

Point of View

Editorial

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE

The Editorial, "Blacks Do Not Look Alike, Nor Act Alike," which appeared in the Sept. 25 issue of the SENTINEL was aptly written by its Feature Writer Roosevelt Fitzgerald. The article vividly sketched how attitudes of many constantly group all Blacks in one category. The case in point was the recent "drug bust" in the Gerson Park area. The actions of a few reflected on the entire community. It was the Westside "this," the Westside "that."

The general press treatment of the incidents suggested that all blacks are involved one way or another in such criminal activity. Fitzgerald said,

"Always, someone or some area has to be placed in the position of the scapegoat. Somebody must pay the piper in order for it to appear that the job is being done. Such is the case with black communities. Blacks are seen collectively as a community whether it is on a street, campus, town, state, country or world level."

He continued, "What a person does, whoever that person is and whatever that person happens to be, is a reflection on every black person who has ever or will ever live."

Often, one has to be wary of those who occasionally make the comment, "some of my (See Friends page 23)



CARL ROWAN

LET THE PREACHER PLAY POLITICS

WASHINGTON — "Preachers in politics," U.S. News & World Report tells us, have produced a "political holy war without precedent" through which "millions of born-again Christians... are working to put Republican Ronald Reagan in the White House.

The Gallup Poll tells us that about 30 million voters are "evangelicals" who are strict Bible believers, and that another 21 million voters meet a looser definition of "born-again" Christians.

Considering the fact that only 81,603,346 people voted in the 1976 election, one might leap to the terrifying assumption that right-wing evangelicals will take over the country in November.

From conversations

I've eavesdropped on recently, some of my colleagues and acquaintances are harboring just this fear, although some are outraged because the evangelicals seem to favor Reagan's ideology while others are livid because the Gallup Poll says 52 percent of the evangelicals prefer Carter to 31 percent for Reagan and 6 percent for Anderson. This is a unique contest where all three candidates claim they are "born-again" evangelical Christians.

Some Americans are fearful of and outraged by this involvement of preachers in presidential politics. They claim to see some dreadful violation of the Constitution's requirement of separation of church and state. I demur.

If government tries to impose any religion or any amount of religion

upon the people, that would be frightful violation of our Constitution.

If any religious group imposes its dogma upon government, it will have abused the principle of separation of church and state.

But it would be ludicrous to say that to protect religious freedom, we must bar "born-again" people, or those professing any degree of religiosity, from participating actively in politics.

Yes, I am aware that some of the "evangelicals" who now stir our political waters are hustling money faster than souls. I know that some practice and advocate anti-black racism, Jew-baiting, hatred of the poor in ways that would make a picture of Christ weep. I know that the Moral Majority, the Religious

Roundtable, Christian Voice and lesser groups making up the so-called "evangelical right" are committed to prohibiting abortions, defeating the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for women, permitting prayer in schools, condoning censorship in the name of fighting pornography, halting federal efforts to desegregate schools (especially Jim Crow "religious" academies), keeping homosexuals out of teaching and other jobs — and so much more that I find abhorrent.

Still I say, "So what?"

If liberals, moderates or whatever can applaud the Rev. Jackson when he ridicules John Anderson as "a wolf in sheep's clothing," describes Ronald Reagan as a prisoner of reactionary advisers and then endorses Jimmy (See Rowan page 23)

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The entire staff of Doolittle Community Center would like to thank the LAS VEGAS SENTINEL for putting something positive about us in the September 18th issue (Letters To The Editor).

Your kindness, understanding, and justice will always be appreciated. Your newspaper is a credit to the community, because you believe in being fair. You make space and time to print good things, and most of all, you believe in giving the underdog a chance to

express views that were formally denied to him by other journals.

West Las Vegas should be elated that there is a newspaper in our community that constantly manifests integrity.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Clyde Dawson, Center Supervisor
Wendell Williams, Recreation Leader
Bobby McRoy, Sr. Recreation Leader
Andrew Love, Sr. Recreation Assistant
Richelle Robinson, Music Instructor

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Major Barrier

BLACK PULSE SURVEY EXPLODES MYTHS

By Vernon E. Jordan

A major barrier to social progress lies in the yawning gap between white perceptions and black experience.

That's why the National Urban League's Black Pulse survey is so important. It represents a massive, systematic process of face to face interviews with about 3,000 black heads of households.

That makes Black Pulse far more representative than polls using relatively small numbers of people. And unlike opinion polls, Black Pulse is a needs assessment survey, focusing on people's needs and experiences.

The first findings are important guides to policy directions the nation should follow.



JORDAN

Although the interviews were made before the full impact of this recession hit, unemployment was clearly identified as the number one problem in the black community. Discrimination ranked second, and inflation a poor third.

The concern with the problem of unemployment cut across class lines. In fact, a slightly larger proportion of middle-income blacks

identified unemployment as the number one problem. That finding is contrary to opinion polls in the white community, where middle income people show greater concern with inflation. Secure in their own jobs, the white middle class just doesn't rank joblessness high on the list of problem areas.

Most blacks are concerned with inflation. The vast majority report their incomes have not kept pace with inflation and nearly half say they are worse off financially than a year ago.

So the inroads of inflation have resulted in a decline in black living standards, but uniting all classes in the black community is a shared realization that astronomical unemployment rates are having an

even greater devastating effect on the community.

All income classes in the black community are also united in identifying discrimination as second only to unemployment among the problems black people face.

Many Americans believe in the myth that blacks have made it into the middle class and that discrimination is no longer a major problem. But Black Pulse found that over two-thirds of all blacks say blacks today face a great deal of discrimination. Seventy percent of the over-\$20,000 income group agreed — an even higher percentage than among those in the under \$6,000 income group.

That finding reflects (See Vernon page 4)