

# Point of View

## Editorial

### SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE--

The Editorial, "Blacks Do Not Look Alike, Nor Act Alike," which appeared in an earlier issue of the SENTINEL was aptly written by its then Feature Writer Roosevelt Fitzgerald. The article vividly sketched how attitudes of many constantly group all Blacks in one category. The case in point was that "Drug bust" in, at that time, the Gerson Park area. The actions of a few reflected on the entire community. It was the Westside "this," the Westside "that."

The general press treatment of the incidents suggested that all blacks are involved one way or another in such criminal activity.

Fitzgerald said, "Always, someone or some area has to be placed in the position of the scapegoat. Somebody must pay the piper in order for it to appear that the job is being done. Such is the case with black communities. Blacks are seen collectively as a community whether it is on a street, campus, town, state, country or world level."

He continued, "What a person does, whoever that person is and whatever that person happens to be, is a reflection on every black person who has ever or will ever live."

Often, one has to be wary of those who occasionally make the comment, "some of my best friends are black." Many really need the "litmus" test.

Time will really tell who the genuine "liberals" are.

Is there really a need to say, "some of my best friends are--?"

## Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

It has been my contention for over forty years that I have been in Las Vegas that the Las Vegas branch of NAACP will not be successful until we are able to get all the churches in West Las Vegas involved.

For some unknown

reason, the local branch of Las Vegas has strayed away from the Church. I think it is time for all of us to go back from where we all started from. Now that we have a minister of the gospel at the head of the helm, I think we can move now. Not only has he had thirty years in NAACP

work, but he was also the first executive director for this local branch. He is capable, efficient, well known locally and nationally. Above all he is dedicated.

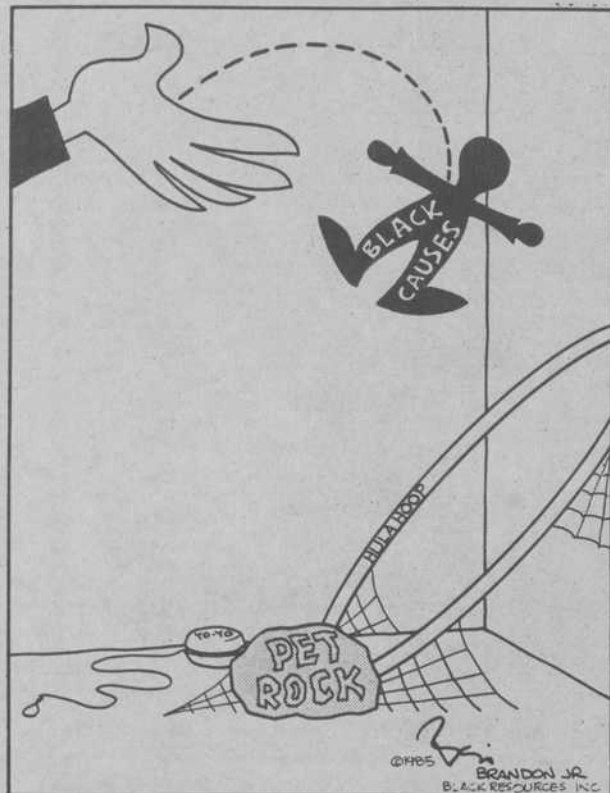
I think we have come up with a plan that will bring the community wide churches back to the NAACP. We will label the second Sunday in each month "NAACP SUNDAY" in every Church in West Las Vegas.

I am sure you are well aware of the blood shed by Martin Luther King and Medger Evers and the six children that were killed in Alabama. These things should make us want to be a part of NAACP. "Remember the KKK and the Nazis are still riding until we learn that together we stand, divided we fall."

Let us all go back to the NAACP and join up to make a city wide effort to do the things that NAACP stands for — "The Advancement of Colored People."

Bishop E.N. Webb, Rev. S.P. Parks, Herman Moody, Marjorie Elliott and Rev. Willie Davis are on the committee to endorse this day.

Respectfully yours,  
James A. (Jimmy) Gay



## To Be Equal

### Jobs For Youth

By JOHN E. JACOB

How to lower the disastrously high youth unemployment rate is the subject of intense debate in Washington. One approach gaining favor is a subminimum wage for young people.

But there is evidence to indicate that a subminimum would have little, if any impact on minority youth unemployment.

The minimum wage law already contains loopholes that allow many employers to pay a substantial portion of the youth labor force below-minimum wages. So if a lower minimum is supposed to create more jobs for youths, it hasn't happened.

And the minimum wage has already been reduced — in real purchasing power,

today's minimum wage is actually lower than it was back in 1967. Then, it was \$1.40 per hour. Today's \$3.35 per hour has a



John E. Jacob

purchasing power, in 1967 dollars, of only \$1.29

The minimum wage has also fallen relative to average wages. Back in 1970, the minimum came to 50 percent of the average private sector wages; today it is around 40 percent.

Since the real cost of the minimum wage to employers has actually gone down, we might expect an improvement in the youth unemployment situation but it has worsened. That suggests the minimum wage is not a crucial factor in employers' hiring decisions, and that lowering the wage for young people would not materially affect their employment prospects.

That inference is supported by the fact that employers have not taken advantage of the current legal exemptions to the minimum wage, nor of the array of tax credits and other incentives to hire disadvantaged youth.

The important thing to remember in the debate over youth employment is that black youngsters want to work and will respond to incentives to work. Surveys show that black and white youngsters have essentially the same outlook toward working, expect similar wages for a given job, and are reluctant to work for less.

The difference is that white youths get the jobs and black don't. To suggest they accept lower wages than whites is a dangerous formula no one could seriously consider. But the

implication of such studies is that both white and black youths would be reluctant to accept wages below what they realistically regard as fair.

So lowering the minimum wage looks like a "quick fix" solution to a problem

handful of selected cities as a tightly controlled experiment for a limited duration. The experiment would be carefully monitored and the results publicized.

If such an experiment proved that the lower subminimum created more

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that goes a lot deeper than many wish to believe.

Minority youth unemployment is stubbornly high for a variety of reasons, including the steady elimination of low-skill jobs from the economy, the transformation of urban economies, and the well-documented reluctance of many small businesses — the largest employers of young people — to hire disadvantaged minority youth.

Such factors would not be changed by a youth subminimum. But to the extent that so many people believe that a lower youth wage is a cure for the problem it serves as a serious barrier to more relevant action.

So it might make sense to try a youth subminimum in a

jobs for young people, then it could go nationwide. If, as I suspect, it proves the opposite, we could get on with more promising alternatives.

But whatever Congress decides to do about the minimum wage, it must take realistic action to end the astronomical unemployment figures among young people by vastly expanding skills training programs, implementing programs that ease the transition from school to work, and otherwise making disadvantaged youth more attractive to prospective employers.

The youth subminimum won't do that. It will only offer the illusion that something is being done, while the problem will persist.

### Let Your Imagination Guide You to Happiness

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Stress and its effects upon the body are detrimentally fascinating. Here are a few examples to show you what I mean:

1) A young lady, preparing to take her college finals, was so afraid of failing that on the night before the examinations, she found large black blotches all over her body.

2) Another young lady preparing for a job interview became so nervous her body developed rashes similar to poison ivy.

3) A man preparing for his

first professional boxing match was so tense he was unable to lift his right arm because of acute stiffness and annoying soreness.

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