

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

The Video Game Paradox

A recent study by the California State Department of Education shows that school age youth who are fairly heavy television viewers - six or more hours daily - tend to be low achievers and are affected by a new conditioning to their learning process. Such announcements are not anything new, in fact, they have been so frequent that the television industry has now researched a study of its own which concludes that children's reading skills and test scores are centered primarily in "socioeconomic factors."

The TV industry's research found that "an hour or so" daily of "good television viewing" properly monitored by parents is actually better than no television at all. This viewpoint has been supported by some anti-TV educators who themselves admit that there is no evidence to support the claim that TV watching has a negative impact upon school performance.

In this regard, University of Massachusetts professor Dr. Daniel R. Anderson said he believes children who are heavy television watchers have at least not become "slaves to the video monster." Dr. Anderson's statement implies—and correctly so—that low-keyed penny arcades with photo booths and pinball machines have been replaced by the computer age explosive, electronic video arcade.

Educational consultant Carol Cantu has said, "artistically created and computer-generated video games have transformed these arcades into space-age galleries. They have robotic characters that dance, march, and burst onto television like screens."

However, beneath what appears to be good, clean, wholesome fun are concerns far beyond issues related to a passing

fad. The principal concern centers around reports that video games are addictive. In fact, Tim Skelly, a video game designer, states in an interview for "Video Games" magazine that graphics in the games are planned to be addictive.

The hard evidence of the increasing amount of time and money that young people are spending on and with video games is evidence of the games' addictive nature. More significantly, game players are said to experience high levels of stress, experience twitching and shivering while playing, and one fatal heart attack has been reported to be related to video game play.

On the positive side, in addition to freeing some youth from the near-addiction of TV watching, are reports that video games are healthy for vision. In fact good video game players are believed to have a high level of visual ability. In fact, seven activities that an optometrist might require in an exercise of visual training are normally practiced by a video game player. Furthermore, video games introduce players to the world of computer technology. If sufficiently motivated, a player can program his own games on his home or personal computer. This will expand the players' mental skills and result in increased efficiency in related abilities such as math and scientific reasoning.

Thus, the video game paradox. Young people and older people too who are into the video game habit need to keep their game activities and interest in proper perspective with other areas of their lives. If we can achieve success on this point video games will be no threat to our sanity, or family life, our communities and most of all to ourselves.

Public Schools Under Attack?

In a speech to 500 North Carolina school board members convened in Charlotte for a three-day conference recently, Congresswoman (D-NY) Shirley Chisholm told the school policy makers that public education is under attack by three major forces - Reaganomics, television and private schools.

We find no cause to disagree with Mrs. Chisholm's comment as it relates to Reaganomics and partly to television. President Reagan's economic policies have tended to redistribute the nation's wealth so that the rich and business interest are getting richer and the poor and middle class are getting poorer. Along with this, considerably less federal money is available to support needed public education programs.

In addition, the quality of

American television, especially for school-aged children, has deteriorated to an alarming level with the growing emphasis on sex, drugs and violence.

The pre-occupation with TV has sharply reduced youth reading skills and interests. Nevertheless, when used as a constructive educational teaching aid, television can be, and has been, a powerful learning device.

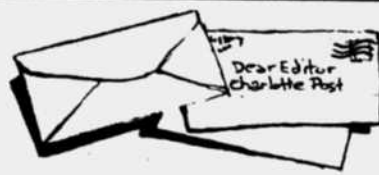
However, we do not agree with Mrs. Chisholm's statement as it relates to private schools as a threat to public education. Her statement that many people

believe "we need separate schools for all Catholics...Baptists...Irish...Black Americans...dog lovers...or those who write with their left hand" was purely rhetoric and not based on facts.



Black's Destiny In Own Hands

Letters To The Editor:



People Facing New Crisis

Dear Editor:

The rising cost of inflation and the worsening economic situation have affected many families in Charlotte. People are facing new crises, questioning their job security and becoming increasingly frustrated.

