

Point of View

Editorial

Vandalism of the public schools is on the rampage again and it is becoming the costliest to date. School officials are on the verge of pulling their hair out.

Police officials have suggested to school security officials that fences be put around some of the school's parking lots, and "No Trespassing" signs posted to keep large groups of teenagers from holding parties on school grounds.

School officials, to date, have not heeded to these suggestions.

Signs warning the students against trespassing would give

police more authority to arrest any violators. Presently, officers are working under loitering laws, which are very vague.

Ernest Diggs, the school district's chief of security, said he is aware that the problem is growing but says he has not heard suggestions from any Metro personnel about possible solutions.

Vandalism will be costing the school district more than \$100,000 this year.

Something needs to be done and now. The whole matter is getting completely out of hand.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



From out of the West he came, dressed in conservative armor, telling the nation that "big government" was the cause of the nation's ills and offering a prescription to get "big government" off the nation's back. He gathered many to his cause as he went about the nation spreading his gospel on how to right the "mighty foe" called "big government." Call the Moral Majority! Get Jerry Falwell on the phone! Let every TV church bell ring out the message that "big government" is under attack!

In the spirit of the above, Ronald Reagan sent up to Congress his budgetary sword to trim "big government" down to size by cutting many of the Great Society's programs. Like sheep being led to slaughter, both houses of Congress cowered to the President and gave him the cuts he wanted. In the name of cutting federal spending and giving the nation a balanced budget, the Congress wielded Reagan's budgetary sword in a blind and

reckless manner. When they were through, Head Start, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Education For The Economically And Handicapped Youth, Minimum Social Security Benefits, Unemployment Insurance and many more programs designed to aid people and particularly, poor people, were trimmed from the branches of "big government."

The pains that are and will be felt from these atrocious budgetcuts will give "big government" the respect that it deserves. "Big government" is like "big business" and "big oil." They are all made up of "big people." When "big people" such as "big business" and "big oil" get together to rule the nation, the only counter force that the little people have to check them is "big government." A national or multi-national corporation can and does wield tremendous power in this country. The individual citizen living in a particular community is often without means or power to curtail the

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To Be Equal

THE PASSING OF HEROES

By Vernon Jordan

It has become commonplace to say there are no heroes left; obviously, there are. But our limited supply dwindled still further when two great heroes, sources of inspiration for black people and whites alike, passed away within hours of each other early in April.

It would be hard to find two more dissimilar men than Joe Louis and Howard Thurman. One made his mark in the boxing ring; the other in the preacher's pulpit. One was known for his physical prowess, the other for his intellectual greatness.

But, together, they represented two important strands of black experience. Each in his own way stood for an entire body of black achievement, and as inspiration to countless black people who drew sustenance from the deeds of one and the message of the other.

Both were born into the deepest poverty of the Black South and

made their way North to find opportunity and fame.

Howard Thurman made his way in life through the immense



Vernon Jordan

spiritual and intellectual resources that marked him as one of the great preachers and thinkers in our history.

He was a poet, a writer, who could construct intricate sentences that dazzled with splendor, yet also conveyed deep truths and philosophical depths. His autobiography, "With Head and Heart," is must reading.

I often play tapes of his sermons and lectures, and they are moving and profound.

On one of them, he talks of the meaning of the traditional Negro spirituals and suggests the imagery of the song, Deep River, as reflective of life itself, which begins in so small and confined a sphere and

of the phrase. I can remember, as a youngster growing up in an Atlanta housing project, that whenever Joe fought, every — and I mean every — radio in the neighborhood was turned on to hear the

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then grows and courses through ever larger spheres.

Howard Thurman's life was like that; from humble beginnings he brought gifts of compassion and spirituality to many millions who drew sustenance from his thoughts and hope from his teachings.

Joe Louis made his way through life in a very different way — his success came from the strength of his body, the power of his punch, the grace of his carriage. He was probably the greatest fighter of our era.

Joe Louis really was a folk hero, in every sense

blow-by-blow account of yet another Joe Louis victory.

I can recall the tension that would build up in the days before a match. I remember the small bets in the community and my father's advice never to bet against Notre Dame, the Yankees or Joe Louis.

Joe Louis was victimized by the racism that permeated the America of the thirties and forties. But he bore it all with a dignity that transcended the anger he must have felt. And it was that aloof dignity that endeared him to black people. We looked

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CIVIL RIGHTS: NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH

By Bayard Rustin

It is widely recognized that the struggle to improve the social and economic life of black Americans and poor people in the United States has reached an



Bayard Rustin

impasse. While we are fully aware of the impending problems and hardships we face, too little thought has been given to three important questions:

1. What economic

changes have occurred in the 1970s and 1980s which require changes in the strategies and tactics used so successfully in the '60s?

2. Why do we appear to have lost the support of those allies who stood so firmly alongside us in the 1960s?

3. Why do so many of the major objectives and programs we in the civil rights movement earlier espoused appear to have lost support even within much of the black community: integrated schools and housing, busing, etc.?

To intelligently answer these questions we must ask others:

1. To what degree has race declined as the dominant factor in the continuing inequality of the races, and in what areas is this development most apparent?
2. Which problems have

not traditionally received significant attention by black leaders, but require their attention today?

3. Can we develop a strategy to deal with the decline in black political participation? This question involves both the role of blacks in the electoral process (political party par-

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ticipation, registration levels, voter participation rates) and the relationship of blacks to such grass roots forces as community groups, business, the trade union movement, and the like.

4. Can new approaches to affirmative action be devised which can win

the support of a consensus of those groups which once comprised the civil rights coalition? Here it would be essential to carefully look at whether a course of action based on economic and class criteria or on ethnic, religious, racial, and sexual criteria should be pursued.

5. An examination of the

process by which blacks can achieve further economic and social progress.

6. An assessment of the differences between the social and economic programs of the traditional civil rights organizations and those of the black political

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