

Point of View

Editorial

Metro Police Did Good Job

A special thanks to the Metropolitan Police Department for diffusing the incendiary bomb which nearly erupted on the Westside Sunday night. It could have been a holocaust that would have placed an ugly mark on the black community...and could have lasted for days.

Moneyhungry tyrants, known as the Shelby Gang, the Williams Gang, The Graves Brothers and the Maxey Faction, plague our community with drug traffic and created a large scale disturbance,

as a result of it, that shook the city.

The real disturbing factor was the gang's duping of neighborhood children into rock and bottle throwing, disruption of electrical service and public lighting as police responded to calls.

This type of behavior is deplorable and should be dealt with promptly and severely.

There are perhaps residents in the Gerson Apartment area and other areas who know the members of those

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Doolittle Community Center is proud to announce the classes for the fall season. We have a wide variety that offers something interesting and enjoyable for everybody — no age limit.

We have had our share of problems in the past, but we can honestly say that they are finally part of PAST history. In order to insure the safety of everybody, we have gotten the full co-operation of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. The entire area surrounding Doolittle is patrolled regularly, and we have a top-flight staff that is trained to handle any disorders that may occur. We haven't had anything negative to occur in quite a while, and we intend to keep it that way. We REFUSE to tolerate any fighting, profanity, soliciting or wild behavior.

Doolittle definitely has a positive program to offer, and we especially want everybody who lives near the center to be informed of the activities, and most of all, support them. The youth of the area need a

decent place to go for recreation that is near their homes. The neighborhood in which Doolittle is located may not be the richest, but there is a richness of ideas and energy among its youth. If they're deprived of sports and music, we can all consider ourselves poor, because there won't be anything else left to offer the West Las Vegas youngsters.

We are not putting all the emphasis on youth; there are programs for everybody. It's up to everybody in West Las Vegas to help mold a positive image of the community, and supporting Doolittle Community Center is a step in the right direction. If we work together, we can make Doolittle just as nice as any other community in the City of Las Vegas. We CAN do it, and we MUST do it in order to have a clean image of ourselves. Remember: Doolittle is in OUR neighborhood.

Your comments are always welcome. For further information, call 386-6374.

Sincerely,

Clyde Dawson, Center Supervisor



CARL ROWAN

California Gunslinger Shoots His Own Foot

Washington — Ronald Reagan offers himself to American voters as the tough hombre from the West who is going to corral those blackhatted marauders of the Soviet Union.

But the self-styled, good-guy gunslinger from California has shot himself in the foot with a salvo from lips that move so fast his running mate, George Bush, last April called him "reckless" on foreign policy.

With his simplistic and ill-formed "misstatements" (his word) about U.S. relations with the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan, Reagan has given aid, comfort and hope to the Kremlin regarding a matter which bothers Soviet leaders most. He has

given the Russians new reason to hope that the U.S., in a new spasm of mindless anti-communism, will push a billion Chinese back into an alliance with 259 million Soviets.

One of the most significant foreign policy developments of our lifetimes was the breakup of the Sino-Soviet monolith, with the Chinese moving brashly to frustrate Soviet efforts in the Third World, with Peking moving toward closer economic and military cooperation with the United States and the West, with the Chinese opting for capitalist-type solutions to many of their problems.

This has so unnerved the Soviets that they now have 46 military divisions

poised along their border with China.

Why would Reagan needlessly and foolishly muck up this situation?

Could it be that Bush was right when he said in one of his commercials that Reagan "has no real understanding of the dangers we face in the decade of the '80s?'"

Republican Reagan is trying to hoodwink voters with bold talk regarding old problems about which he can pour forth bravado without ever having to make any difficult and agonizing decisions.

He doesn't just speak of U.S. intervention in Vietnam as "a noble cause," he assails those who ran the U.S. government during those

dreadful years as being "afraid" to let our military win.

Reagan glosses over the fact that France, then Dwight Eisenhower, then John F. Kennedy, then Lyndon Johnson, then Richard Nixon all had chances to defeat HO Chi Minh in Vietnam. None could do it because Ho had the mass of the people with him.

Reagan owes Americans more than tough-guy cliches catering to their frustrations. What, specifically, would Reagan have done in Vietnam that four American presidents did not do?

Bush looked as though he had (See Carl Rowan, page 23)

'To Be Equal' by Vernon Jordan

Blacks Reject Conservatism

The experience of the 1970s — erosion of limited black gains, urban decay, and a growing conservative national mood — has led to disillusionment and to questioning civil rights strategies.

Perhaps the single most important factor in the growing cynicism is the rightward drift of American political opinion. The overwhelming majority of blacks reject the new conservative trust, but perceive the wall of white resistance as higher and stronger.

So some blacks and whites question the value of federal programs and even the wisdom of looking to the federal government for answers to problems faced by the black poor.

Traditionally, black people have equated states rights with state's

wrongs, and have looked to Washington and to the federal courts for protection from local abuse. The failure of the private sector to generate enough jobs and to give blacks their fair share of the available jobs has led to emphasis on federal job programs.

There's also been an emphasis on federal transfer programs such as welfare, food stamps, health assistance and others. While some have charged such programs breed dependence, most blacks look upon those programs as essential survival mechanisms in a society that refuses to encourage independence through job opportunities.

Affirmative action is another area in which black people traditionally look to the government for action



JORDAN

Left to themselves, most employers would probably be indifferent to black demands for equal employment opportunities. The threat of federal action has been a major factor in private sector affirmative action efforts.

The conservative view appears to be that black progress has been limited because federal programs are ineffective, and therefore those programs should be abandoned.

But it would be more fair to say that black progress has been limited in part because federal programs' effectiveness has been limited, and that a massive federal effort to bring equality to blacks was never implemented.

Job programs, for example, serve only a fraction of the unemployed, but that is no reason to de-emphasize job creation. The fact is that many black people were helped by those programs, people who would be much worse off today if those programs did not exist. The answer lies not in abolishing the programs but in expanding the ones that work while fixing the ones that don't.

We should not forget that good programs have been torpedoed by (See Vernon, page 20)