

# GUEST EDITORIALS

## THE NEED TO LISTEN TO OUR YOUTH

By Juanita McGlothen

The psychological gulf lying between youth and adult is the most talked about gap that has created the under thirties versus the over thirties controversy is undoubtedly the oldest gap in history.

It is time we examined this gap carefully and make an effort to bridge it rather than make it wider.

Too often our accomplishments, great as they may be, sometimes blind us to the facts that our job isn't done. Too many of us refuse to recognize the good qualities in our youth. Little can be learned by turning our ears only to the past where we can bask in the sweet echo of our own voices, when we were young and knew better than our elders, what needed to be done and how to do it--but silent in our thoughts.

True leadership combines a sense of the past with an awareness of the problems of the present that demands solutions based on the changing times. Past solutions to the presents problems are no solutions at all, but a balance between the two can mean the difference between success and failure.

If we continue to travel separately, we'll widen the gap even further, but success lies only in one direction and time is on the side of the young. How much better to travel together, to teach them what we've learned, to listen to what they have to teach us; rather than both groups stumbling blindly and deafly into oblivion.

It can be done if we are willing to change, if we can break some of the molds and cast new ones according to the specifications of the future and if the pill of change is just too bitter to take without grimacing there is some comfort to be found in the fact that twenty years from now many of our young will shake their heads in disbelief and horror at the runious direction their own offspring seem to be taking.

Perhaps we are not giving our young people anything solid to stand on, something believable to work off. How many young people turn to drugs simply because they are bored and feel their lives to be meaningless. The old motivations of prestige and economic success simply do not mean anything to most of them.

Our responsibility runs deep and very complex; there is no simple way to stop young lives from becoming hollow and bitter. We must learn to listen. Kids today are trying to tell us something; some are searching for ideals that if we bothered to listen to them, we might agree and even be proud of them. Without assuming too much superior air we must help them find what they are searching for, even if it is not what we would like to see them do. When young people know adults will listen and try to understand them they will much more likely to turn to them for help and advice.

S.W.A.P. (Students with a purpose) was organized in March 1970. Through our organization we hope to develop knowledge and skills of young people and ourselves that will enable us to become better citizens and valueable members of our community and to determine the worth and relevancy of our actions and relationships in today's changing world.

To make it possible for our youth to develop themselves to those ends that will enrich their lives and the lives of those around them, we are appealing to the community as a whole for involvement.

## At the end of the bus ride

By Claude H. Parsons

Many Black parents are saying, "I believe in elementary school intergration, but it's too inconvenient." "Why should I get the children up early in the morning for a long bus ride when there is a school around the corner?"

"Besides, I have to work, and I can't be worrying about them." What if they miss the bus? Will they get to school? Will they be treated

## "Permissiveness"...Agnew Doesn't Talk About!!!



fairly? Will they really be any better off than they are now?

Other parents are saying that there is too much one way bussing. To them this approach to school integration is unfair to the Black community and they are reluctant to give it support.

Therefore, our task is to convince parents that while we work toward a more equitable and practical integration plan, the bus ride for Black children is worth the trip.

Yes, it takes a little more planning and it might seem inconvenient to get a child ready for the trip across town. But what's at the end of the bus ride? Is it worth it? Does the advantages of bussing Black students to integrated schools outweigh the disadvantages?

A multi-ethnic environment enhances the learning potential of children in several ways. The exposure to children of other ethnic backgrounds broadens the learning experiences of all children. Children learn from each other. (perhaps more than they learn from teachers) Vocabulary, knowledge and values are transmitted through personal interaction. When children are together they talk about the occupations of their parents, their hobbies and other interests. They talk about their swimming pools, the horse in the back yard or their weekend trips. Black children have more to gain. The white community has the economic and educational advantages. Where parents are better educated and financially secure children come to school better equipped in basic vocabulary, speech habits, personal experiences and motivation. Teacher expectancy is higher and consequently teacher work a little harder. The overall educational environment is much more conducive to teaching and learning.

Secondly, and most important, is the human relations aspect or point of view. It has been proven that personal contact with people of other races in the elementary grades, removes some of the fears and prejudices that are causing racial strife in our secondary schools today. This must be eliminated.

All parents want the best education possible for their children. For many reasons Black children have not been getting the best. But, I believe there is hope for a brighter future at the end of the bus ride.

## NOTICE

The LAS VEGAS VOICE is not responsible for the opinions expressed in its guest editorials or in letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit or print any and all items submitted. However we will continue to try and give the community the space to express its opinions on all matters of general interest.

## The Editor

### JOIN THE NAACP TODAY

Office - 1040 West Owens Avenue  
Hours - 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
Days - Monday thru Saturday  
Telephone - 648-2880

(Tear off and return to your local Chapter.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Minimum.....\$4.00	Youth (under 17).....\$1.00
With Crisis Magazine.....\$6.00	Youth (17 to 21).....\$2.00
Gold Certificate.....\$10.00	Junior Life Membership
Contributing.....\$25.00	(to age 13).....\$100.00
Senior Life Membership.....\$500.00	
(Payable in installments of \$50.00, \$100.00)	

## LAS VEGAS Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. .... Publisher  
 PAUL C. SMITH ..... Managing Editor  
 DOROTHY S. WEST ..... Treasurer  
 BEATRICE BRYANT ..... Office Manager  
 RAY FEASTER ..... Art & Layout

DOROTHY JOHNSON ..... Food Forum  
 ELBERT MILLER ..... Sports Editor

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES  
Sawyer Building, 301 Miller at Commerce  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030 \* Telephone: 649-3818  
ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ \* One year - 7.50 \* Two years - 12.50  
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)