

# Point of View

## Editorial

Much has been written and spoken through our media about violence in our schools in Clark County recently. After sifting through all of the written and spoken rhetoric, one still comes up with the idea that our schools are not what they used to be.

Yes, the curriculum presentations are still much the same and the teachers are much better prepared, and there were occasional fights in and out of classrooms dating back to the early days of the teacher-guided classrooms. But we must admit that the methods for determining responsibility for wrongful acts have changed tremendously. Gone are the days when students were held responsible and either the teacher or the principal would mete out the punishments. Now we must have a "panel of experts" hear the case and determine if the teacher and/or the building principal have or have not made the "right decision." Gone are the days when students considered the teacher to be the authority in the classroom, and respected this authority. Gone are the days when parents thought of the schools and their teachers as sources to which they could turn for help in rearing their children. Gone are the days when it was the students' responsibility to keep up their grades in school.

We cannot help but shed a proverbial tear when we think of the many joys of childhood and see the many students of today moving into the adult activities faster than their mental, spiritual, and emotional maturities will allow.

It is no wonder that we have students fighting in class and hitting teachers, intentionally or unintentionally, in our classes. Intention is a legal matter. However, the very act of hitting someone else, whether a teacher or another student, in a classroom should not be tolerated. Our children should be taught at home that respect is a two-way street, and that all of their lives, except in rare cases, they will have to respect and obey someone if they are to be successful in the work-a-day world.

## To Be Equal

# TRACKING UNEMPLOYMENT

By John E. Jacob

Every month the Labor Department releases unemployment statistics for the previous month. The media response during this recovery period has been to stress the strength of the recovery and the swift decline in the jobless rate. But that kind of simplistic coverage hides the very real, continuing problem of high unemployment.

The overall jobless rate, now just under eight percent, is better than it was but far worse than what it ought to be. Some eight million people are still officially unemployed.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Counting discouraged workers, who have given up job-hunting because they

couldn't find work, and part-time workers who really want full-time jobs, real unemployment is far higher. We still have recession-level jobless rates. And black workers still have Depression-level unemployment—almost 17 percent.

I have to wonder if the complacency about unemployment is due to the fact that its victims are disproportionately blacks and other minorities. White adults, for example, have unemployment rates of under six percent. But black adult men have jobless rates of over 15 percent, while the black teenage unemployment rate is about 47 percent.

But it's wrong to focus on that single, highly

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



The trip Mr. Reagan took to China is over and he is heading back home to reap any political benefit which may have been derived from such a trip.

From all news accounts, the China trip was not as successful as Mr. Reagan would have wanted it to be. Mr. Reagan would have much rather been coming home with a military pact with the Chinese against the Russians. This he did not get. The China government proved to be very sophisticated in managing Mr. Reagan on his trip. The China government did not allow Mr. Reagan to get them into a squabble with the Russians. Those statements made by Reagan which were critical of the Russians, were censored by the China government.

The China government seems to be sending the Americans a message that is very clear - "We want your technologies for the development of our country, but we don't need your ideology." It is a concept which does not set well with our President, who would have loved having a military treaty with China because of its contiguous borders with the Russians. It is because of these contiguous borders that China would much rather soft-peddle any disagreement they may have with the Russians.

Even though China has over a billion people within its borders, they seem to be suggesting to the super powers that a neutral course in world affairs may be in order for them. They seem to be suggesting this by

policies which are being implemented within that country. Their policy on birth control seems to down any evidence that China is in the game of expansionism, as has been the accusation against the Russians.

Besides selling the Chinese the technology they need, we can learn some things from them. They are one of the oldest civilizations in existence today. The Chinese had a standing army in existence two hundred years before Christ. Just to be able to study the history of such a civilization could prove to be very meaningful to modern governments such as ours.

We often refer to China as a backward nation. A civilization which has been in existence for over four thousand years could hardly be called a backward nation. It depends on whose standard you use to judge backwardness. Of course, there are things that they don't have that more modern societies take for granted. But modern societies must face the question as to whether many of the modern inventions are good for us in the long run, or will our modern inventions bring us problems of an unforeseen consequence. We have had and shared in advances of our modern technologies. The factories which brought much of this technology to us are now the villains in the pollution of our streams, thus threatening our natural water supply. The robots which are now doing the jobs of humans, are the cause of much unemployment in this country.

Our advanced technology has made us less tolerant of ourselves as human beings. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening as the emphasis upon technology is to increase someone's profit margin rather than to make it better for us as a nation. The Chinese seem to understand the place that technology should have in improving their nation as a whole.

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John E. Jacob

If we look at those long-term trends, we see the unemployment problem in its full dimension for there is a clear pattern of more frequent recessions, shorter re-

covery periods, higher unemployment, and a permanent Depression in the black community.

Since 1971 we've had four recessions and two of them, including the last one, would have been labeled Depressions in the past. The beginning of each recession period found more

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people unemployed than at the start of the previous recession.

Unemployment is getting longer too, as the jobless are out of work for longer periods. Currently, some two million people were jobless for 27 weeks or more—not including almost as many who are no longer

counted as being in the labor force.

Another disturbing trend is the fact that fewer of the jobless get unemployment compensation benefits. In the past about half did—That's down to about a third now.

Still another trend has serious implications for

the economy, and especially for opportunities for the jobless. The official statistics tell us how many jobs there are but while the job-generating capacity of the economy looks impressive, a large proportion of the jobs are part-time or marginal.

About 20 percent of

the jobs in America are part-time jobs—over 19 million. About five and a half million people work part-time when they want full-time work.

And many of those full-time jobs aren't really full-time, since they are characterized by periodic layoffs. Only about half the work force works full-time 52 weeks a year.

Blacks, relegated to marginal jobs, are the prime victims of the marginal job market. Over a third of all black workers had two spells of joblessness last year. Each typically lasted over 16 weeks.

Add to that the millions of jobs that pay below-poverty level wages and you can see

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