



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,
Ph.D.

The following is addressed to Black students all over the United States.

Dear Black Students of all levels:

By now you have had an opportunity to meet your teachers for this semester, and to develop a reasonable amount of familiarity with the classes in which you are enrolled.

We think it is time for you to sit back and take inventory of your educational situation as it stands right now. Why are you in school? What goals to you expect to accomplish? How do you expect to accomplish these goals? When you have the answers to these questions, you may be helped by considering your own abilities, study habits, academic performance, etc. Your academic performance is largely determined by your ability and your study habits. You might list your assets and liabilities. Some of the factors you may want to consider are 1) ability to concentrate on a lecture, 2) attention span, 3) ability to concentrate when you study, 4) ability to recall facts, names and dates, 5) the ability to make comparisons, to exercise inductive and deductive reasoning, and 6) your ability to use self-discipline, especially when all around you people seem to be headed in the wrong direction.

It has been said that we as Blacks are not able to maintain a perseverant attitude toward learning. By this is meant that we are not able to establish long-term educational goals for ourselves and stick to them until they are completed. We know that this is not true, and resent the implications. However, we must be aware that the drop-out rate among Blacks is considerably higher than among the members of the majority race. We often wonder why, but we must also stop to consider circumstances that may cause this high drop-out rate. These circumstances are too numerous to mention here, but any good book on Black history will fill us in on the causes.

Let us get back to the idea of self-discipline. One must be aware of the many obvious and/or subtle setbacks that may cause us to have problems in school. How do we relate to our teachers? Do they show favoritism? If so, to whom? If not, are we doing our best to relate well to them? Do we think that it is the teachers' duty to relate to us without our reciprocating in kind? Do we consider it beneath us to smile or be considerate of others, or is it part of our make-up to try to make others happy? Do we think that it is entirely up to our teachers to "teach" and "learn", or do we consider that we too have a part in the teaching and learning process?

At best, we as Blacks have a difficult time in this "land of opportunity" that we call the United States. Without the benefit of a proper education, we are doomed to a life of subservience and possibly to one of poverty.

We, as parents, are well aware of the possibility of a very financially rewarding career in sports. We all wanted to run the fastest race, make the longest basket, score the most sensational touchdown, or hit the longest home-run. However, reality soon overcame us and we realized that this was a very unrealistic goal. Not everyone could be tops in sports and "only the fittest survived." It was at this point that we began to think of other ways of making a living.

Students, remember that we too fought for some of the benefits that you are now enjoying. We fought a good fight, and many of us are still fighting. However the torch is being passed rapidly to a new generation. A generation that needs not bow to anyone except to God. Remember to bow daily to God and thank Him for the blessings you are now enjoying.

May God bless you, and remember that Education Indeed is Power!

Sincerely,

Your parents --



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC

Commissioner

Earlier this year, my wife, Frances, and I celebrated our 25th (Silver) wedding anniversary in Memphis, Tennessee. And as we observed this formal ceremony, we looked around and were heartened by the fact that so many friends helping us observe this important event, were still together as man and wife.

It gave me a warm feeling, indeed, as we marveled that this is so in a day and age when short marriages and quickie divorces seem to be rising at an alarming rate.

Indeed, according to the Bureau of Census and Statistics for the five month period of January-May, 1976, 733,000 persons were united in holy matrimony. But during that same five-month period 433,000 persons were divorced.

Similarly, in 1975, 7.2 million families were headed by women with no males in attendance. But the figures get grimmer in terms of blacks versus white. In 1975, for example, 85 percent of all white children under 18 lived in a two-parent home (mother and father) while only 50 percent of black children in this age grouping lived in such homes.

But statistics aside, and discounting those friends attending our wedding anniversary, I notice that more people I know are getting divorces or living apart.

I am writing this article to encourage young people to make a vigorous effort to achieve a happy marriage. Having pastored for many, many years and done a great deal of pre-marital counseling for members of my church and having seen so many of those marriages already, on the rocks, my concern for the stability of the institution of marriage has increased.

The strange thing is that most people getting divorce end up in the next year or so getting remarried anyway, which means if their experience has been embittering, it has not soured them necessarily against the institution of marriage. So we have this contradiction, and some people have asked me, what is the solution? I have to say simply: I do not know.

I know that Frances and I have tried to observe several things: 1) We try to make it a point never to go to sleep at night with an argument hanging over our heads. Whatever the differences, we attempt to straighten them out and start out fresh the next day.

