

OF 'COLORED PEOPLE'

Rock, Arizona, and one Indian from Gallup, New Mexico. All of the others, with the exception of thirty-six "other colored" people were of angle-saxon extraction.

Of those interviewed, during both daylight and evening hours, three hundred and ninety one stated that they were not afraid of me, one couple from Manhattan, Kansas said that they were "apprehensive of all strangers" but after talking with one for a few moments they were no longer afraid, one elderly gentleman simply said: "whadda you? Somekind of nut?," one person asked me if I "wanted to party," one fellow called me a "black... S.O.B., one young man said" no. Can you spare a quarter?" (I couldn't), another two men, who had apparently been observing me asked: "what are you doing? Carrying on some kind of survey or something?" I answered in the affirmative and explained why. The older of the two said "whoever said that is ridiculous. After all, it was not the coloreds who shot Reagan, the Pope, JFK, Martin Luther King, Bobby Kennedy or a whole slew of other people. They were all white. I'm not afraid of white people because of what they did but I wouldn't want to be stalked by any one of those murderers." His associate said "if you guys are so bad, why are there none of you in the Nevada Black Book?" I could only say that "they don't allow colored people in the 'Black Book' — maybe they soon will as a group."

Oh, by the way, there was one fellow, not colored, who definitely was not afraid. He threatened to kick my "black...if you don't get off my...back."

My experiment brought about a great deal of relief for me. Relief because I rediscovered that people were and are not "afraid" of me simply because of the color of my skin. I suppose that most of us have had some negative experiences with people of the same race as we and also with people of dif-

ferent races. We cannot, however, collectively throw everybody who looks that way stereotypically, into some kind of dangerous category. I know of a

lump them all into a category of undesirables. Were we to do so, who would be left to visit downtown?

For years, Black people have un-

taking such action is heightened by the fact that not one in attendance, at that meeting, took issue with the comment. I am not certain if it would be fair to believe that the sentiment voiced by the one is the sentiment of all. It does, however, appear to be.

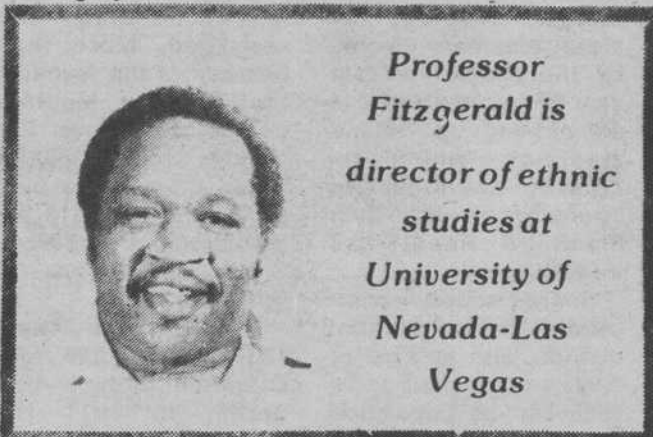
The white guy who was belly down in a rice paddy in Viet Nam with a "colored" soldier was not afraid. The fellow who headed toward the 38th parallel with a "colored" soldier was not afraid, the fellow who snuggled in a foxhole in Germany in 1944 was not afraid, the fellow who hit the trenches in 1981 was not afraid, the Rough Riders who charged up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War in 1898 with "colored" soldiers were not afraid, the 69th NY during the Civil War was not afraid, Andrew Jackson was not afraid to have Black slaves help him defend the city of New Orleans in 1815, those men who stood next to Crispus Attucks at the Boston Massacre were not afraid and on and on and on.

I would venture to say that there are fewer people really afraid of "colored" people than we are willing to believe or admit. If such logic were to be believed, it would appear that Black people would have more

cause to be afraid of white people once we consider the statistics and history of black/white relationships in the United States. I would be willing to bet any amount that, if we were to check the records, we would find an

overwhelming number of atrocities visited upon "colored" people by white people than the reverse. Yet, we do not blame every white person for the atrocities of some.

We would appreciate a bit of reciprocity.



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German fellow who tried to exterminate a whole race of people. That does not mean that everybody of German extraction would do the same — Eisenhower would have attested to that.

I am not afraid of white people simply because there are and have been some who spend their leisure time bombing Black churches, lynching black people, denying black people jobs, housing and even the big three — life, liberty and the pursuit of "...". Every white person is not guilty of the crimes and acts of idiocy of the few. I am certain that white people would resent it if every black person perceived every white person as some form of "Archie Bunker." Black people resent it when they are categorically described as being dangerous.

Here's a revelation. I am certain that there are "colored" people who snatch purses, rip people off, bulgularize, murder, rape, push dope and most of the other crimes. "Colored" people do not have a monopoly on such activity. As difficult as it might initially appear, there are white people who commit crimes also. Fortunately, we do not

ceremoniously been stigmatized by all being defined as the same. Well, here comes revelation number two — we're not all the same. For example, there are some "colored" people who read the article of July 24th, and were not offended by it. Others were offended but chose not to say anything about it and there is apparently one other group, maybe only one person, who read it and was offended by it and because he believes that the comment was not maliciously intended to degrade a whole race of people, elected to voice his concerns in order to minimize future occasions in which such comments might be made at similar gatherings. The need for

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