

EDITORIAL

GOD BLESS THE POPE

For a man who always preached non-violence, our hearts go out to Pope John Paul II who, himself, was a victim of violence.

Although the Pope seems to be making an excellent recovery from the gunshot wounds inflicted upon him last week, he is still listed as serious by his doctors. The very idea of a person attempting to kill another innocent person, whether he/she is a Pope, President, or just a plain Joe, is an abominable thing to those of us who try to live a peaceable life.

The alleged terrorist who claimed to have very little interest in life or living must surely be a victim of our times and of a very warped sense of direction.

We would be the first to admit that the so-called "Establishment" is not perfect. But this does not give the license to a person to attempt to take the life of anyone, especially one who is innocent of any crime as we are sure the Pope is.

It appears that the young terrorist was attempting to call attention to some political happenings in our world. Must he go to such extremes? We think not. However, we must, in some small way, look to our political structure to provide ways in which dissidents may be heard, and their concerns noted and/or acted upon.

We believe that the desire to be heard was the problem with the last two assassination attempts on world figures, namely, President Reagan and the Pope.

We must also look beyond this to the time when the very thing(s) that seemed to have caused these young people to behave in the manner in which they have behaved can be dealt with in a positive manner. We speak of "Man's inhumanity to man".

When "all" men will realize that in the sight of God all human life is precious, and that He made man to be social creatures, then and only then, will many of these atrocities cease.

The United States must realize that it, the strongest nation in the world, is not without faults and needs to "clean up its act." The United States must realize that "Man's inhumanity to man" does, in fact exist within its borders.

May God Bless the Pope! But also, May God Bless America! For in blessing America, maybe, just maybe, many of our problems will be solved. However America (The United States in particular) must begin by "cleaning up its own act." Then and only then may we say with strong fervor, "God Bless America."

JUST THE FACTS

By Mike

It is a fact that we need a Westside Police Substation. We feel that this may serve as a deterrent to crime in the area.

It is a fact that the state marriage license fee has increased by \$5.00. The extra money will be used for centers for battered wives.

It is a fact that the attempted assassination on the Pope is an indication of world violence. We pray that he will soon be up and about again.

It is a fact that the Social Security program may be trimmed. I appears that some overspending may have taken place, and the Social Security program would not be solvent for long if the present trend continues.

It is a fact that the jobless trend has stabilized.

It is a fact that we need more educational facilities are needed in West Las Vegas. More education, less crime.

It is a fact that any tuition hike within our State University System would impose a hardship on many of our students.

Jackson Street & Me



Rudi Jackson

Up-the-Down Street that holds the million dollar dreams of manyasoul sister and brother who came to Vegas the land-o-slots and lights that glitter long after the night has been danced away...A faded memory of the 500 block of the ghostly clung by-gone years of JACKSON STREET. Many a old-timer will smile and speak of the thangs that he/or/she use ta'do lawd they don't do No'more cause the black dream was never the Black folks in the first place or the last. They just played a role in the ever acted-out drama of Rich Man-Poor Boy/Black boy-White Man! Let us pray for the repose of the black dream of the stripped/strip cause it has been 1/2ong gone but the memories of the good old days yet cling to the ones who reek-n-reel from the poverty of promises to re-store the land of the zesty zanty Black folks of Vegas (tha South side of the 500 Block) (East tha West)...There's SLEEPY'S SHINE Parlor, always full-o-wide awake folks shoot-n-tha breeze with Sleepy as he put some class to the shoes, tha'las thru another dusty Vegas nite/n/day on the town, for some sista/or/brotha from all walks of life here in the city of Sex-n-Sin...Just in back of Sleepy's you find the Hughes Apt. Complex that sorta stands as the last stong hold of hotel living on the stripped/strip-o-land that cries out: "Hey, here I am visitors of Vegas. Come by here. I'm Tha One Who Loves-U...Come by here and Git'down With the Fun ky Git'down folk that yet be calling you they Cousins, and shucks-ma..U..No We Some Kin and from the same home town..." RIGHT-ON Gimme/Five On the Black-hand side cause right next door is Uncle Ben's BAR B.Q. HOUSE, and let me be one of the first tha' Say He has bee on Jakes Side of the 500 Block for a loooonnnngggg Time serve-N-up Souful food for the taste buds (try it U will like it!) (See I gaye another Bar B.Q. Biz A Plug In the Public Relation Dept. of the Write UP. WOW! WEE! Now thats what it is all about. Uncle Ben's B.BV.Q!...Lift up your fine voice and sang a song of the Spirit & Fun-Slots-n-Pool inside of Hughes Package Liquor...Meet Me in the Alley behind tha Barn. Don't be afraid that I drunk all the Rum at Hughes Liquor...Jim Dandy!! Then there is a little tiny house of Mrs. Hughes just before the El Rio Club on the corner of Jackson & F St. and on the north side is a un-fenced vacant lot of broken bottles and dreams of faded memories of the by-gone years. Folks park on it when they visit the little row of shanty type motel rooms and SWING they thangs at the town tavern (more on them and the other block buildings and vacant lots in days to come). Just don't fence me in unless you can make me a mouse trap so that I can go into the Rat Fur Selling Biz for folks who cannot afford Mank & Rabbit coats and shoes...Do a caper if you can on somebody before the week is gone. Go for the gusto on jackson Street, Then go for the gusto on me cause I'm Kind'a Sweet like Sugar! Attend the place of your choice on Jackson Street cause it is alive & Kick-N! Do some thang nice for the community live a whole lots and stop kicking the blue on Black Cause it is here tha'Stay Likle Jackson Street & Me!...monamodi-81

