

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

Approximately eighty percent of the Black population in the United States today speak what is commonly called Black English. This dialect has long been looked upon by the public in general, and educators in particular, as the product of carelessness, laziness, ignorance or stupidity. It has only been within the past decade that the nonstandard speech patterns of American Blacks have been recognized to be a well-ordered, highly developed, sophisticated language system.

The language that a child speaks is very closely intertwined with the culture of the community in which he lives. It includes the values of his culture, and structures the manner in which he may perceive his world and communicate about it to others. Rejecting the child's language hurts him much more than do other kinds of rejection in that it jeopardizes the means he relies upon for communication and self-expression.

The language of the Black child entering school is just as systematic, just as grammatical within the norms of his dialect, and just as much a part of him as the language of any other child. His language is a vital link with those people who are most important to him. Kenneth Goodman contends that the young Black speaks a language which is in the process of growing toward the adult speech of his community. When the teacher corrects his

divergent language, he is acting at cross-purposes with the direction of the child's growth. In addition, Goodman asserts, the child realizes that all of his past and present language experience contradicts what the teacher says. School then becomes a place where the people talk funny to him and tell him lies about his language.

Obviously, we as teachers must try new methods of teaching reading to children who speak Black English. There are three methods which are currently being discussed and, in some cases, tested. The first alternative is to teach the children to speak the standard dialect prior to teaching them to read in it. The second alternative is to allow them to read the standard material in their own dialect. The third alternative is to write materials for them in Black English. Each teacher must decide which alternative will be most useful in his or her teaching style. However, it appears to me that it is more educationally sound to change the materials to suit the child than to change the child to suit the materials. In this way he may be able to guarantee success to every child.

Language growth must be a growth outward from the native dialect — an expansion which eventually will include the socially-preferred forms without extinguishing its roots. The child is given the opportunity to expand his language and outlook simultaneously, without rejecting his own sub-culture, but coming to see it in its broader setting. Eventually he is able to achieve the flexibility of language which makes it possible for him to communicate easily in many diverse settings and on a variety of levels.

CCCC DENTAL HEALTH FAIR HELD

The junior class of Clark County Community College's (CCCC) Dental Hygiene Program recently spon-

sored its fourth Annual Children's Dental Health Fair. The fair was co-sponsored by the Students' American Dental Hygiene Association (SADHA), North Las Vegas Rotary Club, North Las Vegas Women's Club, North Las Vegas Elks, and the Clark County Dental Society.

SADHA invited the first graders from the C.P. Squires Elementary School and 70 small folks invaded the CCCC Dental Lab. The festivities included a movie featuring Charlie Brown explaining the proper way to floss and brush. The dental students created a carnival atmosphere with fishing areas, flossing and brushing booths, and a fluoride challenge booth. The children received a brushing kit, floss and sugar-free gum to help them maintain a good dental health program.

This Fair is just another way the CCCC Dental Program reaches out to the community to provide educational services.

To make appointments for dental cleaning, call 643-6060, ext. 331 or 332.

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIVING LAB FOR CASINO MANAGEMENT

Russell Anderson, Clark County Community College (CCCC) instructor, believes that, "Las Vegas is a living lab for casino management, food service, and hotel management." With the increased interest in legalized gaming, CCCC has been consulted by other educational institutions for information concerning the curriculums currently used at the College. States such as Connecticut and California have utilized Anderson's expertise to aid them in the development of gaming programs.

Currently, Anderson is working with Manchester Community College, Fairfield University, and the University of West Haven, Conn.; Santa Clara City College, Santa Clara, Calif., and the International College in Los Angeles. In addition, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, has asked for assistance in developing their food and gaming courses.

Since CCCC opened its doors in 1971, the hospitality program has been in operation. The main thrust of the program has been hotel management and food service. In 1980 the University Board of Regents approved a Casino Management Program, and in 1981 the first student graduated with an Associate of Arts. This is the only degree program in Casino Management offered in the world, and the program is being considered as a model for other colleges and universities.

Anderson states, "The goal of the program is to give the student a working knowledge of the various skills, procedures, tools, and operational

modes existent in today's Hotel/Casino industry." Anderson is completing his doctoral dissertation and has developed a model for Casino Management in a two-year college. This model can be used by any two-year college or may be tailored to meet the needs of a four-year institution.

"Community colleges are going to be the vehicle for gaming education in America," states Anderson. The problem will be the shortage of qualified instructors.

At CCCC the staff has been very sensitive to the needs of the resort industry. Instructor, Ray Eade, just completed the only text in existence on casino cage operations. Instructors, Ken Yerike and Ed Messner, have collaborated on the production of instructional video tapes. The entire staff has made themselves available to assist other institutions in developing their curriculums.

At present, the Casino Management, Food Service Technology, and Hotel Technology programs share a common core of courses designed to give the student a good background in business, marketing, hotel, restaurant, and gaming law. The course work also includes internships relative to the field, Anderson points out.

Expertise and experience available only in Las Vegas, will provide a pool of knowledge for other states considering gaming. CCCC will provide the methods necessary to educate interested students in this expanding career field, comments Anderson.

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 1983 Calendar

APRIL

1	Spring Vacation (NO SCHOOL)
2	Last day to register to vote in primary municipal elections
4	Classes resume
6	Varsity Quiz, Clark County Champs vs. Orange County at Valley High
8	Deadline for photo contest (Judging April 11)
8	End of eighth school month
9	Junior High Choral Festival, Student Union, UNLV
9	Transportation Department Bus Rodeo
10	Varsity Quiz, Valley vs. Eldorado, Channel 3 TV
12	Dedication, B. Mahlon Brown Junior High, Henderson, 7:00 p.m.
14	Pan American Day
14	Board of School Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
15	Don't forget to file your income tax report
17	Varsity Quiz, Clark vs. Rancho, Channel 3 TV
17-19	State FBLA Conference, Las Vegas
17-23	National Library Week (American Library Association)
17-23	Keep America Beautiful Week
17-23	Bike Safety Week, (Ride a bike properly and safely)
18	Paul Revere's Ride, 1775
19	Dedication, Tobler Elementary School, 7:00 p.m.
19	Classified employees meeting, 7:00 p.m.
20	Special Board Meeting for budget hearing, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.
20-23	Henderson Industrial Days
21-23	Music Educators All-State, Reno
23	March of Dimes Walk-a-thon
23	ROTC Field Day, Convention Center Rotunda
24	Daylight Saving Time begins (Spring forward)
24	Varsity Quiz, Valley vs. Clark, Channel 3 TV
24-30	National Secretaries Week (April 27, Secretaries Day)
26-5/2	District Art Exhibit, Meadows Mall
28	Board of School Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
28-30	State PTA Convention, Sam's Town, Las Vegas; theme-Today's Team for Tomorrow
28-30	Senior High Drama Tournament, CCCC

