

NEWMAN's, Cont'd from cover

a self-serving idiot who believes everybody is crazy but him.

There is nothing wrong about having more than one newspaper in the community. I am sure many of us remember when there was more than one, but no one can recall anyone ever exhibiting the unmitigated gall as has been evinced by the publishers of the Las Vegas West in their introductory issues to the Black community. Particularly noxious has been the column under Cy Newman's by-line "Newman Speaks".

It would be ludicrous if it were not so insulting to the intelligence of Blacks. No one denies that Cy and his wife, Evelyn, have been supportive of Blacks and their aspirations and programs, as have many of our white friends. But in the Newmans' case, it was only natural and even expected that they should be supportive inasmuch as their livelihood stemmed from their operation of KVOV a Black-oriented radio station. There were always some who charged the Newmans, then, with exploitation of Blacks, a feeling, incidentally, I didn't share or maybe I just never gave much thought to it. Mutual use is not a bad thing. It is misuse of human beings that is unpardonable, and I have a strong conviction that that is exactly what is happening with the publication of this white-owned, Black-oriented newspaper.

Think about Newman's pious explanation that he only wants to unite and serve the Black community. Why us? What have we done to earn this selfless, gratuitous contribution? Can we buy the premise that one who does not live in our community; who has never lived in it is qualified to represent our point of view and persuade the residents therein to accept their standards of who and what is right or wrong for Blacks. They're got to be out of their minds. If I believed for one moment in their sincerity, I would not hesitate to nominate them for sainthood.

You know it is not unusual in a pre-election year, particularly as an important one as will be the 1980 election, for a flood of new publications to appear. This is true here in Las Vegas as it is everywhere throughout the country. Our situation with this news organ is unique in that a white-owned newspaper invaded our territory. If they wanted, specifically, to play Moses to an ethnic group - why not the Jewish community, or the Italian, or any of the other diverse groups in Las Vegas?

To invade a community and publish snide inuendos about the people in that community is intolerable to the residents of that community. No doubt I will be attacked for these observations since, as President of the NAACP, I probably am categorized as one of those "leaders" leading "the rank-and-file of the Black community down the garden path", but I've got news for our would-be saviours; more of whom they have dubbed the rank-and-file than the so-called "leaders" have come into the NAACP office throughly incensed at the effrontery of the newspapers publishers.

As to leadership in the community, I submit that leaders of the Black community in West Las Vegas, just as they are everywhere, emerge from commitment and dedication to the group of people whom they serve. Our ministers are leaders because they are chosen by their congregations and our elected officials are leaders because their respective constituencies [at least the majority to those constituencies] elected them to the offices which they hold. If the time comes when those leaders are no longer wanted by the people, the people will make the change, not someone on the outside taking pot shots at those leaders.

Sarann Knight's name has been tossed about indiscriminately by both Cy and Evelyn Newman in their diatribes against Blacks. I've got to say a word about my NAACP 1st Vice-President, because it is not in her nature to stoop to answer the criticism, nor even to correct false allegations. Sarann was persuaded to run for the office of City Commission by a group of Las Vegas residents in a push tantamount to a draft. She was pleasantly surprised and gratified by the support she received. It is a blatant lie that Ralph Petillo afforded her more support than she garnered from anyone on the Westside or from among her Black friends. True, Petillo supported her. They have long been friends and as far as I know, still are. He made a donation of \$200.00 to her campaign - but never gave a fund-raiser for her unless you want to call that catastrophic function staged at the Sahara Space Center where she was one of three candidates

honored. She received no money from that. No one could have for as George Jessel who was there put it, he had been married to more people than showed there that day. But nearly all the near \$20,000 spent by Sarann's campaign committee came from two and one hundred dollar contributions -- more from Blacks, but some from whites. Her campaign committee borrowed \$5,000.00 from the Westside Credit Union for the General election, and six members of that campaign are paying that debt.

The NAACP was founded by whites and Black people. Together they have fought the continuing struggle for human rights, for equality and justice for all and the NAACP's fervent hope is that nothing will ever mar that relationship. Traditionally, the Jewish people and the Black people have stood side by side in our separate and mutual struggle to end discrimination and oppression. God grant that this partnership will never end.

