

J.W.J.

In Los Angeles, past is prologue

By J.W. JOHNSON

If any of the major polling organizations had just a month ago asked Americans about what were the major issues facing this nation, the question of urban policy wouldn't have even made the list.

That was before all hell broke loose in Los Angeles.

We all now know why: white cops beat black traffic violator; jury finds white cops innocent; black citizens riot in protest; more than 50 die and more than \$1 billion in damages result.

That's the superficial answer, but the real answers lie beneath centuries of ignorance and fear. And to put to rest this issue right up front; there is absolutely no doubt that some black people in Los Angeles used the Rodney King verdict as an excuse to steal what they couldn't otherwise afford to buy.

And there are many bigots out there just waiting to parade before us the video taped obvious in support for their already drawn conclusions. These bigots ignore that if the situation were reversed, just as many white people would be out there looting as were black people, because looting isn't a function of one's skin color; it's a result of frustration meeting opportunity.

But to dismiss the entire question of how this society, both through its citizens interaction and governmental reaction, deals with racial questions, is the height of racial ignorance and white arrogance.

And other bigots heard this week have said the Los Angeles riots couldn't have happened if "they had kept their place."

It wasn't as if I haven't heard the expression before.

More's the pity. It's just that I hadn't heard it in a long time, the last time some 25 years ago when my mother said it.

She was wrong. As was the young man and his mother who said the following last week:

"I don't have anything against them as long as they keep their place."

My mother said it out of the ignorance.

The young man said it out of ignorance and acquired hatred.

You see, he's a Skinhead.

You've heard about these young men who shave their heads, rally around the flag, and practice racism. I met this young man as the son of someone I know in a neighboring county. He's quite sincere. And hearing that soft, tenor voice, coming from that choir boy face, it's hard to believe he's capable of hating anyone.

But he does. Blacks in particular.

The roots of this ignorance go deep. He acquired the water and sunshine to feed this hatred from his parents. Those parents are now content to publicly profess the self deception that the Skinheads are a group of young men who promote goodwill, help others and attend rock concerts.

The Skinheads promote hatred. Pure and simple hatred of other human beings simply because of a

difference in skin color. It starts with the "they"...if they keep their place." In order to have a 'they', you must first have an us, thus setting up the foundation of them against us. That 'they' is a different skin color only makes the target easier to point out and focus upon.

That the skin color represents all that we are taught as children as being bad only makes the hatred easier to promote without asking why, i.e.

Darkness to a child equals fear. Black is dark.

If you can't see it and identify it in the night then it's to be feared.

Mistrusted.

Eventually hated.

And now even more so that the United States government in its infinite ignorance has attempted to legislate love of fellow humans through job quota systems and other forms of anti-discrimination...all of which are viewed by even tolerate whites as empirically unfair, for example:

Shoal Creek Country Club. State of Alabama. Site of the 1990 Professional Golf Association's annual men's championship.

The Shoal Creek episode began when a reporter for a Birmingham, Alabama newspaper received an anonymous tip that a famous black athlete had been denied membership at Shoal Creek.

No one would talk to the reporter.

Enter Hall Thompson, founder of Shoal Creek, who not only would talk to the reporter, but spent quite some time saying, in summary, that his club, his private club, would not be pressured into admitting blacks.

As laudable as the Declaration of Independence declares that all human beings are created equal is regarded to be, we all know it just isn't true. This has nothing to do with skin color; it has to do with innate ability. Innate ability is, in fact, why certain groups tend to gather together...because they share innate abilities and, therefore, are able to communicate, share, grow and live together productively.

It is also true that persons of roughly equal innate abilities can be found in all racial groups, and that it is only through ignorance and fear that these people find themselves separated; indeed, segregated.

There is a third element: our economic system. Our system, capitalism, is based first and foremost on the idea of private ownership and control of property. Otherwise the system becomes varying shades of socialism, ultimately resulting on the other end of the spectrum in communism where, theoretically, there is no private ownership of property.

When you strip away all the rhetoric, all the hyperbole, and all the crass demagoguery on both sides, what you had at Shoal Creek was black and white members of society who wanted other persons with black skin to be permitted (and economically forced) to join ranks with persons with white skin to perform an activity on private property owned by the latter.

The fact is that all humans being are more comfortable being with persons with whom they can communicate, share and produce.

