

Point of View

In Making Purchases, Use 'Pride and Common Sense'

Because Japanese-made products practically flood the American market and many American-made products such as television, radio, etc., have Japanese-made components, our selective buying guidance to our readers is general, at best.

Most Japanese automobiles, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, etc., are readily identifiable. But some American-made autos may have Japanese-made components. So be guided in making your selection by the familiar name of the product.

When it comes to TVs and VCRs such as Sharp, Olympus, which are Japanese products, and RCA, GE, Magnavox, etc., which appear to be American but for all intents and purposes are now more or less Japanese made (many classically American electronic equipment has some Japanese-made components), again be guided by what you know to be Japanese.

Nikon, Minolta, Pentax, Panasonic, Olympus, are Japanese-made cameras. Some of these names and others will be found adorning calculators, compact disk players, etc.

Use pride and common sense in making your purchases.

THE BEST BUY IS BUY AMERICAN!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Who Will Remember The Korean Conflict . . .

I ask your readers to consider a special group of men and women who fought a war that has become "the forgotten war."

Thirty-eight years ago, on June 25, 1950, the North Koreans crossed the 38th Parallel of Korea and invaded South Korea. It was called a "police action." The United Nations responded by sending troops to Korea. Besides the South Koreans, the majority of fighting men were Americans. When a truce was finally called that ended in a stalemate on July 27, 1953, 5.5 million men and

women had fought directly or indirectly in this "conflict." Of these 5.5 million, 130,000 were wounded, 54,263 were killed and 8,177 were classified as Missing In Action or Prisoners Of War.

There has been much publicity about the Vietnam Memorial, but the military personnel who fought to secure the freedom of South Korea have only the TV series "M*A*S*H" to remind people that we were there.

I fought there flying B-26s. My friend lost a beloved husband of eight months when he was shot down over North Korea on his first combat mission. His remains have never been returned to her. Who will remember those who gave their lives in the Korean "police action"?

To Be Equal

LOW VOTER TURNOUT

by John E. Jacob

Less than half of all voting age Americans bothered to vote in 1988. George Bush got a majority of them, but that still left him with such a small share of the total potential vote that it's hard to see how he — or any president — can fairly claim to have a mandate from the citizens.

The last time such a small percentage of the population bothered to vote was 1924. As recently as 1960, almost two-thirds of voting age Americans went to the polls, but the percentages have been steadily slipping ever since.

In other democracies, voter turnouts of 70 to 90 percent of the eligible population are common. So we can do a lot better.

One barrier to voting is embedded in the nature of our campaigns.

In 1988 especially, there

was little to excite voters. In fact, many were turned off by the candidates' negative ads, their refusal to present detailed plans for the future, and their subordination to the media specialists and packagers who ran their campaigns.

A second barrier is the



John E. Jacob

media, which let itself be used by the candidates' managers, and largely failed to cover the issues in depth. TV newscasts were driven by the 30- and 60-second "sound bites" and photo

opportunities that worked against serious discussion of issues and stands.

Still another barrier is alienation, and that may be the most dangerous of all.

Too many citizens feel left out of our society. They don't believe in their ability to influence the decisions that affect their lives. They see politicians of both parties as looking out for themselves and for the affluent, and not

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caring about poor people.

This is dangerous because it undercuts the very meaning of our society and of democracy. We're supposed to have government that each American is supposed to have a say in who represents him or her. When people feel and act as if that

"READ MY LIPS"

by Jesse L. Jackson

When presidential candidate George Bush said, "read my lips," he had one great advantage over Americans of color—the American people were able to hear and understand him. (Whether they BELIEVED him on taxes is another question.)

When American leaders of color have spoken in clear and articulate terms, too often white America and its leadership could not read their lips. They could not or would not understand, in large part, because of racial stereotypes.

There are five stereotypes which consciously or subconsciously govern how most black people are judged by much of white America. Blacks, for the most part, are projected by the media as less intelligent, less hard working, less patriotic, less universal and more violent than whites. Every move a black person makes carries

the burden of these stereotypes.

Just three days ago this newspaper editorialized about my leadership role and the future of the Democratic Party. It said: "His new role puts Mr. Jackson and his WACKY FAR-LEFT notions at the very heart of the party." The Quayle family-owned Arizona Republic, most Republicans, and many in the Democratic Party, too often have been blinded by the media's racial stereotypes and have not been able to read our lips. They have not heard or understood what we have been saying.

The struggle for civil rights, public accommodations, the right to vote and open housing were not "wacky far-left notions," though some characterized them as such at the time—and some continue to do so even now. President Reagan, upon signing the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday

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ideal is a falsehood, then the very idea of democracy is in danger and our civic life is impoverished.

Political leaders are too cynical about this—they try to register the non-voters when they think it will serve their cause and frustrate registration drives when they think it may harm them. Actually, a nationwide drive to register everybody is a nonpartisan vote of faith in the democratic system.

Finally, there are structural barriers that work to keep people from the polls. A complex web of state and local election rules sometimes seems designed to stop people from voting rather than encouraging them.

In many places working people have to lose work time and pay to travel miles to the county courthouse to register. In others, they lose the right to vote if they move to a new address before the election. In still others, they need to make time-consuming document searches to prove eligibility.

All of these—and other restrictions—can be replaced by automatic, permanent registration that enables citizens to vote without hindrance. In this computer age it should be easy to do that.

We live in a dangerous, complex world, and we need to have a thriving democratic decision-making process. That means making sure that all of us take part in the electoral decisions that will shape our lives.



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.