

Point of View

Editorial

Much has been written and spoken through our media about violence in our schools in Clark County recently. After sifting through all of the written and spoken rhetoric, one still comes up with the idea that our schools are not what they used to be.

Yes, the curriculum presentations are still much the same and the teachers are much better prepared, and there were occasional fights in and out of classrooms dating back to the early days of the teacher-guided classrooms. But we must admit that the methods for determining responsibility for wrongful acts have changed tremendously. Gone are the days when students were held responsible and either the teacher or the principal would mete out the punishments. Now we must have a "panel of experts" hear the case and determine if the teacher and/or the building principal have or have not made the "right decision." Gone are the days when students considered the teacher to be the authority in the classroom, and respected this authority. Gone are the days when parents thought of the schools and their teachers as sources to which they could turn for help in rearing their children. Gone are the days when it was the students' responsibility to keep up their grades in school.

We cannot help but shed a proverbial tear when we think of the many joys of childhood and see the many students of today moving into the adult activities faster than their mental, spiritual, and emotional maturities will allow.

It is no wonder that we have students fighting in class and hitting teachers, intentionally or unintentionally, in our classes. Intention is a legal matter. However, the very act of hitting someone else, whether a teacher or another student, in a classroom should not be tolerated. Our children should be taught at home that respect is a two-way street, and that all of their lives, except in rare cases, they will have to respect and obey someone if they are to be successful in the work-a-day world.

*In traditional Africa
it is the father's responsibility
to train his children to
be truly people of
valour and honesty.*



To Be Equal

JOBS — THE NEGLECTED ISSUE

By John E. Jacob

The current economic recovery masks the pervasive destruction of middle-income jobs, including many held by black and minority workers.

Overall, what is happening is that America is losing better paying production jobs and replacing them with lower paying service jobs, many of which are part-time. Beyond the terrible impact on workers and their families, the changing job structure contributes to the massive federal deficit due to lower tax revenues.

If anything, the figures show that it is wrong to assume that all it takes to put people back to work is a general economic recovery. Unemployment is still at levels that used to be regarded as unacceptable, while countless jobs are lost forever.

Over the past six years we've lost 1.6 million factory jobs. Last year we had a trade deficit of \$112 billion in manufactured goods. If that trade were in balance, Americans would have had two million more jobs.

Look at the sectors most

impacted by imports — textiles, autos, steel, and others. The big share of the work force in those industries ranges from 12 to 20 percent.

A Congressional study found that 11.5 million workers lost jobs because of plant shutdowns in the past six years. Only 60 percent of



John Jacobs

them found new jobs, virtually all of them paying lower wages than the jobs that were lost.

And while three out of five displaced white workers found new jobs, only two out of five displaced black workers did.

Although Congress debates the merits of protecting industries being battered by imports, there's a lot less concern about

helping workers in those industries adjust to a future in which their jobs will disappear.

Even putting the brakes on imports won't save jobs permanently; it will only give companies time to become more competitive by automating and cutting costs.

Economists suggest that we're moving toward a post-industrial economy in which

tax incentives for research and development, and plant and equipment purchases by industry designed to reduce the need for labor. But the government spends only \$25 million on worker training.

A national full employment policy that stresses educational improvements, job and skills training for the disadvantaged and the displaced, and public employment opportunities for

*John E. Jacob is President Of
The National Urban League*

the best jobs will be information-based jobs requiring high skills levels. The old-time assembly line jobs will still exist, but they'll employ fewer, more highly skilled people who will run the factory-floor computers that control the manufacturing process.

Given these economic realities we should have a national manpower policy, and federal programs to train the unskilled and employ the jobless.

If anything, current federal policy encourages unemployment. It offers almost \$80 billion worth of

the jobless would go a long way toward easing our way to a more productive future for all.

The Administration says the jobless should read the want ads for computer programmers and technicians.

The private sector says the jobless should upgrade their skills because we are becoming an information and service economy.

But common sense says the jobless should organize to fight for public policies of full employment and a revitalized economy that has room for all.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We in Claremont had an opportunity to be part of history. I covet for Las Vegas the same wonderful experience.

The Peace March was through here the third day, with no place for the camp to be set up. Both the city and school district had felt they must not allow public areas to be used without liability coverage held by the organization. The insurance premiums were prohibitive. The organizers were concerned, possibly, underestimating the numbers of people who cannot march, but support the drive to keep our planet viable.

Within two days area churches had been approached and offered housing and food on their own premises or in

congregants' homes. This reflects the attitude toward peace marches in Europe. They are met with supplies and love, with no restrictions about use of community land.

An appeal was voiced in churches on Sunday — and on Monday evening there was more food than could be consumed, and more housing than could be used. It was not only church people who responded. As word went out, people from all over the city began to ask to be allowed to help.

As grateful as the marchers were, and because the shower and laundry services' truck had not arrived, they seemed more appreciative of the use of showers and clothes washers than those things we would have thought more basic. (After 15 showers had been taken at one house, the

water heater gave out so the hot tub was pressed into service!)

None of us who participated will ever forget these wonderful people of all ages. Many marchers slept at churches, but I was privileged to have three adults and two 11-year-old boys in our home. (How long since you had the joy of two 11-year-old boys around?) What a legacy these generations will leave members of their families who can say that a relative was dedicated enough to make the sacrifices and accept the challenge of the march!

The organization has changed, but not the motive. I hope that others across the

country will welcome the opportunity to at least be ancillary to history and serve in any way possible those who want a world, and so march for us.

Georgina Irwin
Claremont, CA

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