The fact is that Shoal Creek typified this nation's gallant but blind attempt to ignore this reality.

The fact is that Shoal Creek and its aftermath will likely become the 'bussing for integration' equivalent for the 90's; bussing failed and so will this attempt to force private club intergration.

The fact is there are politicians and demagogues on both sides of the racial equality question who have exploited this issue.

What Hall Thompson did was stand up for the rights of a private club to engage in free association. He stood up and said what most Americans, black and white, really feel.

Racism, in all of its ugly forms, should and continues to be dealt with in all parts of our society. It should not be extended to the right of free association in a vain glorious attempt to legislate an artificial equality.

Artificial equality, as has been clearly demonstrated, for example, in job hiring quotes, produces real life mediocrity.

Shoal Creek was an artificial issue. A much more real issue is unemployment of inner city black youths. A much more important issue is that the single greatest cause for the death of young black men in this country is the bullet; that nearly three out of four black babies are born into homes with only one parent; that 40 percent of black children live in poverty.

And that, prior to last week, none of these issues were in the minds, much less the lips of our presidential candidates.

Instead we have artificial issues like Shoal Creek. And while artificial issues do serve to illustrate that this nation has a long way to go before achieving true humanity, they also serve to provide fodder for the worst kind of demagoguery.

The victim in all of this is the truth. It is a truth that most blacks do not want to associate with whites and whites now cherish the right of free association cannot be changed by pandering to an artificial issue.

All of this speaks to there are, in fact, no supreme rights which should be granted to any group, individual or creed; there are only human rights, that tokenism, being extended to whatever group is 'politically correct' any given week, will do nothing to preserve those human rights; it will only polarize the question.

And if you believe that racism is practiced only elsewhere, it is alive and well herein northeastern Pennsylvania.

Just listen to the conversation around you.

More to the point, just listen to what you tell your children.

The solution begins with the children. If we want to achieve true racial harmony, we stop saying nigger and kyke and nip to our children. We instead tell them that, while all human beings are not created equal, all human beings are equally human.



Speeding on Campground Hill protested

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

the township engineer do a study if a lowered speed limit is appropriate.

Families living on Campground Hill approached the Dallas Township supervisors at the supervisors' regular meeting Tuesday, May 19 to request that the township lower the speed limits on the road.

Chief of Police Carl Miers explained that the speed limit on any road that is not posted is automatically 55 mph., according to state law. Campground Hill has no posted speed limit.

The supervisors agreed to have

Dallas Borough protests higher water rates

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

If Dallas Water Company's proposed 98 percent water rate hike is approved by the Public Utility Commission, Dallas Borough could end up with a \$1,305 quarterly water bill.

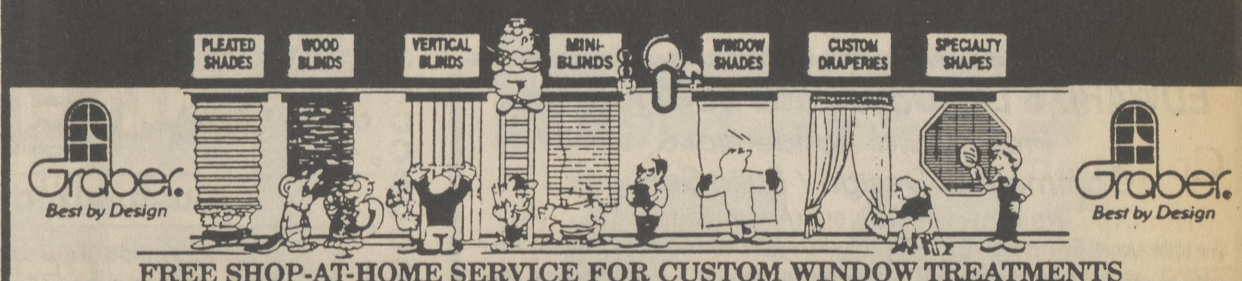
According to Borough Manager Mill Lutsey, the borough's present quarterly water bill is \$659.59.

The fire hydrants cost \$500.25 quarterly, with the balance being accounted for by the fire company, a rental apartment and borough offices housed in the municipal building.

Lutsey added that several hundred people have taken letters objecting to Dallas Water company's proposed rate increase.

Council unanimously passed a resolution opposing the rate hike.

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