

**EDITOR'S
NOTEBOOK**

By **Lawrence Albert**

THANK YOU

The contributions of the residents of a community make a newspaper. They can neglect it and it will die. They can half-heartedly support it, and it will struggle along as best as it can, without accomplishing much, or they can wholeheartedly get behind it.

The West Las Vegas Community has shown amazing support of the Las Vegas VOICE, since I became it's publisher a few months ago. Hence the honor that the West Las Vegas Library bestowed on this paper recently, was really for every resident of the community.

The paper was honored "for it's consistent contribution to the growth and development of the Black community," according to Bill Ludwig, administrator for the library. The VOICE's name will be placed on a permanent plaque at the West Las Vegas Library, and will become one of the first honorees in the community's own "Hall of Fame."

So, when the residents of this community frequent the library, and see that plaque hanging on the wall, they can look at it in pride because the honor belongs to them as much as to the VOICE--they made the paper what it is today.

But, there are two persons, I want to especially thank--one, Bea Bryant, who rides herd over the make-up and content of the paper. Without her special skills and devotion, the paper might come out once a month filled with such heavy reading as "cartoons." But really, I could not put this paper out every week without Bea. So if you come by the office some day and see a woman covered from head to toe with printer's ink, you'll know that's Bea. In fact, I have gotten into the habit of judging how good the paper will be every week by the amount of ink she has on her clothes. So far she has been covered every week.

Then there is my business manager, who sees that the books balance and fights with the Internal Revenue Service for me. She is Sandra McIlveen. She does not get much printer's ink on her, unless she bumps into Bea, but she sure gets her hands covered with ink from pens, fighting those books and making sure everyone is paid every week.

To paraphrase an old adage, "behind every successful paper there is a woman," but in this case there are two. With that combination, how can the VOICE, miss meeting it's obligations each week.

**DO BLACKS
HAVE A
PERSECUTION
COMPLEX?**

Blacks patronize businesses, whose owner's have made it explicitly clear, they are not interested in having Black patronage.

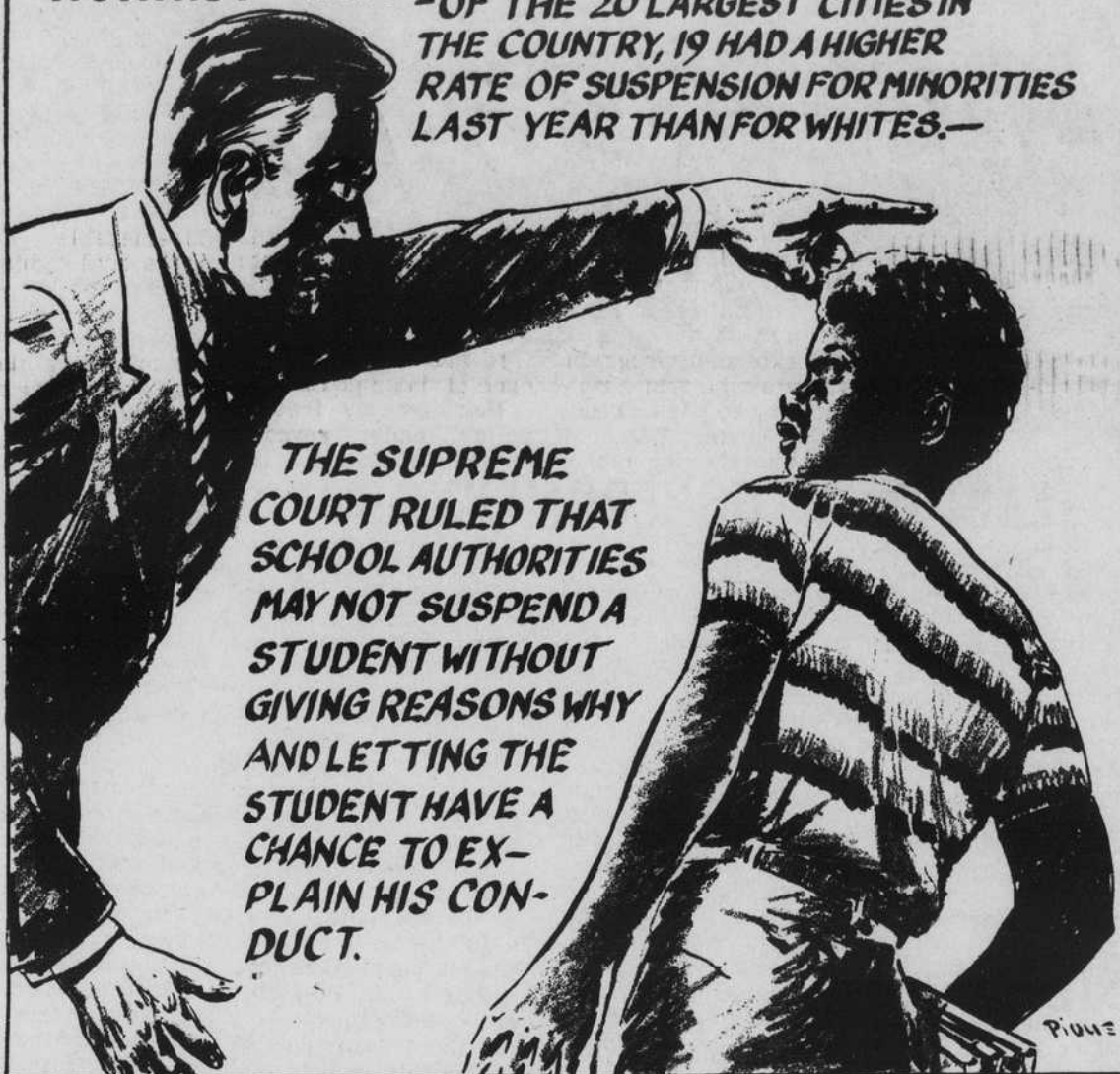
All over America Blacks are making a cohesive effort to accomplish economic gains, which would be beneficial to Black individuals, and the Black Community as a whole. One of the very best ways of accomplishing affluence, is to support our Black businesses and merchants.

