

# Point of View

## EDITORIAL

### Blacks Must Communicate

People must be able to talk to one another, if they are to understand one another. People must come together to talk, and they must have some common denominator to hold their interest in a constructive conversation. When the common denominator is a major issue in the lives of these people, they seek and they usually find a line of communication with one another. Through the medium of communication, they seek counsel of each other in a common quest for answers and solutions.

The Black residents in our community, by the accident of their African ancestry, have the common denominator of being classed as second-rate citizens. They have the unenviable denominator of being deprived of equal opportunity because of the blood of their ancestors. It makes no difference how completely Caucasian a Black might be in physical appearance; he is denied equality of American citizenship with the same resistance that faced his African ancestors, provided his identity is known. The American Black is a mixture of all bloods of all races, but his African blood sets him apart from all other Americans as something different from all the other American mongrels.

Our nation came into being because it was a haven of freedom from tyrannical rule. Pilgrims from Europe pioneered, but pilgrimages from every corner of the earth followed in rapid succession. America became the meeting ground and the melting pot of people from all lands and all races. They mingled and they intermarried, procreating a population of every imaginable blend and mixture. The people of America are today the most mongrelized people of the world. Ironically, the American Black can boast of less mongrelization than any other people of this nation, but he is looked down upon by other Americans. This factor gives the Black the most binding common denominator, and makes him an enigma in a democratic nation.

The social revolution taking place in America today was generated by the Black's impatience with the snail-paced racial reforms of the past century. Since his ancestors were declared free by Presidential Proclamation and established as citizens by Constitutional Amendments, the Blacks today have continually pressed for equal justice and recognition.

The momentum of social reforms taking shape in America today, must be reenergized by each Black doing his or her part in a unified effort. Unity will turn the tide. We must have communications for developing this unity. WE MUST GET TOGETHER IF WE WANT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

UNITY WILL PROVIDE THE POWER FOR TOTAL VICTORY. LET US UNITE AND WIN. COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHES UNITY.

Long Life to the  
Las Vegas Sentinel  
Jack, Judy, Jeanne  
Amanda and Jackie Mutnick



## CARL ROWAN

### What we must do to stop violence in the public schools

By Carl T. Rowan  
WASHINGTON - None of us wants to throw our children into school situations where the threats of assault, robbery and rape exist.

Most of us have been convinced that these threats are more common than the risk of rainstorms for youngsters who attend the public schools of the land.

And that is why public education is in peril.

It is also why I read with uncommon concern the April-May issue of Today's Education, the magazine of the National Education Association. In that issue, Francis A.J. Ianni and Elizabeth Reuss-Ianni report on the NEA's Safe School Study of 1978, and they present a stereotype-shattering analysis of why our schools are beset by violence.

The overriding stereotype in America for years has been that violence is the result of letting poor blacks into the schools of middle-class whites. The Ianni report that a small, hard-core group "produces most of the violence and disruption in schools" and that members of this hard core "do not seem to come from any specific racial, ethnic, or socio-economic background. School staff commonly describe them as students who have difficulty academically, are frequently in trouble in the community, and come from troubled homes."

Not that race is not a major factor in the conflict. The Ianni conclude from the NEA study that "crime and disruption are reduced in schools where students say they can identify with the teachers and have access to them and where ethnic and racial harmony are great."

But the Safe School Study showed that such

harmony is not great in most schools, although the racial factor in school violence is not as overwhelming, as some Americans assume -- or want you and me to believe.

The Ianni report that, "Most offenses in schools involve victims and offenders of the same race (58 percent). But the fact that 42 percent of the offenses are interracial indicates that interracial conflict is a serious problem. The smaller the size of a minority group in a school, the greater the likelihood that members of other racial groups will commit offenses against the minority."

If the woes of public schools don't flow primarily from racial conflict, from enforced desegregation, from busing, as some would have us believe, what other explanations exist?

According to the Safe School Study, these factors are important:

\* Crowding. "Schools which had major disruptions in the late '60s and early '70s often had many more students than they were designed to serve."

\* The shift from local schools to huge emporia of education. "Large schools have a higher incidence of and more serious crime and disruption than smaller schools. School spirit is difficult if not impossible to develop in large, urban secondary schools which have 4,000 to 5,000 students."

\* Victims of attack and robbery in high schools "are more likely than non-victims to be offenders themselves."

\* Suspension of offending students rarely makes a difference. "Staff members often complain about the unavailability of adequate counseling or psychiatric help."

\* School crime and violence are low where

principals are dynamic, and where students have access to and can identify with teachers.

Could it be that when we abandoned "the little red schoolhouse" and leaped through "consolidation" to huge schools enrolling thousands, we gave up more than we got? In the old-style smaller school there was no place for troublemakers to hide, because the principal usually knew each student -- and his or her family. Some of today's schools are so large that not only do principals and

teachers not know all their students, but they cannot distinguish students from outsiders who peddle dope, steal lunches and purses, foment violence and otherwise create a climate of fear.

There surely is no single or simple panacea for the problem of violence in the schools. But we ought to explore seriously the question of whether we can reverse the trend and limit enrollment in our schools to a level where there can be some meaningful relationship between teachers and students.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Some people are really sick. The unfortunate thing about it is that they don't really have the capacity to recognize it.

I am referring specifically to the article I read in the May 2 issue of the Las Vegas Sentinel about the attack on Redd Foxx's home. In this case I really wonder whether it was a planted job. I also wonder whether it was the work of those vandals who ransacked a home in that general area a couple months ago.

I don't see where the vandalism had anything to do with that situation where Foxx allegedly made a pass at a white teenage waitress in a local restaurant.

What is perfectly clear to me is that there are some really sick people in this community. Something needs to be done to "run them out of town."

Sarah Potts

To The Sentinel:

That guy Abernathy — who does he think we are? He's got to be out of his mind trying to disturb the serenity of our town.

We are getting along together. We don't need another rabble-rouser messing things up. Somebody's got to put him in his place. I hope it happens soon.

Somebody Concerned

Dear Sentinel:

Rev. Albert Dunn hit the target on the head in last week's issue of the Las Vegas Sentinel. I agree with his theory...do for self, by self. There's time for a change and we must unite to bring it into reality. The qualified Black candidates for public office will certainly get my vote.

Name Withheld  
By Request

Dear Las Vegas Sentinel:

I just picked up your third issue of the paper and must admit that I am aghast. I could not believe my eyes. Here is real journalism in action and I am real proud. I have never seen a local paper of such quality and attractiveness. It is comprehensive and complete. Keep up the good work.

Mary Dugan