

# Point of View

## Editorial

The news media is filled with news of local, state, national, and international crises. There are crises situations in Lebanon, in Chad, in Korea (the shooting down of the Korean jet by a Russian fighter plane), in Central and South America, in areas around our nation (the heat wave in the Midwest that has caused millions of dollars in crop damage), in our state (unemployment), and in our valley area (flooding).

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We, as law abiding citizens, must begin to question the effect of so many crisis situations upon the physical and mental health of ourselves and our children. Will our sons and daughters be forced to fight in a war that may or may not concern them directly?

The above question is being asked by more and more of our young men especially. There can be no definitive answer to this question as long as our world leaders do not put forth an honest effort to peaceably settle their differences.

It seems rather apparent that crises become more serious just before announcements are made concerning intentions to seek reelection.

One other question that we may ask is: Are we in any way responsible for the creation of any of the

## Letter To Editor

On behalf of the members of the Graceful Workers Community Club and members of New Bethel Baptist Church, we want to thank officials of Nevada Power Company and Mr. Dave Lewis, their Community Relations Representative, for providing summer employment for more than thirty college-bound youths from the Church's community this past summer. The students worked 40 hours per week for 30 days each, earning more than \$800.00.

Mr. Lewis, Mr. Travis Poole, and this writer were the recruiters of youngsters for the summer program.

All youths involved in the program were either attending college or plan to enroll in college for the first time this fall.

H.P. Fitzgerald, Member  
Graceful Workers Community Club  
Scholarship Chairperson

crises mentioned above? If the United States is responsible in the least for any one critical incident, then we must examine our motives for becoming involved.

Blacks are particularly vulnerable to the effects of crisis situations on the national level. It appears that every time there is an emergency situation, programs aimed at helping Blacks are either reduced or curtailed.

As we enter the fall season, we would do well to rethink our priorities for dealing with situations all around us.

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Well, it is school time again! The first day of school is always a wonderful occasion. It is a day when the children parade their new school clothing and the parent seems to take extra care on this particular day to see that the children are properly groomed. Yes, it is a special day and I imagine it will continue to be special for many for about a few weeks or months until the routine of it all begins to tear at the parents' patience.

It is a special day for many parents, as in my house, where the last little one is beginning his first grade of studies. As the flicking on of the lights cast out the darkness in the hallway and silhouettes began to move back and forth on the wall, the water running in the bathtub and hearing the wife's voice above splashing water, saying, "You should have done that before you got into the bath tub, Joseph," one is left to ponder the meaning of it all, as I have done for twelve years before: Is it the responsibility of the parent to educate their young, or to see that their young are educated?

The process of education is made easy in this country because of public facilities. It is in these public facilities that most of the nation's children will learn about the world. I could not help but think that as my children prepared for school, they were unaware of the many problems facing public education. They were unaware, as many children were, that there is a move afoot to rid this nation of public education as we know it.

The Litany of the bad things about public education will increase as the nation's conservatives attempt to gain control of this major sphere of life's learning process. One can only hope that before the take over comes, there will be enough people who believe in the good of public education to have pulled together to keep education public.

We must keep education free for our children. It is the most used method of self elevation.

*The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists or authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.*

## To Be Equal

# A NECESSARY NATIONAL HOLIDAY

by John E. Jacob

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that would make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a federal holiday. There's a good chance the bill will be approved by the Senate and even signed into law

black community that have long been pressing for such a measure.

Still, there is plenty of opposition. Many of the arguments against a holiday honoring Dr. King are specious. They are transparent attempts to hide the true reasons for opposing a King Day

Street Journal editorialized about the loss of productivity of workers "idled" by another holiday.

That won't hold water. A Congressional Budget

spends on paper clips. Anyway, the meaning of such a holiday transcends narrow cost analyses that don't take into account the beneficial aspects of a King Day.

The real issue is not cost but the meaning of national holidays. Special days like July 4 or Memorial Day symbolize the nation's deepest ideals. They aim at uniting all Americans behind those ideals.

It would be easy to say those days are just excuses for long summer weekends, but that's not true. They direct attention to our past, to sacrifices for our freedoms, and to the principles that bind us



John E. Jacob

Office analysis estimates that the cost would be minimal -- some say it would be less than the Pentagon

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

by a President currently trying to refurbish his image among minorities.

In contrast to past attempts to honor Dr. King, support for the proposal is coming from people occupying all points of the political spectrum as well as from the civil rights and

- refusal to honor a black person and opposition to racial equality.

Much, for example is made of the supposed cost of such a holiday. The Administration initially suggested the cost of another federal holiday would be excessive and the Wall

together. National holidays bring a diverse people together by reinforcing national identity.

Seen from that perspective, a national holiday honoring Dr. King becomes a necessity. There are ample reasons to honor him as a great man, as the leader of a powerful movement that helped black people make great strides, and as the symbol of black people's contributions to

America. But perhaps even more important is the fact that a King Day would buttress the principles that undergird American democracy and ideals.

As a former opponent of the plan to honor Dr. King, Rep. Jack Kemp, now says in support of a King holiday: "The American revolution will not be complete until we commemorate the civil rights revolution."