I pledge that we Blacks would never set ourselves up as arbiters of the needs and desires of other ethnic groups. I know we would never entertain the thought for a moment. We know our place - The Newmans obviously don't know theirs.

What are YOU doing to help YOUR community?

HUGHES, Cont'd from page two

America decides the Klan doesn't represent white folks.

The Klan has had several marches and rallies recently in Alabama where police blocked Klans members from entering Montgomery, in New Jersey where rock throwing broke out, and in other spots in the nation.

Asked about supporting President Carter, Lowery said the S.C.L.C. "is reserving judgement at this time on whether to support President Carter if he is the democratic nominee. Mr. Carter certainly has disappointed the Black community, but this administration is not over yet. What he does in the next year will determine whether we support him again. We don't know yet who the candidates will be, and it is too early to voice support for Mr. Carter or withhold it."

PRESIDENT PUSHES M.L.K. HOLIDAY

Although many efforts have been made to make Martin Luther King's birthday a national holiday, little has been accomplished. Now President Carter has proposed the plan in a federal pay reform package. The proposal would create a new holiday in honor of the slain civil rights leader. It would grant an extra day off to more than one million government employees. Postal workers would not be included and would have to bargain with the mail handling corporation which is a quasi-government unit. This additional holiday would make ten holidays for federal workers and would be a fringe benefit helping to close the difference between federal pay and private industry pay and would, in effect, increase the 5.5 percent wage increase [now raised to 7 percent] granted federal workers so that it would more closely approach the 10 percent wage raises most private workers have won in recent negotiations.

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INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SLOW LEARNER

Instruction for the slow learner in the classroom involves adjusting the instructional program to the child's learning capacity, level of achievement, and rate of learning. It includes careful attention to the choice of materials and to the techniques used in developing basic learning skills. It may also involve using expectancy measures as an indication of a child's potential.

Since reading is one of the most important of the skills needed in the learning process, we shall discuss helping the slow learner learn to read as a valuable assist in learning other skills necessary for success in school.

Children are usually designated as slow learners on the basis of their performance on an intelligence test. But general intelligence is only one factor in the complex human psyche. The teacher's job remains one of finding out how the child learns best, what his/her reading level is, and where his/her weaknesses in reading skills are. Most importantly, teaching reading to the slow learner in the classroom involves delivering instruction in such a way that the child will have every chance of success that his/her learning ability will allow. There are no magical, mystical solutions to the slow learner's reading problems.

Slow learners require more than the average amount of review, reinforcement, and practice in mastering basic word skills. This may necessitate introducing sight words more slowly, repeating them more often, presenting them in a greater variety of ways, and using a number of supplementary reading materials containing the same basic vocabulary. Phonics material that may be purchased from local discount stores make good beginning materials. Most book stores carry a variety of books that may be used to help the slow learner gain the necessary experiences for learning to read better. Slow and deliberate instruction with the slow learner will insure the best success.

In the area of comprehension, instruction must be geared to the child's level of experience. If his/her level of experience is insufficient in the areas of language, thinking, etc., then the teacher must be sure to provide the experiences necessary for success in reading. Talking to the child will help. Reading to the child, showing him/her pictures with proper audio interpretations will serve to motivate children in reading. Instruction needs to be rooted in concreteness. Insofar as is humanly possible, they should be given many opportunities to come in direct contact with objects and experiences that make up the content of reading books so that they will have a firm conceptual basis from which to build understanding.

Slow learners typically need a lot of direct help and guidance to fully comprehend what they read. The slow learner will typically require many experiences in listening/thinking tasks before the demands of reading/thinking comprehension tasks can be met.

Teaching reading to the slow learner is not easy. The three essential ingredients in the process are planning, pacing, and patience. Specific instruction must be carefully planned according to the child's specific learning needs. The delivery of this instruction must be carefully paced according to the child's rate of learning. This requires [as most teachers already know] a large measure of patience, the human quality that enables the teacher to try something one more time and in another way after previous attempts to teach the same thing have been largely unproductive.

With appropriate instruction - thoughtfully planned, carefully paced, and patiently carried out - the slow learner CAN learn to read.