

**V*A FACTS

- Q -- Are reservists and national guardsmen eligible for burial in a national cemetery?
- A -- They are eligible only if death occurs during hospitalization or while they are receiving treatment at government expense for injury or disease connected to active or inactive duty training.
- Q -- Can I have my educational benefit check sent directly to my bank for deposit?
- A -- No. The direct deposit for recurring Veterans Administration payments currently in effect applies only to the compensation and pension systems.

Festival

The North Las Vegas City Hall Complex will be the site of an April Arts Festival sponsored by the City's Recreation, Library and Parks Departments.

The Festival will be a showcase of local talent for all members of the community to participate and share in. The Recreation Department has lined up a wide range of performers, including Margo Torea's Spanish Dance Troupe, The Bell Family Band, Greek dancers from St. John's Greek Orthodox Church, The Re-Creation Singers of Tom Williams Community Center, singer Anthony Thomas, who is Choir Director at St. James the Apostle Church, to name only a few.

Many local artists have reserved their space to display their art work and craft items for sale, while in the Library a show of black artists' work from the Nubian Kefentse Kultural Komunity will be on display.

The Festival will also include "New Games" for all to participate in, and a Kite Fly for young and old. Highlighting the weekend festivities will be two performances of the Williams Toy Company Puppet Theater on Saturday, April 8 at 11:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. at the Neighborhood Center, 1638 North Bruce Street. The admission to the puppet performances is an amazingly reasonable 25¢ for children and 50¢ for adults. With prices like that, you can bring the kids to see both "Little Bird", (A.M. performance) and "The Magic Egg" (P.M. performance).

With a line up like that, I'm sure you will want to circle April 8 and 9 in red on your calendar.

Festival hours are Saturday - 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Operation Life

Over \$2,000 dollars in payroll deductions of approximately 60 Operation Life Employees is being deposited in the Westside Credit Union according to Westside Credit Union Officials, Operation Life leads the way.

Ruby Duncan, Executive Director of Operation Life, says, "this is just the beginning of what the Westside Credit Union and Operation Life will accomplish." Ruby has issued a challenge to all other organizations, "to put their monies where their mouth are or stop talking about economic development." She further states "that economic development like charity begins at home."

The Operation Life urges all West Las Vegas businesses, including churches to meet the challenge of developing our own community by banking money in our own Credit Union. Ms. Duncan has nothing but praise for Mr. W. (Woody) Wilson, Mr. J. Scott and others who have contributed so much to keep the Westside Credit Union going for over 25 years. Ms. Duncan says, "the time has come for us to join hands."

VOICE EDITORIALS



Education Is Power

By
Thomas E. Wilson

Last week we focussed on some of the causes of school failure and began our discussion of ways to prevent this failure. We will continue this discussion by placing heavy emphasis on prevention of school failure.

The answer to the problem of school failure appears to lie in the primary prevention rather than remediation of learning disabilities and school maladjustment. We cannot hope to remedy school failure to any significant extent so long as psychologists, counselors, social workers, and other school personnel workers are limited to working only with those children having critical problems. There will never be enough of these professional people to take care of all the students who have learning disabilities and who are in danger of experiencing failure.

Primary prevention is largely the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Although most teachers believe strongly in the role that individual differences play in behavior and learning, many of them have not been taught to use these differences constructively in the classroom. Their teachers are in the dilemma of believing in individual differences on the one hand and not knowing what to do about them on the other hand.

As educators, we are generally well-informed about intellectual factors that affect learning and success of failure in the classroom, but most of us are not equally knowledgeable about nonintellectual factors, such as students' self-image. The more positive a self-image a learner has, the greater his chance of learning and the less the likelihood of failing.

The good teacher always keeps before himself the question: How can I help students develop better self-images as learners? In raising such a question, the teacher recognizes that his relationships with the student determine to a large extent the way in which the student will view himself as a learner.

A teacher need not wait for special occasions nor contrive special activities in order to help a student develop a positive self-image as a learner. After any teaching-learning experience, the teacher can do a number of things. First, he can communicate to the pupil in non-evaluative language the fact of his success. Concentrate on the number right instead of the number wrong. Next, the teacher can go over responses which the youngster had correct, in order to make sure that he had intellectual insight of what he was doing and that mastery has been achieved. Finally the teacher can correct errors and show the student how he might have varied his performance of been more precise. Should this last step be taken first, the teacher would run the risk of having students develop a negative self-image.

Another important factor in the prevention of school failure is motivation. Some teachers truly believe that they can motivate the students in their classrooms so that they will be eager to learn. This, however, is not the case, because the motivational structure of students is not open to such tinkering. Motivation, for the most part, comes from the inside out; it does not undergo rapid changes on the spur of the moment and therefore is not open to manipulation.

Motivation can be easily eroded by constant exposure to the predictable and familiar situation. Classrooms should have some element of unpredictability which gently nudges students into an "off balance" position and which makes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 COLUMN 3

The Hughes Report

By
Thomas F. Hughes



Last Wednesday, one of the near saints passed on to his reward. Deacon Sam Richardson of Second Baptist Church was the most outstanding samaritan I knew. Although he had to drive to the Testsite and back daily (some 150 miles) he still got up early and went to tend to Rev. V. C. Coleman, former pastor of Second Baptist who has been sick for years. He would go to market, fix his breakfast, run his errands, then go to work and practically every night he was at church or on church business, visiting the sick, black or white, and seldom did the church have any kind of service without Sam attending.

Although he was not a Reverend, he is certainly revered by many, including this writer. He was a fine example of Christian living, a man who could not do enough for anyone who had a problem. Sam Richardson loved Las Vegas and Las Vegas loved Sam Richardson. I counted him as one of my best friends, a man you could depend on, a pillar of strength and compassion.

Sunday night last, the Ebony Fashion Fair came to town and around 3,000 people packed the Imperial Ballroom at the Aladdin Hotel to view the beauties and their magnificent attire. Words are difficult to describe those lovelies and those who missed it really missed the social event of the year, which helped the N.A.A.C.P. again this year in the benevolent program sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., a local Black Business Women's Group.

For years Mississippi's Senator Eastland held up all desegregation and discrimination legislation by simply carrying the bills in his pockets and he admitted in an interview that he had personally fought blacks in their efforts to secure equal opportunities and jobs. 73 year old Eastland was one of some 12 to 15 Senators of the South who controlled the different legislative committees, but now there will only be two controlled by Southern Senators. He came into the Senate in 1941 and now has decided to not run again and retire to his farm which contains over 5,000 acres of the finest farm land in the South. Rising to the Judicial Committee Chairmanship will be Senator Edward Kennedy, a liberal who is now the chief spokesman for working people in government. He will be very instrumental in the selection and/or approval of the new Judges to be appointed. This is an area where Blacks are greatly affected since the Nixon appointments were all planned to hold Blacks down and stop their forward progress. Kennedy is 47 years old and the Kennedy attitude is well known. Blacks will be glad to say Goodbye to Eastland, last of the hard nosed segregationists.

Earl Graves "Black Enterprise" magazine in the March issue, tells of America's oldest and greatest architectural and engineering firm, McKissack and McKissack in Nashville, Tennessee. The Morris Memorial Building is the home of the Baptist Sunday School Publishing Board, the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company, the Nashville office of the Atlanta Life Insurance Co., and McKissack and McKissack. In 1924 they designed the building for the National Baptist Convention. Although they have designed over 3,000 projects, their major contract was in 1942 when they secured a \$7 Million contract from the Federal Government to design the famous Black 99th Pursuit Squadron Air Base in Tuskegee, Alabama. Today, most of their work is designing and building black churches.