In times like these there is a special need for Black people to come together and join in to aid one another. Everyday we see on television, read in newspapers and hear on the radio people who need help.

Through volunteering needy people can be helped and problems can be eased or eliminated.

One particular situation that is in desperate need of volunteers is child care. Because of budget cuts over 1,000 parents, who are currently employed, will have to stop working. Unable to pay for day care services these parents will be forced to seek public assistance. Does this seem alarming?

Mothers who are trained on jobs receive federal funding now face the possibility of their training being halted, due to no funds.

Indeed this is a concern for our community.

As a concerned mother I have talked to many in reference to the child care situation and they all sense a need to do something about this matter. There should not be mothers or fathers who must stop working due to child care

fees when volunteers can help in this responsibility.

Volunteering is very important. One or two hours per week or month in reality is the deciding factor whether a parent can hold on to his job. As a volunteer your time can make a difference in many existing conflicts.

Now more than ever is the time to shift our attention from ourselves and focus them on helping others and volunteer time to replace other needed resources.

There are many areas in which I've volunteered as well as my family. We all have been pleased with the outcome. Many times parents have stated, "they

have no time." Try if you can to provide 15 minutes a day.

How do you start? As an individual you can be an organizer to aid people of all ages. Become a part of the survival process.

As a volunteer for many years I've replaced many paid positions. You can also assist where it is needed the most and there is no better place to start than with day care.

Far more valuable than money for each hour you donate you are rewarded with a pleasant feeling, a beautiful smile from a young child, kindness, love and unlimited appreciation.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Payne

Blacks Must Not Dwell On The Past

Dear Sir:

In response to the article, "What Black Women Should Know About Black Men," published November 18, 1982, I would like to direct my comments towards the statements made by Robert Wilson.

As a black woman in America I have not forgotten where I came from. We, as Black people, must not dwell on the past but think positively and reach for higher goals. I say this in reference to Mr. Wilson's statement about Black women forgetting where they came from.

He also stated that "often she (the Black woman) is ready to leave when the going gets tough." Any

person, man or woman, can give but so much of himself to another. Just because he or she decides to leave doesn't mean that he or she loved that person any more or any less. We, Black women love our Black men and we need them as much as they need us.

I hope you will write an article on what Black men should know about Black women.

Sincerely,
T. D. Woods

Voice Your Concern

Voicing an opinion will get others talking and eventually solve problems. Write: Dear Editor: P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

From Capitol Hill

97th Congress Scores Zero On Civil Rights Issues

Alfreda Madison Special To The Post
The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, which is composed of a coalition of 160 major national organizations representing Blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, American Indians, women, aged, handicapped and religious groups seeks to affect civil rights legislation.

The Conference recently released the 97th Congress score card on civil rights. Five Senators and 61 Representatives had a perfect voting record. Seven Senators and 27 Representatives scored zero. Included on the score card were: Voting Rights Act, school desegregation, fair housing, food stamps, court-stripping, legal services, civil rights appropriations, balanced budget constitutional amendment, education of the handicapped and immigration reform.

The tabulations show that half of the House members scored 50 percent or above, while 52 Senators scored above 50 percent. "Despite the concerted effort by the Radical Right, both in the Reagan Administration and on Capitol

Hill, the record of the 97th Congress on civil rights issues, thus far, has been generally good," said Ralph Neas, Executive Director of the Conference.

Civil rights successes are attributable to, first, they confirm that the 1980 elections were not a mandate to weaken or repeal civil rights laws. Second, strong congressional bipartisan support has arisen. Third, there have been massive coalition efforts to defend the constitution. All these gains give appearance that the Radical Right has reached its zenith with respect for representation in Congress. Their constitutional assaults continue and allied with the Reagan Administration, they are still threatening another reconstruction. All of these call for continued vigilance to preserve long ago fought battles and for complete eradication of all inequities and injustices for all people.