Because we have found when a couple carries a disagreement over from one day to the next, the disagreement tends to loom large, larger than life, exacerbated by our failure to solve and be done with it;

2) we try to be very careful about how we address one another in public. I flinch when I see a man talking cruelly to his wife publicly, or a wife publicly degrading or denouncing her husband. I think people behind closed doors can be as frank and honest or dishonest as the case may be, and sharp with one another as the issue permits.

For I think sometimes anger makes you say more than you mean to say or should say in a family fight. But anger can sometimes clear the air. But I think when those things are said privately they don't cut as deeply as when they are said publicly. Hence, the chance for a quicker healing process is greatly enhanced. It means biting your lips, certainly.

But the hallmark of civilized man is the ability to restrain himself. Additionally, I think it is little boorish for a man or wife to vent their feelings towards each other in public.

Friends are embarrassed. It makes for an unpleasant situation for most of us do not want to be around friends who publicly humiliate each other. I am not saying here that people should be phony, walk around pretending that sugar or butter won't melt in their mouths, and then when they are behind closed doors each night neigh-

VOICE EDITORIALS

bors have to call the police to break up their violent encounters.

No, I mean that I don't think any one should argue publicly anymore than they would discuss the intricacies of their finances in a public way. Some things are best reserved for private conversation.

Similarly, it is not good human relations to humiliate an employee in front of other employees. Nor is a teacher a very good one who will chastize a student with personal invectives, in front of fellow students. But more on marriage next week.

Sahara Rated "Excellent" For White Male Employment

The JET Association has just completed an examination of employment statistics from the Sahara Hotel. Unfortunately, women, Latinos and Blacks come in last and white males first. That of course is not surprising and fits in with the employment practices of the other hotels we have reported on.

An objective appraisal of the Sahara statistics gives a startling picture of how JET Association members fare. The Sahara report for Sept. 30, 1971 showed that in the category of "Officials and Managers" they had 200 males and 29 females. There were nine Latino males at that time, or 4.5% of the work force. Today, five years later, the total number of male officials and managers is 219, Latinos 7, a loss of two over five years! A drop to 3.2%. At this rate, Latinos will be exterminated from the ranks of officials and managers by 1986. Is that what the Sahara means by progress? Latinos have already been exterminated, or apparently in the eyes of the Sahara Hotel, they never existed, in September, 1971 there were 229 Officials and Managers, Latinos zero; in June, 1976 there were 262 Officials and Managers, Latinos zero.

The Sahara Hotel has undertaken to recruit, what they call in their report, "Spanish-American Males." Clearly from the above, that effort has not been serious in the category of Officials and Managers. Where have the "recruits" gone? In 1971, the Sahara reported 182 "Spanish-American Males" and proudly show an increase of 32 to a total of 214 in 1976. Unfortunately 26 of the 32 went into what category? You guessed it, 81% were enslaved in service worker jobs.

When we first looked at the statistics we thought the Sahara might be making progress with regard to Black males and females. The report showed that in 1971 Black males in the capacity of Officials and Managers numbered 4 out of 200, or 2%; Black females 2 out of 29 or 7%. In 1976, the figures showed Black males 13 out of 219 or 6%; and Black females 4 out of 43 or 9%. We thought, "Wow -- Blacks are moving up to Vice-Presidents, Casino Management, Hotel Managers, etc." But the dream bubble burst when we analyzed the specific job classifications under "Officials and Managers." The majority of "our" Officials and Managers come under the glamor jobs -- you know -- "porter Supervisor"; "Pantry Supervisor"; "Houseman Coordinator"; "Assistant Housekeeper" and the like. The same game with new names.

JET Association, however, has a new game in mind. The new game is DOLLARS for JET members through collective and creative activities. We are now in the process of computing back-pay awards for our members. It works like this:

Say you applied for a dealer's job in 1971 which paid \$80 per day including tips, and you were discriminatorily refused that employment. Because of such discrimination you were unemployed for one year and worked four years at \$30 per day. Your back pay would be computed as follows: At \$80 per day for 250 working days per year, you would earn \$20,000 per year, multiplied by five years -- you would have earned \$100,000. Subtract from that the money that you actually earned: at \$30 per day for 250 work days per year, you earned \$7,500 per year, multiplied by four years -- your earned \$30,000. SAHARA (continued to page 5.)