

# DAIRY SIGNALL

HERALD  
HCN  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER

HERALD/ L.A. County Group Newspaper

VOL. LXIX, NO. 94

SAURDAY/December 3, 1983

FIVE SECTIONS

25 cents a copy

## Job conference will consider minority youth unemployment

By Ryan Crosbie  
Staff Writer

State and local politicians, educators, business and community leaders will jointly participate in an unprecedented one-day conference dealing with unemployment among minority youths in Southeast and South Central Los Angeles. It's scheduled for Dec. 7 at Compton Community College, 1111 E. Artesia Blvd. in Compton.

Titled "Minority Youth Unemployment: Strategies for Solution," the conference will pull together some of the most noted educators, politicians and business people in the area.

Participants will include Lynwood Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charlie M. Knight; Compton Schools Superintendent Ted. D. Kimbrough; and Dr. Abel Sykes, president and superintendent of Compton College.

The "three" superintendents will participate in one of four workshops dealing with education, according to Camella Hudson of the United Way. Mayor Walter Tucker of Compton, State Assemblyman Frank Vencina of the 54th Assembly District, and Mary Gray, senior deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Deane Dana will conduct a workshop on government.

The workshop on business will be moderated by John Desteau, vice president of the Compton branch of the Bank of America; James Mitchell, a recruiter for Los Angeles Urban League; and the Rev. James Lawson, pastor of Holman the United Methodist Church.

Other participants are Edward Mitchell, area administrator of California State Apprenticeship Standards; Wallace Sleadman, vice president of Standard Brand Paint Co.; James Cleaver, executive editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel; Everett Gough, assistant manager, California State Employment Office; and Carl Stone, director of the AFL-CIO Community Services.

Mary Henry, director of Avalon Career Community Center, will speak on community agencies, Hudson said.

Knight will moderate a workshop on "Making School Preparation Relevant to Today's Employment Needs."

Desteau will address the subject of "Effective Use of Government Resources in Meeting Youth Employment Needs." Mitchell will moderate a workshop on "Exploring Private Sector Apprenticeships, and Lawson will speak on "Building a Public Network for Job Development."

The focus of the conference, according to Dr. Willie O. Jones, chairman of the United Way Southeast Citizens Forum Conference Planning Committee, is to "address the problem of unemployment among minority youth in the Southeast, South Central Los Angeles area."

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## Job conference . . .

percent" in these areas. He said more than 40 percent of the 12 million unemployed minorities on the national level as of January are under 25 years old.

"What that indicates," Jones explained, "is that unemployment among youths in general is high, but among minority youths it's higher."

This conference, he said, will generate "recommendations to deal with that problem in this area."

He said the conference will deal primarily with youths from the major black and Hispanic minority groups in the Southeast-South Central areas.

Jones, who is dean of students at Compton College, said statistics from the State Employment Department show unemployment among minority youths is in "excess of 30 percent."

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and the community at large are invited to attend the gathering. He said each of the four workshops will generate at least one recommendation. The recommendations will be developed into guidelines and solutions to deal with unemployment.

Copies of the guidelines and solutions will be submitted to appropriate governmental, business and educational agencies for possible implementation. The conference, co-sponsored by the United Way and Compton College,

## Railroad project could mean more jobs, tax revenue

LYNWOOD — A proposed agreement between the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. and the city to construct a railroad crossing might provide jobs and add more tax monies to the city's budget.

Before an agreement can be reached, however, the City Council will hold a public hearing to address such issues as how the crossing — to be used by the Cargill Chemical Product Division — will benefit the city and how it will affect the community's environment, said Mayor E. L. Morris.

A public meeting on the proposed railroad crossing is scheduled for July 3 in the council chambers. Morris said that Cargill, a major producer of corn syrup, will be able to expand its business if it has direct access to the railroad.

Such an expansion, he said, is a sign of progressiveness and may help to draw more industries into the city.

The initial request was submitted to the city by the transportation company in mid-March. During that time, the city's engineering department was formulating conditions under which the company would agree to railroad construction, according to Joseph Y. Wang, acting director of public safety.

The item was scheduled for council action Tuesday night, but City Attorney David R. McEwen asked for a postponement so that the company can review the city's conditions.

Under the conditions, the company will be required to: • Dedicate portions of East Alameda Street and Lynwood Road for

right-of-way improvement purposes. • Prepare street improvement plans to be approved by the public works department. • Hire an engineer to accommodate railroad street transition and drainage needs. • Construct street and right-of-way improvements to accommodate railroad street transition and drainage needs.

Wang said the law requires railroad companies to execute an agreement with municipalities when crossing their public right-of-way.

Councilman Robert Henning disagreed with Morris that construction of the railroad spur would provide jobs and benefit the city. Henning said the spur will help the company, but would only benefit residents by preventing possible chemical spills from the company's trucks that pass through the city.

If a mutual agreement is reached between the city and the company, construction of the spur will pass through the Desser Tire Co. near Alameda Boulevard. Desser, which has had thousands of tires on the land since World War II, is currently removing those tires from the site.

Henning said he is concerned about what will happen to the rest of that property, if the rail crossing were to be constructed there.

His concern will be made public, the councilman said, during the upcoming hearing.

will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

Business people, educators, local politicians and community members are invited to attend. For information, phone Brenda August, (713) 755-1300, Ext. 528.