

# Point of View

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Happy Helpers,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the forgotten members of our community. It is most particularly important now because Easter is the time Americans usually open up their hearts for loved ones. Even in the bible many things are said about charity. For an example "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." It is therefore clear that the pure love can not only be for our family or loved ones.

Unfortunately, during this cold season it is not uncommon to see our other neighbors; the poor and helpless, homeless, drug victims, unemployed, sick and needy members of our wealthy society helplessly wandering around, and some lying on street corners, dressed in rags and weeping in hunger. You might not have been able to invite them, yet you have a burning human love to help. This may be an opportunity for you to stretch out your tender and kind hands to help feed these humans. The very spirit of Easter commemorate the death of whom we know come to look with great pity on crippled, poor, and needy.

It is this spirit of love and concern that led to the organization of the Community Citizen Concern Program. In the past two years this organization has been responsible for taking care of some six thousand needy people. During this economic depressed period, and cut in government spending many residents including street

people flock to our organization for material support and counseling. People without bare necessities such as food, clothing and shelter are always assisted. We depend on public support, collect discarded foods from grocery stores. Again this year our goal is to feed more than twenty thousand people, we are currently planning a feed for hungry program during Easter time.

We want to know that no one individual or organization may be able to solve this serious problem facing our community. We write in the hope that your corporation or yourself will be able to lend financial support.

Although some grocery stores have done a tremendous job helping, we must raise enough funds to see that more people are fed, clothed and counselled. Our drug counseling program is about to start, and we really need your full support.

It is our hope that your corporation will donate heartily towards our immediate need. Not only will your support help this Easter time, but it will have additional impact of helping us to successfully carry on material help, and counselling throughout the year ahead.

We urge you to visit with us to see first-hand the good work that has been done to date.

Please do not hesitate to lend your helping hand, by completing the enclosed donation form. Remember that all donations to our organization are tax deductible.

Sincerely,  
Eliza Rone  
Executive Director (Founder)  
Community Citizen Concern Program

*"The basis of all human progress and of all civilization is the family. Despoil the idea of family, assail rudely its elements, its framework, and its essential principles, and nothing but degradation and barbarism can come to any people."*

Alex Crummel  
1819-1898

## To Be Equal

# Toppling Dictatorships

By JOHN E. JACOB

The world was treated to the pleasant spectacle of watching two of its uglier dictatorships toppled from power recently, leading to a lot of talk about a world-wide resurgence of democracy.

First to go was "Baby Doc," scion of the Duvalier clan that has misruled Haiti for nearly three decades.

While Haitians starved, or risked death at sea trying to flee to the U.S. in small boats, Baby Doc and his cronies salted away untold millions in Swiss banks and others havens for ill-gotten gains.

As they partied behind the walls of opulent villas guarded by a sadistic private army the people of Haiti had neither food nor freedom.

It's hard to call the Duvalier Regime government; it was more like a Mafia mob terrorizing an entire country.

A similar discription might apply to the Philippines. When I was there last November I was convinced that President Marcos' days were numbered. People were fed up with Marcos'

unconstitutional rule.

Driven by the election campaign that offered a glimmer of hope and the outrageous stolen election



John E. Jacob

that followed, the people were galvanized to action.

While the actions of the military and other sectors both in Haiti and the Philippines were important, in the final analysis it was the people themselves who toppled their illegitimate rulers.

In Haiti they controlled the streets, evened the score with the gangsters of the Tonton Macoute, and proved that the regime could no longer govern. In the Philippines, they put their bodies on the line, massing in front of the rebel army

camp and the rebel-controlled television station to protect their chosen leaders from Marcos' army brigades.

When people lay down in front of tanks and show they are willing to die for freedom,

Africa's movement away from oppression is likely to be protracted and bloody. The United States can help shorten that nation's agony and avert further bloodshed by standing up for democracy as it did, however

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no power on earth can stop that massive popular will.

Today, we are seeing another expression of that will to freedom in South Africa. The parallels are there, however fervently some would deny them.

In South Africa, nearly two years of popular resistance has clearly demonstrated the illegitimacy of the minority white government. Every day brings more deaths, but every day also brings a strengthened determination of the black majority to continue its struggle against its oppressors.

So just as the handwriting on the walls of Haiti and the Philippines was unmistakably clear, so too is it apparent that South

hesitantly, in Haiti and the Philippines.

There, we helped fly the dictators out of the country and publicly endorsed the popular movements that drove them from office. In South Africa, we can marshal world-wide action against South Africa, apply stringent financial, economic and diplomatic measures to insist that apartheid be dismantled, and give moral and financial support to South Africans fighting for their freedom.

The positive role the U.S. played in supporting the movement for popular democracy in Haiti and the Philippines should be duplicated by finally placing ourselves firmly on the side of freedom in South Africa, too.

## 'Hidden Heritage,' A Major Exhibition of Black American Art

NEW YORK — "Hidden Heritage," a major survey exhibition of Black American Art covering the period from 1800 through 1950, will tour eight states during the next two years.

The exhibition will be seen this year at the California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, from April 7 - June 2; The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT, July 4 - August 31 and The Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC, Sept. 22 - Nov. 17.

The tour will continue at The San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX, Dec. 15, 1986 - Feb. 9, 1987; The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, March 8 - May 3, 1987; The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, June 1 - July 27, 1987; The Pennsylvania Academy

of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 23 - Oct. 18, 1987 and Oklahoma Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, OK, Nov. 15, 1987 - Jan. 10, 1988.

The exhibition was organized by the Bellevue Art Museum and The Art Museum Association of America and Dr. David C. Driskell, Professor of Art at the University of Maryland, was the curator.

Drawn from Museums and private collections, "Hidden Heritage: Afro-American Art 1800 - 1950" features acknowledged major artists, including sculptor Mary Edmonia Lewis and painters Henry O. Tanner and Horace Pippin. Among the show's "rediscoveries" are Edward M. Bannister, an important exponent of the Barbizon School and Grafton T. Brown, believed to be the

first Black artist active in the American West.

Also featured are portraits by Joshua Johnston, who was born a decade before the American Revolution, and the early works by such major contemporary artists as Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

Stanley S. Scott, Vice President and Director of Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Companies Inc., who welcomed hundreds of guests to the exhibit, said "Philip Morris is proud to show the nation and the world that black artists have made significant contributions to the total American art forms for many

generations."

Since 1958, Philip Morris Companies Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates around the world have contributed to more than 600 cultural organizations, programs and activities.

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.

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