

EDUCATION IS POWER

Should You Go to College?



By Thomas E. Wilson

This column is written primarily for high school juniors and seniors who have begun to think about whether or not they should go to college. Its purpose is to help you make a decision by acquainting you with many facts about a college education that you may never have considered before.

We want to emphasize that the decision is yours to make—with guidance from your parents, teachers, older friends who have been through the mill of college, and from whatever help we can provide.

Valuable as college may be for many students, it isn't necessarily the right prescription for everyone. Many of the best thinkers on the subject today believe that while it is essential for everyone to complete high school, it is not essential for many young people to complete college. Perhaps a two-year or community college plan will provide desirable for many high school graduates. But four or more years of college is a specialized experience which is not suited to everyone.

Here is some additional information to help you determine whether or not you should go to college. Basically, students who should go to college are those who are described below: (1) High school students who plan or hope to enter a profession. (2) High school students who feel that they are intelligent enough to pursue serious study for four or more years, and hop to fill positions in education, executive and administrative positions in business and industry, or would like to

pursue further study towards a position in law, medicine, engineering, etc. (3) High school students who have shown special talents or skills, or who have a special interest or achievement in any field of art, science, or social science.

We must be certain if you have decided not to go to college, that the decision is a wise one. Let us now consider the advantages of a college education. First of all, a college education is essential for many types of vocational success. Secondly, the amount of education you get will largely determine what type of occupation you will eventually enter. Thirdly, your occupation and income will determine your social status, the position you will occupy in your community, and the type of people you will associate with. Fourth, it's a great American dream to move forward, to do as well as or better than your parents, to make more money, to be a bigger man in the community. This dream is shared by parents, as well as by their children.

So, actually, your decision as to whether to go to college will be a decision in a way, as to what kind of life you wish to live in the future.

Next week we will present the other side of the picture.

The Quiet Violence

Continued from Page 2

The point: violence does not begin with someone aiming a gun from a rooftop or a crowd. There had to be other situations that planted the seed of destruction and even more situations that fed the seed till it grew into an organ of decimation. Assassins and their would-be counterparts seem to have something in common: a strong desire to prove something.

An example is the alleged presidential attacker, John W. Hinckley, Jr. According to an article in the *L.A. Times*, Hinckley's father would talk about his older son, Scott, but never mentioned the other son's name (John, Jr.).

While this is not to say that no other factors were important, one must assume that being ignored is one of those unreported, quiet kinds of violence. It's an abuse that demolishes the person with as much force as the most powerful handgun, though not as quickly. It can have serious consequences; it forces the person to prove, often by disastrous means, that he does, indeed, exist.

LIST SIGNS NEW SPEED LIMIT LAW

CARSON CITY (AP) — A measure correcting a legislative slip-up in Nevada's new speed limit law was signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Robert List.

AB635, effective immediately, prevents insurance companies from raising rates or canceling policies of speeders exceeding the federally-mandated 55 mph speed limit.

Nevada's new law allows drivers to exceed the federal 55 mph speed limit at speeds up to 70 mph and get only a nominal \$5 "energy wasting" fine.

Lawmakers initially believed the law would also prevent insurance companies from raising rates or canceling policies of the "energy wasters." But they discovered the flaw in the new law and introduced AB635 to correct the slip-up.

The Nevada plan also provides that drivers won't get any demerit points on their licenses — points which could otherwise lead to license revocations if they receive one of the \$5 tickets.

The state Insurance Division bars companies from raising rates or canceling policies of drivers who violate the 55 mph limit, as long as the motorists aren't ticketed more than twice in any 12-month period.

But without AB635, drivers with three or more "energy wasting" citations in any 12-month period would have been fair game for the insurance firms.

The Explosion of the Civil Rights Issue

By Roosevelt Fitzgerald

A joker was thrown into a desk of segregation and it was spearheaded by a civil suit which originated with the Brown vs. Board of Education, Briggs vs. Elliot, Davis vs. County School Board and Gebhart vs. Belton cases. Those cases all culminated with the landmark decision of Brown vs. Board of Education of 1954. The decision was to, in theory anyway, end the "separate but equal" policy of segregation. The reverberations of that decision were to be felt throughout the country—including Las Vegas.

From 1905 through the first years of the 1940's, all children of Las Vegas attended the same schools. While there was segregation it was quite limited and then, only with housing. Most Black people lived between Stewart and Ogden and, beginning with the block between First and Second streets and progressing, eventually on toward Fifth Street. I was only after Black people were removed from that area and shifted to the "westside", that meaningful segregation in the schools began to occur.

As segregation in housing developed, and as the Black population of the westside began to increase, Black children began to attend elementary school there and high school with everyone else at Las Vegas High School. The next high school did not appear on the scene until 1955. The schools which Black elementary students attended were not as generously furnished with equipment, texts, libraries and scientific materials needed for elementary science classes. Even after entering the high schools, Black students were not encouraged to take those courses which prepared one for college. Through 1955, the largest percentage of Black students in the graduating classes of Las Vegas High School was less than one percent.

The dropout rate for Black students in the local school system was quite high. It was not because they did not have the disposition for doing their school work rather, because there was not a whole lot waiting for them at the end of the tunnel. How many chances at an opportunity to use a high school education did Black teenagers have during "the good ol' days?" Not many. There are not many more today. Yet we continue to stress education and hope that, sooner or later, we will get a shot at the jobs like everyone else.

By the time Martin Luther King, Jr., was returning to Montgomery to become pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Linda Brown was going to court in Topeka, Kansas, and Mattie Ladd, of 1600 North "A" Street, was being named Miss Bronze Las Vegas. King was 24, Linda was 17 and Mattie was a mere fifteen years old. All three took a gamble when they entered their own private contests. All three won. Unbeknownst to either of them, the game was just getting underway and the cards were merely being shuffled.

Fifty two cards in the deck

A lot of shuffling yet to go
Can you see a one-celled animal
Without a microscope?

The buildings were in disrepair

The books were torn and tattered
Some children didn't study too hard

After all, it had not mattered
Linda, Leroy, Mattie and others

Had greater aspirations
Their hopes, however were dampened

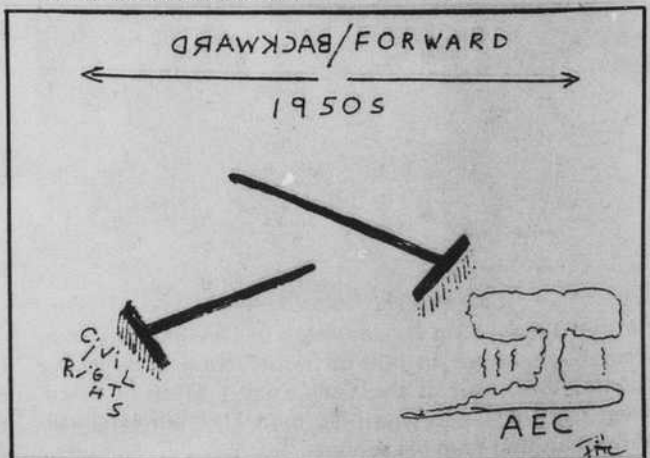
Because of segregation
Right pass their neighborhood school they went

And, they usually traveled by bus
Neither Thurmond, Barnett, Wallace or Faubus

Then, raised any kind of fuss
The children took their cases to court

And there they made their plea
Is this somewhere in the U.S.S.R.?

Or, is it the land of the free?



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