

## Editorial

Election Day 1982 is over and the winners are rejoicing. The losers, well, are, in many cases, better off for having lost their bids for election or reelection.

The 1982 campaign was the most vicious campaign this writer has seen in the last forty years. Never have so many outright lies, half-truths, and innuendos been spoken or written about so many people during a campaign. If half of the spoken and/or written words about any candidate is true, then no candidate who ran for any office is suited for the office. All are a bunch of misfits who should submit themselves to psychiatric care.

The state and national officers should maintain a certain amount of dignity and grace in their campaign behavior. We feel that our youth deserve more than that of being bombarded with such trashy campaign tactics as we have seen during this election campaign.

Those campaigning, especially in Nevada, must either have been totally unaware of the intellectual capacity of the people in Nevada or just didn't care as long as their opponent was made to look bad.

It appears to this writer that the main issues of taxation, unemployment, crime in the streets, housing, social security, senior citizens, and other matters were almost totally overlooked, especially by those seeking to unseat an incumbent, and character assassination, together with what or how one person voted years ago on a certain issue were the order of the days.

We sincerely hope that the winners of the election will forget the past few months and work for the good of our fair state. We could use some open-minded, free thinking, creative individuals in our state and national offices. Judging from the campaign strategies of those seeking election, we just may not have had many of the open-minded, free-thinking, or creative individuals to chose from on November 2, 1982.

## FROM CAPITOL HILL

By A. Madison

### Reagan Block Grants' Programs Have Negative Effect on Education

Studies by the Council of the Great City Schools and the Equality Center reveal startling facts about the negative effect of Block Grant legislation on school desegregation.

The Reagan Administration and Congress added to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act passage of the Education Consolidation Improvement Act (ECIA). Included in ECIA were consolidation of thirty different programs and the federal Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA).

ESAA was enacted in 1972 as a financial mechanism for spurring local school integration. Purpose of the Act was: (1) to meet special needs incident to elimination of minority segregation and discrimination among students and faculty in elementary and secondary schools; (2) encourage voluntary elimination, reduction to prevention of minority group isolation in schools with substantial proportions of minority students; (3) to aid children in overcoming the educational disadvantages of minority group isolation. Appropriation for the ESAA programs began with \$228 million in 1973

and it peaked to \$300 million in 1978 and 1979. In 1980 the appropriation decreased to \$250 million, and to \$150 million in 1982. Prior to passage of the ECIA, the local school evaluation which operated under the old ESAA program showed increased academic achievement and attitudinal racial behavior improvement.

Under ESAA rules there was assurance that funds would only be spent in districts that showed substantial desegregation progress. Pre-clearance procedures established guarantees that schools were not rewarded for continued school segregation. These requirements have been eliminated with Block Grants.

ESAA contained "carrot and stick" provisions. A school district was ineligible for federal grants if it committed any of the violations since 1972—discrimination on basis of race or nationality in hiring, promotion and teacher assignment, discrimination against students in discipline, segregated extra-curricular activities, racially isolated classrooms, discrimination against non-English-speaking students and transfer or equipment to segrega-

## Letter To The Editor

Dearest Friends,

"To all of you who valiantly supported my recent consideration to the City Commission's seat, I would just like to personally express my heartfelt *thanks* for your endorsements.

It was most gratifying to me to know that hundreds of *real friends* were there for me when I needed them the most. And even though your efforts were unsuccessful in regards to the position I sought, they were most successful in my reaffirmed believe in those who believed in me the most when it was so necessary. For that belief and support, I wholeheartedly and genuinely "Thank You" all.

But there's plenty yet to be done, and I'm more convinced than ever that with your continued support, we're going to make some things happen. In fact, count on it! The work goes on, our united efforts shall always endure, and our dreams shall never die.

Again, "Thanks" for both your past and continued future support. Together, future challenges and obstacles shall be faced and successfully overcome."

Sincerely,  
Sarann Knight-Predy

Dear Editor:

**As Chairman of the Great American Smokeout I would like to thank you for your continuous support of the Great American Smokeout. The Fourth Annual Great American Smokeout will be held Thursday, November 18, 1982.**

**We urge people to quit smoking on that day at least and hopefully for much longer.**

**To remind people of this upcoming event our national office has provided us with clip-art to be used in local publications as a public service.**

**We appreciate your assistance and support in increasing our ability to educate the public about the curability of cancer.**

Sincerely,  
Ed Miller  
Great American Smokeout Chairman  
Clark County Unit  
American Cancer Society

ted academies. Under ESAA, the Education Department was prohibited from providing funds to school districts that violated these provisions.