The 25 year Voting Rights Act extension resulted in the untiring strong cohesiveness of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights together with the vigilance and coopera-



Alfreda L. Madison

tion of some members of both Houses of Congress. In the House passage of this very strong Act was led by Representative Don Edwards of California, Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Law, who is a very strong and diligent leader in the civil rights fights. Opposition fight was led by Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois. Several weakening House amendments had to be defeated; Caldwell Butler of Virginia introduced an amendment that would have transferred bail-out suits from Federal District Courts to local federal courts; McClory of Illinois

introduced an amendment to repeal bilingual provisions; and Carroll Campbell's amendment, permitting states to bail out, even though some counties in the state did not meet the bail-out requirements.

The Senate Voting Rights Act passage was led by Senator Joseph Biden, ranking minority leader. Senator John East of North Carolina proposed more than ten weakening Voting Rights amendments, as did Senators Hatch, Denton and Hayakawa. All of these were overwhelmingly defeated. The Doles compromise which was the Mathias-Kennedy-Dole bill rejected 15 weakening amendments. In reference to seniority of Senators Mathias and Kennedy, Senator Biden relinquished floor management of the Act to them.

Senator Weicker of Connecticut led the fight against the Helms-Johnston busing amendment. He was aided in the ten weeks filibuster by Senator Monahan. Senator Weicker also succeeded in getting Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi's amendment tabled which would have

small business NEWS & VIEWS

Maintenance Contracting

One of the easiest businesses to start today is a building maintenance contracting service. A building service contractor provides janitorial services including window cleaning, carpet shampooing, floor and wall maintenance and outside lawn care on a contract basis. This service can also provide lighting maintenance, pest control, parking lot maintenance and security services. The majority of building service contractors perform their service by negotiating for an account, but some accounts are obtained through the bidding process.

The building service contractor must be able to estimate the labor time involved in cleaning the building to the client's specifications. The labor costs will be the largest cost component for the contractor. The total labor costs can be up to 70 percent of the total contract price of the job. These costs include taxes, unemployment and workman's compensation and other fringe benefits. You will also have to consider other costs such as the cost of equipment and cleaning supplies, your overhead including office costs and transportation, plus adding in your contractor's profit.

The capital investment required for entering the building service contracting industry is fairly low compared to other businesses. You will have to buy office supplies and cleaning equipment. The most commonly used major equipment includes floor buffers, carpet shampooers, industrial vacuum cleaners, and wet-dry vacuums. In addition, you will need mops, buckets, brushes, and assorted floor finishes and cleaners.

Your initial capital should include sufficient reserves to provide cash to cover the first few months payroll. There will often be a time lag between paying your employees and receiving payment from your accounts. This means you will have to pay your employees initially out of your cash reserves. A trend has developed in this business to bill at the beginning of the month rather than the end of the month of service. This advanced billing should improve your cash flow situation.

A study by the Building Services Contractor Association International indicated that a firm needs \$350,000 in total sales of building maintenance services to net \$10,000 after taxes. The \$10,000 net income figure does not include the owner's salary. The owner's salary is included as one of the firm's expenses.

Entering the building maintenance business is fairly easy, but the industry has a high rate of business failure.

Many small building maintenance contractors sell their services through personal contacts. You will also need a sales brochure for potential customers, or to use in a direct mail campaign. Many contractors also advertise in the yellow pages of the telephone directory. Advertising can also be accomplished by using an attractive company letterhead and placing the firm's insignia on trucks and uniforms.

For additional information, contact the Economic Development Division, Center for Improving Mountain Living, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, 704-227-7492.

pose reconstruction days, is divide and conquer. A splendid example of this was demonstrated by Attorney General Smith. In June a civil rights delegation had set up a meeting with the Attorney General. He had demanded that the Blacks and Hispanics meet separately. The group entered Mr. Smith's office, Elaine Jones of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, said, "Antonia Hernandez was not invited to this meeting, but she agreed to come anyway. If she leaves, we all do." Naturally the shocked Attorney General had no alternative but to acquiesce to the groups' wishes.

Electa Chapter

The Electa Chapter No. 174 Order of the Eastern Star is having a benefit fish fry on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 12 noon until.

The address is 504 West 24th Street.



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