

# Point of View

## GUEST EDITORIAL MISTAKE OR MISHAP

By Lezlie Funchess

As a native Las Vegas, I feel that I have the insight and first hand experience to write the following article.

While growing up as a child in the West Las Vegas area, I have watched Nevada grow as a state, particularly Northern and Southern Nevada. Over the years as this metamorphosis has taken place, I have been appalled at the great changes that have taken place. For example, the various shopping malls, financial institutions and amusement parks. In addition, Las Vegas has grown in its employment opportunities. Many of the new building establishments have allowed Las Vegas residents and non-residents to work while acquiring valuable technical skills.

While growing up in the West Las Vegas area, I attended the public schools in that area. Eventually, I went on to attain a Baccalaureate degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In looking back over the past few years and the growth that has occurred, I find one thing astonishing. While Northern and Southern Nevada have prospered, it seems as though many of our elected officials forgot to include West Las Vegas as part of their plan for economic growth. Many West Las Vegas ponder over whether this was intentional or by mistake.

Whether it was a intentional or a mere mishap, it is time that minorities in the West Las Vegas area take an active part in making sure that incidents such as the ones mentioned above do not take place again in the near future.

Fortunately, there is one remedy that can be applied to help rectify this situation. This remedy is called "VOTING." Many of the people in the West Las Vegas area do not even realize how valuable a vote is. By electing political officials who will have an empathetic ear towards the economically depressed West Las Vegas area, only then can the courses of history begin to change. All registered voters are encouraged to cast your vote at the general election on November 4, in your prospective precincts. Remember, there is never a fee to vote, nor do you need a downpayment; all you need is an open mind and the desire to see a change in your local community, and the only way this change can come about is through your support and participation in the political arena.

### Please "VOTE."

*"The most important asset a people has is its young. Without children there is no continuation, there is no future. You cannot build a black nation or a world with just one generation; we need generations."*

*Haki Madhubuti*

## To Be Equal

# SOUTH AFRICAN STRATEGIES

By John E. Jacob

Getting out of Africa is becoming a major strategic problem for U.S.-based corporations. And finding ways to establish close ties with the oppressed black majority is becoming a major strategic goal for concerned Americans.

The pressures on business to get out are mounting. The divestment movement is under a full head of steam, as Congress and the European Community move toward sanctions and state and local governments, colleges, and pension funds move more swiftly to end investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

The question for many companies is becoming HOW to get out, not whether to leave.

One major U.S. corporation - Coca Cola - recently decided to pull out of South Africa, and is doing it with a new twist that other companies might want to consider.

Instead of just selling out to white-owned South African companies, Coca Cola plans to sell a significant portion of its holdings to black South Africans.

By withdrawing in a way that strengthens black business and black entrepreneurship, Coca-Cola is improving economic prospects for black South Africans. Such a move refutes the argument against withdrawal that says pulling out will hurt black South Africans.

In addition, Coca-Cola has

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pledged to continue its existing efforts against apartheid, including its \$10 million commitment to the Equal Opportunity Funds, established earlier this year by the company.

Those funds are controlled by independent trustees, a majority of whom are black,



John E. Jacob

and including such leading fighters against apartheid as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev. Allan Boesak. The Funds support programs in such areas as education, housing and small business development, helping to build a black leadership infrastructure for post-apartheid South Africa.

So in one stroke, Coca-Cola pulls out, yet leaves value and goodwill behind for the black majority. U.S. corporations can use Coca-Cola's example as a model for orderly, enlightened withdrawal, but can also devise other methods, perhaps better suited to their particular situation, to leave the county in a way that strengthens the outlook for a post-apartheid society.

health and legal defense services, and assist families of jailed political prisoners and banned individuals.

A multi-racial South African advisory group that includes Archbishop Tutu screens applicants and Project South Africa locates American individuals and organizations willing to assist in the South African group.

Project South Africa is at

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Meanwhile, black and white Americans and their institutions are seeking ways to draw closer to black South Africans.

One such effort is called Project South Africa, which is designed to funnel assistance from American organizations to South African groups that are working to fight apartheid.

The participating South African groups organize trade unions, defend human rights, offer job training,

26 Park Avenue South, New York City, 10010.

Like the Coca-Cola pullout, the emergence of Project South Africa signals that concerned Americans are coming to understand that its not enough to simply lash out against apartheid - there has to be constructive engagement with the forces fighting the evil regime in South Africa, forces that will ultimately triumph.

When they do, they will ask America and the American people: "Where were you when we needed you." Corporate withdrawal that help build the black economic base, and a Project South Africa will enable the answer to be: "We were by your side and made your struggle our own."

at my child's school?" -- Under federal law, the school must give you annual notice of your rights. If you have not seen or received one, contact the school principal or dean and request a copy.

"Which records am I entitled to see?" -- You are entitled to see records, files and documents relating directly to your child. There are very few exceptions to this rule. You are entitled to see all test results that are part of your child's educational record.

"If I think some of the information about my child is misleading or false, how can I get it removed?" -- First,

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## CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman  
President  
Children's Defense Fund

### About Your Child's School Records

Did you know that your local school is keeping detailed records about your child including everything from achievement test results to health information?

If you are like most parents, you probably did not.

Did you know that, as a parent, you are entitled under federal law to look at your child's records, check their accuracy, and act to have them corrected if they are not?

If you did not know this,

you should. These school records, though their privacy is very strictly protected, can be reviewed by school officials and others important to your child's future.

If you are interested in looking at your child's records, you probably have many questions about how to go about it. I have tried to help by answering some of parents most-asked questions about school records:

"How do I find out about the school record procedure.

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