

METROPOLITAN

New Day brightens education

by Nathaniel Scott

"Our curriculum is different, our philosophy is different, our approach to discipline is different," said K.E. (Karen Elizabeth) Edminsten, administrative assistant at New Day School.

According to Edminsten, who prefers to be called K.E., New Day School is a private alternative to the public school system for toddlers, preschoolers and KN I students.

"We concentrate on individualized learning. The children participate in their own curriculum," K.E. said. "Our philosophy is that each child learns at their own pace."

With the Jackson secession issue, low stats on the three Rs — reading, writing and math, and college graduates announcing they are functioning illiterates, a concentration on the basic — learning, is a wel-

come relief. Spelled: E-D-U-C-A-T-I-O-N.

New Day's summer curriculum is a multi-culture program. A concentration on the ethnocentric.

The multi-cultural program began in June with two weeks of teaching and learning about African culture, K.E. said. The children were introduced to textiles, mask-making, dance, folktales and how to count in one of the African dialects.

During the two weeks of Native American culture, beadwork, pottery, weaving, legends and camping were taught, she said. For the occasion, they had a regular family-dwelling Native American teepee.

The remainder of the summer program will feature Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and European cultures, she said. Each cultural period will last two weeks.

"The significance (of the cultural teaching) is tolerance, and understanding people who are different than yourself," K.E. said. "We are trying to broaden the children's awareness and consciousness about different people and their cultural background."

According to K.E., they are trying to teach that "people are different," and if you understand that, "you are... able to accept them," she said. "Everyone don't have to be white."

"New Day School welcomes all students regardless of race, religion, sex, color, national origin or handicap," states one of the school's advertisements, which is a fitting introduction for 18-year-old Michelle Karnow, one of the 12 teacher/employees at the school.

Karnow, a second year student at

Stanford University at Stanford, California, was born with a handicap. She is blind. She comes to New Day through the Summer Jobs Program.

"I like working with children. I really enjoy it," she said. "I've thought about teaching and this gives me a little bit of experience."

Karnow said some of the children understand what it means to be blind and will aid and assist her. While others, during the heat of play, will try to get away with mischievous things, she said, smiling faintly at the recollection.

In regards to the summer culture program, she said, "I think it's really good. Not only do they get to learn, I do, too."

For more information you may call 231-7425 or visit New Day School, 1825 S.E. Clinton Street.



Youngsters at New Day School learn Native American dances during two weeks on Native American culture. Photo: Richard Brown

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