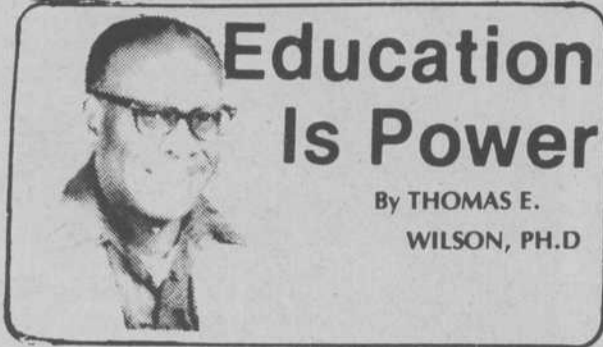


Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

Discipline or classroom behavior is a major and universal concern of teachers, administrators, parents and students in schools around the globe. Without proper discipline within a classroom, a teacher is unable to impart the knowledge so necessary for learning to take place.

The Black student cannot afford to conduct himself/herself in any way other than exemplary in the classroom. The Black student must realize that in order to secure a job on an equal level with other ethnic groups, it will be necessary for him to be knowledgeable of academic areas provided by the school. The Black student must not be lulled into behaving in any way in the classroom other than in a way that insures learning. He must try to avoid disruptive behavior even when the odds are stacked against him.

The Black student cannot run the risk of being suspended from school because of his disruptive behavior. The suspensions are usually too long for the behavior infraction anyway, therefore the most relative thing is the amount of learning lost during the disruptive behavior and/or suspensions.

If at all possible, the type of discipline used by the Black student should be that of self-discipline. That

is, the discipline should be a type of behavior that he has imposed upon himself in order that he may receive the greatest overall benefits from his educative experience.

This writer is not unaware of many of the problems encountered by the Black students in some of our schools. Nor will this writer be guilty of stating that the Black students must become pawns for all of the mistreatments that can be heaped upon them by insensitive teachers and administrators. Such action is definitely not to be tolerated, but must be dealt with in a logical, systematic manner so as not to cause the students' education to be disrupted.

Negative behavior on the part of the student leads to nowhere. When engaging in negative behavior the student may be providing a temporary release for himself, but also may be making it very difficult for his future and the future of his Black peers.

If negative behavior does persist, the student must objectively analyze the reasons behind his/her negative behavior. Some reasons may be: 1) inability to relate to the subject matter being taught; 2) inability to comprehend the material being used; 3) inability to understand the teacher's methods of

presentation; 4) personal problems which are unrelated to school; 5) physical difficulties; 6) poor rapport with teachers and/or peers; 7) inadequate intrinsic and/or extrinsic motivation to learn; and 8)

Whatever the reason or reasons, the student may need the assistance of his parents, the school counselor, a teacher whose judgment he respects, his minister, an older sister or brother, or a friend who he considers a good sounding board.

Informal rap sessions often reveal not only the source of problems, but also the solutions as well.

After the student has discovered the cause of the problem, the solution may be easy to find. He may need the help again of any or all of the above-mentioned individuals, but most of all, the student needs honesty, objectivity and discipline in working toward solutions to his problems.

What to do if the teachers and/or administrators take an attitude of "I've got mine, and I don't care whether you get yours or not," will be discussed in a later column.

If we, as an ethnic group, ever expect to rise above the abject level of poverty, it must be through education.

Local School Chosen Part Of Network To Improve Curriculum

Vegas Verdes Elementary School in Las Vegas is one of 29 elementary schools from throughout the country selected as part of a network to improve curriculum and teaching at the elementary level. The network, which will begin its work in October, is one of two

networks inspired by the success of a similar system focusing on high school curriculum.

The selection of Vegas Verdes as part of the elementary network, was announced recently by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), an educational leadership group with a

membership of over 50,000 nationwide. The organization was established in 1943 to seek balanced instruction, and high quality education for all students.

According to Director of Elementary Schools, Dr. Monte Littell, the selection of Vegas Verdes is a reflection of the dis-

trict's growing national reputation in curriculum and instructional innovation. Stated Littell, "the Vegas Verdes staff was an excellent choice because they have consistently demonstrated an eagerness to improve and a willingness to share their experiences with other schools in the district."

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MAKE A "FRESH START"

The Clark County Unit of the American Cancer Society is holding a daytime free quit-smoking clinic "Fresh Start" beginning Monday, Oct. 15 through Oct. 18 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Cancer Society Education Center, 1325 E. Harmon. Limited enrollment. Call 798-6877 to register.

Computer Related Courses Offered By CCCC

Because of the rapid growth of computer use in businesses in the Las Vegas area, preliminary needs data indicate that a variety of computer training opportunities should be made available to local businesses. To satisfy this need, three different computer training offerings will be available beginning Oct. 15. The training will consist of courses in Word Processing, Programming for Business Operations using BASIC language, and Business Software Applications. Enrollment in these classes will be limited.

For further information, contact the Community Education Division of Clark County Community College, 643-6060, ext. 334.

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