The Office of Civil Rights determined school districts' eligibility for grants. The ESAA program provided access and triggered educational improvements for minority students faster than would otherwise have been. The "carrot and stick" compliance was used by both the Executive and Federal courts as they enforced the Fourteenth Amendment. Including ESAA in the ECIA of 1981 eliminated a very effective tool for reducing racial discrimination.

The Educational Block Grant programs have been reduced by the Reagan Administration from \$538 million to \$483 million.

Before consolidating Educational Block Grants, federal funds were being spent under guidelines, provided many innovative programs, and enriched cultural, extra-curricular activities and other creative programs. Parents were trained in integration.

Superintendent McMurrin of Milwaukee schools stated that while their schools were court ordered desegregation, it was achieved through voluntary parents' and children's efforts. In that city

37,000 children are transported daily. A broad spectrum of elementary school program options, transitional middle school programs and an array of career specialty high schools resulted in integration because of the programs made possible by the federal desegregation funds.

Eugene Reville, Superintendent of Buffalo schools, stated that ESAA funds provided the Buffalo schools with needed remedial work and creative programs.

As a result of the six year phase of desegregation efforts, the public school image changed so much that many people who had previously placed their children in private schools returned them to the public schools. Because of Buffalo's school success, "white flight" has not been a factor. During this period, student attendance increased and suspensions and discipline problems decreased.

The Council of the Great City Schools wrote Secretary of Education Bell a letter, expressing concern over the Department's approval of states' formulas for distributing federal funds that do not meet the federal discrimination requirements. In this letter, written July 2, a meeting with Mr. Bell was also requested.

## ANN LANDERS RESEARCHES 'BLACK BOY' LEGEND

Recently the famous Ann Landers, whose syndicated column appears regularly in the Las Vegas SUN, began her column with the following letter:

*Dear Ann Landers: I was surprised you did not educate the reader who was distressed by her neighbor's lawn ornament. It was the little black boy dressed as a horse groomer.*

*If she had asked her black friends, they might have jumped at the chance to pass along some fascinating black history. She would have heard that when Gen. George Washington decided to attack the Hessians on Christmas, he arranged to have someone meet him on the other side of the river with a horse. Tom Wells, a black man serving the general, charged his 8-year-old son with the task. It was a bitter cold night and the boy was ill-clothed. He stood firm in his duty, holding the horse's reins while he slowly froze to death.*

*So you see, Ann, the little statue is a reminder of a noble deed performed by a courageous young lad. By jumping to the wrong conclusion, the reader betrayed her own prejudices — Dorothy In Ft. Myers, Fla.*

Following receipt of that letter, Ms. Landers did much research on the subject of the little black statue which still adorns many lawns throughout the nation. She consulted Charles L. Sanders, the managing editor of EBONY Magazine, who said, "Is that old yarn still kicking around?" He indicated that when he was growing up in Texas, he and his contemporaries found the statue of the little black lantern boy "highly offensive" and used to go around and paint them white.

Landers also checked with the Thomas More Association in Chicago and the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia. The former said that, following considerable research, they could find no evidence pointing to the veracity of the story. However, Charles L. Bockson, a member of the board of directors of the Historical Society, who writes extensively on black history, avowed that the legend is true and that the boy's name was Jocko Graves. Although it was indicated that the boy was mentioned in a book entitled "The Crossing" by Howard Fast, no reference to the boy could be found when the book was scanned.

Finally, Ms. Landers contacted Ellen McAllister, the librarian at Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home. Ms. McAllister said, "I am aware of the story and it is pure fiction. George Washington kept a list of all his slaves and Jocko Graves does not appear on the list. Washington also faithfully recorded the historical events that occurred in his lifetime and this tale is not among them."

Ann Landers concludes: "I am sure many readers will continue to believe the myth in spite of the fact that there is no documentation. Legends die hard."

How true.

### GENERAL FACTS ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

**Seventy percent of the population believes that smoking should be restricted to fewer places. More than half of all smokers agree to this as well.**

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**A leading life insurance company report shows that the average life expectancy for a 32-year-old man who did not smoke cigarettes was 79 years, compared with 72 years for a 32-year-old smoker.**

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**Blacks are lighter smokers than whites. Eighty-two percent of black smokers go through a pack or less a day, compared to 66% of whites. Thirty-four percent of white smokers though, consume more than one pack of cigarettes per day, compared to 18% of all black smokers.**

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**More than 100 life insurance companies now offer nonsmokers discounts on their annual premiums, ranging as high as 10 percent.**

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## the great american smokeout

*The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists or authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Vegas Voice editorial represents this publication.*