the ages of five and 14.

Partners since 1997, Ezekiel "Zeek" Connor, Calvin "Titto" Hudson, Tracy "Tray" Mays and Johnnie Williams, understand all too well about the costs associated with getting children prepared to return to school.

"Since all of us at the shop are parents, we thought this would be a good way to say thanks to our regular customers and hello to new one's", said Mays.

According to Williams, HOF is a family-style barber shop where everyone becomes part of their family. He explained, "We wanted to give something back to the community — that's why we all agreed to work Sunday [our day off] to provide this service."

In addition to the four partners, HOF is home to two other "family barber members" — Jared Jones and "Shazma".

"I'm a single parent of three," said "Shazma".

"Two of them are boys, so I know first hand that every penny counts — I continually look for ways to save money without sacrificing quality" she added.

Recently, HOF brought home another trophy for their "wall of fame" when they won the Barber Competition at Ty Gucci Productions' Second Annual Hair & Nail Battle last month.

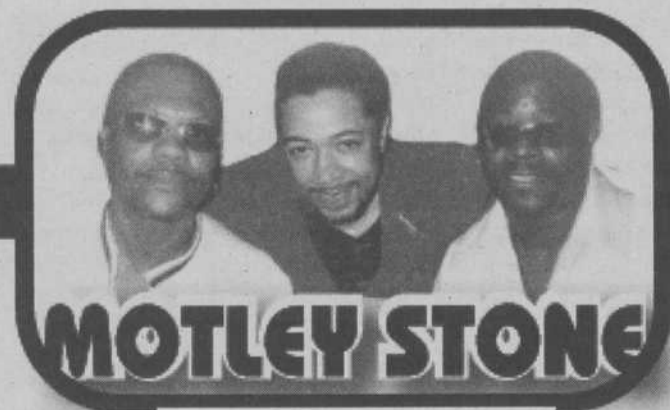
The promotion runs this Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. Hair cuts will cost \$6 for pre-teens and \$7 for teens. For more information call 399-3233.



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