



EDUCATION IS POWER

By Thomas E. Wilson, Ph.D.

Achieving success in school is today's prerequisite for assuming the roles and responsibilities of adulthood, not to mention making a decent living. Nevertheless, school failure remains shockingly widespread. Approximately six million children in the United States did not complete the necessary requirements in one grade to be advanced to the next grade academically last year, and thousands of others have learning deficiencies serious enough to cause them to fail at some future time.

Failure can be one of the most debilitating experiences a child can encounter, for he is rarely equipped to face or endure it. Frequent failure can establish in him a pattern of lifelong anxiety and self-distrust that makes efforts at remediation difficult, if not impossible. The chief concern of teachers, therefore, is to prevent failure, rather than to find remedies for it.

Prevention of failure is possible only if one understands its causes. The origins of school failure do not lie in any one place. They can be found in conditions of the social class to which the student and teacher belong, in school conditions or practices, in the personality of the teacher, and in the psychological makeup of the student, including his ability to choose realistic goals for himself.

The home environment can also contribute to failure, and is often used as an excuse for teachers' doing nothing about the problem.

Although the child is the one who must bear the blame and the consequences of failure, the school is often partly at fault. Teacher shortages (although many administrators say that there is a surplus of teachers in some curricula areas), over-crowding, inadequate facilities and materials, excessive regimentation, and poor administrative leadership are among the school deficiencies that affect children's achievement.

The personality of the teacher seems to have as much influence on the child's success in school as do his techniques of teaching. Investigations have revealed that teachers with well-integrated personalities are generally effective with all types of students, weakly integrated or fearful teachers are relatively ineffective with all students; and turbulent teachers are effective conformers or strivers, but relatively ineffective with opposers and waverers.

Teachers who are excitable and disorganized, weak and yielding, or highly authoritarian may be successful with only a few of the hundreds of children who may be their responsibility. The rest of the children either barely survive assignment to these teachers, or worse, fall behind and fail.

The educational and vocational aspirations of today's students are of particular significance in studying the causes of failure. Too much emphasis may be placed on outstanding achievement, extended education, etc. Lacking self-knowledge and guidance some students will meet frustration by aiming too high, others will learn too late that they underestimated themselves.

The school is obligated not only to aid the student in establishing realistic educational and vocational goals, but also to assist him in attaining them. In addition, it must not only stop contributing to student failure, but also seek ways to compensate for factors contributing to failure which originate outside the school.

Appropriate measures would include critical analyses of curricular offerings, instructional methods, and standards for achievement. Of equal importance is the need for more intensive diagnosis of learning problems, particularly at the preschool and primary levels, where much failure has its beginnings.

Failure should never be accepted as a part of the educational scene, particularly when its causes can be determined and remedied or eliminated.

**BLACKS MUST
CONTROL
THEIR OWN
COMMUNITY**

MR. ED SAYS

By EDD Waller

Hello LAS VEGAS! Welcome to the pin of "Mr. Edd". This being my first column in the Vegas Voice, I hope you'll enjoy the information I bring. In the weeks to come I'll be bringing to you information about people and places in and around the entertainment and the atrical industry throughout Las Vegas, with concentration on the West side of town and North Las Vegas as well. So hang on.

The WESTSIDE STORY, is real NAPPY! They have a beautiful well laid out cafeteria and excellent food. They call it the "Niece Nook. The atmosphere in the lounge is perfect for cocktails and [smile] other things with your best lady. Its a shame that it does not have more traffic than it does. Think about stoppin by. I'm sure you'll be glad you did! 'Mattie", Catherine Dixon, can mix any drink you like and mix a good conversation as well. I haven't had a chance to catch group "Sky Fire", which heads up the show, but I will let you know just what to expect in my next column.

LOVE'S LOUNGE: What can I tell you? Just about everything you need is available. Bro Love, as you know, books name acts into the lounge from time to time. I understand that Ted Taylor will be coming in this week-end for two days. Haven't seen him since Fla.

I had some good Grits, Pan Sausage, and Eggs, last Sunday morning, in the restaurant. Out of site! [Like the price.]

In between bookings the entertainment is furnished by the Other Brothers. I'll be checking them out also this week-end along with Brother Ted Taylor.

THE JAZZ WAREHOUSE is about the only place I've found on the Westside that offers Jazz, on a regular basis. Eddie Harris closed last Sat. agter a week long engagement and was truly sensational. James Toney and The Count Downs is the regular House Band. You should really take time to catch them. They are worth hearing. Most of the musicians come from B.B. King's group. As a matter of fact B.B. stops by and jams from time to time. Make a point to hear them. They're there on the week--end. Say hello to Bob Foster while you're there.

THE TOWN TAVERN is also in the running for available entertainment on the Westside of town. Something is going on every nite of the week. The L.S. Movement plays Mon and Tues, Wet T-Shirts Nites on Wed. Opening this Thursday is "Family Affair." If they're as good as I hear they are it should be a hell'ava show.

GLADYS knight and the Pips are currently appearing at the Hilton, what can I say, you know they're good. Sho cost to see tho, Gladys is superb. Bubba and the rest of the group are still flying on stage. They are hard to beat. If you have the dough, you gotta go.

DIANNA ROSS is at Caesars Palace.

JAZZ on the other side of town can be found at JULIANs over on Spring Mountain Rd., What else can I tell you.

I'll have more to let you in on next week so keep reading, maybe listening cause Mr. Edd may also go Radio.

I'll be also looking for Friendly Faces in some of the places. Just might see you later.

Public Hearing Scheduled By Governor's Commission on Minority Business Enterprise

When Governor Robert List, by executive order, established the Commission on Minority Business Enterprise, he explained that the objectives of the MBE Commission is to identify barriers to minority participation in business and to make recommendations on realistic programs to achieve equitable minority business participation within Nevada.

To that end, the Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 1981 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Service Commission Conference Room on the second floor of the Bradley Building, 2501 E. Sahara Ave.

Dr. James B. McMillan, MBE Commission Chairman said the purpose of the hearing is to generate public input from minority business owners and operators with respect to economic problems unique to minority business enterprise. Testimony in the hearing will be centered around a questionnaire recently mailed out to minority businesses in the Las Vegas area. Dr. McMillan said response to the questionnaire has been encouraging but he stressed the importance of minority business persons attending the hearing whether or not they answered the questionnaire.

There are problems of minority participation in the economy of the state that must be resolved, the Governor and Dr. McMillan agree, and the Commission Chairman said that in order for successful resolution of those problems, all minority business persons are urged to let the Commission know of the collective and individual obstacles faced by minority entrepreneurs.

The April 15 public hearing here in Las Vegas is the first of several the Commission will conduct throughout the state.