

Bee Editorial

Is racism still an issue?

It's hard to believe that just five decades ago black people had to drink out of different water fountains, attend different schools and couldn't be served at certain restaurants because of the color of their skin.

After hearing the prejudices and adversity people like Eva Noles, the first black nurse trained in Buffalo, had to overcome just 50 years ago got us thinking — how much has society really changed?

Yes, blacks and whites now attend the same schools, eat at the same restaurants and drink out of the same water fountains, but many of those old stereotypes and prejudices still do exist today.

Maybe not to the same extreme as it was when civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks or Malcom X protested for equal rights, but it's still present in certain aspects of society.

How many people work in an environment where the majority is one race? How many private schools have a small percentage of students of a different ethnic background enrolled?

The mind set of certain people hasn't swayed too far from that of the 1950s and 1960s either. Many people choose their friends based on race. For example, last year area high school students were asked what the lunch room activity was like. Many said it was segregated by social cliques and then by race. Also, how many people can say their families still frown upon a black person and a white person engaging in marriage. It's not illegal, but it's not accepted with open arms by some people.

On the topic of marriage, the United States does not recognize gay people as having the ability to legally unite as a couple in the sanctity of marriage. How is this different than

what the black race had to overcome just 50 years ago?

Although strides have been made to overcome such racism, there is still a long way to go before all men and women are thought of as equal. When will there be a time when the color of a person's skin doesn't predetermine what their character will be like? People like Eva Noles showed the world that people of all ethnicity and gender are capable of holding the same job titles.

A person's skin, gender, religion or sexual orientation should not come into consideration when applying for a job or college, and yet these issues are addressed on applications. You still have to check which box applies to you. When will these issues no longer matter? When will society accept every person as an individual and not categorize them into race, gender, religion and sexual orientation?

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **FINALLY HOME** — There is nothing like a dose of stress to wear on one's nerves. The past two weeks have been basically a blur as I packed up all of my belongings, not knowing where I was moving to. As the move out day drew closer, my stress level raised. Living on my budget, I couldn't afford the apartments I truly desired. Those I could afford basically put me in questionable areas, or in tiny spaces. I made alternate living arrangements, but was really hoping to find my own place. So I designated Friday as

apartment day. Then the phone rang in the late afternoon — my sister was going into labor and I was the "go to aunt" for my two young nieces so I drove down to Fredonia to pick them up. Luckily I made it back in time to do a walk through at a place (the one I was most interested in). Speaking with the landlord's daughter, we went over the basics — no smoking and no pets. I said no to both. Then Isabella, 5, called my bluff, announcing that yes in fact I do have a pet. The woman laughed when she learned it was a small fish, informing Isabella that it was OK if I had that in the apartment.

Back at home I did my best to entertain them and assured them mom and baby would be OK, while cleaning and packing. Gillian, 3, offered to help, so I told her to take the magnets off the refrigerator. She didn't make it very far, seeing how most were above her head. Luckily, I had some "bigger" help the next day. My dad and two brothers arrived with a van, a truck and a hatch-

back car to move me out. It took just about five hours, and we were exhausted at the end. Moving from a third floor to a second floor is a great leg workout. I then returned to my old apartment to finish cleaning and shut the door for the final time, and my fish and I went to my new home. Boxes were piled in every room, and still are. I thought "this is never going to end" as I searched for item after item. Now I have the new found stress of a heating bill.

And the labor was false, no baby yet.

• **IMPORTANT** — This year's election season has been heated, and complicated. With three propositions on the ballot, in addition to the candidates, lots of people have had lots to say. But please note, the opportunity to comment in The Amherst Bee is running out.

Bee Group Newspapers will not publish letters to the editor, Bee Heard calls or political briefs on candidates or issues involved in the Nov. 6 general election

after the Oct. 24/25 editions. The editorial deadline for those editions is Friday, Oct. 19. This election policy does not pertain to paid advertising.

