



by Thomas E. Wilson

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**EDUCATION
 IS POWER**

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HELPING THE SLOW LEARNER

In a previous issue, we discussed the identification of the slow learner and the difficulties involved in teaching him/her. We discussed the possibility that the slow learner may appear to be retarded, and in many cases are erroneously placed in special education classes. We ended our discussion with a promise to suggest ways to help the slow learner.

First of all, the slow learner needs understanding, love, and a teacher with a great knowledge of children who find that they do not learn as fast as other children. "Slow and deliberate" is the phrase most often used to describe the learning style of the slow learner. Basically, most children learn through either a visual or auditory modality, which means that the child learns either through his visual (eyes) or auditory (ears) senses. However, very often the slow learner learns through neither of the above mentioned modalities, but through either a kinesthetic (movement) or tactile (touch) approach. The teacher must be aware of this, and gear his/her teaching style to the learning style of the children in the classroom.

Every home and every classroom should have a picture collection. In collecting pictures the teacher or parent should first survey his/her classroom or family to find out the interest of the children, and then proceed to collect pictures that will enhance the interests of the children. These pictures may be used for "picture reading" or "storytelling", in which the child actually "reads" the picture and at the same time may tell a story about the picture. Three things may happen as a result of this exercise: 1) the child will be learning how to sequence events in a story, 2) we can get an idea of the vocabulary level of the child, and 3) the child will be learning how to express himself in words, or, as it is called in educational jargon, he is developing his language ability.

We may also consider helping the slow learner by extending the time that he/she is allowed to learn and complete a task. In last week's column we discussed the fact that the slow learner learns more slowly than the other children in the classroom or in the home. We are well aware of the problem this could cause in the classroom or in the home, but the eventual increase in productivity as a citizen is well worth finding a solution to the problem.

Just the opposite of the above may also help in some cases. Help the learner to realize that there are times when he/she must work "against the clock." Give timed exercises with plenty of time allowed at first, and then gradually decrease the time until the learner can adequately cope with the situation.

This writer has been actively involved in the teaching process at one level or another for thirty years. From time to time situations have arisen which call for an expert in the area of the slow learner. As parents and teachers, we can usually receive help by simply placing a phone call. Usually there is someone at our nearest college, university or community college who will be happy to help us with our slow learning child or children. Do not forget to make full use of these resources.

Next week we will continue our discussion on helping the slow learner.

KEYS TO LOVE

by Hank Brown

Upon entering the Westside of Las Vegas from busy Lake Mead Blvd., a sign that might go unnoticed even by the inhabitants, caught the eye of this young newcomer. The sign read "Welcome to West Las Vegas. We are just beginning to grow." The word "Welcome" in the sign, to me, was an invitation to look around - at the sights that look good and at the ones which don't.

The "We are just beginning to grow" portion denoted the start of something new and for that, my friends, you have to start with people: that alone can change the place.

Looking around I found the usual; the transparent survivor, the bearer of the ghetto burden, the bystander, the family and, finally, the new minds that envision the dream and turn it into reality, for it is the new minds which formulate the foundation that can and will survive when a group of minds rally for one common cause.

In this naturally raw Black Community, a "Begin-

ning" sounded good to me. The next portion of the sign is as important a factor to a group of people as life itself. "To Grow!" For that I turn, solemnly, to the youth of the community.

In the future belongs to the prepared, they must be prepared. Economic depression, broken homes, delinquency, and drugs are prevalent here, but didn't I hear one great Black leader once say "If my suffering for a cause can help one, then I will suffer". We have witnessed one great Black leader in our lifetime. Now er must continue to promote our youth in an endeavor that will let them see the total plight of our community.

Perhaps this little sign doesn't mean very much standing in the hot desert sun, in the rain and wind, but to this writer, it implies a dedication of mind unity. Now it is time for us to take it to the front line for a better community tomorrow.

These, to me, are some keys to love, the ones which promote growth, harmony, and peace among our brothers - and, most of all, unity.

**OPEN LETTER TO THE
 NORTH LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL:**

Why is the Housing Authority of the City of North Las Vegas being permitted to manage the Carey Arms Apartments upon completion of the renovation by Mr. Evan Williams of the Dalton Properties?

The Housing Authority of the City of North Las Vegas under the Director, Mr. Joe Hansen, has been a **Ghetto** Landlord for the last ten years. For proof look at the houses with the white diamond shape around the numbers in the addresses, in the College Hts. homes, South of the Carey Arms Apartments, the Highland Village homes, West of the Carey Arms Apartments, Highland Hts. Homes East of the Carey Arms Apartments, and the homes in Diana Terrace, North of the City. After seeing these homes, just think what Carey Arms Apartments will look like again in ten years or less, with poor management. It isn't just the tenants. Look at the Las Vegas Housing Authority properties under the direction of Mr. Sarni, their worst looks better than North Las Vegas Housing Authority's best. The idea for the Low-Income program was to mix persons of low-income in a community of homes along with Home Owners, and not be able to say, "That's a house being rented by the North Las Vegas Housing Authority".

These **Ghetto** areas exists because the North Las Vegas Housing Authority has a Director receiving more than \$30,000 per year salary, but does not have the job nor the community at heart, and, as his superiors, if you let this poor management continue, you too are guilty.

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