

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

For the past few years, the process of education has been under almost constant attack by the media, politicians, community persons, and even in some cases, by the students themselves. Hardly anyone has spoken or written anything good about the process of education.

We do not, in any way, mean to infer that the people and processes involved in education are without faults, but we do think that it is time for us to put some of these criticisms into their proper perspective.

Our present national administration has chosen education as its number one political target for excessive criticism during its first two years. Some of the criticism may be justified, but much of it is based on hearsay evidence and not on pure facts and/or conditions. The media seems to thrive on the fact that any criticism of education sells papers and/or space on radio or television. Community leaders who have

not been able to have their voices heard in other forums are finding that members of their communities will listen to them if they berate teachers and the total educational processes. Students are following the lead of their parents in proclaiming that the schools are not teaching them anything of value, and are refusing to study or to behave in the proper manner. Teacher burnout is at an all time high, and research shows that much of the burnout is brought on by pressures resulting from constant criticisms of their efforts. School district voters are voting down bond issues and other school funding attempts because they have been led to believe by our elocutionists that schools are wasting their monies on frivolous things, and test results are not showing any appreciable gains in learning skills. High school and college students are dropping out of schools in record numbers, due in part to one or a combination of things mentioned above.

One cannot help but wonder if education is not being made a scapegoat for other political and social blunders, and is being used as an excuse for more funding in other areas.

What is good about education and the educative process? We think education is preparation for life. Through education, students are exposed to ideas and processes that they would not be able to be exposed to on their own. Even with all of its assumed faults, education gives one a feeling of security. It

helps one to better understand his/her fellow man. It gives guidance to a person through helping him/her choose his/her life's vocation and/or profession. Education makes for a better citizenry. We could go on and on about the good inherent in acquiring an adequate education even under the present system with its shortcomings.

The education system of this nation is not perfect. Neither is the political system, the societal system, the religious system. However, our nation is making star-studded efforts to make learning a possibility for the masses. This is something that no other country on this earth has even come close to doing. Most of the countries weed out the slow learner, the behavior problems, the mentally handicapped, and any others who do not seem to want an education. Our nation attempts to provide an education for all of its citizens. We think this is a remarkable attempt, and we are making strides in improving the total educational system.

Whether or not the masses will accept or have accepted these efforts being made to educate them is anybody's guess, and is open to speculation.

We feel that more people would exert a greater effort toward attaining an education if those who make a habit of saying negative things about our educational system would be more positive and come up with viable, usable suggestions for helping to solve the problems in education that they say exist.

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Office of Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs

Debra Hooper Has Observed CCCC Growth Firsthand

I have had the privilege of working at Clark County Community College during its ten year period of dynamic growth and change. From a small single location at 737 N. Main I began as an intermediate clerk in a staff of 20 employees. At that time no one envisioned what the college would be today. As the college was able to offer more services to the community and its size increased, my abilities and responsibilities expanded.

Today I am the Management Assistant to the Director of the Learning Resources Center. CCCC courses in computer skills and management have helped me achieve my goals. This year, I was elected chairperson of the Classified Council, a group of 100 CCCC employees.

On the personal side of



Debra Hooper

my life, I am married and the mother of two beautiful boys, ages one and twelve. My hobbies include playing racquetball with my boss, reading, sewing, attending movies and church.

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