In the case of Blacks supporting Black businesses, Las Vegas, runs a disappointing last. Las Vegas has no businesses of a major nature or size controlled or owned by Blacks, not; even in the Black Community.

The liquor and night club business is the area where we have the largest number of Black busi-

The Four NIXON Appointed Judges Voted AGAINST HIM

OF THE 20 LARGEST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY, 19 HAD A HIGHER RATE OF SUSPENSION FOR MINORITIES LAST YEAR THAN FOR WHITES.—



THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES MAY NOT SUSPEND A STUDENT WITHOUT GIVING REASONS WHY AND LETTING THE STUDENT HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN HIS CONDUCT.

nessmen involved in Las Vegas, these men are the ones that feel the heaviest crunch from the blow of their Black brothers not supporting them, for reasons we cannot understand, unless Blacks "DO HAVE A PERSECUTION COMPLEX."

Touring the Black Community, we find that the retail package outlets, that are owned by people other than Blacks, seem to be doing a somewhat better volume of business than the ones owned by Blacks, here again we find no valid reason for this, prices are generally the same, parking facilities are generally equal, quality of service is on a par. What, if any reason could there be other than maybe, "A PERSECUTION COMPLEX?"

Night Clubs owned by Blacks, suffer even worse, by comparison than their package store owning brothers. A city wide survey of Nite spots offering entertainment of the low to medium price range (Something other than the Strip Hotel variety), we arrived at these conclusions: First let's categorize the Blacks that generally patronize these types of establishments. There are generally three types. Type one, the Blacks who for the most part patronize the night clubs that are located in or very near the Black community. In this category, we find a very large number of Blacks patronizing establishments owned by people other than Blacks. One establishment in particular, we discovered was doing a landslide business with nothing more to offer than a band, who had a previous engagement at a night spot owned by a Black. The price of admission is the same, accessibility from the standpoint of nearness, availability of parking was not as good as the business owned by Blacks, in our opinion. What then; could possibly be the reason be for Blacks preference of patronizing a business such as we describe, over one owned by a Black Brother? PERSECUTION COMPLEX.

The second group consists of, the so-called "street people" if you will. These are people that generally frequent Nite spots in all areas of town, returning to the Black owned Clubs, usually when their bankrolls start to diminish. This is the group that usually demands more from our Black businessmen, and they want to pay lesser prices. Yet, they receive much better treatment than they receive from businesses, on the other side of town, where they are constantly harrassed by police, who have been called and asked to do so by the proprietors. The price of admission is generally higher for Blacks than whites, frequently there is no live entertainment, and no admission, except in the

case of Blacks, yet, Blacks seem to prefer to patronize these types of establishments over the ones owned by Blacks, who offer live entertainment at a consistent price for all patrons. Again we ask, "Why is this, unless Blacks suffer from, PERSECUTION COMPLEX?"

The third group is comprised by the white collar workers, professionals, school teachers and middle income Blacks. This group gives us the most frustrations of all. We are, or were inclined to think that this particular group represented people generally of a higher intelligence. These people subject themselves to the same type of treatment as previously mentioned groups. They will pay exorbitant prices for inferior service or products, simply because these products or services are removed from the Black areas of town.

If these people and some of our Black leaders would put forth a little more effort to spend as many of their dollars, as possible, with Black merchants and businessmen, whenever possible, the net long term results would have a tremendous beneficial result, for not only Black businessmen, but the Black Community as well. Black leaders throughout America and Black people in rank and file are uniting themselves together and supporting Black businesses, thereby enabling them to grow, upgrade their businesses, employ more Blacks and create something which Blacks can identify with and have some personal pride.

We ask only this: "Why can't Black Las Vegans take the lead of other Black Americans?" Unless all Black Las Vegans have PERSECUTION COMPLEXES.

LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY
"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTEREST and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for BLACK CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

Lawrence Albert.....Publisher
Sandra McIlveen.....Treasurer
Clinton Wright.....Photographer
Luke Plewe.....Layout Artist

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615

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