

# 'N BITS, KIBBLES 'N BITS

floor yell "craps". His sentiments exactly.

He should have known that if he wanted to see the show it required a bit of cash-up-front for an up-front table. If he can only generate twenty bucks and is enough of a pest, he'll get the table on the front row, right in front of the mike. The elevation of the stage necessitates his visiting a chiropractor at show's end.

Those who are earning \$50,000 not only get here, get a room, see a show from a decent seat but they also get to have dinner in one of the gourmet rooms. With a \$60,000 income you can do all of the above and even gamble a bit—on the \$1.00 black jack table. You're probably thinking that I'm pulling your leg. Don't bet on it.

You see, the \$60,000 salary, before taxes, represents \$5,000 per month. After taxes it represents approximately \$3,000 if you have enough children. A mortgage of \$95,000 requires at least \$1200 per month. Already you're down to only \$1800. Remember the price of food, gas, utilities, clothes, something for the savings account for the kid's education, medical, a movie every now and then and an occasional hot lunch for the kids at school? See how easily it is whittled away? How in the world do we make it on \$15,000 per year with the same responsibilities as someone who is earning four times as much?

Still we go for it. We're pushovers. They raise the prices and laugh in our faces. On top of that, we are asked, in however circuitous manners, to go home and raise our kids properly. You know the lines—"work hard, get a good education, tell the truth, honesty is the best policy, be patriotic, etc, etc, etc." Those same kids, from time to time, happen to watch the news or read a newspaper. They see elderly people who have followed all of that ad-

vice being forced to eat dog food. They see guys who have gone off and risked their lives for the country out begging for medical assistance and being spurned by the government. They see people who've worked hard all their lives having nothing to see them through their twilight years. They see people who've saved for a rainy day only to discover that their savings have been washed away by the flooding ravages of inflation. They see people who've lied, cheated and swindled their way into high positions extolling them to be truthful and honest. They've seen it all and they're turning their backs on it and saying "the hell with it."

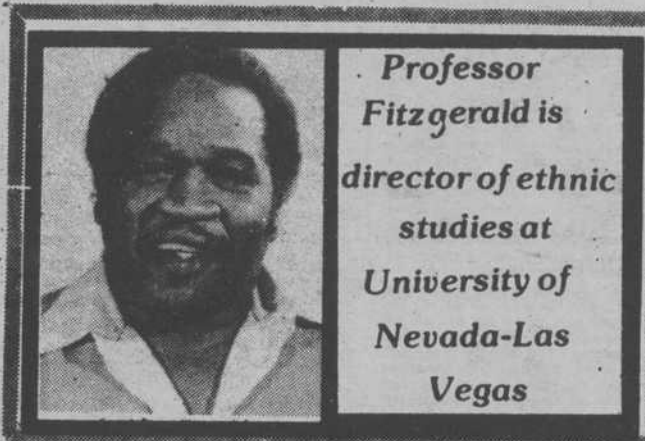
How can a good parent, who has had to scuffle and pinch to make ends meet, compete with crime? One almost gets the feeling that it is not crime but doing the right thing which does not pay. It is difficult to set a good example when every time we do we get our faces shoved in the dirt. Keep trying but do not grow faint-hearted. You're fighting against overwhelming odds and few in authority are backing up your play.

You know, when the economic condition gets so bad that the feds finally admit that the country is in a recession we, as Black people, are in a world of trouble. Recessions do not seem to occur when the unemployment rate among Black people is up to 27%. It occurs when it finally begins to touch the bottom rungs of white America.

We can almost conclude that the Black unemployed will not get jobs until the white unemployed are hired. Have you ever wondered what happened to all of those jobs released by employees who returned to work at the MGM? Where do those jobs come from all of a sudden? Where were they when we were looking for work? Where do they go? We don't get them. Our unemployment rate,

at best, remains the same and at worst, it deteriorates.

restless". We are going to have to let them know that we are not satisfied



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

Yet, we are required to go for it. Yet we spend, spend, spend in all of those places which will not hire us. Our money is good enough, we're just not. It's crazy. Perhaps those of us who are fortunate enough to be working don't care as long as we have food on the table and "Stacey's" on our feet. We pump millions of dollars into the Las Vegas economy yearly. Still we cannot buy a job.

We are the Rodney Dangerfields of the western world—"we don't get no respect".

The President has promised, with the cut-backs in programs he has made, that private enterprise will take up the slack. Have you seen it? I haven't. We are going to have to become more visible. We are going to have to write letters to the governor, to our Senators in D.C. and other politicians. We are going to have to write letters to the editors of the larger newspapers of Las Vegas and let the general populace know that the "natives are

and if our messages are not received and understood on that level, then we're going to have to make them know that we're as mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore.

If we expect to see any improvement in our quality of life we are going to have to do something. Think about it. Sleep on it. Then, look in your refrigerator and listen closely and you'll hear a faint voice which will become increasingly louder each time you look and listen, saying: "Kibbels 'N Bits, Kibbels 'N Bits. I'm gonna get some Kibbels 'N Bits".

It's bad enough to be mistreated but it is even worse to be treated like dogs. That's where it is headed. Can't you see that? Just like the price of sugar, remember, they'll make us suffer as long as we tolerate it.

In 1940, Winston Churchill spoke to the people of Great Britain. He bore only bad news. He told them that what was called the battle of

France was over. He told them that now it would be the battle of Britain.

He said that the people must come to the defense of their country. He said that if they were successful in meeting the challenge, they would save Christian civilization from the evils of Nazism. He told them that a thousand years from now when people read of the history of Britain, they would say

that "this was their finest hour."

We are in the eye of a similar storm. We are being called upon to come to the defense of civil rights in America. A thousand years from now when people read of the history of Las Vegas, let us hope that they do not say that, like Casey in Mudfield, we struck out. Let us be certain that our posterity will say that "this was our finest hour."

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