

DURING THOSE WAR DAYS

were limited, Black soldiers made good use of it. The club was located at "E" and Van Buren and was to be a temporary facility. City owned land, on the north side of the westside school, was donated for the construction of a permanent facility for the "colored soldiers recreation hall..." The facility would not open until 1945 and by that time most of the troop activity would have ceased.

Quite a lot of pressure was placed on both

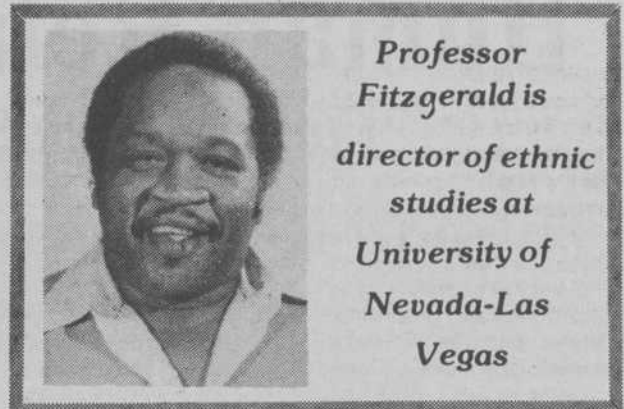
Black soldiers and Black townspeople. Most Black females in Las Vegas were either under aged or married. The competition for the attentions of those few who were unem-cumbered created a volatile situation. Of course, Black soldiers could not associate with white women — Hitler was not altogether wrong in his views — I suppose. There were, of course, arrests. Because those were primarily the only activities, of Blacks, reported in the papers,

those who lived in other parts of the city were prone to conclude that Blacks were indeed consistently involved in lawless activities. The style of reporting has not changed noticeably in the past forty years.

The dark doughboys who debarked to do their duty at Las Vegas found themselves detailed in a deplorably dismal situation, deemed by

their degraders as being part of the fabric in the doctrines of democracy. It was not the first time, nor would it be the last time demoralizing circumstances would welcome them. They bore up and they tolerated it for as long as they could. As always, when irresistible forces meet — "Something's gotta give," and it did.

Think about it for a week.



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

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Robert is a lifelong resident of Las Vegas. His many friends and relatives are among his many clients and customers. He recently completed the requirements to attain the designation of G.R.I. (Graduate of Realtors Institute) Robert now serves residential clients, but is mostly inclined to branch into commercial and income sales. Robert also serves on the Board of Directors of the Miss Black Teenage - Nevada Pageant and as Vice President of the West Las Vegas Jaycees.

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