

# Point of View

## Guest Editorial

By Dr. Patricia A. Brumley-Educator  
Clark County School District

### Keeping our Students in School

With the onset of school starting it is most appropriate for parents, community activists, and other concerned individuals to answer the question, what can we do to keep our children in school and lower the drop-out rate?

It is a fact that 25% of entering freshmen in the Clark County School District drop out by their senior year. The majority will drop out by the 10th grade. The most consistent reasons are general disinterest in school subjects and consistent failure to achieve in regular schoolwork. The majority of students who dropout are at least one grade behind the grade they should be in. Therefore, a pattern of low self-esteem and lack of motivation and inspiration becomes a part of their mentality.

Another reason for early termination of school is pregnancy. The number of students having children has generated a psychological and economic hardship for these individuals.

It is essential that parental involvement in the student's educational process be increased. Parents are instrumental in providing a conducive home atmosphere for learning to prosper but that process must extend to the classroom as well. Parents should encourage conversations with their children concerning school life. Parents should make appointments and visit appropriate school staff to keep abreast of the school's rules, regulations, and their child's progress and/or problems. The key is taking corrective steps early in the school year.

The psychological needs of students must be met by a combination of parents, community agencies, and teachers, when appropriate. The teenage pregnancy rate is a matter of great concern to all individuals due to the impact it has directly on society. Parents must communicate with children on a daily basis and become sensitive to problems of stress by children.

Educators must provide challenging work for students. The expectations must exceed the basic mastery of academic tasks but explore the abstract mechanisms to ascertain given tasks.

There are many innovative programs in the school district that parents and students should be aware of. The main office to any school building should be viewed as the resource key to educational opportunities.

Lastly, the absentee rate of students is astronomical, but parents can make a difference by monitoring their child's attendance patterns and responding to the communications from school staff.

## To Be Equal

# Racial Slurs Reveal Deeper Issues

by John E. Jacob

When Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan recently told a meeting of his party that America's economic problems derive from the low intelligence of blacks and Hispanics, he set off an international incident that cannot be allowed to just fade away.

Japan is a major world power whose economy depends on exporting goods to the U.S., where black and Hispanic customers are among those who make the purchases that help pay Mr. Nakasone's salary. Japan also exports to Hispanics and blacks in Latin America and Africa.

It's never good business to insult your customers, but maybe the Prime Minister didn't think anyone was listening. And anyway, the experts tell us, Japan is a homogeneous island-nation with a sense of superiority to the rest of the world.

But that's the kind of thinking that helped drive Japan into World War II, and to see it re-emerge in such incidents at Mr. Nakasone's remarks and in the controversy over Japanese textbooks that minimize its war crimes is deeply troubling.

Lest anyone forget, the war in the Pacific was fought

on vicious racial terms, with both sides depicting the other as subhuman. Here in America, racism led to the forcible detention of all people of Japanese descent, including citizens born here in the U.S.A. -- a terrible act that must be condemned and never forgotten.

That's why Japanese-American victims of racism were so indignant at the Nakasone comments and



John E. Jacob

joined with black and hispanic groups to condemn them.

Given the destructive history of racism and racial stereotyping it is especially troubling for a Japanese Prime Minister to indulge in them. Perhaps the U.S. ought to stock our Tokyo embassy with top black diplomats, and send top

black scholars to Japanese universities as visiting lecturers, just to show Mr. Nakasone and others who think like him that black accomplishments and skills are at world-class levels.

The Japanese have started to take over U.S. companies and to locate their own plants and facilities here. Japanese banks are becoming a force on Wall Street, and Honda, Toyota and Sony factories are becoming major U.S. employers.

This is an important issue that could become even more

should look into the question of how those Japanese-owned companies conform to U.S. laws that ban discrimination.

And the Commerce Department should investigate whether those plants are just assembly points for imported engines, frames and higher value production from abroad. If they are, we ought to know about it.

Today, hard-pressed states welcome Japanese and other foreign investments that create jobs.

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important. The share of Japanese-owned, U.S.-based facilities has risen. Japan's fear of import quotas that could hurt its trade with the U.S. has led their major companies to manufacture goods here.

If Prime Minister Nakasone's views are typical -- and I hope that they are not -- then it may be that the hiring, employment and promotion practices of Japanese-owned and operated facilities in the U.S. may reflect them.

So the Justice Department

But if those investments create only a handful of low-wage assembly jobs while keeping the higher wage jobs at their home base, and if indeed such plants are located where few blacks and Hispanics are in the work force, then some tough action is necessary.

Some will say this is just a tempest in a teapot, but it's not. It is a nasty incident that should lead us to re-examine deeper issues in our relations with Japan.

## A Checklist for Election '86

by Norman Hill

Next month, Americans around the nation will go to the polls to elect members to the House, Senate and state houses. It is a critical election. For Americans will be doing more than merely

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casting a vote for one candidate or another. They will, in most cases, be faced with a clear choice between two opposing political philosophies. On the one hand, certain candidates embrace a philosophy that falls under the general rubric of "Reaganism," an ideology that absolves government of its traditional role as overseer of the general welfare and has led to economic hardship for millions of working men and women. Others advocate a

philosophy that engenders social responsibility and a belief that government has an obligation to ensure social and economic justice for all it governs.

In many of these key  
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### CORRECTION

Last week's To Be Equal Column, South Africa Strategies, gave the wrong address for Project South Africa. The correct address is 260 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.

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.