The Quiet Violence

By Barbara Alexander

When President Reagan was shot a few weeks ago, there was talk of a mad U.S., of sickness lurking in every corner of society.

The Iranians demonstrated the concept of sickness well when they kept Americans in bondage for 444 days. But, what made them do it? Atlanta, Georgia, is demonstrating the concept in its inability to capture the perpetrators of young murder. What's motivating the killer or killers?

The Vatican shooting of Pope John Paul II must surely place violence in its true light. The incident speaks of the danger of public life, of the breakdown in laws, of the devastation of the human mind that allows itself to plot and scheme the demise of another. Why?

Handgun legislation has been a focal point in the news within the last couple of months, and evidence suggests this is justified. But, the sad and striking truth is this: 1) violence is

Difficulties Can be Blessings!



not only a stalwart trait in the U.S., but in most other countries of the world as well, and 2) handguns are not the only route to violent expression.

A brief review of world and local news with respect to violence may help to crystallize these points.

In Las Vegas, 50 persons have already been killed this year, about twice as many as at this time last year. And, during the week of May 10, six homicides occurred.

This writer, seeking a universal explanation, reviewed news events for Monday, March 30, 1981, the day before the President was shot. The idea was to determine what, if any, violence was prevalent, and whether handguns were used in the action.

Focusing on front page information, it was clear that guns have become a primary way to express dissatisfaction (translation: violence).

Of nine stores in *The Washington Post*, six dealt explicitly or implicitly with violence.

The situation with Poland's Communist Party Central Committee was covered in three articles. The shooting of an American hostage at a Bangkok airport was the topic of another article. The attempts of the billionaire Hunt family of Texas to ward off their financial investigation and potential economic sanctions was another story. Another discussed the "strangling" effects of government regulations on colleges.

The *L.A. Times* had seven out of nine front page stories that dealt with violence or its potential, ranging from the duties of an airplane bounty hunter, to donations for Atlanta's murdered youth, to the situation in Poland (two stories), to a L.A. minister's private war on poverty, to the loss of "life and limb" at the UCLA Medical Center in a county quest to improve emergency treatment, to a slain family of four found shot to death in San Diego.

News in Las Vegas, as reported by the *Las Vegas Sun*, included four stories of violence out of six: "Hijackers Shoot America;" "Fire Guts Restaurant," "Polish Party Unchanged;" and, "Democrats Facing Another Upstaging."

The list could get longer and more complex, as we move from page one to the end of the paper. Some writers are more subtle in their approaches and some incidents are more easily seen as potentially threatening than others.

— continued on page 4

The Vegas Voice Apologizes

The editorial for last week's paper was written by Mr. John Millender. His name was inadvertently left off the editorial.

The VEGAS VOICE apologises for this oversight, and hopes Mr. Millender will continue to send in his material to this newspaper.

NOTICE

All "Letters to the Editor" must bear the name, address, and phone number of the sender if they are to be published. This is for the protection of the writer of the letter as well as protection for the VEGAS VOICE newspaper.

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Mailing address The Vegas Voice, 630 North Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. (702) 382-6123.

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