

POINT OF VIEW

Our View

Picture gives children unneeded message

Walk into the McDonald's Restaurant on Lake Mead and Martin Luther King boulevards and pass through to the play area, you see a collection of multi-colored slides and tunnels meant to bide the time of happy-go-lucky youngsters.

Hanging on the wall is something you might expect: A picture of Las Vegas. Not an unusual way to pay homage given that downtown and the Strip are some of the most photographed places in the world.

What are unusual are the images depicted in the picture: A large-breasted woman resembling a floozy and affable Vegas Vic, the famous cowboy with the 10-gallon hat and a penchant for fine smokes. Why is this picture in the children's room?

Children are impressionable and such a picture has no place in a place that caters to children. This is insulting. Whether an oversight on the part of management or not, the restaurant's brass should right the problem immediately by removing the picture. Pictures can say a thousand words. McDonald's would do well to relocate the picture lest more than a few parents offer some choice words of their own.

Four-way stop needed at park intersection

Though not quite a drag strip, the stretch of Washington Avenue between Rancho Road and Martin Luther King Boulevard has its share of Jeff Gordon wannabes, putting pedal to the medal to zip to and from their respective destinations.

Sometime ago, a child care center was built across the street from Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center. Abutting the center was a small plot of land scheduled for recreational use. Recently, a park was built on that land.

And while the park is no doubt a welcome addition to an area of town long neglected of its share of the recreational opportunities afforded more ritzy areas of town, children shouldn't have to brave speeding traffic to get to the park.

A four-way stop is needed. It was actually needed long ago. Though not every school has a four-way stop, a case can be made for installing east-west stop signs to add to the north-south signs. Prior to the shrinking of Washington Avenue from two lanes to one in westward travel, NASCAR-types bolted down the street in a mad dash to cross the finish line - Rancho Road. Slicing a lane away worsened the problem, forcing motorists to jockey for one position.

With the addition of a park with property yielding to a frontage road that's been likened to the Daytona, a four-way stop is sensible. Parks are an integral part of growing up. The slides, swings, sandboxes and assorted equipment provide an obstacle course of sorts for energy-filled children to explore and conquer. Getting to the park shouldn't be an obstacle.



Mandela, Parks leaving great legacies

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Two extraordinary human beings in the news. One male, one female. One African, one African American. Both are elders, wise people who have shown us the way to greatness.

Nelson Mandela's life is a testimony of greatness. Born to royalty, as a young man he became deeply immersed in the fight for freedom of his people. He quickly became known as the Black Pimpernel, an elusive figure whom the South African police found difficult to capture. When he was finally captured and tried, his trial put the apartheid regime in the world's limelight and showed it for what it was: a racist, undemocratic, repressive government.

As the head of the African National Congress, Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years, many of them at Robben Island, one of the world's harshest prisons. Despite the indignities of the inhumanity heaped upon him by his captors and the pressure to renounce the actions of the ANC, Mandela refused to become embittered and stood by the war of liberation carried out by his people. Despite the fact that he missed the opportunity to see his own children grow up and the chance to see his wife more than once or twice a year, Mandela refused to become embittered and, instead, kept his eye on the goal of liberation for his people.

Who can ever forget that day in 1990 when Mandela and his closest associates,

Civil Rights Journal
By Bernice Powell Jackson



who also endured decades of imprisonment, were freed? Who can ever forget how he walked with head held high and a broad smile on his face as he greeted his people and the world? Who can ever forget how his sense of dignity and grace and humility and forgiveness came through our television screens and we, too, felt a sense of pride and awe. Who can ever forget his trip to the U.S. to thank those who had helped in the battle against apartheid and the thousands of people who packed stadiums and arenas just to be in his presence and feel the power of this incredible human being?

Even his political rivals and the enemies of freedom for black South Africans had to honor this extraordinary human being and had to sense the greatness of this man. That uncompromising character, that sense of integrity, that air of forgiveness, that unquestionable commitment to justice seemed to just be a part of this man and he soon became the first President in the free and democratic South Africa. The man who all knew could lead this nation to a new day, beyond the

bloodshed, beyond the hatred, beyond the past.

And now, once again, Nelson Mandela once again leads the way and shows the world how life should be lived. He may be the first African leader to turn over the power voluntarily and happily to a new generation. In his simple gesture in the Parliament a few days after Mbeki's election as the new President, he sat Mbeki in the seat and showed us all just how simple it all can be. A new bridegroom, he can now live his life with his wife and his grandchildren and enjoy the time which God has given him.

An extraordinary human being, Nelson Mandela.

And then there is Rosa Parks, who now has received the Congressional Gold Medal. Lady Liberty incarnate, as Jesse Jackson so rightly called her. The mother of the civil rights movement, as she is affectionately known, Mrs. Parks showed the world that one does not have to be elected to office, nor be an orator or public figure to be a leader of the people. One does not have to have national acclaim or be rich and powerful to stand up for what is right and to change the world. For surely this unassuming, quiet and dignified lady, a seamstress who was deemed less than human by those in power in Montgomery, Ala., has changed the world forever. The strength of her moral argument that she had a right to a seat in the front of the bus changed the policies of segregation, catapulted a young and inexperienced minister into world leadership and uncorked the energy of

(See Mandela, Page 11)

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