

Point of View

GUEST EDITORIAL

Your Vote Does Count

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

On November 4, go to the polls and cast your ballot for the candidates of your choice. YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT.

In order to get representation in the political arena, on the local, state, and national level, we must vote. When we fail to vote, we lessen our chances to be heard by our law-makers at all political levels.

There are more than 31,000 eligible voters in West Las Vegas. However, only 14,087 were registered

to vote during the recent Clark County Primary Election. This small percentage of voters from West Las Vegas does not give us the political clout needed to get the representation needed in our political arena.

If we want more jobs, economic development in West Las Vegas, more programs for our youth, new business, and more assistance for our senior citizens, this help is primarily available with our voting power.

YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT.

GET OUT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4



By Abu Hassan

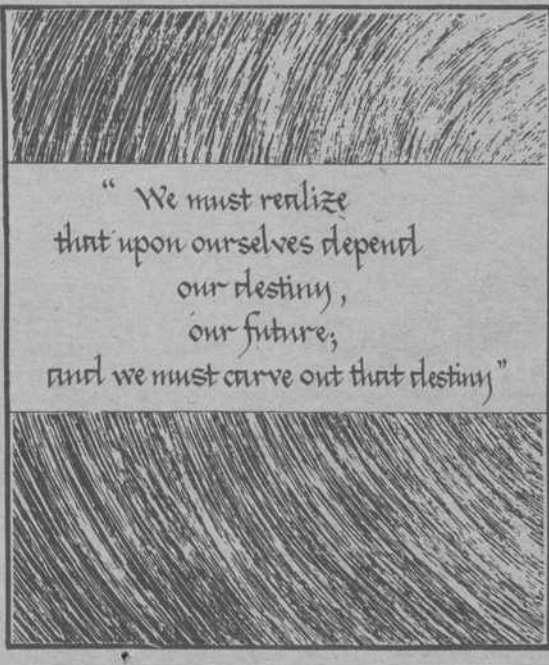
Black Enterprise Magazine's Top 100 Businesses

Celebrating the existence and progress of the top 100 Black owned business has become an annual ritual for Earl G. Graves publisher of

Black Enterprises Magazine, one of the finest business journals in the country. This year is no exception, and with this month's issue,

Words of Marcus Garvey

By Kofi Tyus



To Be Equal

The War On Drugs

The war against drugs has suddenly become the leading national issue and a dominant theme in the Congressional election campaign.

It's about time the nation started taking the drug plague seriously. But the current media and media political thrust is likely to lead to more publicity than action.

For one thing, it tends to get things reversed. For example, a major theme is that drug abuse is the cause of high crime rates.

But both crime and drug abuse are caused by poverty and social disintegration.

If we want to cut both crime and drug abuse we ought to be doing something to end poverty and the hopelessness that drives so many young people to illicit drugs and to anti-social behavior.

But wars on poverty are no longer fashionable while

wars on drugs are in style. So while everyone joins the anti-drug bandwagon, nothing is done about the failure of the schools or about the lack of jobs and training opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

In fact, rhetorical wars on drugs don't even lead to real action to help people



John E. Jacob

overcome their addiction and become drug-free. Federal allocations for treatment centers are a little over half what they were just for years ago.

Black Enterprise has in its inimitable professionalism, added another page to the book it has written on the subject and which is so eagerly awaited by its reading public.

The fact of the matter is that all of the listed Black owned businesses combined wouldn't be large enough to rate among the top 500 in the country. However, their achievements are still noteworthy especially in view of the fact that access to the financial and academic mainstream, essentials for business development, has only recently been available, as one of the fruits of the struggle for equality over the last thirty years.

Excellence, which Black Enterprise applauds, should be the goal of all enterprises, however, for Black professionals and businessmen, excellence must mean something in addition to personal income and profits. This writer lauds Mr. Graves for his balanced attention to our economic condition in that he does not ignore our disproportionate poverty. In my opinion much of this poverty is the direct result of

the Black brain drain, the systematic syphoning off of our university graduates by major corporations and government over the last twenty years. This brain drain has the effect of denying the communities from whence they came the bene of their education and talents. The problem is so pervasive that, I'm told, many of our graduates remain in college thereby obtaining multiple degrees merely because they are not "selected" by the corporate "talent scouts." Quite a paradox, so much education and so little imagination.

In times gone by, among other ethnic groups, it was the imagination of their educated men that inspired them to turn opportunity into enterprise. Now it seems that unless the major corporations or government, crook their finger, our graduates are stymied.

We are certainly entitled to our fair share of private and public sector jobs, but if the foundation of our progress is not properly laid and secured, then attainment of personal goals may become a hollow achievement.

Excellence for Black

As political leaders condemn drug abuse, the victims of drugs line up at treatment centers that don't have the funds to help them.

Many people are also skeptical about the sudden discovery of a national drug problem.

When drugs ravaged black and poor neighborhoods, there was very little interest in sustained anti-drug education and treatment programs or effective law

enforcement drive that takes the profits out of drugs.

An effective anti-drug abuse program is not going to happen because politicians suddenly discover a long-neglected problem -- one they ignored for too long and think a quick fix can solve.

No anti-drug program operating in isolation from the grim realities of the struggle to survive will make much of a dent in the

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enforcement programs.

But now that drug abuse is so widespread that corporate executives and the affluent are affected, it's become a crisis demanding an all-out war and a national publicity barrage.

But the rush to join the anti-drug bandwagon has led to avoidance of dealing with the causes of drug abuse or treatment of abusers.

Instead, some think the Army should be dispatched to fight drug dealers, that constitutional rights should be compromised, and that everyone should be tested for drugs.

Despite the excesses and the inflated rhetoric of this new war on drugs, it is important for the nation to take drug abuse seriously.

Establishing an atmosphere that says drugs will not be tolerated will be helpful. But it has to be joined by a strong, community-based effort that educates young people to the dangers of drugs, rehabilitates those who have become addicted, and sustains a consistent law-

professionals and business owners must mean to exceed the limits of education and training, to be challenged by the difficult, accomplish the impossible and assail the unthinkable. Only then can we as a people enter the twenty first century equal to any other people.

problem. The war against drugs will fail unless it is converted into a war against the conditions that lead people to turn to addictive substances.

It is likely that the link between drugs and crime can be broken by community-based programs that target the young people most at risk from drugs.

And a national youth program that ensures quality education, skills training, and jobs will do more to cut the incidence of drug abuse, crime, and other social problems than all the fashionable rhetoric about wars on drugs.

Register VOTE

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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