

Point of View

Editorial

A Clark County Detention Center Sergeant was arrested recently for allegedly accepting money for arranging a prisoner's escape from the Detention Center.

Crime knows no ethnic identity nor position. Criminals appear in all sorts of places and engage in all sorts of things.

Since we are not a court of law, we do not presume to declare the sergeant innocent or guilty until proven one way or the other, and neither should the general public.

The mystery in this affair is that an undercover agent was allegedly used to make contact with the sergeant. It could very easily appear that the Metro-Police Department was, in fact, a party to a crime by using an undercover agent as in the FBI sting operations engaged in recently in our country.

Crime must not be tolerated at any level. However, our nation must render justice on an equal basis to all of its citizens. Has the sergeant been made a scapegoat for some action by a higher official? We hope not.

With the increasing amount of criminal activity in our city, state, and nation, it behooves us all to be on the lookout for crime in high places, and all in-between places.

To Be Equal

ACTING ON CIVIL RIGHTS

By John E. Jacob

I was among the crowd of several thousand people who recently marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the historic Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march.

The contrast with the original march in 1965 was powerful. Then, state troopers mounted a violent attack on peaceful demonstrators. This time, an integrated police force stood by respectfully.

But, I could not help thinking that for all the enormous progress that has

been made since the march twenty years ago, much remains to be done in civil rights.



John E. Jacob

It's not enough simply to pass laws; they must be enforced as well. And despite massive changes in at-

titudes, discrimination still exists even where it is hidden behind other excuses — such as the refusal to hire 'unqualified' workers who happen to be

'quotas' by opponents, although the only quota-based affirmative action plans are those that have been ordered by courts as remedies for proven illegal

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black.

The persistence of discrimination, and the effects of past discriminatory patterns in housing, education and jobs, makes it necessary to pursue affirmative action policies.

Affirmative action is still a controversial issue. It is often mis-named as

discriminatory practices.

Voluntary affirmative action programs have been adopted by many companies. Over two-thirds of all large corporations have special recruiting programs for minorities and most report they've changed their hiring selection procedures.

TOWARD EMPOWERMENT

RE-EDUCATING OUR PEOPLE ABOUT WHO WE ARE Part 1 By Winnie Palmer

Editor's Note: We have begun deviating for the first time ever from our policy of the past by sharing space in this previously 'sacred' column with distinguished national leaders who are as equally committed to Black solidarity as an essential means of achieving the equity and justice needed for our nation's overall good as are we who are opinion molders in the Black press. There never can be

equitable empowerment for all people unless Black needs are addressed from the unique Black perspective just as White needs always have been addressed from the White perspective. The only predicament has been that—in the past—our point of view was left out with the result that there is a great imbalance in the bargaining power of Black Americans. In order to help correct that grave imbalance, we urge our

readers to share these columns widely with persons within and without our communities. This week's guest opinion leader is Ms. Winnie Palmer, national program director of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. The opinions of each columnist are their own and not necessarily that of every individual in their organization.

BLACK NEWSPAPERS GAVE US TRUTH

The Black newspaper meant much to many of us who grew up during the depression years. For then the only way we could learn of the many good things, along with the lynchings and other crimes against our people, was through the Black newspaper. Other newspapers simply didn't print anything about the positive side of Black life. The only crimes the White newspapers reported were those by us and never those against us.

We as Black people were segregated, discriminated against and were aware that we were looked upon—and treated as—second class citizens. Many of us can remember the time when there was an average of a lynching of a Black almost on a daily

basis. This wasn't reported by others. But the Black newspaper always gave us the truth.

White Newspapers Not Only Villain

The White newspapers were not the only perpetrators of fiction on us. Our textbooks that we used to 'officially' let us know *who we are* portrayed us in a sad and often-morbid way. Another thing was obvious about these 'official' books used to each us about *who we are*. It was the fact that those same textbooks didn't portray White America correctly either. White Americans always have been pictured in a positive light which often was vastly different from reality.

Textbooks Not Made For Blacks

In the early developmental stages of our nation's educational system—and continuing for many years—Black Americans were not targeted for education. Thus, textbooks were not made for us. Also, our textbooks always have been used to paint whatever picture wanted by those in power.

As an example of deliberate textbook distortions, the vast majority of

White immigrants came to America as indentured servants. But, our textbooks do not emphasize this point. Indentured servanthood was one of the major forms of human enslavement before the never-before-heard-of American form of creating human chattel of those of us of African descent. This devastating fact also—and perhaps understandably by those in power—has not been emphasized in the text-books in our schools. Textbooks were not made for Blacks.

Negative Impact of State of Georgia-Type Case

Almost all of the original settlers in Georgia were brought there from European jails. Georgia was established originally as a penal colony. However, text-books printed for use in any state where this fact is made known are not allowed in the public schools in the state of Georgia. The powers that be in Georgia recognize that negative portrayals of the ancestry of White youth could be a significant deterring factor in the learning process.

In this same censoring way, students in a number of states are subjected to the censorship rules imposed by Georgia, Texas and other 'textbook watcher' states. Practically 100 percent of those doing the censorship are White—many of whom are of a pro-White Christian extremist background.

Thus, because of the nature of the censorship process, Blacks (with few exceptions) have continued to be eliminated in terms of positive portrayal.

Black Newspapers Fill The Void

Many of our older Blacks in situations similar to mine (as a recently retired educator) remember the controversy over what we called 'social integration' which, in many cases, has turned out to be a helping hand to unintended false illusions and false hopes. Due to the help of editorials like this Toward Empowerment series in our Black newspapers, we have been able to see that, in reality, we live in a social caste system that is fixed and firm. It is so much so, that

See PALMER, Page 8

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OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE
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