

Point of View

Editorial

READING A LOST ART

I am a child of television. Being born in 1951 I really can't remember a time without it. Our TV.. was a big piece of furniture with a record player on one side and a small screen on the other.

Many of my childhood experiences are interwoven with TV.. My love for boxing comes from sitting with my father watching "Friday Nights at the fights." Television was my friend. However I am fortunate that my parents taught me that TV was my tool, that I should have control of it, not the other way around. I believe that we may have lost control of television, and in the process lost the art of reading.

Television is a wonderful medium, but it should be used with discretion. Television informs, entertains and babysits. It does such good job that we allow it to perform a lot of other parental functions, from learning ABCs to sex education.

Television lays it right out to you in colorful graphics. Abstract thinking is optional, because TV is such a visual medium.

The visualization process that used to occur in the mind is laid out on the screen. The fault rests with those of us that allow TV to dictate to us and our children.

TV has become such a complete entertainment center that we rarely turn it off, but we should. By our example and our direction, we should put reading and writing back in our homes. The expression "Do as I say, not as I do," never was true. If you don't read, most likely your children won't. Are there books, magazines, and newspapers in your house.. Do you read them.. If you can't see the intrinsic joy of reading, then think about the skill we may be losing. If there is one characteristic that successful people have in common, it is the ability to read well. Reading is a survival skill and a pleasure.

As a contribution to our commitment to reading, the "Sentinel" will periodically print book reviews and suggested reading lists.

Michael K. Boyd

SENTINEL ENDORSES GOYNER-GRAVANTI

It's down to the wire for the North Las Vegas general election and June 2 is the date to make the final choice of our elected leaders.

Of particular interest is the City Councilman race and it all now narrows down to two candidates. While four are running for these important posts, only two will emerge to serve for the next term.

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL has been closely observing this particular race and unequivocally supports City Councilman Theron H. Goynes for reelection and also heartily endorses dedicated, hard-working civic worker Tony Gravanti for the other City Councilman post.

Both men have proven themselves over the years. They work hard for the betterment of the overall city.

Their individual efforts are widespread. Goynes is an astute leader, a seasoned veteran, one who is responsive to the needs of all North Las Vegas. He knows what it takes to get the job done.

Gravanti has fully participated in all aspects of community life. He is a "doer." He has demonstrated leadership in many civic organizations and projects. He is also a "champion" of the youth. Gravanti is a man of vision and wisdom.

The SENTINEL endorses Theron H. Goynes and Tony Gravanti for the two City Councilman posts in The June 2 election.

Criminal Justice System Works

JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS TO WORK BETTER

By Vernon E. Jordan

Just days before Christmas, two well-publicized cases led many to believe that the criminal justice system works, perhaps slowly, but surely.

The first case was that of the Wilmington Ten, one of the most celebrated cases of the seventies. The ten — nine blacks and one white — were accused of a 1971 firebombing during racial disturbances in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The evidence against them wouldn't have gotten anyone convicted of jaywalking had the trial been fair. The only witness to link the defendants to the violence made contradictory statements, received gifts from the prosecutor, and had been a suspect in the bombing himself.

Information about this witness was withheld

from the jury. Last December a federal court found that the jury was misled and the defendants refused their right to a fair trial.

The court set aside the guilty verdict. But the decision came years af-



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ter the trial. The Ten had already served long years in prison. Their appeals had been turned aside by state courts, and state officials consistently refused to abandon the original verdict.

So was justice done in the end? The appeals court vindicated the

system by throwing a patently unfair verdict. But when so much harm has been done, can we say the system really worked? The reversal cannot wipe out years of unjust imprisonment.

Nor can it restore more than six years of life to Jerry Banks, who spent

that evidence had been withheld from the jury and other evidence had been tampered with by the prosecution. This time, it was the District Attorney's office that, after investigating the new evidence presented by Mr. Banks' lawyers, asked the judge to dismiss the charges.

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them in prison, five of them on Death Row.

Back in 1974, Mr. Banks went hunting and discovered two dead bodies in the woods. Like any good citizen he immediately informed the authorities. A few weeks later he was accused of the murders and placed on trial in a rural Georgia courtroom. The verdict was guilty; the sentence, death.

But Jerry Banks was innocent. It was found

So justice was finally done. Or was it? Five long years on Death Row can never be compensated for, nor can a criminal justice system that commits such a flagrant injustice be commended for finally righting the wrongful verdict.

And the Banks case must be discussed in relation to calls for reinstating the death

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ATLANTA FEARS FOR CHILDREN'S LIVES

By Julian Bond

ATLANTA (NEA) — Almost every conversation here turns to the 28 black children kidnapped and killed in a little less than two years.

Some of the children were strangled. Some were stabbed. Some were suffocated.

Some vanished in daylight near their homes. Some were street children, midnight vagabonds, truants.

Atlanta's black population is edgy.

The board meeting of a conservative civil-rights group degenerates into cries of "arrest someone — anyone."

Cocktail party chit-chat focuses on imagined clues and pat theories.

Television stations ask parents where their children are.

The City Council and the mayor impose earlier curfews on those 15 years old or younger. Parents of violators are threatened with fines and imprisonment.

Former policemen, who are conducting their own investigation in competition with current policemen, announce that they have discovered the killer's address. The killer must have heard the news along with everyone else.

A psychic promoting her own new book whistle-stops through town.

"Tough cops" from other cities are ballyhooed as they visit the scene of the crime. Later they slink quietly away.

Dogs and helicopters are used in weekend searches.

One group distributes whistles in schools. Another advertises a telephone number that the killer can call for psychological help. A third an-

nounces that it had the idea first.

President Reagan offers to help. So do various entertainers.

One local politician is criticized for saying too much about the murders. Another is criticized for saying too little.

A white man is nearly mobbed when he seeks directions in a black neighborhood.

A black man is nearly beaten when he stops to talk to a black youngster.

Someone reports seeing a child being pulled into a blue car.

A man with a badge and candy is arrested and released.

Motorists shout at street kids, "Go home, go home!"

A counselor fears that the city's black children may develop emotional problems.

Suspects include pornographers seeking talent for "snuff movies." And policemen. And firemen.

Some say that the murders must have been committed by someone with a child who is used as bait. Or by two men. Or by a man and a woman. Or by whites. Or by the Ku Klux Klan.

White Atlanta is accused of indifference. So is middle-class black Atlanta.

Another child vanishes. Is he a runaway? Is he with friends? Or is he a new name on the list, another funeral, another search, another prayer, another curfew?

The police say they have no suspects, no witnesses, no clues.

Homocide is the leading cause of death for black youth.

Someone is killing our children.