

## \*\*V\*A FACTS

Q -- Which veterans are eligible for GI Bill Educational benefits?

A -- Veterans with 181 days active duty since January 31, 1955, and before January 1, 1977, who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are currently eligible for GI Bill educational benefits. Servicemen who have enlisted since January 1, 1977 may enroll in a new contributory educational program which replaces the GI Bill.

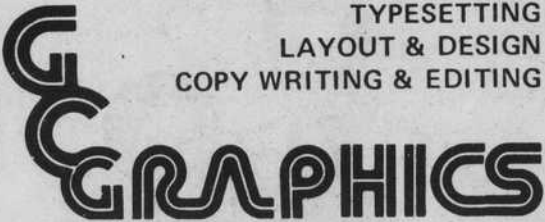
Q -- Will the Veterans Administration help pay for my funeral when I die?

A -- Veterans with wartime service and certain peacetime veterans are eligible for a burial allowance not to exceed \$250.

Q -- I understand I can have my widow's pension check sent directly to my bank under the Direct Deposit System. How can I accomplish this?

A -- Implementation of the Direct Deposit System for VA compensation and pension benefits was effective October 1, 1977. Those interested should take their next VA benefit check to their financial organization. The bank or financial organization will assist the beneficiary in completing the necessary forms.

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## VOICE EDITORIALS

### Education is Power



By Thomas E. Wilson

What is taught in the classroom is the foundation of education and of public relations. Fortunately the curriculum that produces good educational results also produces positive public relations.

Building a relevant curriculum in these times is not an easy job for the educators. Building the curriculum of a modern school is essentially a selective process. In deciding what to teach the classroom teacher asks himself or herself such questions as "What are my students' fundamental needs that can be met through subject matter at my disposal?" "What community needs and problems can I help through my instruction?" "Will these materials and experiences be effective and influential in the lives of my students and the community?"

The teacher's careful attention to such questions develops strong courses or units. Guiding students, parents, and other citizens to make the same analysis builds understanding and support.

Without a teacher who is a student of child life and community life, no curriculum is effective, regardless of the teacher's academic mastery. Yet the teacher who understands is but one leg of the tripod supporting an effective curriculum. Essential also is understanding by students and adults.

We, as teachers, probably have spent more time and devised more techniques to develop parent and citizen understanding of what we are teaching than we have in creating a similar student understanding. This effort seems somewhat shortsighted, since students who understand what they are doing make better students, constitute our best means of spreading understanding to parents, and obviate the necessity of "starting from scratch" in achieving the desired appreciation when students become parents and adult citizens.

How can we go about developing understanding within the community for what we are attempting to do in school? Listed below are some techniques that have been found useful.

Teachers may invite parents to classrooms when units are being summarized, displayed, or evaluated, as a means of developing better understanding of work that their children have performed. Ask mothers and fathers to watch their children at work and to discuss what they have seen in a social hour immediately afterward.

Invite parents at the beginning of each month or each unit to acquaint them with the work planned for the coming weeks and to enlist their cooperation in joint efforts toward desired ends.

A monthly demonstration lesson for parents may prove effective especially with a pre-lesson conference period in which she explains what she will attempt to do, and a post-lesson analysis period to examine learning difficulties.

As important as the education of students are, especially for the black student, we as teachers have a moral obligation to do all we can to foster good student and community relations. However, understanding must go both ways. No small part of good relations depends on teachers understanding of the public. Drawing laymen into school planning - even curriculum building - is the greatest means to achieve mutual understanding. It appears that citizens who have participated in planning part of the curriculum in their schools are far more likely to be boosters than critics. Potential attackers become school enthusiasts and defenders.

### The Hughes Report



By Thomas F. Hughes

Forty eight year old Ernest Morial last week was elected mayor of New Orleans to become the city's first Black Mayor in this century. He was the first Black representative and the first Black Court of Appeals judge. He defeated a 60 year old attorney who tried to use race as an issue after Andrew Young said the city was "on trial" to see if it had really abandoned racism. Most of America's Black Mayors are in Southern cities, which is high-lighting the hypocrisy of many northerners, easterners, and westerners. A recent article tells of efforts now in progress to revive famous Bourbon Street and it is fitting that a Black Mayor will now be guiding this revival of New Orleans for its tradition is of Black musicianship, Mardi Gras, etc.

The flight of whites from large cities has been largely responsible for this decay of large cities and the result is a sorry urban situation left to the remaining Blacks. This has in turn brought out the Black ability to rehab these cities but it is a joint effort of Black and White that will produce the desired results. Blacks and Whites have learned this and are now working together. That is the way it should be.

In one of my previous columns I stated that Jimmy Carter would be good for Blacks. Proof of that is the new attitude on school integration and unemployment. The Carter Administration is reversing eight years of Republican refusal to participate in court actions to implement the law of the land and the mandate of the courts. However the Carter administration is now using the method of withholding funds from schools that failed or refused to integrate. This was done in Chicago and now cases are being re-activated in New York, and Kansas City.

Word has just been received that President Carter has endorsed a modified version of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill which is required to reduce unemployment to four percent by 1983. This presidential endorsement of both the educational and employment improvement efforts will result in changes all across the country. It is necessary to understand that the administration policy makers follow the lead of the leader - President. We have had ample laws for many years, but the laws were not enforced, now we can see light as Carter's attitudes are coming to the fore. We must not expect overnight results because these things are time consuming and it takes a while for them to move through the pipe-line into reality. But they are being fed into the pipe-line.

Much has been said pro and con about Blacks being stereotyped and one of the latest is Barbara McNair's statement from Jet magazine. "I'm not the right type now, in terms of the Black woman they are portraying now on the screen, or on T.V. There's so little to inspire the Black child. What he sees on T.V. has almost reverted back to stereotypes we used to protest." I take issue with Mrs. McNair. I am glad to see Blacks playing parts showing Black life "as it is" instead of painting pretty pictures of well to do Blacks, usually light skin who were given special consideration because they were not offensive to Whites. All Blacks are not pretty or light skinned and the common everyday portrayals lets common everyday Blacks realize they too have a chance. We would be stupid to turn down good paying roles because they did not paint pretty pictures. Right On!!! Take those roles, make that money, and then work for improved roles.