

# Education

## Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D



Education is at a crossroad today. Never in history have there been so many attacks on the educational system as there are at this time in the United States.

In the recent past there have been at least twenty studies, all of which purport to point up the negatives in education. None of these studies say anything positive, nor do they offer any reasonable solutions to the assumed problems.

Teachers, who are already underpaid, overworked, and taunted almost beyond endurance, rush helter-skelter trying to gain more knowledge to

use in their classrooms with the many children who do not pay attention to their teachers, their parents, or to anyone else.

It appears that all of the reports to date, and there will be many more, are blaming the schools for the nation's ills. Schools are being blamed for not being able to teach children with emotional, behavioral, intellectual, social, physical, and any other malady. Schools are being being blamed for the economic situation in this country when, in fact, the schools are as hard hit by the economic picture as any other institution or industry in the nation.

When schools administrators and teachers find themselves being blamed for everything, the pressure mounts, good teachers declare that they will take no more verbal and/or physical abuse and leave teaching for other occupations where their services are appreciated and rewarded.

When students read and hear that the school systems are not producing good students, they invariably begin to think that they're not getting an adequate education and see no reason to study. They lose interest in school, become behavior problems within the school and in the community, and become liabilities to the taxpayers who must foot the bill for their support. Much of this is definitely caused by the unrelenting condemnation of the educational process by the media, the politicians, and by others who have never spent year-ends and year-outs cooped up in a classroom with a group of uncaring students. A one day or even a one week visit to a classroom cannot reveal the entire story. If one is to truly understand the joys, tears, pressures, and even the hazards of teaching, he/she must spend several years as a teacher in several kinds of school situations.

It escapes me that little or no responsibility for the in-school behavior is ever placed upon the parents or upon the child himself/herself. If children are to grow into good law-abiding citizens, they must be taught responsibility for their behaviors at an early age. They must be taught that any good citizen must carry his/her own weight without depending upon anyone else. They must be taught that there are limits beyond which they must not go without punishment. They must be taught respect for others, for others' property, and for our government. They must be taught values and respect for the value systems of others.

It should also be remembered that teachers are not responsible for the genetic make-up of the children who present themselves at school to be taught, and if children are to learn what is being taught at the rate it should be taught, they must possess a reasonable combination of genetic factors that will assure their success.

Remember, that if schools do not do the job because of some of the things mentioned above, then, rather than blame the schools for not doing their job we should all pitch in and start helping. If we would spend as much time helping children and teachers as we do condemning the schools we might find that our schools would produce students comparable to or exceeding those of any other nation in the world.

## 16 Clark County students selected '84 merit finalists

Sixteen students in the Clark County School District have been chosen as 1984 National Merit Finalists.

Selection of the high school seniors identifies them as among the nation's top academic students for grants and scholarships awarded annually by universities, corporations and others from the private sector across the country.

Those selected from the local public school system are George Clark, Randy Larsen, Greg Meuth and Michael Visick, Boulder City High School; Stephan Beckert and Philip Silver, Chaparral High School; Lisa LePome and Robyn Shepard,

Clark High School; Suzanne Long, Las Vegas High School; Diane Vireday, Kristen Wallace and Jamie Smith, Valley High School; Sarah Lawrence and Anthony Hardy, Western High School, and John Mansfield and Donna Ryan, Eldorado High School.

Students went through a lengthy application process to succeed in the national competition.

Selection criteria included high school grade point averages (GPA), scores on the Stanford Achievement tests (SAT), recommendations submitted by school principals and student essays.

## LIBRARY HOUSES FOUNDATION DATA

The Clark County Library District has been designated as a regional collection depository by the Foundation Center of New York to provide information on private foundations throughout the country and their grant-awarding activities.

Information on the more than 60 foundations based in Nevada is available through the library's collection of indexes, directories, annual reports and newsletters, either in printed form or on microfilm.

Southern Nevada foundations include several memorial trusts set up to provide educational scholarships as well as grants of money for a variety of community concerns.

To assist the public in using this community information resource, the library is sponsoring a one-day workshop on foundation and corporate giving on Wednesday, Apr. 1, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Flamingo Library in the conference room.

An overview of funding possibilities in the '80's will be presented as well as the techniques of grant writing and the process by which foundations and corporations review and make funding decisions.

The workshop is free to the public; however, pre-registration is requested since space is limited. Call the Community Relations Department at the Flamingo Library at 733-8910.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC SEMINAR OPEN TO PUBLIC

A photographic seminar, designed to help amateur photographers and occasional picture-takers alike expand their knowledge of photographic techniques, will be sponsored locally by Carroll's Camera and presented by Eastman Kodak Company.

The seminar, which is open to the public, will be

held at Union Plaza Hotel, Apr. 5 and 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. Two Kodak representatives, expert photographers as well as skilled instructors, will conduct the fact filled program.

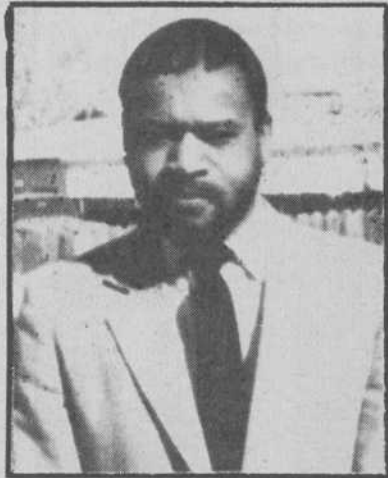
The program covers a number of topics designed to help picture-takers get the most out of adjustable cameras.

Topics range from basics such as understanding a camera's controls, composition, and exposure to more advanced skills such as the creative uses of depth of field and how to use natural and artificial lighting to best advantage.

Attendees will receive an embossed certificate of attendance as well as a

booklet of Seminar Notes upon completion of the seminar. Interested photographers can register or obtain additional information at Carroll's Cameras located at 2350 E. Sahara Ave., phone 457-3333 or 850 S. Rancho Dr., phone 877-0400.

The deadline for registration closes Apr. 1.



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