

Point of View

Editorial

How will education fare in Nevada during this legislative session?

During the last session there had been so much media criticism of education that the legislators seemed to be reluctant to pass legislation that would in any way benefit education.

Conservative legislators, both Republicans and Democrats, made their voices heard in their cry of a "below average" educational system in Nevada. This cry was used as an excuse for "below average" funding for education in the state.

Many teachers, who had done their very best to teach children, became disgusted, threw up their hands in utter dismay, and assumed the attitude of "What's the use? The harder we try, the more criticism we get." Yet most of these teachers continued to work hard with their charges and to make sure that they were not at fault in the criticism of our educational system by the political opportunists.

No one has said anything about the fact that teachers' pay has not kept up with inflation. No one has said anything about the fact that teachers' supplies have been limited. No one has said that teachers are attempting to educate "all" children regardless of their physical, mental, or emotional condition. No one has said anything about the frustration that parents experience when they have no job, and take their frustrations out on the teachers or on their children.

We think that these issues should also be addressed by the legislators, and that they should become more aware of the problems inherent in teaching children.

To Be Equal

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By John E. Jacob

The celebrations surrounding Black History Month will pay their due to great leaders ranging from Frederick Douglass to the Martin Luther Kings, Roy Wilkins', and Whitney Youngs of more recent civil rights struggles.

This is fitting, for a people that knows its history and is in close touch with the uniqueness of its past is a people equipped to face the future.

Thus, it is appropriate for us to view the vast canopy of black history with pride in the still-continuing struggle to achieve full equality in fact as in law.

And it is important to pay tribute to the role black institutional strengths have played in

that struggle.

For the history of black Americans is far from being simply the story of great men and women struggling against immense forces of oppression. It is also the story of millions upon millions of ordinary, humble black people who survived, who held jobs, worked hard, raised families, and expressed their collective will through institutions they founded, guided and supported.



John E. Jacob

We need only think of the black church as one such institution that comforted a people sorely burdened, that defended their rights, that marshalled their social and economic power to create islands of hope in a sea of despair.

Another basic institution is the black college, born to teach ex-slaves the skills of survival and growing to teach their great-grandchildren the technology of the 21st century.

There are many other institutions that give voice to black hopes and expression to black talents—the black press, the fraternities and sororities, the business, labor and professional organizations, and in virtually every community, the social and fraternal groups.

And numbered among these institutional strengths of the community must be the civil rights and social welfare organizations, many of which have roots extending to the early years of this cen-

tury. This year marks the National Urban League's 75th anniversary. The NAACP reached that landmark last year. Others can point to many decades of service.

The broad organizational base of the community enabled black people to survive in a hostile environment. It has helped create new opportunities while at the same time trying to correct continuing inequities and the effects of discrimination.

Black people understand this well. Unfortunately, the President

will need special help to enable them to participate in those opportunities.

It is presumptuous for anyone, even a president, to tell a people which organizations they need and which they don't, especially when the advice comes from one who was supported by barely a tenth of all black voters and whose Administration has demonstrably worsened conditions for blacks.

Black institutions have survived not because they met with the

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does not. He recently said that if blacks "ever become aware of the opportunities that are improving they might wonder whether they need some of those organizations."

Black people know that opportunities are improving, thanks in large part, to the work of their own institutions. And they also know that a large portion of the black community

approval of presidents, but because they articulated the needs and aspirations of black people and because they provide their constituents with the services they so desperately needed.

In this Black History Month it is good to remember that, and to recall that our community institutions serve as focal points for black progress and achievement.

REFLECTION ON 1984

Dear Editor:

As we stand on the edge of '85 and reflect on 1984, the year of the Orwell predictions, I did not notice anything concerning some of the events that transpired on the national level as it relates to Black Americans.

As much as this conservative administration might have cut back, it is inconceivable of the achievement that was made on the national level. It is also appalling how little has been achieved on the local level. It is basically because of the lack of cohesiveness. Evidently we have not become aware of the importance of working united. For if we could realize how essential it is for all of us to work together, we would immediately devise a method that would bring us together. There has never been a baseball team that won consistently without a united effort of all the players.

We need to take a good look at where we are, where we are going, and how we are to get there.

Rev. S. P. Parks

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Know Your History

The tree
rests on its roots.

~ African Proverb