

Point of View

Editorial

Blacks in Las Vegas are and always have been resourceful. However, many of our resources have either been exploited or used in ways that have not been entirely beneficial to the masses of our community.

One resource within the Black community is being used to promote good within our community. We refer to Radio Station KCEP, funded and operated by authority of the State of Nevada and the Clark County Economic Opportunity Board. This station is being used to acquaint its listeners with world events, sports activities, public forums, talk shows, cultural events and many other goings on that would not normally be introduced through other means. This enables others within the larger Las Vegas community to hear, first hand, many of the good things that are in progress within our community.

Radio Station KCEP had undergone an almost complete remodeling operation. The offices and studios are larger than ever. New equipment was purchased and installed, new personnel were brought on board, new rules and regulations are in place, the operational power of the station was increased, and several other exciting things have happened to the station. The community can feel proud of the many accomplishments that have taken place to better enable the station to serve the populace.

KCEP is one of the beacon lights in our community, serving as a guide for other persons who would like to develop other resources.

The management and staff of KCEP are to be congratulated for a job well done in bringing to our Black community a radio station to be used and enjoyed by all.

The station is only one of many resources in our community that are working hard to make the area a better area in which to live.

The one area of concern appears to be the influx of so-called non-profit organization names that are flourishing with commercial-type announcements. A study and research needs to be done to prove the validity of some.

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

"The tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal, the tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream."

Dr. Benjamin Mays
Moorehouse College

To Be Equal

BOOST BLACK COLLEGE ATTENDANCE RATES

By John E. Jacob

President Reagan recently pointed to the fact that black college attendance more than quadrupled since 1960 as an example of the great strides made by black citizens.

The steady rise in black college graduates and people with some college training had a ripple effect as well — leading to a bigger black presence in managerial and professional and technical jobs for which a college education is necessary.

But the high point in black college attendance was reached in 1975, when some studies suggested that the proportion of black high school graduates entering college was about the same as the proportion of whites.

Even then, those figures should have been examined more critically, since higher

percentages of blacks dropped out of high school and of those who graduated, higher percentages went to community colleges, not four-year schools.

But in 1975 it did look as if



John E. Jacob

we were on our way to educational parity with whites, in at least one important measurement. By the late 1970s there was an erosion in black college admission rates and now

there is a definite and strong slippage — some big universities have half the black freshmen they had three years ago.

What happened? Federal cuts in student aid are part of the reason. Fewer minority students are getting aid grants. Loans make up a larger part of student aid packages, and many low-

withdrawn.

The federal cuts are felt strongest in the black colleges, where enrollments have fallen by ten percent over the decade from 1972 to 1982. Those schools' mission is to provide quality education for student bodies that are disproportionately poor and they have done an incredibly outstanding job.

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income students choose to forego college rather than take on such a staggering debt load.

Cuts in federal tutoring and counseling programs for disadvantaged students also hurt. One estimate is that 50,000 students may have dropped out of school because that support was

They and their students need more federal and private assistance, not less.

But the historically white colleges and universities must take part of the blame for the decline in black student enrollment.

Few colleges have really set out to target minority students and recruit them. Few have gone out of their way to fashion aid packages to make it possible for disadvantaged students to stay in college.

Some schools have shifted aid policies. Where they once made assistance to disadvantaged students a priority, they now spend more of their scarce resources to attract students they are particularly anxious to get, regardless of income.

And many colleges refuse to acknowledge that many disadvantaged students may need non-financial assistance as well, in the alien, threatening environment of a large university.

Back in the early 1970s some colleges often went out of their way to attract students from minority groups and poor families; today they seem to be saying that they'd just as soon not be troubled.

That's a betrayal of their mission to provide higher educational opportunities for all who are qualified or, as important, qualifiable. And it's a prescription for trouble if both the government and the universities think they can write off another generation of black youth.

CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman

Hunger, Here and Now

"Inside the remnants of a house, alongside a dirt road . . . lived a family of 13 people . . . No food was in the house. The babies had no milk . . . Only the flies which crawled on the face of the smallest child seemed to be well fed. The parents were not; they had not eaten for two days. The children had eaten some dried beans the previous evening."

A tragic scene from a drought-plagued Third World Nation? An historic glimpse of America during the Great Depression?

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all views from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number, if any. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

No. This is a portrait of an American family today, living in the heart of some of our nation's richest land, the Mississippi Delta. A group of doctors came across this family, and many others like it, as they travelled across America last year to find out the extent of our hunger problem in this nation.

Even to men and women who are used to seeing human suffering, what they found was very disturbing. The recently-released report of the Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America says that "hunger and malnutrition are serious problems in every region of this nation."

It is hard to put exact numbers on this problem. But the Task Force report estimated that malnutrition now affects roughly half a million American children. Up to 20 million Americans may be hungry at least for some period of time each month. Low birthweight

among babies and growth failures among children, among other medical problems linked to inadequate nutrition, are



particularly serious among low-income families, the report says.

Hunger is now a "national health epidemic," which is "more widespread and serious than at any time in the last ten to fifteen years" the doctors tell us. And it's

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