

Second Saturday Net

THANKS TO TONY KUNS

Jun 2002

Santa Cruz High Principal Anthony Kuns is leaving at the end of the school year, so we're taking this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for his support in providing us with meeting space for the Fall 2000 Saturday Class and for helping us to get the Sister School Project underway by establishing a connection between Highfield Secondary and Santa Cruz High in February of 2001. We wish him and his family all the best !



SCHS BSU Students bond after outdoor activity led by Ashanti Williams - Apr 2001 Photo by RT Terrance

SECOND ANNUAL

JUNETEENTH HEALTH FAIR

NOON - 5PM
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH 2002

LAUREL PARK - LOUDEN NELSON

CENTER & LAUREL ST - DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING!

FREE HEALTH MATERIALS!

FREE RAFFLE ITEMS!

Everyone Welcome!

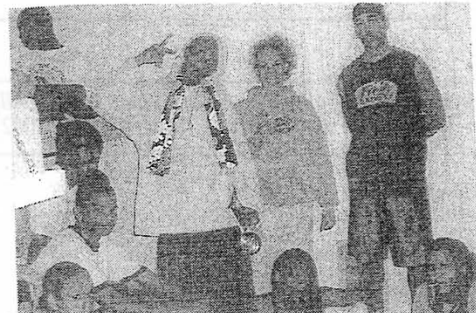
HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS ACTION ITEMS

Members of the Santa Cruz High Black Student Union who participated in the community building activities held at Monto Toyon Retreat Center last Spring produced a draft document on achieving success in high school and beyond that was viewed as a first step toward claiming responsibility for their own educational futures. Community educator Nubra Floyd and former Santa Cruz High Vice Principal Gail Levine facilitated the Saturday night brain storming session that marked the end of the first retreat day, and what follows are some of the recommendations that eventually resulted:

- IMPROVE SCHS CLASSROOM DESIGN
- IMPROVE OVERALL CAMPUS APPEARANCE
- HIRE AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHERS
- HIRE TEACHERS WE CAN RELATE TO
- TEACH AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
- DO SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES ON OUR ISSUES

VECINOS SUPPORTS WOMEN'S HEALTH

In addition to the community building activities mentioned in the April issue, last year's Project Vecinos Grant allowed us to sponsor a series of focus groups on the health issues that are of special concern to African American women. Out of those sessions came plans for a women's health conference to be held later this year that is now being separately funded by a Project Vecinos Grant from Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. Look for more information about that conference at the Juneteenth Health Fair or you can contact: Madlyn Norman-Terrance at: (831) 458 9925 ☎ For more information about the health fair call Carmelita Schrerer at the Walnut Street Women's Health Center : (831) 426 3062 ☎



BSUers kickin' it in the dorm after the formal retreat activities - Apr 2001 Photo by RT Terrance

Excerpted from a paper written by **Christian Phillips** for Education of the Black Child (AFAM110) at San Jose State University - Spring 2002

In her book entitled, Black Children, Janice Hale (1986) deals with the different styles in which Black children play. She notes that play *allows a child to express her inner feelings, to escape to a world where she is in command of some situations...* (p. 94) Black children play in a manner where they express themselves in a variety of ways such as through movements, music, and dance where they can express themselves freely. Teachers must first understand Black children's play before they can learn effective ways to teach them.

Hale says her experience suggests that *Black children (particularly males) are very active in their home environments, as a consequence they are often penalized as hyperactive in school.* (p. 96) If a teacher understands that a Black child is accustomed to being more outgoing and active at home, that teacher may have a better chance of reaching that child. As Dr. Hale puts it, *an improvement in the school performance of Afro-American and other culturally different children in the public schools will occur if the school curriculum and environment are changed and made to reflect more closely the particular learning styles and cultural background of the students.* (p. 103)

The consequences of not understanding and teaching the children at a young age can be severe, when they reach high school. Shelby Steele's (1990) Content of Our Character explains that a person's *capacity for self-doubt and self-belief are roughly the same from childhood on, so that years later, when the believing self may be strengthened enough to control the anti-self, one will still have the same capacity for doubt...*(p. 42) During the middle and high school years, many young Black adolescents, especially males, abandon the educational system either physically, or mentally, because noone has ever made the right teaching connections early on.



This issue written and edited by Nubra Floyd with Madlyn Norman-Terrance serving as Project Leader June 2002

AFAM110 students Christian Phillips, Justin Stichter, April Wakefield, Richard Fricke, and Traci Montgomery with Teacher Nubra Floyd. Other students not shown are Latrice Ellis-Smith, Anthony Green-Young, Allegra Hill, Samuel Odom and Shonda Williams - April 2002