

# Education



## Education Is Power

By THOMAS E.  
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Are parents responsible for the behavior of children while they are in school? Are parents to be blamed by teachers for every act of adverse behavior performed by their children while in school?

It appears that parents are being made the scapegoats for every act of unsavory behavior committed by their children while in school. The usual answer to the question of "Why does Johnny behave the way he does?" is that "He is reflecting the attitude of his parents and of his home training. This "pat" answer is used quite frequently with reference to the Black child.

A close investigation of this answer reveals the escapism engaged in by some members of the educational community in order to shirk their responsibility for providing the kind of educational program needed by our Black children.

Children must be motivated in order for adequate learning to take place. Motivation, or the creation of the desire to learn, is paramount especially in early education.

Motivation is of two kinds: extrinsic and intrinsic. Extrinsic motivation is the motivation that comes from external sources: parents, teachers, peers, etc. Intrinsic motivation comes from within. External forces may work to help create intrinsic motivation. The child is usually born with a desire to learn. Our biggest task, as educators, is to nurture this motivation to learn in order that it will continue throughout the person's life. Motivational activities may take place at home, at school, or in the streets. Teachers supposedly are trained in motivational techniques, and, if allowed, will usually put this training into practice.

It seems absurd to hear a trained teacher say that he/she cannot get a child to learn in school. The answer may lie in the techniques used in motivating the child to learn.

We may surmise from the above that the child who comes to school unmotivated to learn and is not motivated by the school environment may become a behavior problem.

Usually we, as teachers, will immediately seek to absolve ourselves of all blame for the undesirable behavior of the pupils, and will cast serious negative aspersions toward the parents in an attempt to divert attention from what is or is not being done in school. Granted, part of the blame should be placed on the parents, but the school system must also share in the responsibility. Parents are only partially to blame for the behavior of children in school. We, as teachers and school administrators, must also step forward boldly and accept part of the responsibility.

Another part of the educational triangle that is rarely held accountable for his or her behavior is the child or student himself/herself. Why not place part of the blame squarely on the shoulders of the person per-

forming the negative acts? Children of school age usually know right from wrong. If a pupil engages in negative behavior, why can't he/she be held to share some of the blame?

If parents have done their best to instill positive principles within the child, and if the teachers work with the parents and the child to provide manageable experiences, and if the child can earnestly say that his parents and teachers are sincerely trying to help him/her, then we, as teachers, can stop blaming parents and start teaching the child.

Most Black parents seriously desire that their children get the very best education possible, but are highly frustrated when they are told that their child is reflecting their negative attitudes towards the school and they are not cooperating. Teachers should be very sure that they have done everything possible before calling the parents away from their jobs for in-school consultation. A day lost on a job during these days may mean the loss of a job, or the loss of enough money to feed and clothe their family properly. Let us not be guilty of imposing undue hardships on someone.

## "AS I SEE IT" ... CCCC Art Exhibit Opens at Sunrise Library

As We See It . . . the combined results of all the art classes at the Clark County Community College, will open for

display at the Sunrise Library, 1000 N. Nellis, with a 7:30 p.m. reception on Tuesday, June 5. The show, juried by

Claudette Stanley, teaching assistant at CCCC, is composed entirely of work by the students, ranging in age

from 17 to 70 years of age and produced during the Fall, 1983, and Spring, 1984, semesters. It is representative of the major art courses taught at the college and includes works by beginning as well as advanced art students.

Annual student exhibition, according to instructor Patricia Caldwell, "are an integral function of any college and give the student the opportunity to display their technical and conceptual skill before the community." The exhibit includes paintings, drawings, watercolors, and graphics in various mediums such as acrylics, charcoal and pen and ink.

Free to the public, the exhibit will be on display from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday thru Saturday until June 30.



"IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR!" Proud wife and mother, Mrs. Robert Richburg of Las Vegas is shown with her Clark County Community College graduates, husband and daughter, Florence with CCCC President Paul E. Meacham. Dad received his

degree in Business Management and Florence completed her degree in Data Processing. There were 334 graduates in Associate of Applied Science Degree, 73 in Associate in Arts Degree, and 110 in Associate in General Studies.

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