• **SAFETY CHECK** — Western Division Federal Credit Union and Safe Western New York will team up from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 20 to perform free child safety seat checks in Western Division's parking lot at 6750 Main St., Williamsville.

The event is open to the general public and is part of Western Division's National Credit Union Week celebrations.

"National Credit Union Week is a time for credit unions to show their cooperative spirit. Inviting Safe Western New York to our festivities is just one of the many ways we are trying to give back this year," says Craig Mellenthien, President and Chief Executive Officer of Western Division.

For information, call (800) 632-9328 or visit www.westerndivision.org

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Oct. 19, 1882

Again it becomes our painful duty to chronicle the death of an old citizen, who has been an honored resident of our village for nearly two score years. On last Sunday evening, Mr. Lawrence Pond passed from this earth after a long illness.

Seventy acres of good farming land located on the Main Road two and one-half miles west of Williamsville is listed for sale. Includes house, barn, large orchard and other improvements to be sold at a bargain. Inquire of Paul Mauer, Snearley's Corners.

We saw a wild rabbit running along the roadside on Tuesday night.

Henry L. Reist and Miss Minnie C. Brock, both of this village, were married in Elma last Sunday.

Frank James, the outlaw, has surrendered himself to the governor of Missouri and says he wants to spend the remainder of his days in peace. Of course he does. He has robbed and murdered . . . and now the scamp wants to be let alone. Hard labor for the term of his natural life is the mildest punishment that should be given him.

Those wishing pure liquors for medicinal purposes should bear in mind that Mr. Chas. Person of 390 and 392 Elm Street, Buffalo, makes a specialty of this class of goods.

"When a scholar wrote, 'There is a happiness that makes the heart afraid,' he was probably thinking of one evening when he sat up late with his girlfriend and did not know what minute the old man might come thumping down stairs."

100 Years Ago Oct. 17, 1907

The Rev. C.A. Woodworth, pastor of the Williamsville M.E. Church, has been transferred to the Kensington, Md. church. The Rev. J.F. Bennett of Pike, N.Y. has been assigned the pastorate of both the Williamsville and Bowmansville M.E. Churches.

Fire was discovered in the barn which stands behind the soldiers cemetery on the Creek Road, and because there is no water protection, the barn and its contents were soon destroyed.

75 Years Ago Oct. 27, 1932

A thoroughbred registered saddle horse fell into the well at the home of its owner, Edward Durfee, on the Daigler Sand and Gravel Farm, last Saturday and was killed in the process of being rescued.

A reward of \$25 is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing planks leading to the village dumping grounds on Hopkins Road.

No one was tardy in Mrs. Saunders' sixth grade during the past six weeks.

Some 1,000 balled and burlapped evergreens will be offered for public auction sale at the hardware store of the Barney Miller Co. on Main Street

Now playing at the Granada Theatre, Buffalo: The 4 Marx Brothers in "Horse Feathers."

50 Years Ago Oct. 17, 1957

Antagonism for the suggestion by the State Education Department that the Amherst Central High School District might combine with the Sweet Home Central School district has been voiced by officials of both districts.

More than 300 people were held captive by one of baseball's all-time greats last Thursday evening. "Marse" Joe McCarthy, one-time New York Yankee manager, was the guest speaker at the Amherst Little League's fourth annual banquet at the Lamm Post.

Now open: Williamsville's first motel, the Holiday Motel, 5801 Main Street. Bob and Eleanor Smith, proprietors. Phone PLaza 2140.

25 Years Ago Oct. 13, 1982

Seven persons were injured early Saturday when one of two vehicles involved in a Millersport Highway collision near the Marriott Hotel veered off the road and into a 7-Eleven food store.

Gordon Gross has been named chairman of the Advance Gifts Dinner for the 1983 United Jewish Fund Campaign.

East Amherst native Albert G. Witnauer died Oct. 10, 1982. Born on the family homestead on Paradise Road, he worked as a bartender and waiter at several restaurants, including Muegel's Inn, now site of the Transit fire hall.